

СПЕЦСЕМИНАРЫ

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**БЕЛОРУССКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
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КАФЕДРА АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКОЗНАНИЯ**

Нижнёва Н.Н. Билан В.Н. Иванова Г.А.

СБОРНИК ТЕСТОВ

ПО ТЕОРЕТИЧЕСКИМ КУРСАМ

АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА

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А в т о р ы - с о с т а в и т е л и:
Н.Н. Нижнева, В.Н. Билан, Г.А. Иванова

Рецензенты:
доктор филологических наук
Богушевич Д.Г.
кандидат филологических наук, доцент
Кунцевич С.Е

Сборник тестов по теоретическим курсам английского языка.

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“TEXT LINGUISTICS”

Test. Linguistics

1. Read the following text and do the exercises following it.

What kinds of fact does a semantic theory have to explain? This question, asked of a theory of any subject, provokes a self-evident reply, for there is no satisfactory way of charting in advance the territory which is the concern of a particular discipline. The only recourse is to an informal statement, in ordinary, non-technical language. “The aim of semantics is to explain and describe meaning in natural languages”. To make our stating point in ordinary usage more explicit, we may even say that the goal of semantics is to explain what underlies the use of the word “means” and related terms (sense, nonsense, signify, ambiguous, antonym, synonym, etc.) in English and other languages. The word “means” so hopelessly vague and confusing as some philosophers, linguists, and literary critics have sought to show. Much of its assumed vagueness stems from its use not only for cognitive meanings, but for the factors of tone, attitude, emotion, etc., evoked by a particular form of language. The distinction between these senses is admittedly difficult to draw, as, indeed, are most of the demarcation lines in linguistics. However, I shall now assume that such a line can and ought to be drawn – otherwise most of the basic concepts of semantics are worthless. For example, I shall use the word “synonymous” to mean “equivalent” as regards cognitive meaning only. The further requirement of equivalence as to context of use is so strong as to make the notion of synonymy virtually useless in linguistics. Yet this additional requirement has often been imposed in the past, leading to the triumphantly negative conclusion “There is no such thing as a synonym”. Similarly, I shall interpret “ambiguity” as referring to the condition of one formal item having more than one cognitive meaning. If it was maintained that an expression has a “different meaning” for every difference in tone, evocative effect, etc., the notion of ambiguity would be as indeterminate as

3. Define word-formation paradigms.

Example: use – usage – useless

4. Define paradigms with the similar meanings.

Example: vague – vagueness – confusing – ambiguity – ambiguous – indeterminate

5. Analyze syntagmatic relations of lexical units in the text.

a) attributive word combinations;

b) word combinations with ‘...to-Infinitive’

6. Translate the text into Russian and summarize main grammatical and lexical transformations you’ve used in the process of translation.

7. Consider lexical means of the text cohesion and coherence.

Note: Cohesion (связность текста) is the network of surface relations which link words and sentences in a text. Coherence (логичность текста) is the network of conceptual relations which underlie the surface text.

8. Classify the text connectors according to grammatical (e.g. part of speech) and semantic criteria (semantic features of lexical units).

9. Find stylistic devices providing the text cohesion (e.g. repetition).

10. Make a list of phraseological units used in the text. Translate them into Russian.

11. Classify the phraseological units according to structural and semantic principles.