

## REPRESENTING IMAGE “WATER” IN ENGLISH LINGUO-CULTURE

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### **Annotation**

*This article deals with one of the most important linguistic matters in modern linguistics. That is interrelation between language and culture. Each linguo-culture of the world has got specific characteristic features that cannot be repeated in another. That is based on historical, cultural, social content including traditions, customs, rituals, beliefs related to the nation. Even the images described in the language contain cultural elements that influence the speech of the communicators. This article focuses on peculiarities of image “water” and its ways of description in English linguo-culture.*

### **Key words**

*cultural awareness, ethno-social and cultural community, cultural values, linguistic picture of the world, conceptual sphere, cultural prototypes, linguistic signs.*

### **Аннотация**

*В данной статье рассматривается одна из важнейших лингвистических проблем в современном языкознании. Это взаимосвязь языка и культуры. Каждая лингвокультура мира имеет специфические характерные черты, которые невозможно повторить в другой. Это основано на исторических, культурных и социальных контентов, включая традиции, обычаи, ритуалы и верования, связанные с нацией. Даже образы, описанные в языке, содержат культурные элементы, влияющие на речь коммуникаторов. В данной статье рассматриваются особенности образа «вода» и способы его описания в английской лингвокультуре.*

### **Ключевые слова**

*культурное сознание, этносоциальная и культурная общность, культурные ценности, языковая картина мира, концептосфера, культурные прототипы, языковые знаки.*

Linguoculturology is a new branch of linguistics which focuses on the study of relationships between language and society, language and mind, language and culture. V.N Telia defines Linguoculturology as “a study aimed at investigating

and describing the correlation between language and culture in scope of modern culture national self-consciousness and its sign representation. V.V. Krasnykh considers Linguoculturology to be “a discipline studying and manifestation, reflection and fixation of culture in the language and discourse” [1].

The linguocultural characteristics of words help students broaden their cultural awareness of the learning language. As it proved each nation has colourful and rich traditions and customs. Through learning the language with its linguocultural features learners not only study the language but also the culture of that nation. Therefore, linguoculturology plays a significant role in the modern research. It appeared in the 90th of the 20th century [2]. The term linguoculturology came into use in the scientific works by V.V Vorobyev, N.D. Arutyunova, Y.S Stepanov, V. T. Kolokov, V.A. Maslova, V. I. Karasik, V.N. Teliya, V. Avramova and others [10]. Being a master of the native language and culture allows the student to communicate and interact within the same ethno-social and cultural community; the assimilation of two languages and culture of the people. A person who can speak multi languages will be able to understand many nations and customs as well. In our country, this is at least a trilingual personality: owning a native language, Russian, and one of the European languages as a means of international communication (English, French, German). Mastering a second language involves learning a new linguistic picture of the world to be more precise, people who know foreign languages will discover new way of living, dressing, eating habits and many others [3].

Linguocultural research corresponds to the general trend of modern linguistics - the transition from linguistics "internal", "immanent", structural, to linguistics "external", anthropological, considering the phenomena of language in close connection with a person, his thinking, spiritual and practical activities [4]. The main object of cultural linguistics is "the relationship and interaction of culture and language in the process of its functioning and the study of the interpretation of this interaction in a single systemic integrity", and the subject of this discipline is "national forms of society being reproduced in the system of language communication and based on its cultural values", - everything that makes up the “linguistic picture of the world” [9].

At the present stage, cultural linguistics is developing intensively. More and more linguists are interested in the relationship and interaction of language, thinking, culture and ethnicity. Language has always been considered a powerful carrier of culture. At the present stage, cultural linguistics as an independent discipline has a complex object of study - the interaction of language and culture

[5]. V.A. Maslova notes that cultural linguistics as an independent branch of knowledge must solve its specific tasks and answer a number of questions: 1) How culture participates in the formation of linguistic concepts; 2) To which part of the meaning of a linguistic sign "cultural meanings" are attached; 3) Whether the speaker and the listener are aware of these meanings and how they affect speech strategies; 4) Is there in reality the cultural and linguistic competence of a native speaker, on the basis of which cultural meanings are embodied in texts and recognized by native speakers (cultural and linguistic competence is understood as the natural possession of a linguistic person in the processes of speech production and speech perception and possession of cultural attitudes); [8] 5) What are the conceptual sphere, as well as the discourses of culture, focused on the representation by the bearers of one culture, a plurality of cultures (universals); cultural semantics of these linguistic signs, which is formed on the basis of the interaction of two different subject areas - language and culture; 6) How to systematize the basic concepts of this science, i.e. to create a conceptual apparatus that would not only allow analyzing the problem of interaction between language and culture in dynamics, but would provide mutual understanding within a given scientific paradigm - anthropological, or anthropocentric" [6].

Different images in the language help us to identify cultural issues, to accept cultural features, to get into cultural prototypes with ease. As we have mentioned before, the English language has got a number of lexical units including idioms that are related to the image "water" and helps us to identify characteristic features of this image.

a) In hot water. Meaning: in trouble because you have done something wrong. Use: If you don't finish your history project, you're going to land in hot water with Mrs Chui.

b) In deep water. Meaning: to be in a difficult or serious situation. Use: The football team is in deep water; there's no way they can come back from a 3-1 score to win.

c) Take to (an activity) like a duck to water. Meaning: to learn or adapt to something new very quickly. Use: Even though she'd never played guitar before, Louise took to it like a duck to water, and was soon playing with a rock band.

d) Feel like a fish out of water. Meaning: to feel uncomfortable because you feel like you don't belong in a place or situation. Use: Robert felt like a fish out of water surrounded by the girls who had been doing judo for years.

e) Blood is thicker than water. Meaning: family relationships are more important than all others. Use: Even though I know my brother is annoying, blood

is thicker than water, and I will always defend him when people tell him to shut up.

f) To muddy the waters. Meaning: to make a situation more confusing than it was before. Use: The latest statement on the new subject has just muddied the waters, and teachers have no idea what to cover in class.

g) Keep your head above the water. Meaning: to just manage to survive in a difficult situation, especially concerning money. Use: Thanks to a donation from the charity after Mrs Lam lost her job, the family are keeping their heads above water.

h) Pour cold water on something. Meaning: to criticise someone's idea or plan so much they no longer feel excited about it. Use: I know you don't think the camping trip is exciting, but there was no need to pour cold water over Billy's suggestion. He planned it all himself!

i) Pour oil on troubled waters. Meaning: to try to stop an argument by calming people down. Use: Mum always manages to pour oil on troubled waters when my siblings and I get into a fight.

j) Doesn't hold water. Meaning: if a statement, theory or argument doesn't hold water, you can't believe it. Use: Dan told Claire he missed her concert because he didn't know what time it was, but that doesn't hold water. We all saw him put it in his calendar!

k) It's (like) water off a duck's back. Meaning: when criticisms or warnings etc have no effect on the person you are saying them to. Use: My aunt told me my T-shirt was stupid, but her comments on fashion are like water off a duck's back - she has no idea about what's cool and what's not.

l) It's water under the bridge. Meaning: what happened in the past should be forgotten. Use: Forget all about what you said at the party, it's water under the bridge.

m) Dead in the water. Meaning: describes a plan or idea that is unlikely to be successful. Use: I reckon his plan to run for president again is dead in the water.

n) Uncharted waters. Meaning: a situation or activity you've never tried or experienced before. Use: Writing books for teens is uncharted waters for Stephen King, but this new novel is excellent.

o) To blow something/someone out of the water. Meaning: be so much better than something or someone else. Use: We thought that last year's Grammy performances were good, but this year's blew them out of the water.

p) To be like oil and water. Meaning: describes things that do not work well together. Use: The party was a flop because my friends from football and my classmates were like oil and water.

q) Dip your toe in the water. Meaning: try an activity for a short time to see if you like it, or if it will be successful. Use: The great thing about summer camp is you can dip your toe in the water with a lot of different sports and pastimes, and find a new hobby you love.

r) Test the water (or waters). Meaning: judge what people think about something before acting on it. Use: Before deciding on the school play, the drama club tested the water by doing extracts from a range of shows.

s) Dull as dishwater (or ditchwater). Meaning: very boring. Use: I was so excited about the new superhero movie, but it was as dull as dishwater. What a waste of time.

t) Water something down. Meaning: make a statement or plan less forceful by changing it or removing parts that may offend or upset people. Use: The lawmakers watered down the proposed new law, hoping to appeal to voters.

u) Spend money like water. Meaning: spend lots of money (especially if you should be saving it). Use: She got a summer job, so now she's spending money like water.

v) You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink. Meaning: you can give somebody an opportunity to do something, but you can't force them to do it. Use: I offered to help Russ revise for biology, but he said no. It's like the saying goes: you can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink.

w) Still waters run deep. Meaning: someone who is quiet may have very strong feelings or know a lot. Use: Sue never speaks in class, so when she gave that amazing talk about DNA, it just showed that still waters run deep [11].

From above mentioned idioms we can state that lexical units that exist in the English language tend to have a real close connection with every day life, culture, social life, traditions, customs of the nation. These phraseological units containing a word "water" describe a real attitude of the nation towards image of "water" in general. As we know England is surrounded by water and it is very important notion for the whole nation. This influence vocabulary of the nation as well. Image of "water" is widely represented to describe various life situations of the nation.

To sum up, we can state that Linguoculturology is a branch of linguistics that views language as a cultural phenomenon and a manifestation of rational thought. It is aimed at scrutinizing linguistic units in connection with the historical and social development of the country at different periods and thus ensures general



broad comprehension of the language as a complex system. Linguoculturology plays a significant part in Linguistics since it is an interdisciplinary field in which the data gathered as a result of study may be implemented in practice. As a result, we've come to the conclusion that Linguoculturology is a brandnew subject of Linguistics in active development, might be a fruitful topic for linguistic research. Images that exist in the language assist us in understanding cultural, social, economical view of the nation in general.

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