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MYSTERIOUS FEARS: LEXICAL MEANS OF EXPRESSING THE CONCEPTUAL CATEGORY OF THE *MYSTIC* IN ENGLISH GOTHIC NARRATION OF THE 18th CENTURY

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Abstract: The article focuses on the study of lexical means expressing the category of the *Mystic* in English Gothic narration of the 18th century. The *mystic* in early Gothic prose is viewed as a genre characteristic based on the atmosphere of escalating fear in the face of the unknown and connected with the motif of mystery, belief in the supernatural and irrationalism as a specific way of world perception. The research proceeds from the conceptual category as a universal notional constant to its linguistic interpretation in a systemic presentation within a synchronic approach.

Key words: narration, conceptual category, differential feature, semantic component, lexical means.

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Résumé

The article describes the use of lexical means of expressing the conceptual category of the Mystic in English Gothic narration of the 18th century. The conceptual sphere has its own tools among which one can single out units for speech activation. These units are grouped in complex structures (conceptual categories) that can become basic elements for language semantic structures. Conceptual categories create the meaning of well-known notions such as the products of the historical development of mankind. Such notions can be explained not only with the help of verbal means, but are manifested in vocabulary and grammar of a certain narration. In English Gothic prose, the Mystic is distinguished as a genre feature, connected with the motif of mystery, belief in a supernatural power, irrationality as a certain way of world cognition, grounded on the atmosphere of fear aggravation in the face of unknown danger. The category of the Mystic is connected with the language of English Gothic prose through the system of notions that operate with the complex of language units of different levels and create their meanings. The verbalization of the Mystic is realized in the present article through the prism of two main semantic components – *fear* and *the mysterious*. The research proceeds from a conceptual category as a universal notional constant to its linguistic interpretation in a systemic presentation within a synchronic approach. Etymological and cultural data are incorporated into the analysis to achieve completeness and profoundness of the research.

Key words: narration, conceptual category, differential feature, semantic component, lexical means.

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