Electronic dictionary of quotes as a way to enhance cultural literacy

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Abstract. This article contains the structure of Electronic dictionary of quotes, functioning in modern Russian-speaking network poetry. The creation of such dictionary is urged to solve an important educational problem, which is increase of cultural literacy level of modern youth. Choice of network poetry as a source of an illustrative material for Electronic dictionary of quotes is caused by wide popularity of network authors among youth, and also high concentration of proper name quotes in network poetry texts. The technology of creation of the electronic dictionary of quotes is presented in this article, including the development of an electronic database on the basis of the user application FirebirdSQL.

Introduction

Development of computer technologies is priority area of scientific researches and modernization of modern education. The traditions of multifaceted studying of the text saved up in linguistics are the base which can provide effective use of computer technologies in scientific and educational activity, including the humanitarian sphere. Dictionaries and reference books of different types, where encyclopedic and linguistic knowledge accumulates, are among traditional formats of linguistic scientific literature. Due to the development of the computer equipment and information technologies, electronic dictionaries as dictionaries of new type have appeared. Electronic dictionary is not just a dictionary in a computer or in any other electronic device [1]. Electronic dictionary is a special dictionary genre which feature is that internally it is arranged as a database with entries. At such arrangement of the dictionary the user doesn't need even to know the alphabet (a sequence of letters in it) to find the word that he needs. Nowadays electronic bilingual or multilingual dictionaries are extremely popular. However there are also monolingual electronic dictionaries directed on the solution of a certain linguistic task [2]. We'll speak further exactly about that kind of electronic dictionary.

This research is devoted to a solution of the problem of lacunarity in the onomasticon of the language identity of the modern native speaker. Lacunas in the onomastic thesaurus of the native speaker define low level of its cultural literacy. Obvious decrease in cultural level and impoverishment of the onomastic dictionary of youth is a universal problem, which excites people busy with education questions in Russia and in other countries. It is caused by slashing decrease in an education level (first of all – humanitarian), change of interests in reading, replacement of traditional high culture by mass culture and show business.

The concept of cultural literacy today is extremely relevant in the scientific and educational environment [3, 4 and 5]. Cultural literacy is the system of knowledge necessary for the person to be guided in the modern world. It includes knowledge in all spheres of human activity. They allow the person who has received information, to understand it sufficiently, to penetrate into its context, to draw proper conclusions and to develop his (her) own point of view.

The term "cultural literacy" was entered into scientific use in the second half of the 1980th years by the American culturologist E.D. Hirsh, the author of "The new dictionary of cultural literacy", run several editions [6 and 7]. The dictionary includes 5000 names, statements, dates and terms concerning national American culture. It is supposed that cultural competent person has an idea of each of them. The essence of the concept of cultural literacy lay in the fact that true literacy depends on knowledge of the special information which is universally divided by all members of this community. It is the mobile part of information which this community considered to be useful and, therefore, worthy to keep. At realities' selection E.D. Hirsh relied on rate of their use in national periodicals. From his point of view if any periodical refers to an event, a person or a subject, without giving any definitions, it is possible to assume that the majority of readers are familiar with them and, therefore, they are part of cultural literacy of the nation.

The similar situation is observed with modern Russian-speaking network poetry where

density proper name quotes is sometimes extremely high, this leads to the conclusion that author's intension is calculated on "homo legens" (the person who reads), but thus considerably not distanced psychologically and historically. The adequate perception of modern network poetry is impossible without existence of more or less wide intertextual onomastic field of the reader.

Hirsh's dictionary provides important information from different areas of knowledge. Later, by analogy with Hirsh's dictionary, the Russian-language dictionaries focused on the Russian national culture were made [8 and 9]. It is obvious that the researches focused on updating of the solution of this problem are very rare.

It should be noted that, when questioning native speakers, researchers, as a rule, are guided by a material of modern mass media, offering contexts with proper names.

Methods

Modern Russian-speaking network poetry became a material of this research. The choice of modern network poetry as an illustrative material for the electronic dictionary of proper name quotes is caused by the fact that it, being part of the general cultural macro text, appears to be the source, capable to feel up lacks of cultural education in consciousness of youth for a number of reasons. First, the modern network poetry is a projection of an epoch's picture, registering relevance of a choice of these or those cultural significant realities and figments. Second, lack of historical (time) and psychological distances with reading youth audience is typical for modern network poetry. Third, network poets are very popular among youth, it is proved by high rating of viewings of "Live Journal" poets (for example: Vera Polozkova, or Miss Understanding, she is still in the list of the most popular bloggers of the Runet on the livejournal platform: http://mantrabox.livejournal. com); citing of their texts on public pages in various social networks: "Vkontakte", "Facebook", "Odnoklassniki.ru". Fourth, the network placement format of poetic texts substantially causes their wide availability to reader's audience.

So, network poetry, in this regard, is the closest illustrative material to the modern native speaker. Besides, network authors are popular among youth audience, forming its subcultures, that is why the use of poetic contexts is more obvious for definition of cultural literacy level. Moreover, the fact that this or that name / surname enters the dictionary doesn't mean their appreciation, but means only that at this moment they are known to a wide range of people and have a certain impact on various parts of our life. It should be noted that the dictionary

that is under development can become a powerful factor of raising interest to this or that personnel / object. Besides, composition of the dictionary of proper name quotes based on a material of modern network poetry gives a chance to study the identity of the use of proper names of this or that author.

Poetic text, being, as a rule, of rather small volume, uses a semantic potential of a form most actively. For this reason, from a poetic discourse we should expect frequent maneuvers with quotes that are based on possibility of sense expansion by means of sending to conditional "pretext" of a proper name. Besides, in modern poetry this category of nouns with "hypertrophied semantics" even more often becomes a subject of various author's game tendencies.

Proper name quotes, that are differentiable because of different degree of misunderstanding of their meaning by native speakers, correspond to the concepts of lacuna and lacunarity in modern linguistics. The poetic contexts which include proper name quotes offered within the context of our experiment earlier on identification of culturological lacunas [10], represent a projection of those communicative situations in which misunderstanding and the communicative failures are inevitable because of lack of the general cultural code. Development of the electronic dictionary of proper name quotes based on a material of modern network poetry is an actual way of the solution of this problem, as it will visually and easily allow to explain to a schooler or a student the value of this or that proper name. The illustrative material is made of contexts of the modern network poetry, congenial to youth with spirit, feeling and format. Basic novelty of research is made by a choice of an illustrative material for entries (contexts of modern network poetry), and also a way of data presentation with inclusion of multimedia maintenance (a portrait / drawing / photo / audio recording; examples see further, in Table 1).

In order to succeed, the following methods and technologies are used: descriptive and analytical method; method of the contextual analysis; classification method; interpretive method; technology of creation of a database.

The body

The sequence of procedures on creation of the electronic dictionary of quotes with proper names means the algorithm thought over by the team: from a text material which is presented by modern network poetry (the declared authors: Vera Polozkova, Anastasia Afanasyeva, Linor Goralik, Alya Kudryasheva, Dmitry Vodennikov, Maria Stepanova, Nata Suchkova) all quotes with proper names

corresponding to elements of created classification are consistently got out. Thus, the proper name, after V. V. Krasnykh, is understood as the individual name connected with widely known text; it is some kind of a difficult sign, which in communication appeal not actually to a reviewer, but to a set of differential signs of this quote [11].

Then separate electronic card files on each author are formed. The card file includes some sections: proper name, the title, the name of the book/collection/cycle, a fragment from the text (context), the indication on specifics of the used proper name (nominative/figurative meanings). Existence of some features of common noun is the reason for ascertaining of figurative meaning: as a result of allocation of one of the essential signs, the proper name becomes designation for any object which possesses this or that element of "pretext".

Then card files are reduced in one, where the identical proper names of different authors are noted and grouped with help of search function. On the basis of the received uniform card file for each proper name the entry on the developed sample is created. On the basis of the received common card file, the entry is created for each proper name by the developed example. The meaning is formulated by the descriptive principle, taking into account the important information on conditional "pretext" of quotes in each of possible contexts. Information is selected from the chosen resources; it is processed and included as a component of an entry, where, if necessary, the multimedia illustrative material also can be enclosed. All the articles enter the electronic database on the basis of the user application FirebirdSQL. Firebird (FirebirdSQL) is a free database management system (DBMS) working at Linux, Microsoft Windows and various UNIX platforms.

The process of database creation includes the following stages:

−   database creation in Firebird by means of IB Expert DBMS;

−   database filling by means of DBMS or the user graphic interface created especially for this database;

−   development of the graphic interface.

With help of received results, the statistical tables, that show a percentage ratio of the use of quotes in nominative and figurative meanings, are formed. Such tables will help to define the main functions of proper names in the poetic text.

At this point the experiment revealed the existence of lacunas in the onomasticon of the modern native speaker; the main methods and technologies providing expediency of planned actions are chosen; the structure of a card file and an entry is developed; the card file of proper names based on Vera Polozkova's creative work is finished, in number of 550 units with a model classification grid "the proper name – a source of a proper name – a context – connotive meaning – the encyclopedic reference"; extensive research work about studying onomasticon in a modern discourse is carried out [12].

The structure of an entry includes the following elements: the heading word, dictionary marks, descriptive definition, multimedia material (portrait / drawing / photo / audio recording), example in the text (a text fragment), the author, the title, the name of the book / collection name, year of writing, the indication on the meaning of the proper name (nominative, figurative).

The Table 1 includes samples of three entries, where quotes of different types act as the heading words – LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN, GOLGOTHA, PRATCHETT TERRY.

Conclusions

Due to the development of digital technologies, and manually collected rich language material, that demands systematization and scientific judgment, the problem of development of electronic databases, electronic dictionaries, allowing to systematize and catalog a language material in a semi-automatic mode and carry out fast search of necessary language units in the set parameters, is very actual. Being in a development stage, the electronic dictionary of the quotes functioning in modern Russian-speaking network poetry has no analogs and can receive practical application in educational process of the main and high school as the instrument of increase of cultural literacy.

Thanks

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Table 1. Electronic dictionary of proper name quotes, functioning in modern network poetry (the Database cells)

Proper name quote	Type of the proper name	Encyclopaedic reference	Connotative meaning	Illustrative material	Additional information
Beethoven van Ludwig	Anthroponym	Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 - 1827) – the German composer, the author of "The sonata for a piano # 14 c-sharp minor, op. 27, #2", written in 1800 – 1801. The musical critic Ludwig Relshtab called the first part of the sonata (Adagio sostenuto) "lunar" in 1832, after death of the author: he compared it with a moonlight over the Vierwaldstättersee ".	*It is used in the nominative meaning: verbal metaphorical realization of "Moonlight Sonata" – Ludwig is the sleepwalker" - it is motivated by ideas of many ancient people of influence of lunar cycles on person mentality, (sleepwalking occurs from late Latin lunaticus – mad, from Latin luna – the moon). Melancholy of a one-way love, torment of hearing loss, expressed in the "Lunar" sonata, supports a subject of somnambulism.*	*"Not that I don't sleep - But yes, it's only about two nights. The thousand fourth. I am a sleepwalker – Ludwig's sonata. God save you from pain, from a fierce animal, From a bad eye and a field buttercup …" (Vera Polozkova, "Moonlight Sonata", "Misunderstanding", 2005)*	Ludwig van Beethoven. Portrait by Y. K. Shtiler (1781 – 1858)
Golgotha	Theonym	Golgotha is a small rock or the hill where Jesus Christ was crucified. It is considered that Golgotha is obliged by the name to skulls which were piled on a place of criminals' execution in ancient Jerusalem. Also there is a legend that Adam was buried on the place of Golgotha. According to the tradition, at the beginning of the Ist century Golgotha was behind city walls of Jerusalem, to the northwest from the city. Now it is a part of the Temple of the Lord's Coffin in Christian quarter of the old city of Jerusalem.	*It is used in the nominative meaning: verbal metaphorical realization of "Golgotha" is suffering; it is motivated by the fact that Golgotha, according to Christian dogma, is a place of tortures, sufferings where, Jesus Christ was crucified. Compare: to ascend to Golgotha – to accept sufferings, torments.*	*"He will corrode me with black soot Of Evil hair of yours, evil eyelashes. He will even force to beg him, to bite the dust – and will crucify after all. Not on the Golgotha. You will kill me quicker …" (Vera Polozkova, "Poker", "Misunderstanding", 2004).*	Crucifixion. Panorama fragment in the Bavarian Altötting, St Mary's chapel
Pratchett Terry	Anthroponym	Full name: sir Terence David Jones Pratchett (1948) – the English writer who has gained wide popularity after the outlet of a cycle of a satirical fantasy "Disc world".	*It is used in the nominative meaning: verbal metaphorical realization is "the world is a disk". It is motivated by the fact that Terry Pratchet is the author of a series of books "Disk World", where the world is a fantastic planet.*	*"The world is a disk as Terry Pratchett once noticed; in cracks and piracy …" (Vera Polozkova, "Disk World", "Misunderstanding", 2005).*	

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