**WORKING VERSION**

SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES IN THE

MEANING OF LINGUISTIC UNITS IN

CONTEMPORARY GERMAN AND MACEDONIAN

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**The Basic Ideas of the Field Theories**

This paper focuses on the investigations of the theoretical problems of lexicology as well as the differences and similarities in the lexical structure of the linguistic items in the contemporary German and Macedonian languages.The impact on language teaching is clarified,too. In the performed analyses,the concepts,such as ʻʻsemanticʼʼ and ʻʻlexical fieldʼʼ are of significant importance.A semantic field is a set of lexemes in a named conceptual area that interrelate and define each other in specific ways.A general and intuitive description is that words in a semantic field are not synonymous,but are all used to talk about the same general phenomenon.According to the semantic field theory,the meaning of a word is dependent partly on its relation to other words in the same conceptual area.The kinds of semantic fields vary from culture to culture and anthropologists use them to study belief systems and reasoning across cultural groups.The origin of the field theory of semantics is the lexical field theory introduced by Ipsen (1924) and according to him the words are divided into meaningful groups.

Porzig (1971) distinguishes parataxic and syntactic fields of items,which means that each lexeme stands in paradigmatic and syntagmatic relation to each other.We know that the language can only function because it is a system of interconnected units,and because its units are in regular relations to each other and all these relations are stored as a language rule rule in the consciousness of a person.Therefore,the question arises whether these semantic fields possess psychic reality,and whether they are restricting and should be considered with caution.Through our linguistic researches,we do not acquire linguistic units isolated,bit rather in formal and above all functional contexts.

*a na rucek nego*ʼʼ).

Grammatically,the lexemes denoting kinship stand relation with personal names,if an article or possessive pronoun stand before the lexemes: das Haus des (unseres) Onkels Heinrich, der Sohn der (unserer) Tante Hedwig (kukata na / od (nasiot) cicko/to Hajnrih; sinot na / od (nasata) tetka Hedvig), and there is no article before the personal name.The definite article in the Macedonian language is ʻʻpostpositiveʼʼ, it is attached to the noun *(tetka****ta****,cicko****to****).*

**Table 1-14. Example for Seme-analyse-Kinship terms (Verwandtschaftsbezeichnungen)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Male** | **Brothers or sisters of the parent** | **Child of brother/sister, nephew/niece** | **Child of the brother/sister, nephew/niece of the same generation** |
| **Uncle** | **+** | **+** | **-** | **-** |
| **Aunt** | **-** | **+** | **-** | **-** |
| **Cousin** | **+** | **-** | **+** | **+** |
| **Cousine** | **-** | **-** | **+** | **+** |
| **Nephew** | **+** | **-** | **+** | **-** |
| **Niece** | **-** | **-** | **+** | **-** |

On the other hand,the female or male personal name has the ending *s* in the Genitive case,and the verbs are unchanged: Onkels Heinrichs Haus(kukata na / od cicko Hajnrih), Tante Hedwigs Sohn (sinot na / od tetka Hedvig) (in Macedonian the combination of a preposition (na / od) plus noun phrase is used as an equivalent).Out of the comparison carried out between the differences in the meaning og the kinship terms,in Macedonian there is a contrast between the relations of the motherly and the fatherly side, e.g.:

*cicko vs. vujko* and *strina vs. vujna*

(*Onkel vs.Onkel* and *Tante vs.Tante*)

Väterliche Beziehung →Onkel (cicko,strina,tetin)

→Tante(strina / strinka, tetka)

Mütterliche Beziehung →Onkel(tetin,vujko)

→Tante(tetka,vujna)

In German,there is no terminological differentiation between these concepts,what following scheme confirmed:

vujko vujna

cicko Onkel-Tante strina

tetin tetka

striko strinka

In this case,the lexical structure in Macedonian is more complicated than in German.Out of these reasons,there are difficulties in translating the linguistic information from German into Macedonian.We can translate Onkel by cicko/striko/vujko/tetin.For the translation(Encoding) of the linguistic information from Macedonian into German,this difficulty exists because there is a contrast between these concepts in German language.The lexical structure in Macedonian is more complex,the student can make no mistakes in encoding the linguistic information if he/she translates it from Macedonian into German.The difficulties exist first in decoding the information,and / or if the therm of ‘‘Onkel’’ can be rendered by *cicko/vujko/striko* or *tetin.*The linguistic context serves the student as an auxiliary means,to find the correct and the best translation equivalent.In German language the following persons can be identified as ‘‘Onkel’’ (male) or ‘‘Tante’’ (female):Geschwister der Eltern (they are relatives of a third degree, i.e. their relation is mediated through the grandparents).The ‘‘Onkel’’ of a second degree is the ‘‘Cousin’’ of a first degree of the father / the mother.Frequently,the relatives are addressed with the name of the ‘‘Onkel’’ and ‘‘Tante’’.However,children are thought not to address the relatives,neighbours or their parents’ friends with ‘‘Onkel’’ or ‘‘Tante’’.This uncles (‘‘Onkel’’) are frequently named as ‘‘Nennonkel’’ (**Er ist nur mein Nennonkel.** / I just call him uncle).The children of the siblings are addressed with ‘‘Neffen’’ (male / nephew) and / or ‘‘Nichtern’’ (female / niece ).