

LEXICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF NEWFOUNDLAND ENGLISH

Speaking about Newfoundland, one should mention a remarkable feature of its social development in the Early Modern period that is the large-scale emigration of Scots. Although the foundation of the first Scottish colony in America was connected with another island, it is Newfoundland that demonstrates the first experience of settling the Scots across the ocean.

In the 16th century, Newfoundland was officially proclaimed Britain's first overseas colony, marking the beginning of the establishment of the first American colonies of the British Empire. Its territory was settled by a group of immigrants from England and Ireland who were now geographically isolated and forced to explore the new territory and develop their own industries. The language in the closed society underwent a number of changes which initiated the formation of distinctive features that became characteristic of the area.

From a linguistic perspective, Newfoundland today is the most homogeneous province in Canada. The overwhelming majority of its residents (some 98 %) speak English as their sole mother tongue. Nevertheless, the English spoken in Newfoundland and Labrador contains many non-standard linguistic features. Some of these features are the preservation of non-standard regional and social variants from parts of the British Isles (chiefly from southwestern England and southeastern Ireland).

Among all the dialects of the Canadian variant of English, the Newfoundland and Labrador dialects have the most distinct differences in lexical, grammatical and phonetic aspects.

In the process of studying the linguistic material by the method of continuous sampling, we selected lexical units of the Newfoundland English dialect, which belong to the fishing and household vocabulary. These lexemes were divided into four thematic groups: “Traps and lures”, “Seagoing vessels”, “Household buildings”, and “Tools and implements”. The selected units have a significant national specificity which is found at the level of individual components of meaning and represents the main difficulty in their translation into Russian.

Due to the fact that the Newfoundland dialect has a large number of words-realities which are quite difficult to translate by introducing a Russian correspondence due to the absence of such nominations in the literary Russian language, this study is of particular importance.

Thus, the topic under consideration has practical relevance, given the increasing need of people to understand foreign languages, to learn the peculiarities of their cultures and the desire to realize the specificity of different worldviews. Moreover, the problem of compiling bilingual dictionaries and, in particular, dialectal ones is quite topical in modern lexicography.