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Особенности представления лексемы «language»
в толковых словарях английского языка

Концепт «язык» является одним из ключевых концептов любой культуры. Так, например, З. Д. Попова и И. А. Стернин провели исследование концепта «русский язык», определив его основные характеристики в русской культуре [6, с. 234–296]. Важное место в определении семантического ядра концепта принадлежит общефилологическим словарям: метод исследования словарных дефиниций позволяет выделить структуру концепта, его особенности,

нашедшие отражение в семантике соответствующей лексемы, в актуализации определенных характеристик соответствующего понятия. Поэтому мы обратились к словарным дефинициям лексемы *language* в толковых словарях английского языка [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]. В этих словарях было найдено 55 разнообразных дефиниций слова *language*, отражающих различные лексико-семантические варианты (ЛСВ) данной лексемы и оттенки значений, которые были сгруппированы нами в 23 класса примерно эквивалентных толкований, представленных в таблице ниже.

Таблица 1. Классы значений слова *language*

№	Значение словаря	1	2	3	4	5
1	[U] a particular way or style of speaking or writing: <i>bad/ strong/ foul language</i> (ie words considered offensive, e.g. those market ! in this dictionary): <i>Give instructions in everyday language</i> (ie not specialized or technical); <i>Poetic language</i> .		3			
	[U] the style in which something is written or spoken, e.g. <i>Congreve's language is wonderful... I admire the directness of the language</i>	3.5				
	A characteristic style of speech or writing: <i>Shakespearean language</i> .			5		
	choice of words or style of writing; diction: the language of poetry.				11	
	The characteristic mode of arranging words, peculiar to an individual speaker or writer; manner of expression; style.					10
	(language) communication by word of mouth; "he uttered harsh language"; "he recorded the spoken language of the streets".					2
2	[U] the words and phrases used by a particular group or profession: <i>The language of science/drug/users/the courtroom</i> □ <i>medical language</i>		4			
	[U] the words or the type of words used by a particular group of people, for example scientists or politicians, or in a particular type of activity. e.g. ... <i>the language of sociology</i> <i>the formal prose of official language</i>	3.2				
	The special vocabulary and usages of a scientific, professional, or other group: "his total mastery of screen language—camera placement, editing—and his handling of actors" (Jack Kroll).			4		
	The vocabulary and phraseology belonging to an art or department of knowledge; as, medical language; the language of chemistry or theology					13
	A system of words used to name things in a particular discipline; "the language of sociology".					6
3	[C,U] signs, symbols, gesture, etc used for indicating ideas or feelings: <i>the language of mime</i> .		5			
	[U] signs, actions, or movements which have special meanings in particular situations, or for: particular groups such as deaf people, e.g. ... <i>the language of love-making</i> . See also body language, sign language.	3.6				
	Body language; kinesics			3		
	a. A system of signs, symbols, gestures, or rules used in communicating: the language of algebra.			2.a		

	any system of formalized symbols, signs, sounds, gestures, or the like used or conceived as a means of communicating thought, emotion, etc.: the language of mathematics; sign language.					5
4	[C] a system of communication which consists of a set of sounds and written symbols which are used by the people of a particular country or re.g.ion for talking or writing in. e.g. ... <i>the history of the English language</i> <i>a foreign language</i> ... I can speak six languages... They often work with women who speak their own language.	1.1				
	a. Communication of thoughts and feelings through a system of arbitrary signals, such as voice sounds, gestures, or written symbols.			1.a		
	Any means of conveying or communicating ideas; specifically, human speech; the expression of ideas by the voice; sounds, expressive of thought, articulated by the organs of the throat and mouth					7
	A systematic means of communicating by the use of sounds or conventional symbols; "he taught foreign languages"; "the language introduced is standard throughout the text"; "the speed with which a program can be executed depends on the language in which it is written".					1
5	[C,U] (computing) a system of words, symbols and rules used in writing a program. <i>A new programming language</i>		6			
	[C] a particular set of words or symbols that a computer will accept and which can therefore be used in writing computer programs or giving instructions to the computer, e.g. ... <i>higher level languages such as Fortran and Basic</i> .	1.2				
	b. Computers A system of symbols and rules used for communication with or between computers.			2.b		
	Computers. a set of characters and symbols and syntactic rules for their combination and use, by means of which a computer can be given directions: The language of many commercial application programs is COBOL.				12	
6	[C] The particular language system used by a people or nation: <i>The Bantu group of language; One's native/first language; He has a good command of the English language. How many languages do you speak?</i>		2			
	A body of words and the systems for their use common to a people who are of the same community or nation, the same geographical area, or the same cultural tradition: the two languages of Belgium; a Bantu language; the French language; the Yiddish language.				1	
	c. Such a system as used by a nation, people, or other distinct community; often contrasted with dialect.			1.c		
7	[U] the study of the words and grammar of a particular language; used especially in schools and universities, e.g. <i>The first part of the course is language one literature and one language paper.</i>	3.1				
	Verbal communication as a subject of study.			8		
	linguistics; the study of language.				8	
8	The manner or means of communication between living creatures other than humans: the language of dolphins			7		
	the means of communication used by animals: the language of birds.				6	

	The inarticulate sounds by which animals inferior to man express their feelings or their wants.					11
9	[U] rude words and swearing; used when you are telling someone not to be rude, e.g. <i>'Albert', she said. 'Your language!'... There's too much bad language on TV... 'Watch your language' the soldier said.</i>	3.3				
	A particular manner of expression: profane language; persuasive language.			6		
10	Speak/talk the same language to be able to understand another person because of having similar opinions or values		7			
	If you say that someone talks or speaks the same language, talks your language, etc, you mean that they have similar ideas or opinions to you and you can understand the way they think and behave; used in informal English, e.g. <i>They both talked the same language</i>	4				
11	[U] the ability to use words in order to communicate, which human beings have and animals do not. e.g. <i>...help teachers to understand how children acquire language... Gestures are more basic, are deeper than language.</i>	3.4				
	The mental faculty or power of vocal communication; "language sets homo sapiens apart from all other animals"					5
12	communication by voice in the distinctively human manner, using arbitrary sounds in conventional ways with conventional meanings; speech.				2	
	<i>Archaic.</i> faculty or power of speech.				14	
13	The text of a popular song or musical-comedy number; "the song uses colloquial language".					3
	a particular manner of verbal expression: flowery language.				10	
14	The suggestion, by objects, actions, or conditions, of ideas associated therewith; as, the language of flowers					12
	communication of meaning in any way; medium that is expressive, significant, etc.: the language of flowers; the language of art				7	
15	A race, as distinguished by its speech					14
	a nation or people considered in terms of their speech.				13	
16	[U] The system of sounds or words used by humans to express their thoughts and feelings: <i>the origins of language; the development language skills in young children.</i>		1			
17	The cognitive processes involved in producing and understanding linguistic communication; "he didn't have the language to express his feelings".					4
18	The forms of speech, or the methods of expressing ideas, peculiar to a particular nation					9
19	(Sing.) If you talk about the language, you mean all the words which are used in a particular language at a particular time, e.g. <i>New words stream rapidly into the language... Within a month the phrase would be part of the language.</i>	2				
20	The wording of a legal document or statute as distinct from the spirit.				9	
21	The expression of ideas by writing, or any other instrumentality					8
22	the system of linguistic signs or symbols considered in the abstract				3	

	(opposed to speech).					
23	the speech or phraseology peculiar to a class, profession, etc.; lexis; jargon.				9	

В первом столбце таблицы дается номер класса, во втором – словарные толкования (одно или несколько значений, объединенных в данный класс); цифры, приводимые в столбцах словарей [1, 2, 3, 4, 5], указывают на номер ЛСВ и / или оттенок значения в каждом конкретном словаре. Классы значений упорядочены по наполняемости. Так, первый класс включает 6 определений лексемы *language*, общее значение которых – ‘определённый образ или стиль речи’. Вторым и третьим классы включают по 5 определений с общими значениями ‘язык специальной цели’ и ‘система знаков для выражения значений’, соответственно. Следующие 2 класса включают по 4 определения с общими значениями ‘система / средство коммуникации’ и ‘набор символов, понятный компьютеру’. Шестой класс включает 3 определения, объединенных значением ‘конкретный язык или группа языков’; седьмой класс – 3 определения с общим значением ‘язык как предмет изучения’. Восьмой класс объединяет 3 определения со значением ‘язык животных’. В следующих 7 классах, включающих по два определения, представлены следующие значения: ‘специфическая речь’, ‘общий (для понимания) язык’, ‘языковая способность’, ‘устная речь или способность говорить’, ‘специфическая форма вербального выражения’, ‘любой способ передачи смысла’, ‘раса или нация’. Наконец, в оставшихся 8 классах, в которых содержится по одному определению, представлены следующие значения: ‘средство выражения мысли’, ‘речевая деятельность’, ‘формы речи’, ‘дискурс’, ‘форма юридического документа’, ‘средство выражения идей’, ‘язык как система в противопоставлении к речи’, ‘социолект’.

Наличие разных дефиниций для выражения эквивалентных значений объясняется действием принципа лексикографической аппроксимации – системы «приемов обработки научных определений, которая имеет целью согласовать их с нормами общелитературного языка и тем самым облегчить их понимание для читателя-неспециалиста» [7, с. 24]. В приведенных выше определениях отражается также консубстанциональность лексемы *language* как термина [8].

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