Verbal Collocations of Memory: Functional-Semantic and Lexicographic Aspects

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Abstract—The article presents the results of the verbal memory collocations study, functioning in the mass media and Russia, representing the general and ethnospecific patterns of memory representation, the requirements for the macrostructure of the ideographic complex dictionary of verbal memory collocations and the principles of organizing dictionary entries, reflecting poly-aspect information, namely, structural, semantic, pragmatic, and syntagmatic characteristics of collocations. The data for study were selected taking into account statistical parameters from newspaper content of the DWDS German-language corpus and the Russian-language corpus of the University of Leeds. A complex methodology is used including semasiologically and onomasiologically oriented analysis methods and a comparative method. The study results show that the analyzed groups of collocations in both languages have a similar internal structure and are characterized by asymmetric lexical representation of mnemonic processes. They also include verbal and nominal series of collocations; the collocations semantics characterizes the basic elements of the language model of memory – subject, object, process, and localization. Also it reflects the conceptual integration of mental and physical situations; the nomination is based on spatial, subject, and personifying thematic codes; the representation of memory indicates the ambivalence of the axiological relation towards memory in two linguocultures. Ethno-specific characteristics are the following: the degree of semantic differentiation in the nomination of mnemonic processes, the relevance of certain structural and semantic models, thematic codes, the syntagmatic characteristics of collocations, and the activity of keywords in the formation of series. Examples of collocation analysis illustrating the structure of the dictionary entry of the collocation dictionary are given.

Keywords — collocation, memory, semantics, syntagmatics, representation, collocation dictionary

I. INTRODUCTION

The scope of the research is connected, on the one hand, with a comparative study of the lexico-semantic representation of the memory phenomenon in German and Russian languages. On the other hand, the tasks implemented within the framework of the project involve the description of language functioning, namely, the study of the words compatibility in a language as a property that reflects the syntagmatic relations in the language. The latest prospect of lexical syntagmatics is the study of collocations which are nonrandom, statistically stable combinations of lexical units (LU) typical for the language or type of texts having a trend to co-occur (E. Byalek, O.L. Biryuk, V.E. Gusev, V.P. Zakharov, M.V. Khokhllova, Ye.V. Yagunova, S. Evert, C. Manning, S. Petrovic, M. Stubbs and others). Collocations reflect the language usage and are commonly found in dictionaries. The research relevance is determined by the strong interest in the problems of memory and the ethno-specific language presentations; by the importance of the development of theoretical and methodological issues of lexical semantics and syntagmatics, corpus lexicography; by poor coverage of the combinatorial phenomenon in ideographic lexicography. The results can be used to solve practical problems of linguodidactics, translation, lexicography, automatic word processing.

II. METHODOLOGY

Methodological bases of the research are ideas: on the reconstructive communicative nature of memory and its relationship with the language [1–4]; on the syntactic status and the multilevel structure of LUs meaning [5]. There are works devoted to the linguistic description of certain aspects of memory as a denoter, a fragment of the linguistic picture of the world, a culturally labeled component of the conceptosphere, the manifestation of the linguistic personality,
The research paradigm of collocations includes a number of works from the standpoint of: 1) British contextualism (the meaning of a collocation is investigated empirically through co-textualization; the compatibility is due to regular "mutual expectation" and is determined by semantic factors); 2) semantic-syntactic approach (collocations are semantic-syntactic LUs, characterized by semantic, syntactic and distributive regularity, resulting from the internal properties of words and combinations); 3) "meaning – text" theory (collocations consist of a semantic dominant and a component chosen depending on the dominant and transferred meaning [14]). The term "collocation" is used as a generic term for non-free statistically stable word combinations.

The research material was selected from the newspaper content of the German-language corpus “DWDS” and the Russian-language corpus of the University of Leeds (about 600 LUs). The corpus-oriented approach allows using large arrays of language facts and statistical parameters. Despite the active development of methods for extracting collocations (P. Braslavskiy, O.A. Mitrofanova, V.P. Zakharov, S. Atkins, K. Church, S. Evert, F.J. Hausmann, A. Kilgarriff, I.A. Mel’cuk, J. Sinclair) and the emergence of a number of compatibility dictionaries, for example, combinatorial, explanatory-combinatorial, set expressions dictionaries, collocations (O.L. Biryuk, E.G. Borisova, V.YU. Gusev, A.K. Zholkovskiy, E.YU. Kalinina, I.A. Mel’cuk, V.V. Morkovkin, M. Benson, E. Benson, R. Ilton и др.), the question of poly-aspect ideographic representation of collocations for domain area describing remains unsolved. The research determines the structure of verbal memory collocations (VMCs), functioning in Russian and German media; it describes structural, semantic, pragmatic, syntagmatic characteristics of VMCs and defines common and ethnically specific features of memory representation by LU data.

The complex analysis methodology is used to solve the tasks of the project.

1) Let us assume the frequency of co-occurrence and, in part, linear proximity to be important prerequisites for the identification of set expressions.

2) The considered measures of associations (MI, Dice / logDice) indicate the statistical associations between components in VMCs and are based on the correlation between a keyword frequency and a collocation in corpus and the frequency of their co-occurrence.

3) The complex of semasiologically and onomasiologically oriented methods of analysis make it possible to obtain polyaspective information on VMCs (the number of components; the phrase structure; the meaning of case forms of nominal constituents; subjectivity / objectivity; internal / external transitivity; activity of components in the formation of collocation series; correlations invariants of formal and semantic features – structural and semantic models; spheres of identification – thematic codes that mediate object representation and form the basis of specific images and metaphors; pragmatic characteristics of collocations) [4,9,10] and to determine the patterns of memory representation through the VMCs in Russian and German.

4) The structure of the VMC vocabulary should reflect the ontologically determined classification of mnemonic processes, and the structure of the dictionary entry should describe structural, semantic, paradigmatic and syntagmatic characteristics of LUs. The dictionary should be lined up as ideographic and have the attributes of a similar dictionary, in which LUs are combined into certain semantic groups and united around the corresponding core-words organized in the alphabetical order. The complex vocabulary of collocations combines linguistic and methodological orientation, demonstrates the consistency of grammatical and semantic co-occurrence, the ways of using collocations, contains sufficient illustrative material, reflects, in addition to the compatibility aspect, other characteristics of units.

5) A comparative method is used to determine the ethically specific patterns of memory representation by means of VMCs occurring in the mass media.

III. RESULTS

The analysis of VMCs, functioning in the Russian and German media, makes it possible to reveal the patterns of the lexico-semantic representation of memory in LU data. Let us refer the following to the common characteristics of language representation of the above mentioned phenomenon:

The analyzed groups of the VMCs have a similar internal structure of the organization that corresponds to the allocated basic memory processes (reproduction, storage, imprinting, loss of information in memory and their causation) and are characterized by the asymmetric lexical representation of mnemonic processes and an equally wide memory representation and memory situations.

VMCs form verbal and a large number of nominal series, which indicate the regularity of semantic mapping and the possibility of VMCs modeling by correlating their semantic and structural features and further schematic representation of the invariants of the correlations obtained. The basic elements of the language model of memory are a subject, an object, a process, a localization (source, direction, and final aim).

Formally intransitive LUs prevail among the analyzed Russian- and German-language VMCs. The functions of case forms in the Russian- and German-language VMCs lie, first of all, in pointing at an object or localization.

The conceptual integration of mental and physical situations is relevant for the memory representation through the VMCs, that is, the schematization of ideas of mnemonic situations by their likening to movement or action done to an object.

In this case, the spatial, subject, and personifying thematic codes, which reflect the motivating nomination of the sphere of identification, predominate.
The abstraction of verbal and nominal components meaning is transformed by introducing a fictitious mode. The meaning of the noun becomes more concrete, and the verb becomes more abstract.

VMCs reflect the ambivalence of the axiological attitude to memory in two linguocultures with similar aspects and motives for evaluation (memory is something important, necessary, reliable, delivering pleasant/unpleasant sensations or experiences, disturbing, dangerous, unreliable, intense, uncontrollable, disordered, etc.).

The following specific characteristics of memory representation in two linguocultures are revealed. The German language is characterized by a greater degree of semantic differentiation in the nomination of mnemonic processes.

There is an indication of the nature of the subject, object, process, assessment of an object/situation in semantic structure of VMCs.

The operations of loss and capture of information in memory differ by the degree of lexical representation that shows its importance for the linguoculture of the relevant situations.

VMCs in Russian and German languages differ by the degree of relevance of certain syntagmatic characteristics. For example, subjective VMCs prevail among Russian-language units indicating a predominant interpretation of memory operations as actions/states of the subject or the actions of the objects themselves.

The key words demonstrate different activity in the formation of the VMC series reflecting the significance of the corresponding concepts in the process of memory representation [16].

Memory representation with the help of Russian is characterized by less frequency of the anatomical thematic code and by a smaller role of somatisms, which name quasi-organisms of memory.

There are some examples of the collocation description in two languages, illustrating the analysis and conception of the dictionary entry of the polysystem ideographic dictionary of VMCs.

sich / jemandem (etw.) ins Gedächtnis hämmern – to hammer into smb’s head (exact semantic match – … into smb’s memory)

1. **key word** Gedächtnis (n. -es. -sse); «Speicher der aufgenommenen Sinneseindrücke, des Erlerneten, Erinnerung» – «the storage of perceived sensory impressions, of something learnt, memorized, of memories» (cf. memory) – etw. prägt, gräbt sich dem Gedächtnis ein, bleibt im Gedächtnis, in seinem Gedächtnis kramen, sein Gedächtnis durchstöbern, etw. aus dem Gedächtnis verlieren / streichen / auslöschen» [17];

**collocate** hämmern (weak verb, perfect is formed with the help of auxiliary verb haben; cf. to hammer): «mit dem Hammer arbeiten, schlagen, klopfen, mit dem Hammer bearbeiten, (durch Bearbeitung) mit einem Hammer, hämmern, hämmern» (exact semantic match – … into smb’s head); in kurzen (rhythmischen) Abständen heftig an, auf, gegen etw. schlagen, klopfen; umgangssprachlich (durch häufiges, wiederholtes Hinweisen, Erinnern oder dgl.) jdmn. etw. fest, nachdrücklich einprägen» [17] – «to use a hammer, to beat, to knock, to make smth. with the help of a hammer, rhythmically; to hammer at intervals; informal: to force someone (through frequent, repeated instructions, reminders, etc.) to capture in memory, remember something»;

2. analytical combination with a simple structure, nominal component indicates localization; single-subject; intrinsically intransitive; extrinsically transitive;

3. the designated situation: the causation of imprinting information in memory – "to beat something into someone’s head" (the influence of an animate subject (a causer) on a partner subject to initiate the storage of information in memory):

- mapping: physical sphere (to drive, to beat to hammer into) ⇒ mental sphere (to induce remembering); spatial thematic code (to assimilate remembering to some place/surface): "to influence someone so that he memorizes something, as if someone’s memory would be a certain place/surface; and objects of memorization would be some objects that could be possible to hammer or drive into the surface to make sure that these objects remain here forever or for a long period of time”;

4. causer-subject (Nom.) – animate (Ich hämmerte mir ihren Namen ins Gedächtnis. Die Zeit, 29.04.1977, Nr. 19. [17] – I hammered his name into my head); inanimate (uncommon, personification) Ich habe mich darauf reduziert, nur noch ganz unbekannte Zahnpasten zu benutzen, oder solche, deren Werbung es nicht vermocht hat, mir die Marke ins Gedächtnis zu hämmern... Die Zeit, 10.04.1987, Nr. 16. [17] – I try to use only completely unknown toothpastes or those, whose advertising did not beat its brand name into my head);

partner subject (Dat.) – animate (often) (... schwer vorstellbar, dass sich bei diesen Ausblicken jemand Beethovens Sonaten ins Gedächtnis hämmern kann... [34] – ... it’s difficult to imagine someone hammering Beethoven’s sonatas into his head amid this scenery); or inanimate (personification, a group of people designation – Die Affäre um die des Dopings verdächtigten griechischen Sportler Konstantinos Kenteris und Katerina Thanou hat sie der ganzen Welt noch einmal ins Gedächtnis gehämmert. Der Tagesspiegel, 19.08.2004. [17] – She’s hammered a scandalous story about Greek athletes Konstantinos Kenteris and Katerina Ton, who were suspected in performance-enhancing drugs using, into the heads of the whole world);

object of memorization (Akk.) – inanimate (Donath nutzt die Zeit, um sich den Text ins Gedächtnis zu hämmern. Hoffmann und Campe 1983. [17] – Donath uses the time to hammer the text into his head); the object of memorization is usually evaluated as something necessary / important;

memory operation is characterized by intensity (Sie geben wohl nie auf und wollen uns mit Gewalt ihre Ideologie ins
Gedächtnis hängern. [19] – They never give up and want to hammer their ideology forcibly into our heads).

5. Synonyms: Erinnerung(en) bewahren / aufbewahren / wachhalten / speichern / verewigen / behalten; im Gedächtnis behalten; das Gedächtnis bewahren / wachhalten; die Vergangenheit konservieren – to save, to perpetuate, to preserve the past, to beat memories into head. Antonyms: Erinnerung(en) verdrängen / lösen / auslösen / bannen / loswerden / abschütteln / unterdrücken / tilgen; aus dem / jemandes Gedächtnis streichen – to displace, to push back, to erase, to suppress, to extinguish, to delete memories, to get rid of memories.

6. Examples of usage:

Man muss den Leuten ins Gedächtnis hängern, dass Rathenow und Optik eins sind. [20] – People should be hammered into their heads that Rathenow and Optik are the same FC.

Partei und deren Chefs sowie auch deren zukünftige Ziele wurden allen der Heimat fern bleibenden Seeleuten ins Gedächtnis gehämmert. [18] – The party and its head, as well as their future goals, were hammered into the heads of all sailors far away from their homeland.

500 Seiten Regelwerk waren es alleine für die schriftliche Prüfung, die er sich über drei Monate ins Gedächtnis gehämmert hatte. [21] – 500 pages of normative documents, which he had been hammering into his head for more than 3 months, were needed only for the written examination.

in Vergessenheit versinken – sink into oblivion

1. key word Vergessenheit (f., -): «in Vergessenheit geraten, kommen – vergessen werden; entsprechend der Bedeutung von vergessen» – «to fall in oblivion, to be in oblivion, to become forgotten, to fade from memory; corresponds to the verb vergessen» – sein Name ist zu Unrecht in Vergessenheit geraten, diese Geschichte kam bald in Vergessenheit, wird bald der Vergessenheit angehören, etw. der Vergessenheit entreißen gehoben, der Vergessenheit anheimfallen gehoben» [17];

collocate versinken (strong verb – versank, versunken; formation of perfect tense with the auxiliary verb «sein») «tief in etw. einsinken und darin verschwinden, immer tiefer in einen Zustand hineingeraeten und scheinbar ganz darin aufgehen, die Welt um sich her vergessen» [17] – «to plunge deeply into something and disappear, to plunge deeper and deeper into some kind of state and completely dissolve there forgetting the world around you»;

2. analytical combination with a simple structure, a nominal component indicates localization; two-subject; intrinsically intransitive; extrinsically intransitive; 3. designated situation: spontaneous, not initiated by the subject loss of information in memory – "sink into oblivion" (actions of animate / inanimate (personified) object of memory operation aimed at achieving a certain place / state);

mapping: physical sphere (immerse, drop, come down to some place / state) ⇒ mental sphere (spontaneous loss, disappearance of information in memory); spatial thematic code (identification of oblivion with space): "forgettable objects move themselves, as if they were animated, active, vertically down into some space / place (oblivion), to which there is no access / from which no escape is possible);

4. subject-object – animate (rarely) (Andreas Kohl wird in Vergessenheit versinken, nicht aber der Hintergrund seiner intellektuellen Anmaßungen und nicht die realen Auswirkungen. [22] – Andreas Kohl will sink into oblivion, but not the reason for his intellectual claims and its real consequences); inanimate (Der Stamm starb aus, Marco Island versank in Vergessenheit. Die Zeit, 14.03.1997, Nr. 12. [17] – The generation vanished, Marco Island sank into oblivion);

the object of spontaneous forgetting can be evaluated positively (Viele finden Strafe zwar richtig, wollen aber auch die guten Zeiten der Firma nicht in Vergessenheit versinken lassen. [23] – Many find the fines correct, but they do not want the good times of the firm to sink into oblivion); or (often) negatively (Sie will genau das verhindern: Die Gräuel des Sozialismus, Gulag, Todestreifen, Unterdrückung jeder Opposition, in Vergessenheit versinken zu lassen. [24] – This is exactly what she wants to prevent, not to let the horrors of socialism, the Gulag, “death stripes”, suppression of all opposition sink into oblivion.).

5. Synonyms: in Erinnerung(en) verschwimmen, aus dem Gedächtnis verschwinden / schwinden, im Gedächtnis verblassen, dem Vergessen anheimfallen, in Vergessen versinken, ins Vergessen sinken, der Vergessenheit anheimfallen, aus dem Kopf gehen, aus dem Kopf verschwinden – to disappear from memory, to blur in memories, to fade from memory, to go into oblivion, to plunge into oblivion, to drop out of memory, to slip out of mind. Antonyms: in Erinnerungen fortleben / auftauchen, in Erinnerung(en) versinken, durch den Kopf schießen / gehen / geistern, in Köpfen / im Kopf herumschweifen / herumgehen / herumschweiren, sich vor Augen / vor innerem Auge abspielen, (jemandem) vor (innerem / geistigen) Augen stehen / ablaufen / auftauchen, in den Ohren / im Ohr (noch) klingen / nachklingen – to live on in one’s memories, to plunge into recollections, flash before one’s eyes, ears will resound [25].

6. Examples of usage:

Und sollte die PDS später einmal in Vergessenheit versinken, wenn sie zum Beispiel im Westen nicht Fuß fassen, dann wird eines vorerst unklar bleiben. Die Zeit, 27.06.1997, Nr. 27. [17] – And if the party of democratic socialism someday later sinks into oblivion, if it, for example, does not establish itself in the West, then one issue will remain unclear.

Während finnisches Design von Beginn der 30er Jahre an Weltherühmtheit erlangte, versank die Kunst des Jugendstils, die der Anfang eines besonderen, eigenen künstlerischen Weges war, außerhalb ihres Ursprungslandes in eine eigentümliche Vergessenheit. Der Tagesspiegel, 03.11.2002.

[17] – While the Finnish design was gaining world fame from the very beginning of the 30s, the art of German modernism, which was the beginning of a special, own artistic path, was sinking into oblivion outside of the country of origin.


– to recover (smth.) from oblivion

1. key word забвение (Я, ср.) (cf. oblivion; -с, n.) – «loss of memories, memory of smth., smth.» [26];

collocate возвращать (гл., перех. несов. в. от возвратить – v., trans., imperfect. aspect of возвратить; cf. to recover); «to return», «to force to return, to encourage the return from somewhere.» [26];

2. analytical combination with a simple structure; two-component; the nominal component has adverbial meaning; two-object; two-subject; intrinsically intransitive; extrinsically transitive;

3. the designated situation: causation of spontaneous reproduction of information in memory; mapping: the physical sphere (to do something in order to get something given or lost back by caring, moving from somewhere) \(\Rightarrow\) the mental sphere (to cause remembering of forgotten information, make it being remembered); spatial thematic code, personification of memory objects: "to influence the object (the content of the memory) in order to force it to move from somewhere to its former place (from oblivion into memory), as if the object were active and independent and could move itself, and oblivion and memory would be some different spaces" [24];

4. causer-subject (nom.) – can be inanimate, for example, circumstances, events, ceremonies (Мода осени 2002 года воспринимает юбку в постмодернистском ореоле, возвращая из забвения знаковые формы ушедших десятилетий, но придавая им вполне современное звучание [27] – Fashion of autumn 2002 takes the skirt in nostalgic glory, returning from oblivion the iconic forms of the past decades, but giving them a completely modern tone; Плеер продолжает возвращать из забвения имя одного из ярких представителей русской художественной школы конца XIX – начала XX веков, основателя и первого ректора Харьковской государственной академии дизайна и искусства, патриарха чуваший профессионального изобразительного искусства ... Алексея Афанасьевича Кокеля [28] – Plein Air continues to recover from oblivion the name of one of the brightest representatives of the Russian art school of the late XIX - early XX centuries, the founder and first rector of Kharkov State Academy of Design and Arts, patriarch of Chuvash professional fine art ... Alexey Afanas’evich Kokoel); or animate (plural) («Пока не будет предан земле последний погибший солдат – война не окончена!» – эта ставшая крылатым фраза А.В. Суворова хорошо знакома участникам пленового поискового отряда «Поиск-Вездеход», которые по зову сердца на протяжении уже нескольких лет возвращают из забвения имена павших героев [29] – "Until the last soldier is buried, the war won’t be over!" – this popular A.V. Suvorov’s quotation is well known to the participants of Poisk-Vezdekhod, a search group from Penza, who have been recovering the names of fallen heroes from oblivion with all their hearts);

memory object (acc.) – inanimate (Книга омского журналиста, пятикратного чемпиона города по шахматам Марка Мудрика, которая скоро должна выпить в свет, возвращает из забвения имена многих рыцарей шахматного искусства – тех, кто жертвовал в своей рискованной игре не только пешками и фигурами [35] – The book of the Omsk journalist, five-time city chess champion Mark Mudrik, which is about to be published, recovers from oblivion the names of many knights of chess art – those who sacrificed not only pawns and pieces in their risky game);

neutrally or positively evaluated object (the evaluation is usually expressed with the help of contextual qualifiers): Земляки патриотичного поэта Егора Потапова из Корткеросского района возвращают из забвения его имя и творчество [30] – The countrymen of talented poet Egor Potapov from Kortkerossky region are recovering his name and works from oblivion; Он возвращает из забвения то, что время уже начало покрывать своей пеленой. Казалось, эти элементы старинной казачьей культуры должны были уйти вместе с нашими предками – ведь прошли века, и сам мир изменился. Но такие неутомимые исследователи, как гость конференции-зала «Кубанских новостей», доставляют эти сокровища и вновь дарят людям. [31] – He’s recovering from oblivion things that time has already begun to cover with its veil. It seemed that these elements of the ancient Cossack culture vanish along with our ancestors – centuries passed and the world changed. But such tireless researchers as the guest of the Kuban News conference hall get out these treasures and give to people again.

5. Synonyms: возрождать из забытый, извлечь из забвения, зазывывать в прошлое, восстанавливать в памяти, вызывать в сознании – to revive from oblivion, to take from oblivion, to look into the past, to restore in memory, to resurrect in memory, to recall in memory, to call in consciousness. Antonyms: удалить из памяти, стирать из памяти, уничтожать из памяти, стирать из памяти, возвращать из памяти, вытеснять из памяти, забывать, стирать память, восстанавливать как память; to remove memories, to erase from memory, to efface from memory, to dislodge from consciousness, to finish with the past, to bury the past, to kill memory, to destroy memory, to blot out from memory.

6. Examples of usage:

Автор возвращает из забвения историю сражения на Соборовском поле Орловщины в 1943 году... [32] – The author recovers from oblivion the history of the battle at the Soborovsky field of Orlov in 1943 ...

Исконное название же ценно уже тем, что возвращает из забвения пласт истории. [33] – The traditional name is valuable because it recovers a long period of history from oblivion.
IV. CONCLUSION

The analysis results indicate the general characteristics of the lexico-semantic representation of memory in Russian and German languages, which are manifested in the internal organization structure of VMCs subsets; in common elements of the language memory model; in the similar semantic schematization of ideas about mnemonic processes and the asymmetry of their lexical representation; in the predominance of spatial, subject, personifying thematic codes as spheres of identification in the nomination; in the presence of VMCs series.

The semantic and syntagmatic VMCs features reflect the characteristics of the memory model elements, and the pragmatic component of VMCs meaning is the ambivalence of axiological attitude to the memory of Russians and Germans.

The revealed differences indicate the importance of storing information in memory for the Russian linguoculture (in addition to the reproduction of information), and loss of information in memory for the German linguoculture; great significance of representation of verbal action categories for the Germans; prevailing interpretation of memory operations as active actions or states of the subject and less importance of quasi-organs of memory in its linguistic representation in the Russian language.

The obtained results of the analysis can be presented in the ideographic complex dictionary of VMCs, whose macrostructure should reflect the ontologically determined classification of mnemonic processes integrating LUs into the semantic groups around the center word in the alphabetical order.

The dictionary entry structure should reflect the structural, semantic, paradigmatic, syntagmatic characteristics of the LUs and contain sufficient material illustrating the given characteristics. Accordingly, the entries can include: information about the keyword and the collocate; structure, transitivity / non-continuity, subjectivity / subjectivity of the VMCs and the meaning of the nominal component form field; denoted mnemonic process / state; semantic mapping and the sphere of identification, the transformation of the components meaning abstraction; syntagmatics and paradigmatics of VMCs.

References


