

**Structural, semantic and pragmatic peculiarities of  
the lexeme ‘eye’ (based on the novels by danielle steel)**

The research deals with the analysis of the lexeme ‘eye’ in fiction discourse. There have been analyzed the cases of the use of the lexeme in question in the novels by Danielle Steel.

Through their eyesight human beings perceive the surrounding world and receive ninety percent of information about the environment [Stepanov: 2006]. Eyes are often called ‘the mirror of the soul’, ‘the windows of the soul’ [Radevych-Vynnytsky: 2006]. The lexeme ‘eye’ is used in fiction discourse for various purposes: to introduce and describe the characters, to reflect their state of mind, to present the relationships between the characters, to describe different feelings and emotions. There has been considered the combinability of the lexeme. The most frequently used patterns are: Adj (Adj) + EYES (sad amber eyes; huge eyes); N + in + her/his + EYES (sorrow in her eyes; loss in his eyes); with + EYES + filled with/ full of + N (with eyes filled with accusation; with eyes full of admiration); Adj-EYED (the girl looked wild-eyed for a moment), etc.

There have been singled out a number of conceptual metaphors with the lexeme ‘eye’ [Lakoff: 1990]:

- ‘eyes are containers’: Tears filled her eyes.
- ‘eyes are weapons’: Her eyes shot bullets into his.
- ‘eyes are speakers’: She sounded calm, but her eyes said she was anything but.
- ‘eyes are source of light’: Her eyes lit up like the Fourth of July.

There have been found a number of phraseological units with the lexeme ‘eye’: in the blink of an eye; to close his eyes to; to turn a blind eye.

The result of the research can be used in teaching the courses of Lexicology and Stylistics.