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FUNCTIONS OF THE QUASI-SPECIAL VOCABULARY USED IN SCIENCE FICTION

The paper considers science fiction as a belle-letters genre in which different kinds of special vocabulary have a genre-shaping potential. We observe two main kinds of vocabulary used in science fiction: the special vocabulary already existing in language and the quasi-special vocabulary coined by authors. The interaction of the quasi-special and special vocabularies creates a linguistic pattern of the author's fantasy world. Therefore the research of functions of genre-shaping vocabulary of science fiction text is of great interest.

The object of our research is special and quasi-special vocabulary singled out from the science fiction texts of English-speaking authors (2, 466 lexical units). The material of our research is represented by the novels and short stories (3, 500 pages) written by English-speaking authors of 20th and 21st centuries (W. Dietz, D. Adams, A. Clarke, W. Gibson, T. Jones, E. Idle, K. Simak etc.).

Creating the fantasy world, authors coin words to name imaginary objects. Both quasi-special vocabulary and special vocabulary correlate with certain extralingual objects and phenomena. However, the main characteristic feature of the quasi-special vocabulary is its *fantasy denotatum* which «exists» exceptionally in the author's imaginary world.

Quasi-special vocabulary has certain functions at the levels of speech and text. At the level of speech, it has nominative and denotative functions characteristic to all lexical units. Performing these functions, quasi-special vocabulary imitates the existing scientific terms.

At the text level we differentiate a number of functions of the quasi-special vocabulary: creation of the image of the author's imaginary world; conveying exotic colouring; creation of the scientific and technical atmosphere, and the atmosphere of future. These functions of quasi-special vocabulary are based on the nominative and denotative ones. The exotic colouring, and the atmosphere of future are created by means of nomination of the objects which do not exist. The scientific character is implemented by means of nomination of scientific and technical objects and phenomena.

The paper refers to quasi-special vocabulary as to fantasy exotisms as it describes the realias of alien civilizations. Exotisms are known to be the words borrowed from other languages to denote the realias of life of other people or countries. Similar to the exotisms, quasi-special vocabulary has its stylistic

colouring: this vocabulary is neutral for the characters of the imaginary world, but on the other hand, it is exotic for the reader. The main difference between fantasy and the existing exotisms is that the latter name real objects and fantasy exotisms name the imaginary ones.

The most intensive exotic colouring is characteristic to the words which correlate with such thematic groups as names of mountains, water, astronomic names etc. (e.g., *Gbaanyi* – an alien time unit [3], *Silky Canadil* – an alien animal, *Notional Northern Hemisphere of the Galaxy*, *Starus Zone* [6], *Epsilon Sindri*, *Delas* – astronoms coined by the author [8]).

To sum up, the linguistic picture of the imaginary world is based on concept systems of both special vocabulary and quasi-special vocabulary. The introduction of quasi-special vocabulary is predefined by its main functions at the text level (creation of image of the author's imaginary world; conveying exotic colouring; creation of the scientific and technical atmosphere, and the atmosphere of future).

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