

DOI <https://doi.org/10.30525/978-9934-26-348-4-19>

A SEMANTIC GAP IN NAMING OF SURPRISE IN ENGLISH

СЕМАНТИЧНИЙ РОЗРИВ У НОМІНАЦІЇ ЗДИВУВАННЯ АНГЛІЙСЬКОЮ МОВОЮ

Lytvyniuk O. I. **Литвинюк О. І.**

*Head, Senior Researcher at the Research
Laboratory for Contrastive Linguistics and
Foreign Language Teaching Methodology
Navchalna Knyha Publisher
Dnipro, Ukraine*

*завідувачка, старший науковий працівник
науково-дослідної лабораторії
контрастивної лінгвістики та методики
викладання іноземних мов
Видавництво «Навчальна книга»
м. Дніпро, Україна*

Due to its psychophysiological origin ([1, p. 564; 2, p. 41; 3, p. 6]) and basic status ([4, p. 60], [5] and many others) the emotion of surprise is expected to be named with one or some semantically alike words of shared etymology within one and the same language. However, summarizing leading English dictionaries and thesauri data we get at least 46 names for the emotion of surprise in Modern English. From here the following research question arises: Do all or majority of the English names for the emotion of surprise go back to the same root and so share their core sema? There is lack of examination here, so my aim is to answer the research question. To reach the aim it is necessary to do such tasks: 1) to make a general list of the names of the emotion of surprise in English, 2) to group the listed words according to their etymologies, and 3) to discover the shared core sema or semas if it is possible.

Our list of commonly used names of the emotion of surprise is as follows: *admiration, amazement, astonishment, astoundment, awe, bafflement, bewilderment, bombshell, confoundment, confusion, consternation, curiosity, daze, disbelief, discomfiture, disillusion, dismay, eye-opener, fascination, fillip, flabbergastment, incredulity, jolt, kick, kicker, marvel, marvelment, miracle, perplexity, prodigy, quandary, revelation, reverence, shock, speechlessness, start, startlement, stunner, stupefaction, stupor, surprise, thunderclap, twist, wonder, wonderment, wrinkle*. It does not cover all possible discourse uses as it is extracted from dictionaries.

Grouping the words according to their etymologies given by W. W. Skeat [6] we get the following:

Latin origin: *admiration, astonishment, astoundment, confoundment, confusion, consternation, curiosity, discomfiture, disillusion, fascination, marvel, marvelment, miracle, perplexity, prodigy, revelation, reverence, stupor, surprise* (19 words);

Scandinavian origin: *amazement, bafflement, daze, fillip, quandary* (5 words);

Anglo-Saxon origin: *awe, bewilderment, bombshell, disbelief, dismay, eye-opener, jolt, shock, speechlessness, start, startlement, stunner, thunderclap, twist, wonder, wonderment, wrinkle* (17 words);

Old Welsh origin: *kick, kicker* (2 words).

The three left words – *flabbergastment, incredulity* and *stupefaction* – are not mentioned in Skeat's Dictionary [6], but according to Etymonline (Online Etymological Dictionary) the first one came in the 1700s from some dialect with unknown etymology, the third one is of Latin origin and according to Wiktionary the second word was borrowed from Latin as well.

Having applied the statistical method, we get the following: Latin origin – 45,65% (21 words), Anglo-Saxon origin – 36,96% (17 words), Scandinavian origin – 10,87% (5 words), Old Welsh origin – 4,35% (2 words), unknown origin but local English – 2,17% (1 word).

Taking into account, that both Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian etymons go back to Old Germanic, we get 47,83% of Old Germanic traces, that is 2,18% more than Latin (both from Vulgar Latin and Latin through Old French and French) influence. 4,35% of Welsh impact is the result of direct language contact.

So we get two main groups (Old Germanic and Latin) and two minor admixtures (Old Welsh and that of unknown origin) among the Modern English names of the emotion of surprise. That means one source of the original semantics and three sources of borrowed semantics, or 47,83% vs 52,17%.

Though some group names describe physical or reflexive reactions associated with the emotion of surprise, all Old Germanic etymons of the group, as it follows from Skeat's Dictionary [6], might be roughly reduced to the meaning of a fast solo movement and the fact gives reasons to suppose that the initial core sema had the same meaning. That initial semantics increased adding new semas and preserving transparency of the words' inner forms to Old Germanic speakers.

Loan words leave their inner form and core sema semantics in donor languages. Therefore, being the accepting tongue here, English has no transparent semantics for 52,17% of surprise names except for newly added meanings connected with peculiar discourse situations.

So in Modern English there is a semantic gap between the original and borrowed names of the emotion of surprise.

All the above gives us enough reasons to approve that neither all nor the majority of the English names for the emotion of surprise go back to the same root and share their core sema but only their minor part (namely, 47,83%)

might hypothetically share one core sema rooted in Old Germanic or its predecessor.

Bibliography:

1. Reisenzein, R., W.-U. Meyer, and M. Niepel Surprise. Encyclopedia of Human Behaviour/ Second Edition. Editor-in-chief V. S. Ramachandran. In 3 V. – Elsevier, 2012 – V. 3, pp 564–570. Дата звернення 21.12.2022
2. Adolphs, R., and Anderson, D. J. The neuroscience of emotion: A new synthesis. Princeton University Press, 2018. Дата звернення 21.12.2022
3. Neta, M., and Kim, M. J. Surprise as an Emotion: A Response to Ortony. Perspective of Psychological Science. 2022. P. 1–9 DOI: 10.1177/17456916221132789 www. psychologicalscience.org/PPS. Дата звернення 02.02.2023
4. Ekman P. Basic emotions. In: T. Dalgleish and M. J. Power (Eds.) Handbook of cognition and emotion. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons Ltd., 1999, pp. 45–60
5. Silva, P. J. Looking Past Pleasure: Anger, Confusion, Disgust, Pride, Surprise, and Other Unusual Aesthetic Emotions. Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts. 3. 2009.: Pp. 48–51. DOI: 10.1037/a0014632. Дата звернення 21.12.2022.
6. Skeat, W. W. The Concise Dictionary of English Etymology. Wordsworth Reference, 2007, 655 p.

DOI <https://doi.org/10.30525/978-9934-26-348-4-20>

**GENDER INFLUENCE ON LANGUAGE USE
(BASED ON THE MOVIE “NUNS ON THE RUN” 1990)**

**ВПЛИВ ГЕНДЕРУ НА МОВЛЕННЯ
(НА ОСНОВІ ФІЛЬМУ «ЧЕРНИЦІ-ВТІКАЧКИ» 1990)**

Lozovska K. O.

*Postgraduate Student at the Department
of English Translation Theory and Practice
Zaporizhzhia National University
Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine*

Лозовська К. О.

*аспірантка кафедри теорії та практики
перекладу
з англійської мови
Запорізький національний університет
м. Запоріжжя, Україна*

Stereotypes exist in all aspects of our lives, including the expected speech behaviors of men and women. In the research “Gender Stereotypes and