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**PUSH AND PULL CONCEPTS IN THE NAÏVE CONCEPTUALIZATION
OF THE WORLD (A CASE STUDY OF ENGLISH IDIOMS
WITH PUSH–PULL VERBS)**

**КОНЦЕПТЫ ПРИТЯЖЕНИЯ И ОТТАЛКИВАНИЯ В ОБЫДЕННОМ
ОСМЫСЛЕНИИ ДЕЙСТВИЛЬНОСТИ (НА МАТЕРИАЛЕ АНГЛИЙСКИХ
ФРАЗЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ ЕДИНИЦ С ГЛАГОЛАМИ
ПРИТЯЖЕНИЯ И ОТТАЛКИВАНИЯ)**

The article presents the results of the study on idioms containing push-pull verbs. The aim of the research is to explore the conceptual features of push and pull metaphors and to determine their role in meaning construction.

Key words: semantics; idiom; metaphor; verb.

В статье представлены результаты исследования семантики фразеологических единиц с глаголами притяжения и отталкивания. Цель исследования – выявить концептуальные особенности метафоры притяжения и отталкивания и их роль в конструировании новых смыслов.

Ключевые слова: семантика; фразеологическая единица; метафора; глагол.

The research explores the semantics of English idioms with *push–pull* verbs. The aim of the study is to determine the role of push and pull concepts in world conceptualization within the English culture. The analysis was based on the study of more than 70 idioms with verbal components such as *push, pull, kick, drag, press, tug, haul*. The methods include semantic analysis, definitional analysis, componential analysis, linguocultural analysis, and the interpretative method.

The research reveals the following findings:

1) the analysed idioms represent the following concepts: interpersonal relationships, human activity, human behaviour. Only one idiom describes human appearance. The ability of these idioms to describe both static and dynamic attributes stems from the semantics of the verb, which serves as the semantic centre of the phrase.

These idioms primarily represent pathological relationships: criticism, provocation, manipulation, and deception. A similar tendency is observed in phrases describing behavior. This pattern stems from human propensity to remember negative experiences and the semantics of ‘coercion’ ‘causality’, which may be the source of negative connotations. Negative connotations may also arise from the underlying meaning of the

literal phrase or from inherently negative associations connected to one or more idiom components (e.g. *drag one's name through the mire/mud*).

2) Idioms of the semantic field “human activity” describe various aspects of work: phases of work (*pull one's fingers out*); pace of work (*drag one's feet/heel, kick into high gear*); dependability of an action (*pull one's own little red wagon*) amount of effort (*push at an open door*), etc. The analysis reveals that idioms whose meaning is associated with labour include somatic components or concrete nouns connected with domestic or labour spheres. Thus, the components in these idioms can play a significant role in their meaning formation.

3) The concepts of push and pull metaphorically conceptualize coercive actions or states and often carry negative connotations. However, within the semantic opposition “towards oneself”/ “away from oneself,” the former tends to conceptualize positive experiences or a change of state towards improvement, as in *pull oneself together*. A similar pattern is observed when the components associated with the “native” space are present, as in *press home*, where the house symbolizes the “native” space.

4) The research may expand to include idioms with other verbs of caused motion as well as the same idioms from other languages, with the aim to conduct a contrastive analysis.