

THE SEMANTIC ORGANIZATION OF TERMS DENOTING CRIMES AGAINST AUTHORITIES

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The article gives the same analysis of English legal terms denoting crimes against states, namely terms, denoting crimes against authorities; shows the structure of an element of the lexico-semantic field CRIME AGAINST STATE – the subfield CRIMES AGAINST AUTHORITIES. The detailed analysis of this subfield and its structural parts has been provided.

Key words: crimes against authorities, legal terms, lexico-semantic field, subfield.

Манжос Я.Ю. Семантична організація термінів, що позначають злочини проти органів влади. У статті представлено семний аналіз англійських юридичних термінів на позначення злочинів проти держави, а саме термінів на позначення злочинів, скоєних проти органів влади, побудовано складовий елемент лексико-семантичного поля ЗЛОЧИНИ ПРОТИ ДЕРЖАВИ – субполе ЗЛОЧИНИ ПРОТИ ОРГАНІВ ВЛАДИ, проведено детальний аналіз цього субполя із виділенням його структурних елементів.

Ключові слова: злочини проти органів влади, лексико-семантичне поле, субполе, юридичні терміни.

Манжос Я.Ю. Семантическая организация терминов, обозначающих преступления против органов власти. В статье представлен семный анализ англоязычных юридических терминов, обозначающих преступления против государства, а именно терминов, обозначающих преступления против органов власти, построен структурный элемент лексико-семантического поля ПРЕСТУПЛЕНИЯ ПРОТИВ ГОСУДАРСТВА – субполе ПРЕСТУПЛЕНИЯ ПРОТИВ ОРГАНОВ ВЛАСТИ, проведен детальный анализ этого субполя с выделением структурных элементов.

Ключевые слова: лексико-семантическое поле, преступления против органов власти, субполе, юридические термины.

The topicality of the research of English legal terms is connected with the fact that legal communication and the correct understanding of legal terms play an important role from the point of view of scientifically-theoretic and practical aspects in the course of European integration processes in Ukraine and in connection with the world globalization [2, p. 220].

The object-matter in the article is the English legal terms denoting crimes against state institutions, which are traditionally singled out by both Ukrainian researchers [2] and researchers from English speaking countries (the UK, USA) [3, p. 170; 4]. The aim of the analysis of these terms was to single out one of the structural elements of the lexico-semantic field CRIME AGAINST STATE – the subfield CRIMES AGAINST AUTHORITIES.

The analysis of legal documents, scientific articles and legal manuals has permitted to single out 19 terms –

obstruction of justice, contempt of court, perjury, contumacy, presumed contumacy, actual contumacy, sedition, prison escape, prison breach, negligent escape, actual escape, constructive escape, criminal escape, civil escape, direct contempt, indirect contempt, subornation of perjury, barratry, embracery. On the one hand, denoting crimes against states, all these terms have in their seme structure the integral semes of the lexico-semantic field CRIME AGAINST STATE, namely [act] + [offender] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s)], on the other hand, the analysis of the definitions of these terms shows, that all of them have the differential seme [institution], which is added to the integral seme [against state(s)]. This seme differentiates the meaning of these terms from the rest of the terms denoting crimes against states (for example terms denoting different kinds of treason and crimes against the society) and

makes it possible to single out the subfield CRIMES AGAINST AUTHORITIES.

The subfield CRIMES AGAINST AUTHORITIES does not have the hypernymic element, the semantic differentiation within its borders is carried out adding the differential semes [legal system], [prison], [government] into the link [state: institution] and the differential semes [obstruct], [leave], [revolt] to the integral seme [act]. On this basis three macrofields (macrofield 1, macrofield 2, macrofield 3) are singled out.

The differentiation of macrofield 1 from other structural elements is performed adding the seme [legal system] into the link [state: institution] and the seme [obstruct] to the integral seme [act]. This macrofield includes the meanings of eleven terms, namely *obstruction of justice, embracery, contempt of court, contumacy, presumed contumacy, actual contumacy, perjury, subornation of perjury, direct contempt, indirect contempt, barratry*. Macrofield 1 has the hypernymic element – *obstruction of justice*, the seme structure thereof is given in the following way:

Obstruction of justice ([offender] + [act: obstruct] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: legal system]): *Obstruction of justice – the criminal offense of obstructing the administration and process of the law (Dictionary of law)*.

Macrofield 1 is not discrete, further differentiation is performed adding the differential seme [court] into the link [against state(s): institution: legal system]. On this basis microfield 1 with terms denoting different types of contempt of court is singled out within the framework of macrofield 1.

Microfield 1 includes the meanings of ten terms (*embracery, contempt of court, contumacy, presumed contumacy, actual contumacy, perjury, subornation of perjury, direct contempt, indirect contempt, barratry*), and has the hypernymic element – *contempt of court*:

Contempt of court ([offender] + [act: obstruct: no respect] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: court]): *Contempt of court – disrespect for the rules of a court of law (Wordnet)*.

Microfield 1 is not discrete and has different levels, further differentiation is carried out adding the differential semes [not obey], [lie], [place], and [influence] into the link [act: obstruct: no respect], that

allows singling out four hyponimic microfields, namely hyponimic microfield 1, hyponimic microfield 2, hyponimic microfield 3, hyponimic microfield 4.

Hyponimic microfield 1 includes the terms *contumacy, actual contumacy, presumed contumacy* with the integral seme [not obey], which is added into the link [act: obstruct: no respect]. Hyponimic microfield 1 has the hypernymic element – *contumacy*, the seme structure of this term is given in the following way:

Contumacy ([offender] + [act: obstruct: no respect: not obey] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: court]): *The intentional failure of an individual to obey a summons to appear in court to defend against a charge or to obey an order rendered by the court (West's Encyclopedia of American Law)*.

The meanings of the hyponyms *presumed contumacy* and *actual contumacy* are formed by the differential semes [order] / [summons], which are added into the link [act: obstruct: no respect: not obey].

Actual contumacy ([offender] + [act: obstruct: no respect: not obey: order] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: court]): *Actual contumacy is when the party before the court refuses to obey some order of the court (A Law Dictionary)*

Presumed contumacy ([offender] + [act: obstruct: no respect: not obey: summons] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: court]): *Presumed contumacy is the act of refusing or declining to appear upon being cited (A Law Dictionary)*.

Hyponimic microfield 2 includes the terms *perjury, subornation of perjury* with the integral seme [lie], which is added into the link [act: obstruct: no respect]. Hyponimic microfield 2 has the hypernymic element – *perjury*, the explanations obtained from legal articles show the reference of this term to microfield 1 with terms denoting contempt of court:

Perjury obstructs the court in performance of its duty and constitutes contempt (Perjury, false statements and obstruction of justice). The seme structure of the term *perjury* is given in the following way:

Perjury ([offender] + [act: obstruct: no respect: lie] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: court]): *Perjury – the crime of telling lies in court when you have promised to tell the truth (Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary)*.

The meaning of the hyponym *subornation of perjury* is formed by the differential seme [persuade], which is added into the link [act: obstruct: no respect: lie]:

Subornation of perjury ([offender] + [act: obstruct: no respect: persuade: lie] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: court]): *Subornation of perjury is the crime of persuading a person to commit perjury (Wikipedia)*.

Hyponimic microfield 3 includes the terms *direct contempt* and *indirect contempt* with the integral seme [place], which is added into the link [act: obstruct: no respect]. Hyponimic microfield 3 does not have the hypernymic element, the seme structure common for all the terms of hyponimic microfield 3 is given in the following way – [offender] + [act: obstruct: no respect: place] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: court]. The meanings of the terms *direct contempt* and *indirect contempt* are formed by the semes [in court] and [outside court], which are added into the link [act: obstruct: no respect: place]:

Direct contempt ([offender] + [act: obstruct: no respect: place: in court] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: court]): *direct contempt happens in court (Criminal contempt of court)*.

Indirect contempt ([offender] + [act: obstruct: no respect: place: outside court] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: court]): *indirect contempt occurs outside the court (Criminal contempt of court)*.

Hyponimic microfield 4 includes the terms *barratry* and *embracery* with the integral seme [influence], which is added into the link [act: obstruct: no respect]. Hyponimic microfield 4 does not have the hypernymic element, the seme structure common for all the terms of hyponimic microfield 4 is given in the following way – [offender] + [act: obstruct: no respect: influence] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: court].

The meaning of the term *embracery* is formed by the seme [jury], which is added into the link [act: obstruct: no respect: influence]:

Embracery ([offender] + [act: obstruct: no respect: influence: jury] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: legal system]): *Embracery. The crime of attempting to influence a jury corruptly to one side or the other by promises, persuasions,*

entreaties, entertainments, and the like. This is both a state and federal crime, and is commonly included under the offense of obstructing justice (Legal dictionary)

The meaning of the term *barratry* is formed by the seme [judge], which is added to the integral seme [offender] and the seme [by bribery], which is added into the link [act: obstruct: no respect: influence]:

Barratry ([offender: judge] + [act: obstruct: no respect: influence: by bribery] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: legal system]): *Barratry is the crime of a judge whose judgement is influenced by bribery (Useful English Dictionary)*.

Thus, macrofield 1 with the integral semes [legal system] and [obstruct] has several levels, it includes microfield 1 with the branched structure of four hyponimic microfields (hyponimic microfield 1, hyponimic microfield 2, hyponimic microfield 3, hyponimic microfield 4)

Macrofield 2 within the borders of the subfield CRIMES AGAINST AUTHORITIES is formed adding the seme [prison] into the link [state: institution] and the seme [leave] to the integral seme [act] and includes the meanings of seven terms – *prison escape, prison breach, negligent escape, actual escape, constructive escape, criminal escape, civil escape*. This macrofield has the hypernymic element – *prison escape*:

Prison escape ([offender] + [act: leave] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: prison]): *A prison escape ... is where a prisoner leaves their prison through unofficial or illegal ways (Wikipedia)*.

The meanings of the hyponyms are formed by semes, which are added into the link [act: leave].

The meaning of the term *prison breach* is formed by the differential seme [with force]: *Prison breach* ([offender] + [act: leave: with force] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: prison]): *Prison breach is an escape committed through the use of force and is more heinous than simple escape (West's Encyclopedia of American Law)*.

The meaning of the term *actual escape* is formed by the seme [full freedom]:

Actual escape ([offender] + [act: leave: full freedom] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: prison]): *Actual escape. The escape is actual, when the prisoner in fact gets out of prison*

and unlawfully regains his liberty (*West's Encyclopedia of American Law*).

The meaning of the term *constructive escape* is formed by the seme [more freedom]:

Constructive escape ([offender] + [act: leave: more freedom] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: prison]): *A constructive escape takes place when the prisoner obtains more liberty than the law allows, although he still remains in confinement* (*West's Encyclopedia of American Law*).

The meanings of the terms *civil escape* and *criminal escape* are formed by the differential semes [after civil case] and [after criminal case]:

Civil escape ([offender] + [act: leave: after civil case] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: prison]) / *Criminal escape* ([offender] + [act: leave: after criminal case] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: prison]): *Escapes are divided into ... civil and criminal... Escapes in civil cases are, when the prisoner is charged in execution or on mesne process for a debt or duty, and not for a criminal offence, and he unlawfully gains his liberty* (*West's Encyclopedia of American Law*).

The meaning of the term *negligent escape* is formed by the semes [reason: carelessness]:

Negligent escape ([offender] + [act: leave: reason: carelessness] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: prison]): *A negligent escape takes place when the prisoner goes at large, unlawfully,*

... because the keeper by carelessness lets him go out of prison (*West's Encyclopedia of American Law*).

The meaning of the term *voluntary escape* is formed by the semes [reason: sheriff's decision]:

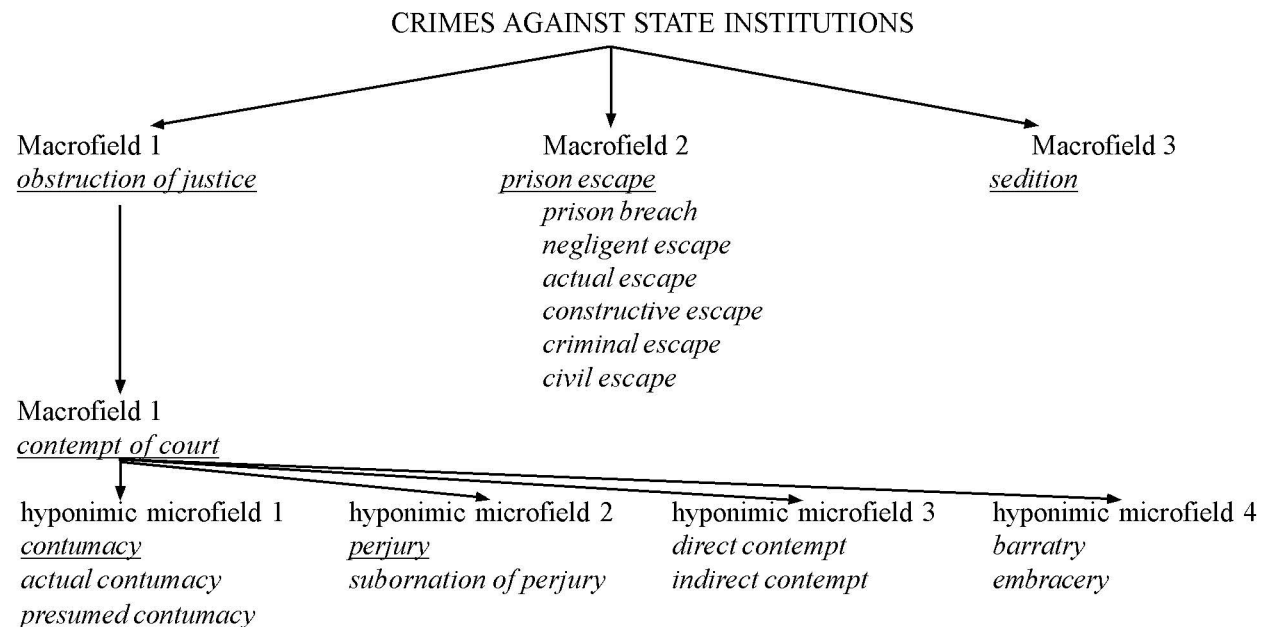
Voluntary escape ([offender] + [act: leave: reason: sheriff's decision] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: prison]): *Voluntary escape – the escape of a prisoner by the express consent of the sheriff* (*Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary*).

Macrofield 2 has only one level and is discrete.

Macrofield 3 within the borders of the subfield CRIMES AGAINST AUTHORITIES is formed adding the seme [government] into the link [state: institution] and the differential seme [revolt] to the integral seme [act]. This macrofield has only one term – *sedition*, is single-level and not discrete:

Sedition ([offender] + [act: leave: revolt] + [harm] + [punishable] + [against state(s): institution: government]): *Sedition is the crime of revolting or inciting revolt against government* (*Legal dictionary*).

The analysis that has been carried out allows us to conclude that the subfield CRIMES AGAINST AUTHORITIES has several levels and is discrete. The structure of macrofield 1 with terms denoting obstruction of justice is the most complex and includes one microfield and four hyponimic microfields. The scheme given below demonstrates the structure of the subfield CRIMES AGAINST AUTHORITIES:



The prospects of the further research lie in the detailed analysis of another structural element of the lexico-semantic field CRIME AGAINST STATE – the subfield CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY, and the analysis of regional terms denoting crimes against states which are used only in some American states.

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