LANGUAGE OBJECTIVATION OF THE NOTIONAL COMPONENT
OF THE CONCEPTS ПОЛЕ/FIELD IN THE PROVERBIAL PICTURE OF THE WORLD

Summary. The article highlights the specifics of verbalization of the concepts ПОЛЕ/FIELD in the Ukrainian and English paroemia items. It also looks into the structure of these concepts, namely its notional component, as well as specifies isomorphic and allomorphic cognitive features of the concepts under contrastive study. It has been revealed that the concept ПОЛЕ gets broader objectivation in Ukrainian proverbial corpus in comparison with the concept FIELD, verbalized in the English paroemias which is predetermined by the geographical factor. The larger part of Ukraine comprises steppes and fields with rich soil which had an impact on the formation of the national character and outlook, the way of life and habits.

Keywords: concept, paroemia, proverbial corpus, language objectivation, notional component, cognitive features, world picture.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The semantics of landscape space names on the material of phraseological units in comparative or monostudies has been researched by such linguists as O. Halynska, T. Kosmeda, K. Mizin, J. Sul'eymanova, T. Panekina, I. Putova, V. Uzhchenko, O. Cherkhava and others.

Problem statement. Modern linguistic studies focuses on the linguistic world image of native speakers of different languages, the connection between language and culture, language and mentality, as well as the reflection of culture and national worldview in the language. All these factors have aroused interest of researchers in the problems of paroemic semantics, the interaction of linguistic and extralinguistic factors in the structure of meanings of proverbs and sayings, their ability to represent the peculiarities of national worldview and cognitive structures of experience. Despite the wide range of research on paroemic issues, the analysis of ways of verbalization of collective ideas of native speakers of Ukrainian and English languages about the natural conditions of their living, in particular, on the material of paroemias of these languages needs special attention.

In V. Uzhchenko’s opinion, a field is one of the oldest and most constant landmarks in the nature and life of an ethnos. For a Ukrainian steppe dweller, this is not only a spatial phenomenon, but if only sufficiently representative material is involved, the course of an eventful life. The semantic part of this concept reflects the features...
that are perceived by the community as socially significant, mentally marked [6, p. 102].

In paroemia items the most common is a generally used lexeme “pole” and its equivalent in English “field”. However, other verbalizers of the FIELD concept in the Ukrainian language are “ногу”, “пасовисько”, “стен”, and in English – “meadow” and “pasture”.

The study of common and distinctive features of verbalization of ПОЛЕ/ FIELD concepts in the English and Ukrainian paroemias shows that the common denotative feature of these concepts, verbalized in paroemias items of contrasted languages, which complements their notional component, is ‘field as a place for movement with no obstacles to it’. A field in this meaning acts as a ‘large, flat, open space’. It, unlike other relief elements, is convenient for movement: Вік прокишає – не поле перейти [7, p. 365]. Головний поле перебіжить, а голяй ні з місяця [3, p. 303]. Runs over fields and woods all day. Under the bed at night sits not alone, with long tongue hanging out, a-waiting for a bone (A shoe) [10, p. 152].

In Ukrainian riddles the subjects of movement in this locus are natural phenomena (wind, celestial bodies), wild animals, birds, body parts (eye), and in English – domestic animals (cow, horse), insects (bee), which are mostly the object of guessing: Ляпіть коник, базу, полем-догом нусте, ніхто його не впіймає і ніхто не зазенугає (Вітер) [8, p. 43]. Маленьке, сіреньке, по полях літає, уночі співає (Перепілка) [8, p. 112]. Way out in the field there stands a great mare, hoist up her tail and sop your bread there (Beehive with honey in it) [10, p. 138].

A steppe and a field in the Ukrainian proverbial picture of the world are distinguished by their beauty. These landscape objects arouse admiration, aesthetic pleasure from contemplation: Стен, поля – рожки моя [3, p. 48].

The proverbial corpus of the Ukrainian language objectifies collective ideas about a field as a source of income, a sign of well-being and wealth: Як твоя, доню, доля, то накупит чоловік (A shoe) [10, p. 152].

In the Ukrainian s’ collective ideas, the lack of a large plot of land for cultivation was the cause of ridicule, because it testified to the idleness of an owner: Поля, що її курі і lanя нема, де ступити [3, p. 48]. Там того поля на зайчи йск [3, p. 48].

In the common consciousness of Ukrainians it is ‘a place of deception, insecurity, hardships, a hazardous and deserted land area’: Вияві його в поле [1, p. 754], Пшяло поле в ліс [1, p. 730]. In English linguoculture the specific national and cultural meaning of the lexeme ‘field’ is ‘a place for walking a dog as well as ‘a place for hunting’: Dogs are fine in the field [11, p. 197]. Game is cheaper in the market than in the fields [11, p. 160].

The national proverbial corpora of the languages under contrastive analysis records many paroemias in which the cognitive feature of the FIELD concept, in particular ‘natural resource for human life’ is verbalized. However, both in terms of qualitative and quantitative characteristics this feature receives a much broader reflection in the Ukrainian language: Без зною не раз поле вродить, а без ласки Божої ніколи [1, p. 500]. Не зберіг поля, коли лиха доля [5, p. 176]. My father had a field, what was the first crop he made? (His track) [10, p. 426].

A field is a natural resource of two kinds: the former brings harvest on its own, being a place of berry picking: Не нашого поля ягода, місцем, де ростуть трави: В лінівого на полі кронівця росме [4, p. 447]. Love is a fair garden and marriage a field of nettles [12, p. 174]; a pasture: Поле голубе, овечки золоті, пастух рогатий (Небо, зорі і місяць), Looked all over the house and couldn’t find it, all over the barn and couldn’t find it, looked in the field and found it (A cow-bell) [10, p. 661]; ant the latter yields harvest as a result of hard human work.

There are a large number of paroemia items in the Ukrainian language, in which the interconnection ‘field – work’ is verbalized: Краще робити на вільній полі, ніж гуляти у неволі [5, p. 179]. Different types of work are performed in the field, namely – plowing, sowing, reaping, threshing, mowing: Чоловік у полі орать, а жінка руками махати [4, p. 102]. To carry them out, various tools are used (a sickle, a plow, a cutter, a plow, a scythe) and machinery (a haymaker, a combine-harvester, a tractor): Лінійний у полі без сохи, а дома з ложкою [4, p. 449]. Маленьке, кругельне, усе поле обийшло і назад прийшло (Серп) [8, p. 225].

If the moon shows a silver shield, be not afraid to reap your field, but if she rises halved round, soon we’ll tread on deluged ground [12, p. 280].

Mother Earth is a pre-polytheistic image-tem of proto-Ukrainians who worshiped the fertile field, the whole earth. For Ukrainians, the land (field) has always been a means of subsistence, a breadwinner, moreover, it is ‘the mother’s womb, in which not only the physical but also the spiritual genotype of man is formed’. Consequently, a great number of paroemias, mostly in the Ukrainian language, are connected with the field as a place that yields, feeds, which any human-being cannot live without: Хто полю годить, тому жито родить [3, p. 49]. Ліпто родить, а не поле [3, p. 81]. Cocksle and corn grow in the same field [11, p. 131].

The elements of the ПОЛЕ/ FIELD conceptosphere are zoonyms, particularly domestic animals, which in the Ukrainian common consciousness facilitate farming, but might sometimes fail in their work: Не вір жінці вдома, а коняці в роботі [4, p. 94].

Ukrainian parenomological material comprises many a lot of expressions that are related to the peculiarities of field work. They verbalize the following logems: ‘only well-cultivated and fertilized land yields a rich harvest’: Не поле родить, а нива [5, p. 48]. Гній у поле – одувоець, більше хліба привеє [5, p. 92].

Yield is determined by natural processes, namely the onset of summer: Ліпто родить, а не поле [5, p. 81]. The biggest concerns of a representative of the Ukrainian ethnic group were associated with weather conditions, which could ruin all his work and destroy the crops: Зайти ти зйшло, та якби з ними не пішло [5, p. 101]. Soil fertility depends on God’s will. This idea is defined by the Christian worldview and practical experience of the Ukrainian people: Без зною не раз нам поле
вродит, а без ласки Божої ніколи [1, p. 500]. Ukrainian and English paroemias state that successful gathering in the harvest correlates with destiny and luck: Не зберігай поля, коли ліха дола [5, p. 176]. Fortune is the mistress of the field [12, p. 166]. In general, working in the field requires a lot of strenuous work: Гроші на полі не ростуть [5, p. 109]. У полі виживні самі – як лава [3, p. 48]. Горе поле не зоре, а біда не зволожується [5, p. 155]. Журбою поля не вірюю [5, p. 192]. This labour is challenging and sometimes exhausting: Не хвавись, як ідеш у поле, а хвались, як ідеш із поля [4, p. 396]. Поле в поло, а біди дола [1, p. 755]. Ніяко-нияко! Верни мою силу [7, p. 453]. In the last mentioned paroemia a field is personified. It shows in the image of a patroness capable of working wonders.

English paroemias express the idea that three factors are essential to provide a good harvest: favorable weather conditions, healthy seeds and a hard-working farmer: A field requires three things: fair weather, sound seed and a good husbandsman [12, p. 42], and successful field harvesting is the result of a farmer’s dedication: It is the farmer’s care that makes the field bare [9, p. 199].

Harvesting was a sacred act for the representatives of the Ukrainian ethnic group. It was accompanied by numerous rites. But not only wheat and rye were sacred grain crops for Ukrainians, but also other cereals: Кукурудзу шануй і в поле, і в силоюя яблі, і в куморі [3, p. 110].

Ethnoculturally marked are the proverbs with the component “нива”, which characterize the reality of Ukrainian society in the 16th–19th centuries (period of domination of serfdom), the second half of the 19th – early 20th centuries (spread of mercenaries among Ukrainian peasants), and expose social inequality, hard and exhausting work of serfs and hirelings, their impoverishment and deprivation: Побила ліха година, ота чужа нива та полонений серп [5, p. 162]. Чужа нива сильва зв'ялила [5, p. 101]. Folk beliefs objectivize the eternal desire of the Ukrainian peasant to free labor on his piece of land: Щоб ліха не знати треба своїм плугом та на своїй ниві орати [5, p. 162]. This proverb has become figurative and more modern. One’s own field is a metaphorical image of one’s own country, homeland, Ukraine, and thus this paroemia appeals to Ukrainians to work in their country, not abroad, to avoid the bitter fate of migrant workers, which is also proved by another popular folk expression – На чужому полі не матише волі [3, p. 607]. Landlords used to take land from poor peasants, for whom land and its crops were the main means of existence. However, this situation took on a humorous color in the paroemia, which reveals the optimistic and humorous character of a Ukrainian peasant: Ми думали вже наша нива пропала, а вона втекла да пана Галагана [5, p. 230]. The image of someone else’s field in Ukrainian paroemias represents ‘alien which always seems better than one’s own’ На чужий ниві все блискавише пшениця [7, p. 437]. The conception of another’s field is built on the basis of sensory-image perception, when what is more distant was perceived as more attractive, more alluring.

The word “луг” in some Ukrainian paroemias conveys the same: ‘beauty’: Парна дівчина як у лузи калина [4, p. 197] as well as joy: Не вдавайся в тугу, чекай щастя з зеленого лугу [5, p. 197]. The natural signs of a guelder-rose in the meadow, which is beautiful and red, are transferred to the image of a beautiful girl, and the meadow, which is especially enchanting in spring, is able to dispel any sorrow.

In both languages there are proverbs and sayings that are associated with observations of nature, its changes at different times of the year, in particular, with the seasonal changes in the appearance of relief elements. Besides, they served as folk signs. Based on them a folk calendar was formed, which primarily regulated the time and nature of field-work. So, originally it was an agricultural calendar, which absorbed the centuries-old economic experience of the people, the main characteristics of which were love of farming, respect and care for the land, glorification of hard work which ensured life: Грудень поле гудить, а землю студить [3, p. 88]. Не лишай земляку місця, і пале смітніє [3, p. 48]. Весна кличе в поле [3, p. 79]. Не злакай туманів – вижджай у поле рано [3, p. 48]. Від вересня вогонь і в полі, і в хаті [3, p. 88]. У червні на полі густо, а в куморі пусто [3, p. 87]. У липні на дворі пусто, зате на полі густо [3, p. 88]. Church holidays were often the time reference points that defined the nature of agricultural activities: Юрій з хати всіх на поле вижене [3, p. 391]. Свяття Юрій по полі гудить, хліб-жито родить [7, p. 58]. По Петрі на дворі пусто, а на полі густо [3, p. 391]. Physical and functional properties of the field, depending on the time of the year, are realized by the Ukrainian riddle: Зелено біле, весною черне, літом зелене, осінню стрижень (Поле) [8, p. 22], which implies the meaning of ‘a field as a place for agricultural work’, as well as its natural and physical features.

The English paroemia with the lexical component “field” expresses a sign, namely changes in the phase of the moon cycle, which predicts the weather, and with it the appropriate time for different types of field work, namely the harvest: If the moon shows a silver shield, be not afraid to reap your field; but if she rises halved round, soon we’ll tread on deluged ground [11, p. 542]. Another prognostic paroemia conveys the observation that precipitation in spring, such as snowfall in March and downpours in May, contribute to crop growth: A peck of March dust and a shower in May, makes the corn green and the fields gay [11, p. 511].

The field, particularly ‘clear’, steppe and meadow, are marked by the struggle against enslavement, for statehood, independence of Ukraine. The steppe, like the clear field, is the archetype of national consciousness, because these concepts are associated with fundamentals of human life such as space and freedom. As O. Yefymenko outlines, in the mentality of the Ukrainian people, the concept of steppe is very important, because the steppe zone occupies the vastest territory, 40% of the country’s area, and the factor of the geographical environment of the native speaker influences the conceptual picture of a native speaker’s world, which is reflected in his language picture of the world [2, p. 3].
And it is the Cossacks who are most often depicted in paroemias. The field for them is nothing but liberty, unlimited existence, where they can act at their own discretion, but without betraying the main goal – to protect the homeland from invaders and oppressors: *Коли козак в полі, то він на волі* [5, c. 263]. Therefore, the field is a place for battle, courage, victory, primarily of Cossacks', which is reflected in the Ukrainian paroemias: Степ – як дом [7, c. 450]. *Один в полі не воїн* [5, c. 269]. And only one English paroemia qualifies a field as a place of fierce battle: *Hard – fought field, where no man escapes unkill* [11, c. 359].

**Conclusions and suggestions.** The concept ПОЛЕ is one of the key concepts for Ukrainians, which is proved by the qualitative and quantitative objectification of this concept in the proverbial corpus of the Ukrainian language, the presence of numerous variants. Its diverse objectification is natural, as the landscape of Ukraine is mostly flat, and Ukrainian lands have always been known for fertility, which determined the national identity, as well as influenced lifestyle of the Ukrainian people. In the English proverbial corpus, the most frequent are paroemias with the meaning ‘a place place where berries, grains, herbs grow’, and in Ukrainian the most widely represented are paroemias, which verbalize the same ‘place for farming, which testifies to the value of the agricultural aspect of the semantic content of the concept FIELD and characterizes Ukrainians as a hard-working nation that cherishes its hopes for prosperity by working in the field.

Prospects for further research are to analyze the objectification of terrestrial and aquatic space concepts in the Ukrainian and English-language fiction discourses.

**References:**