Human Behavior Verbalization in Literature

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Abstract—**The article is focused on the ways of human behavior verbalization. The literary text, which is the author's interpretation of the characters' conduct, throws light on the socio-psychological nature of human behavior. The author conveys his verbal assessment and description of the characters' actions in his work at various language levels. The scientific novelty of this work lies in the fact that the verbalization of human behavior in a literary text is considered at various linguistic levels, namely, lexical, syntactic and phraseological. O. Wilde's novel raises moral and ethical problems. According to the main topic, psychological, moral, social and aesthetic behavior is highlighted in the analysis of the means verbalizing human behavior. On the whole, the verbalization of behavior in the English language reflects its main characteristics and forms a separate fragment of the linguistic world image.**

Keywords—verbalization; *human behavior; literary text; behavior lexis; language means; language levels*

I. Introduction

Scientific interest in the category of 'behavior' was already manifested in antiquity when Democritus, Socrates, Heraclitus, Plato, Aristotle and other philosophers studied the causes that prompted a person to a particular activity. However, the qualitatively significant stage of studying this category occurred in the 19th century which gave society such sciences as psychology, sociology, physiology, and others in the course of which this phenomenon was studied. The researchers operated on this category, each in their own field, so the content of the category was deployed in accordance with the requirements of a particular field of knowledge. The study of the category of 'behavior' in Western sociology was dedicated to the works of M. Weber, T. Parsons, E. Durktheim, J. and J. Baldwin, J. Homans, M. Hatcher, P. Blau, G. Bloomer and others, who considered social behavior as the main element of the life of society. Psychological direction in the development of this phenomenon showed its productivity in the works of J. Watson, Z. Freud, G. Marcuse, C. Jung, A. Adler, K. Horney, V. Reich, B.F. Skinner, C. Lorenz, R. Andri, E. Wilson, K. Levin, J. Mid., T. Shibutani, etc. In Russia, the study of the phenomenon of behavior was initiated by Russian physiologists I.P. Pavlov, I.M. Sechenov,

A.A. Ukhtomsky and their followers. Further, a deep analysis of the problems of behavior and activities is associated with the works of philosophers, psychologists, and social scientists L.S. Vygotsky, S.L. Rubinstein, A.N. Leontyev, B.G. Ananeva, G.S. Batishcheva, M.S. Kagana, M.G. Yaroshevsky, N.P. Dubinin, M.L. Kovalzona, L.N. Kogan, etc.

The concept of 'behavior' is a multifaceted multidisciplinary concept the essence of which is studied by sociologists, psychologists, philosophers, etc. In particular, it is noted that behavior is revealed both as something inherent only in the biological, and as something inherent only in the social level.

Therefore, when determining the essence of human behavior we should consider the inborn conditions of a person (certain genetically fixed, rudimentary hierarchy relationships, intellectual, emotional preferences), and those conditions of life that surround a person from birth to death [1].

The study of the data of philosophy, psychology, sociology and other sciences helps to realize the essential points for understanding human behavior. Summarizing definitions given in different social sciences, we can say that the behavior is a unity of mental and physical activity which is characterized by social conditioning. The image of a person with his character traits, individualized level of education and upbringing is at the center of the 'human behavior' model. Behavior is manifested in the actions and deeds of a person in specific situations. It is caused by internal and external factors. The internal regulators of behavior include value orientations, attitudes, a system of values and motives as well as the personal, emotional and psychological characteristics of an individual. External factors are social, individual, group norms and values of a culture, subculture where each person is prescribed a certain type of behavior, a particular way of achieving his goal. Social experience consolidates the most significant and common ideas about this or that kind of activity, which are fixed in ethics, morality, law and in other social institutions including in everyday life, customs and rituals. Therefore, representations of this kind become normative; they are standards for the implementation of any kind of activity in specific conditions.

In modern linguistics the occurrence of the methodological shift can be observed, i.e. the transition from linguistics with its focus on the language in itself and for itself to anthropological linguistics, which involves the study of a language in inseparable connection with a person, his mind, actions and ways of thinking. The human behavior concept can be categorized as a cultural concept. The behavior of a person who belongs to a certain linguistic community reveals the cultural and moral values existing in a given society as well as national ideas about the norms of relationship with other representatives of the society.

According to E. Junghietu, the concept of behavior can be represented by a field model, the structure of which consists of a core filled with verbal lexemes that denote cognitive prompts of fundamental behavior, the act itself (behavior, action), contextually concretized various modifiers and peripherals divided into several microfields, including verbal lexemes denoting different types of behavior. These microfields, in turn, are structured according to the model concepts with levels in which the core can be identified, represented by the micropolar archemia, the periphery consisting of verbal lexemes, the basis of which refers to the behavior and the remote periphery, supplemented with verbal lexemes that have connotative behavioral semantics in their semantic structure [2, 3].

II. METHODS AND MATERIALS

The scientific novelty of this work lies in the fact that the verbalization of human behavior in a literary text is considered at various linguistic levels, namely, lexical, syntactic and phraseological. At the lexical level, not only verbs are studied as the main "behavioral" means [1], but also other parts of speech also play an important role in the verbalization of human behavior.

In the course of study, the following methods were used general scientific methods (a method of observation, a method of comparison, a method of description) and linguistic methods (a method of contextual analysis, a method of transformational analysis, a method of continuous sampling, quantitative and qualitative analyses).

Various ways of verbalization of behavior were consider by the example of O. Wilde's novel "The Picture of Dorian Gray" [4]. Oscar Wilde is a great connoisseur of the language. He is always individual and accurate in choosing a word and constructing a phrase. Various means of verbalization of behavior help to reveal the deeper idea of his novel and convey the heroes' characters. The text of the novel, 315 episodes with the semantics of behavior at different language levels were analyzed.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Language consciousness is inherent in the estimated world image which corresponds to the nature of a human being. The assessment of the social interaction and conduct of a personality is processed and mediated through the language, and then the information is transmitted into certain linguistic units. A literary text is a part of the linguistic reality. It reflects the structure of human consciousness as well as the structure of the language.

Therefore, the notion of behavior can be identified on the basis of linguistic material (language units).

According to the subject of the novel under study, four types of behaviour are distinguished: psychological behaviour – which characterizes the inner state and experiences of the characters; moral behaviour – due to moral principles and personal characteristics; social behavior – the behavior of characters in society; aesthetic behaviour – the behavior associated with beauty and aesthetics, since the novel is written in aesthetic style. It makes sense to distinguish aesthetic behavior as a separate type since the work discloses sophistication and elegance of manners: the atmosphere around the characters is beautiful and luxurious, and the author has a very specific goal to describe the sophistication of the environment in which his characters are located.

In the literary text, which represents the author's interpretation of the heroes' character, the socio-psychological nature of human behavior is analyzed. Thus, the artistic text is a fragment of the linguistic world image. The author conveys his verbal assessment and description of the actions of the characters with the aid of various linguistic means [5]. For instance, at the lexical level such language means are verbs [6], nouns, adjectives, adverbs and other parts of speech. The syntactic level is represented by separate phrases and whole sentences. Phraseological units are also a vivid language means of verbalizing human behavior. At the text level a few sentences or a small passage will help to highlight the behavior of literary heroes.

At the lexical level the specialized means of behaviour verbalization is the verb. The behavior of a person, his relationship with other people are reflected in the verbal vocabulary which is a fairly large group [5, 6]. According to E. Junghietu, verbs of behavior reflect specific values of the given nation: nature of human relationships, the individual attitude toward the natural and social environment, toward work etc. [3]. Verbs of behavior contain in their semantics a characteristic of conduct which consists of certain actions that constitute this behavior, but these actions are not called, they are given an assessment from the outside. The observer in this case the author of a literary text gives a social or emotional assessment of behavior. Very often, this assessment is negative [6]. Thus, insincere behaviour is described by verbs *to play a part, to mock, to pose*, *to copy etc.* The text of the novel revealed 19 verbs with semantics of behavior, mainly, with a negative assessment.

Verbalization of human behavior at the lexical level is possible with the help of nouns. Such nouns can be divided into three groups: nouns naming an action or deed; nouns indicating the quality or properties of the subject of behavior; nouns which name the subject of behavior.

The first group includes nouns with the meaning of purposeful action, which causes the reaction and evaluation of observers. In the text nouns, naming moral actions can be found: *regret*, *worship*. Nouns *self-denial, self-reproach* can be attributed to psychological behavior.

A large group of nouns indicate the characteristics or properties of the subject of behavior, for example, *cowardice*,

rage. These nouns characterize the psychological behavior of characters. Moral traits are described by such words as *passion*, *candour*, *pride*, *shallowness*. Nouns indicating social behaviour are *indolence*, *virtue*, *thrift*, *humanity*, *servility*.

The third group of nouns bearing behavioral semantics is called the subject of behavior. For example, in the text such nouns are found: *scoundrel*, *sinner*, *beast*. These nouns characterize the heroes according to their moral behavior. Social behavior is revealed by such words as *robber*, *spy*, *mediocrity*. Thus, out of 64 nouns with the semantics of behaviour, revealed in the text, 11 nouns name the act, 34 nouns indicate the properties and characteristics of the subject of the behavior, 19 nouns name the subject of behavior.

Other lexical units with semantics of behavior, such as adjectives, adverbs, participles, etc., play an important role in the language of the novel. The novel contains 51 adjectives with behavioral semantics. Moral behavior of heroes is characterized by such adjectives as: *chaste*, *corrupt*, *callous*, *obsequious*. The social behavior of the heroes is revealed with the help of adjectives and adverbs: *cosmopolitan*, *civilized*, *practical*, *charitable*, *good*. The author speaks about aesthetic behavior with the help of such adjectives/adverbs as *cultivated*, *intellectual*, *joyous*. The author tells the reader about the psychological state of his characters using various lexical units: *absorbed*, *listless*, *sullen*, *flushing*, *shy*.

Adverbs can also clearly emphasize the behavior of literary characters. Adverbs bear behavioral semantics and allow one to create a certain image and character. The writer uses the words: *enviously*, *selfishly*, when speaking of the morality of the characters. Such adverbs as *jealously*, *unwisely* express a psychological state. The ethics of the behavior of characters can be judged by adverbs *languidly*, *querulously*, *really*.

Oscar Wilde's language is rich in artistic means. To reveal the behavior of the characters in the novel, he uses, phraseological units, for example: *the secret of my soul* [4]; *heart is breaking* [ibid.]. Some phraseological units describe moral behavior: *he has sold himself to the devil* [ibid.]; *death of his own soul* [ibid.]; *none of them had any hearts at all* [ibid.]; *put ashes on your head because Cordelia was strangled* [ibid.].

At the syntactic level individual phrases and whole sentences are involved in the verbalization of behavior. In order to show the psychological state of the heroes of the novel, their internal doubts and emotional experiences O. Wilde renders to a large number of figurative, sometimes metaphorical phrases: *hidden nerve shook* [ibid.]; *terrible joy* [ibid.]; *his face became ghastly pale* [ibid.]; *he wanted his nerve still* [ibid.]; *lose the freedom of their will* [ibid.].

In the course of the text analysis, 77 phrases carrying the semantics of behavior were identified; they give the reader an idea of the actions and features of the characters. For example, morality can be judged by the following examples: *ignoble satire* [ibid.]; *mood of cowardice* [ibid.]; *sordid sinners* [ibid.]; *it makes a life of deception* [ibid.]; *stainless purity* [ibid.]

Some word combinations describe one's behavior among other people: *a clean name* [ibid.]; *very devoted* [ibid.]; *make yourself ridiculous* [ibid.]; *give one an enemy* [ibid.]; *the idle classes* [ibid.].

The heroes are characterized through such eloquent phrases as *good people* [ibid.]; *shallow people* [ibid.]; *highly organized* [ibid.]; *good characters* [ibid.]; *good reputation* [ibid.].

The following examples illustrate manners and ethical behavior: *awfully obliged* [ibid.]; *a perfect host* [ibid.]; *the best of fellows* [ibid.]; *the depth of generosity* [ibid.]; *brutal gestures* [ibid.].

In the novel there are a large number of sentences with semantics of behavior that help the reader disclose the literary images created by the writer. Often such sentences are bright author's metaphors: *You have gone from corruption to corruption, and now you have culminated in crime* [ibid.].

Dorian Gray glanced at the picture, and suddenly an uncontrollable feeling of hatred for Basil Hallward came over him, as though it had been suggested to him by the canvas, whispered into his ear by those grinning lips [ibid.].

Discord is to be in harmony with others [ibid.].

Some expressive sentences give the reader some food for thought about what is there between the following lines:

But women never know when the curtain has fallen [ibid.].

Some of the winds of passion are swept over her, and the dainty folds of her dress [ibid.].

Imaginative sentences convey the psychological state of the heroes of the novel:

The black hands of jealousy have crushed her reed-like throat [ibid.].

It seemed to him that he had been walking in fire [ibid.].

His forehead was throbbing with maddened nerves, and he felt wildly excited, but his manner as he bent over his hostess's hand was as easy and graceful as ever [ibid.].

But their own souls star, and are naked [ibid.].

Nowadays most people die of a sort of creeping common sense [ibid.].

Each author's sentence contains a deep meaning and metaphorically represents a certain stereotype of human behavior.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The novel by O. Wilde throws light on moral and ethical problems. The reader ought to realize the superiority of the inner qualities of a person over the external appearance. According to the main topic, psychological, moral, social and aesthetic behavior is revealed in the analysis of behavior verbalization means. The analysis of 315 behaviour contexts allowed us to obtain the following data: 73 cases revealed psychological behavior, 110 examples represented moral behavior, 84 examples described social behavior, 48 examples verbalized aesthetic behavior. Thus, 35% of all analyzed contexts with behavioral semantics are devoted to the disclosure of moral behaviour. Human behavior verbalization in the novel is done almost equally: 147 contexts are realized at the lexical level, 141 contexts are realized at the syntactic level.

The remaining 27 behavioural contexts are represented at the phraseological level.

On the whole, the behavior verbalization in the English language reflects the main characteristics of behaviour concept and forms a separate fragment of the linguistic world image. The thorough analysis of this concept and its verbalization will contribute to the disclosure of its specific verbal realizations which is primarily relevant for the study of cultural issues and cross-cultural communication.

Acknowledgment

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