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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**COGNITIVE PRINCIPLES OF CONVERSION
IN MODERN ENGLISH**

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH

Actuality of the topic and the degree of research. As known, the end of the 20th – the beginning of the 21st centuries in linguistics is characterized by language learning and studying the language processes from the perspective of anthropocentric paradigm.

Moreover, on the age of globalization and innovative technologies, it was the English language that became the working language throughout the world which could not but affect its system.

With spread of internet in virtual communication people tend to use the tools to save language. In our opinion, conversion is just one of such tools. Despite the fact that in the scientific literature there is a great deal of works devoted to the study of different aspects of conversion, there is not a single study in which conversion would be considered as a mechanism of the principle of language saving. All of the above mentioned determines the relevance of our study.

The relevance of our study is also explained by the fact that, unlike our predecessors, we consider conversion not as a word-building tool or one of the types of transposition, but as a universal language tool that needs a more detailed and complete description in the language, in particular, in modern English language. It is also conditioned with the need to consider the factors of cognitive nature that determine the appearance and choice of particular conversion, both as reflection of the needs of the language itself and the communicative tasks of the speaker. It is within the framework of cognitive analysis, that, on the one hand, the nature of conversion, on the other hand, its influence on the formation of the concept sphere of the English language, are identified.

The problem of studying conversion is not new in the English language. The history of the study of the current issue includes an extensive literature examining this problem from different aspects-empirical, syntactical, structuralistic. The consideration of cognitive aspect of conversion in the English language was conducted within the framework of elaborating the cognitive theory of metaphor

proposed by G.Lakoff¹ and M.Johnson.² Later, this position was reflected by works of R.Mendoza, O.Velasco, I.Balteiro, S.Martsa,³ etc. The study of conversion in Russian linguistics is contained in the classical works by E.S.Kubryakova, V.A.Gureeva, E.M.Pozdnakova, O.G.Ilyinskaya,⁴ etc. In Russian linguistics, conversion was considered as a structural means of word formation of the English language in works by M.Mamedov, H.Gadjiyev, S.Orudjev, R.Guseynov, Q.Babanli, R.Nasirov,⁵ etc.

¹ Лакофф, Дж. Когнитивная семантика // Язык и интеллект (пер. с англ. и нем.), – М.: Прогресс, – 1996. – с. 143-184; Лакофф, Дж. Метафоры, которыми мы живем / Дж.Лакофф. Пер. с англ. А.Н.Баранова и А.В.Морозовой; под ред. и с предисл. А.Н.Баранова. – М.: УРСС, – 2004. – 252 с.; Lakoff, G. Categories and cognitive models. / G.Lakoff. Cognitive science report, – Berkley: University of California, – Vol.2. – 1982. – 103 p.; Lakoff, G. Women, fire and dangerous things: What categories reveal about the mind. / G.Lakoff. – Chicago, – 1987. – 614 p.; Lakoff, G. Cognitive semantics. Meaning and mental representation. / G.Lakoff. Ed. by Umberto Eco, Marco Santambrogio, Patrizia Violi, – Bloomington and Indianapolis, – 1988. – 248 p. etc.

² Lakoff, G. Metaphors we live by. With a new afterword. / G.Lakoff, M.Johnson. – Chicago: The Chicago University Press, – 2003. – 276 p.

³ Balteiro, I. A Contribution to the Study of Conversion in English. / I.Balteiro. – Münster: Waxmann, – 2007. – 152 p.; Mendoza, R. Patterns of conceptual interaction. / R.Mendoza, O.Velasco. In Rene Dirven & Ralf Pörings (eds.). Metaphor and metonymy in comparison and contrast. – Berlin & New York: Mouton de Gruyter, – 2003. – p.489-532; Sándor, Martsa. Conversion in English: A Cognitive Semantic Approach. / Martsa Sándor. – Cambridge Scholars Publishing, – 2013. – 301 p.

⁴ Арутюнова, Н.Д. Проблемы морфологии и словообразования (на материале испанского языка). / Н.Д.Арутюнова. – М.: Языки славянских культур, – 2007. – 288 с.; Ильинская, О.Г. Языковая природа конверсии и типы конверсивов в современном русском и английском языках: /дис. кандидата филологических наук/ – М., 2006. – 205 с.Кубрякова, Е.С. Номинативный акт и его когнитивно-прагматические аспекты // Когнитивные и коммуникативные аспекты английской лексики: Сб. науч. тр., – М.: Наука, – 1990. – с. 9-15; Кубрякова, Е.С., Гуреев, В.А. Конверсия в современном английском языке // Вестник ВГУ, Серия лингвистика и межкультурная коммуникация, –2002. № 2, – с. 33-38, etc.

⁵ Babanlı, G. Konversiya terminininsemantik təhlili // – Bakı, Terminologiya məsələləri, – 2017. № 2, – s. 11-16; Hacıyeva, X. Dilçilikdə konversiya hadisəsi və texnikasının inkişafı prosesində neologizmlərin rolu və əhəmiyyəti // – Bakı, Filologiya məsələləri, –2015. № 10, – s.109-113; Hüseynova, R.H. Konversiya

The object and subject of the research. The object of the research is conversion in modern English.

The subject of our research is the study of conversion from the point of view of cognitive analysis.

The goal and objectives of the research work. The main goal of our research is to study the cognitive basis of conversion in modern English language.

To achieve the main goal, the following tasks have been put:

- to trace the history of study of conversion in the English language presented in foreign and Azerbaijani linguistics;
- to determine the aspects of studying conversion in modern English language;
- to consider conversion as one of the mechanisms of the language saving principle;
- to study conversion at the different levels of the language;
- to highlight the kinds and types of conversion;
- to reveal the structural models of conversion;
- to define the semantic component of conversion;
- to identify the types of semantic transfers on the basis of which the conversion is based;
- to identify the distinctive features of conversion as a semantic phenomenon of the language;
- to determine the effect of conversion on the development in terms of the language phenomena of polysemy, homonymy, synonymy, antonymy;
- to determine the cognitive nature of conversion;
- to reveal the connection between the effect of conversion and the development of language categories;
- to set the cognitive-communicative goal of conversion;
- to determine the effect of conversion in actualization of the various concepts;

yolu ilə ingilis dilində yeni söz yaradıcılığı və onun Azərbaycan dilində ifadə üsulları // – Bakı, Filologiya məsələləri, – 2017. № 1, – s. 80-84; Nəsirova, R.M. Müxtəlif sistemli dillərdə morfoloji üsulların tipologiyası: /filologiya üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. avtoreferat/ – Bakı, 2017. –31 s.; Orucova, S.A. Dildə konversiya hadisəsi: /filologiya üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. avtoreferat/ – Bakı, 2016. – 23 s.

- to identify the role of conversion in verbalization of the various concepts

The research methods. Based on the tasks set during the analysis, the research used complementary methods, including the methods of semantic interpretation, cognitive and contextual analysis. In particular, the research used following methods: synchronous method, descriptive method, observation method, method of linguistic analysis

The main provisions for defense are:

- conversion is a mechanism of language saving principle;
- conversion is a universal phenomenon of the language observed at the different levels of the language hierarchy;
- conversion is the same semantic phenomenon as polysemy, homonymy, synonymy, antonymy;
- conversion is one of the criteria entering lexeme into nominative field;
- conversion is one of the means of the language that creates continuum and arranges the units of the language in a systematic order.

Scientific novelty of the research lies in the fact that for the first time in linguistics, conversion has been examined as a mechanism of the principle of language saving. As a result of such approach, the structural models and the semantic component of conversion have been defined. The classification of its structural models is carried out and the semantic transfer is discovered, based on which the conversion is built. Also, the cognitive principle of the conversion is discovered, which influences on the units at the different levels of the language.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. Theoretical significance of the research is determined by the fact that the study of conversion from the cognitive point of view has fostered defining conversion as a universal phenomenon of the language, structuring the language units in a systematic order.

Practical significance of the research is determined by the fact that the materials examined in the research can be used at the classes on general linguistics, at the special courses on cognitive linguistics,

as well as disciplines related to the study of theory and practice of the English language at the faculties of philology.

Approbation and application. Approbation of dissertation has been carried out in the process of discussion of the content of its separate sections at the meetings of the department of English Grammar of AUL.

Basic provisions of the research are presented in 14 scientific publications. The theoretical scientific and practical deductions of the research issues were described in the reports and presented at international forums and conferences; the content of the research was approved by the specialists.

Name of the organization where the dissertation is performed. The work was performed at Department of English Grammar at Azerbaijan University of Languages.

The structure of the dissertation with a sign including a separate volume of the structural units of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an Introduction – 5 pages, 7182 characters, Chapter I – 27 pages, 44003 characters, Chapter II – 36 pages, 55897 characters, Chapter III – 52 pages, 83985 characters, the result – 6 pages, 8963 characters, and the total volume of the thesis consists of 200 030 characters.

THE CONTENT OF RESEARCH

In the *Introduction* to the thesis the relevance of the topic, the object and subject of the research work, the purpose and objectives, the hypothesis, the material, background of the thesis, the scientific novelty, methodology, theoretical and practical significance of the research, are presented.

The first chapter is titled “**The history of the study of conversion in Modern Linguistics**”. The problem of studying conversion is not new in the English language. The history of the study of the current issue includes extensive literature. Considering this fact and modern achievements of linguistic science, all scientific research related to the features of the functioning of the conversion can be classified into two groups: 1) study of conversion from the

point of view of traditional grammar; 2) studies of the cognitive characteristics of the functioning of conversion.

The following stages of determining this grammatical phenomenon are distinguished in the history of the study of conversion.

1) Conversion refers to the transition of one part of speech to another (the end of the 17th and the beginning of the 18th centuries). During the compilation of English grammars, researchers such as Lane, Greenwood, Ward, Hazel, etc. focused not on the structural, but on the conceptual description of the conversion.⁶

2) Conversion means the use of the same word in the functions of different parts of speech, or the functional transition from one part of speech to another (the end of the 19th century). This understanding of conversion is associated with the development of syntax theory in English grammar: words related to the different parts of speech are not considered in isolation, but within the framework of the sentence structure. This provision of polyfunctionalism is reflected in the works of Morris, Sweet, Crazing, Bradley.⁷

3) conversion as a way of word formation using the zero morpheme (the end of the 19th and the mid of the 20th centuries): structuralistic approach.

⁶ Greenwood, J. An essay towards a practical English grammar. / J.Greenwood. – London, 1711, – Menston: The Scolar Press limited, – 1968. – p. 169-170; Hazlitt, W. A new and improved grammar of the English tongue: for the use of schools. / W. Hazlitt. – London, – 1810. – p.66; Lane, A. A key to the art of letters. London, 1700. English linguistics, 1500-1800. A collection of facsimile reprints, by R.C. Alston, № 171, – Menston: The Scolar Presslimited, – 1979. – p.71; Ward, J. Four essays upon the English language, London, 1758. English linguistics, 1500-1800. A collection of facsimile reprints, by R.C., – Alston, – The Scolar Press limited, – 1967. №45, – p.55-56

⁷ Bradley, H. The Making of English. / H.Bradley. – London: Macmillan and Co., – 1937. – p.115; Kruisinga, E. A Handbook of Present Day English. / E.Kruisinga. Part II, vol. 2 Fifth edition, P.Noordhoft; – Gronongen, – Part II. – vol. 2 – 1953. (I edn. - 1909). – p.96; Morris, R. English grammar./R.Morris. – London: Macmillan, – 1886. – 117 p.; Sweet, H. A new English grammar. Logical and historical. / H.Sweet. Part I. Introduction, phonology and accidence. Part II. Syntax. – Oxford: At the Clarendon Press, – 1900. – 1930 p.

One of the first researchers who considered conversion as a word-building phenomenon was Bloomfield, who spoke about the formation of zero words with the help of the zero element, and called the conversational units "secondary conversed words."⁸ L.Bloomfield's ideas about conversion as a "zero derivation" in the second half of the 20th century were developed by G.Marchand.⁹

The presence of zero affix in the word during conversion was also noted by Russian linguists, who began to pay close attention to English word formation from the 60-80s of the 20th century. Classic works in this direction are the works of E.S.Kubryakova, O.D.Meshkov, P.V.Tsarev, P.M.Karashuk,¹⁰ etc. in which conversion was considered as a morphological-syntactic type of word formation.

In Azerbaijani linguistics, conversion in the English language as an object of research has attracted the attention of scientists over the last 20 years. Here refer "About conversion" by M.Mamedov, "The role and importance of neologisms in the development of conversion phenomena and techniques in linguistics" by H.Gadjiyeva, "The phenomenon of conversion in language" by S.Orudjeva, "New words creation in English by means of conversion and the methods of its expression in Azerbaijani" by R.Guseynova, "Semantic analysis of the term "conversion" by Q.Babanli, "Typology of morphological methods in multisystem languages" by

⁸ Bloomfield, L. Language. /L.Bloomfield – New York: Henry Holt and Company, – 1948 (1st edn. 1933). – p.238-239

⁹ Marchand, H. Expansion, Transposition and Derivation // La Linguistique, – 1967. No. 1, – p.13-26

¹⁰ Арутюнова, Н.Д. Проблемы морфологии и словообразования (на материале испанского языка)/ Н.Д.Арутюнова. – М.: Языки славянских культур, – 2007. – 288 с.; Карашук, П.М. Словообразование английского языка./П.М.Карашук. – М.: Высшая школа, – 1977, – 303 с.; Кубрякова, Е.С. Что такое словообразование?/ Е.С.Кубрякова. – М.: Наука, – 1965. – 77 с.; Мешков, О.Д. Словообразование современного английского языка. / О.Д.Мешков. – М.: Наука, – 1976. – 245 с.; Царев, П.В. Продуктивное именное словообразование в современном английском языке./П.В.Царев. – М.: Изд-во МГУ, –1984. –225 с.

R.Nasirova,¹¹ etc. As can be seen from the titles of these studies, the conversion is considered by them as a structural means of word formation in the English language both in the comparative historical and comparative typological aspects.

Summarizing what is mentioned above, it becomes clear that conversion was considered both as semantic and grammatical (taking into consideration either syntactic or morphological features) means of word formation. From the mid of the 20th century, with the emerging of cognitive linguistics, the nature of conversion has been studied from a cognitive point of view.

In English linguistics, the consideration of conversion in the cognitive aspect was part of the development of the cognitive theory of metaphor and metonymy, proposed by Lakoff and Johnson. The followers of this theory are many modern scientists, such as: Twardzisz, Dirven, Radden and Kövecses, Ruiz de Mendoza, Velasco, Kosecki, L.Gusens, Marcin Kuczak, Isabel Balteyro, Sándor Martsa, Laura Bauer, Salvador Valero, Pavol Štebauer,¹² etc.

¹¹ Babanlı, G. Konversiya terminininsemantik təhlili // Terminologiya məsələləri, – Bakı: – 2017. № 2, – s. 11-16; Hacıyeva, X. Dilçilikdə konversiya hadisəsi və texnikasının inkişafı prosesində neologizmlərin rolu və əhəmiyyəti // Filologiya məsələləri, – Bakı: –2015. № 10, – s. 109-113; Hüseynova, R.H. Konversiya yolu ilə ingilis dilində yeni söz yaradıcılığı və onun Azərbaycan dilində ifadə üsulları // Filologiya məsələləri, – Bakı: – 2017. № 1, – s. 80-84; Məmmədov, T.M. Konversiya haqqında // Bakı Universitetinin xəbərləri, Humanitar elmləri seriyası, – Bakı: – 2006. № 2, – s. 87-90; Nəsirova, R.M. Müxtəlifsystemli dillərdə morfoloji üsulların tipologiyası: /filologiya üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. avtoreferat/ – Bakı, 2017. –31 s.; Orucova, S.A. Dildə konversiya hadisəsi: /filologiya üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. avtoreferat/ – Bakı, 2016. – 23 s.

¹² Balteiro, I. A Contribution to the Study of Conversion in English. / I.Balteiro. – Münster: Waxmann, – 2007. – p.75; Dirven, R. Conversion as a conceptual metonymy of event schemata. / R.Dirven. In Klaus-Uwe Panther & Günter Radden (eds.). Metonymy in language and thought., – Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company, – 1999. – p.275-287; Goosens, L. Metaphonymy. The interaction of metaphor and metonymy in expressions for linguistic action. / L.Goosens. In Rene Dirven & Ralf Pörings (eds.). Metaphor and metonymy in comparison and contrast. – Berlin & New York: Mouton de Gruyter, – 2003. – p.369; Krzysztof, K. On double metonymies in noun-to-verb conversions. // Research in Language, – 2005. No 3, – p.207-212; Kuczak, M. The interaction of metaphor and metonymy in noun-to-verb conversion: [Электронный ресурс];

In Russian linguistics, conversion in the cognitive aspect was studied in the framework of the theory of conceptual analysis proposed by E.S.Kubryakova¹³ in the 70s of the 20th century. Further, this linguistic phenomenon was considered by E.M.Pozdnyakova, O.G.Ilyinskaya¹⁴ and others.

With regard to the cognitive approach to the study of conversion in Azerbaijan, despite the active development of cognitive linguistics by such scientists as F.Veysalli, A.Mammadov, M.Mammadov, there are no works devoted to this issue. Our work in Azerbaijan is the first work in which the conversion in English is considered from the point of view of cognitive linguistics.

The second chapter is titled “**Conversion as a mechanism of the principle of saving the language**”. One of the principles of the organization and existence of the language is the principle of saving the language, when the language seeks to achieve the greatest result using less means.

S.O.Kartsevsky believed that this phenomenon is possible due to the asymmetric dualism of the sign, when the external sign (its shape) and the internal sign (its meaning) are manifested in the fact that the form of the sign is constantly transferred to other things, and

Mendoza, R. Patterns of conceptual interaction. / R.Mendoza, O.Velasco. In Rene Dirven & Ralf Pörings (eds.). *Metaphor and metonymy in comparison and contrast*. – Berlin & New York: Mouton de Gruyter, – 2003. – p.489-532; Pence, R.W. Emery D.W. *A grammar of present-day English*./R.W.Pence. 2nd edn., –N.Y.: Macmillan; London: Collier-Macmilian, – 1963. – 436 p.; Sándor, Martsa. *Conversion in English: A Cognitive Semantic Approach*. / Martsa Sándor. – Cambridge Scholars Publishing, – 2013. – p.2; Twardzisz, P. *Zero derivation in English. A cognitive Grammar Approach*. / P.Twardzisz. – Lublin: Lublin Wydawnictwo UMCS, – 1997. – 200 p.

¹³ Кубрякова, Е.С., Гуреев, В.А. Конверсия в современном английском языке // Вестник ВГУ, Серия ЛМК, –2002. № 2, –с.37

¹⁴ Ильинская, Т.Н. История формирования и эволюция концепта СИЛА во французском и русском языках: /автореферат дис. кандидата филологических наук/ – Томск, 2006. – 20 с.; Позднякова, Е.М. Современное английское словообразование: когнитивный аспект: [Электронный ресурс]. URL: <https://mgimo.ru/upload/iblock/6ff/pozdnyakova.pdf>

one form starts to have several meanings: the new is included in the old frames.¹⁵

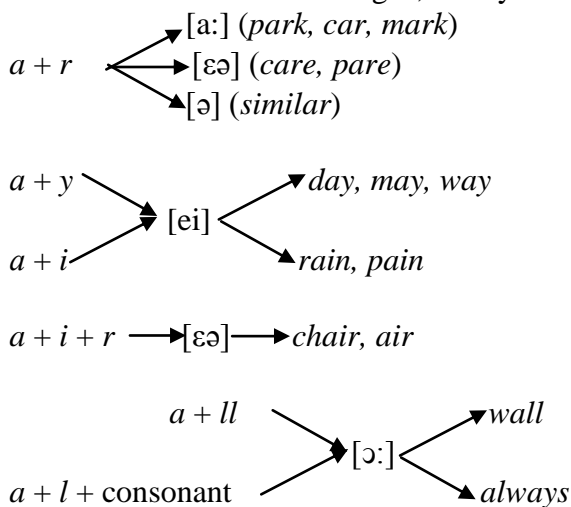
This is observed due to the fact that there are a limited number of signs in the sign system, while there are an infinite number of individual objects, phenomena, qualities, signs, properties, that is, all the expression of which can be found in the language. As a result, the same signs, by analogy, begin to name different concepts. Conversion in this case is a mechanism that includes the new in the old framework and changes the internal content of the sign qualitatively.

This can be seen on the example of the sign "a" of the modern English language, which manifests itself differently at the different language levels.

So, at the phonetic level, the sign "a" in written form is denoted by the letter "a", the acoustic image of which is transmitted by different sounds.

Under stress in an open syllable "a" sounds like [ei] (take, place, make), in a closed syllable – like [æ] (glad, bad, map).

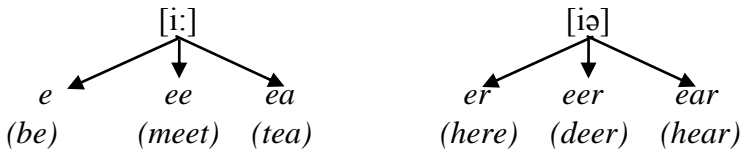
In combination with other signs, it may indicate other sounds:



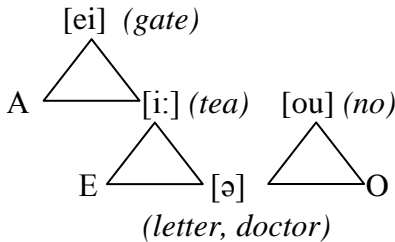
¹⁵ Карцевский, С.О. Об асимметричном дуализме лингвистического знака // Звегинцев, В.А. История языкознания XIX-XX веков в очерках и извлечениях. – М.: Просвещение, –3-е изд. – ч. 2. –1965. – с. 85

$e + a \longrightarrow [i:] \longrightarrow \text{tea, meat}$
 $e + a + r \longrightarrow [iə] \longrightarrow \text{hear}$
 $o + a \longrightarrow [ou] \longrightarrow \text{coat}$

At the same time, conversion shows itself in two ways. On the one hand, under the influence of conversion, one sign (in this case "a") can denote different sounds (see examples above), on the other hand, the same sound can be indicated by different signs. For example:



Thus, in the English language, the sign "a" is expressed in different sounds depending on the position in the word and on compatibility with other speech sounds. Some of these sounds under the influence of conversion begin to coincide with the sounds of other signs, which, in turn, under the influence of conversion, can also be indicated by other signs. Graphically, this can be described in the following way.



As seen from the scheme, in the English language, sounds and letters are in constant interchangeability, that is, a sign denoting a certain sound in speech under the influence of conversion begins to expand its potential: either new sounds begin to be perceived under this sign, or a sound that is indicated by other signs. This relationship can be traced both at the linguistic and speech levels, and provides the English language with a limited number of letters and sounds to

create new letter and sound combinations, and therefore new word-formation elements and words.

Also, it is an interesting fact that conversion can transfer a unit of one language level into another. For example, the sound that is transmitted in the graphic system of the English language by a combination of the signs *a* and *r*, at the word-formation level loses its priority position: the spelling *ar*, which is perceived as a suffix, comes to the forefront, participating in the formation of new words, particularly, nouns: beggar, liar, scholar, etc.

At the word-formation level, the sign "a" can act as the prefix a-, which in the English language is polysemantic:

a⁻¹ /ə/ prefix 1) in a particular condition or way: alive (= living)/ Read it aloud, please (= in a voice that others can hear); 2) literary or old-fashioned, used to show that someone or something is in or on something, or at a place: abed (= in bed) | afar (= far away) | atop (= on top of something)

a⁻² /ei, æ/ prefix showing the opposite or the absence of something; not, without: atypically (= not typically) | amoral (= not moral).¹⁶

The negative meaning of prefix a- forms new words, which related to the same part of speech, as an original. For example:

apolitical (Adj.) ← *political (Adj.)*

amoral (Adj.) ← *moral (Adj.)*

awry (Adj.) ← *wry (Adj.)*

Adjectives formed in this way are one of the manifestations of the negation category in English. It means that coinciding in meaning with a negative particle "not", these prefixes can replace them in a sentence. The effect of conversion is that the negation in the English sentence can be expressed both with negative words or particles, and prefixes, which are syntactic synonyms in words: apolitical = not political, amoral = not moral.

In the meaning of finding a state or place the prefix a- forms a new word, which is related to the different part of speech, than original one:

¹⁶ Longman. Advanced American Dictionary. / – Edinburg, – 2001. – p.1

1) Nouns are transferred to adjectives or adverbs: ablaze (Adj.) ← blaze (N.); abed (Adj.) ← bed (N.); afoot (Adj.) ← foot (N.);

2) Adjectives are transferred to adverbs: afar (Adv.) ← far (Adj.); aloud (Adv.) ← loud (Adj.); alow (Adv.) ← low (Adj.).

In modern English, under the influence of conversion, the studied prefix has also begun to replace prepositions "off, from" and provide the words with sense of movement: akin, afresh, anew.

As mentioned before, conversion reveals the inner potential of linguistic units. However, concretization of the language mark may occur as a result of the conversion, that is, narrowing of either its meaning or the function it performs. This narrowing is also required by the law of the language saving principle.

We observe functional narrowing of adjectives under the influence of conversion, formed by the prefix a- and indicating the place and condition. Forming and giving a new meaning to adjectives, the prefix a- at the same time limits their use at the syntactic level: in a sentence they have begun to be used in the predicate. Let's consider conversion using lexemes "ablaze and free".

Both words morphologically are adjectives and indicate the state: *ablaze*, *free*. However, in a sentence "*free*" can act both as an adjective (*She is a free woman*) and as a predicative adjective (I am free); because of the prefix a- "*ablaze*" is used only in the predicate (*Dozens of homes were ablaze*).

On the other hand, predicative adjectives formed by prefix a- are considered syntactic synonyms of different constructions. For instance, in the sentence *Dozens of homes were ablaze*, predicative adjective "*ablaze*" is syntactic synonym of construction were made to start burning.

The sign "a" in English can also be used as an independent word. For instance, we can show its use with the word "*broad*". In one case, the sign "a" acts as the indefinite article "a" and enters into the expression together with the adjective "broad": a broad/grin smile – a big smile which clearly shows that you are happy. In the second case, the sign "a" is the prefix which attaching to the adjective "broad" forms the adverb "*abroad*". Therefore, depending on the speech goals, the sign "a" acts either as an independent word

(indefinite article) or as the prefix a- under the influence of conversion.

So, in the English language, the sign "a" at the different linguistic levels manifests itself in different ways. At the same time, conversion as a mechanism of language saving principle under one form unites different semantic concepts, and also transfers language units of one level to another.

Depending on the mode of action, the conversion is built according to certain structural models that characterize the most significant relationships and conversion properties. The indicated relationships and properties are revealed as a result of the function coordination of the components of the conversion model, which we determined taking into account the following fact.

In the grammar of modern English, the division of words into parts of speech is conditional and is carried out according to three groups of signs: morphological, syntactic, lexical. As noted above, the conversion effect combines the same 3 attributes. Therefore, in the conversion models, we identified the main components, taking into account their functionality in the English language. As a result, the components of the conversion models are dividing into:

1) morphemes (in the further presentation we will denote them using the sign M). It includes prefixes (Mpref) and suffixes (Msuf)

2) notional parts of speech (in the further presentation we will denote them by the sign O): noun (On), verb (Ov), adjective (Oa), adverb (Oa), pronoun (Opron)

3) functional parts of speech (in the further presentation we will denote them by the sign C): prepositions (Cprep), conjunctions (Cconj), interjections (Cinterj)

4) determiners (in the further presentation we will denote them by the sign D)

5) quantifiers (in the further presentation we will denote them by the sign Q)

Taking into consideration the morphological, syntactic and lexical properties of the words of the English language, we divided all the highlighted models into 3 groups:

A) Morphological: O-M, C-O-M

B) Syntactic: D-O, Q-O, Q-C, D-C-O

C) Morphological-syntactic or mixed: D-M, D-O-M, O-Q-M, Q-O-C-M, Q-O-D-M

Models built on the prevalence of syntactic properties are divided into 2 groups:

1) Models with determiners

2) Models with quantifiers

The first models are closely connected with the category of defining and non-defining. The defining and non-defining categories in the English language represent the field, centered on the definite and indefinite articles. However, the further development of determination in the English language led to the fact that, in addition to the articles, the means of its expression have become: a) pronouns with non-defining meaning: much, few, little, several, etc. b) pre-determinatives combined only with non-defining: such(a), many(a), (a) most, etc. c) substitutes: one, something, anything, nothing, etc. d) relative pronouns: some, any, none, etc.

The second group consists of models, related to the category of quantity which was formed on the basis of the category of number. At the syntactic level in the English language the means of expressing quantity are quantifiers, which under the conversion also expand their functional potential.

Let's consider in details some of the mentioned models.

1) *There was a lot of contact tracing, and a lot of isolation of the contacts, and self (ON) isolation* (Science, 06 March 2020) – *As Max Roser and Esteban Ortiz-Ospina, researchers for the Our World In Data project, have noted, countries often self-report (MPref.) literacy data* (National Review, 06 March 2020).

As you can see from the above examples, the conversion of sign "self" is based on the model ON - MPref.

In the English language the evolution of word "self" is connected with the category of self-esteem. This category is represented by a combination of a transitive verb with the reflexive pronoun in English, reflexive pronouns and derivative words with the

prefix self-.¹⁷ Without going into the historical description of the development of the word "self" in English, we note that both the noun "self" and the prefix were formed from the pronoun "self", which is currently recognized only in the composition of possessive and reflexive pronouns: myself, himself, themselves.

The most productive is the prefix self-. Derivatives of self-refer to the different parts of speech: noun (*selfcontrol*), adjective (*self-absorbed*), verb (*self-medicate*), adverb (*self-importantly*), etc. The adjectives are formed from an adjectival participle by means of the prefix *self-*: *self-performed*, *self-supporting*, etc.

It is also interesting to note the syntactic function of words on self-. Adjectives formed with self-, get the meaning of a person or an object, that is, in a sentence they act as a subject: *self-made* (= *made by oneself*), *self-righting* (= *righting by itself*), etc. Nouns with *self-* in a sentence perform the function of object: *self-murder* (= *the act of killing oneself*), *self-control* (= *the act of controlling oneself*), etc.

Thus, in this pair, the conversion, using the original meaning of the pronoun "*self*", expanded both the potential capabilities of the word itself and stimulated the development of the linguistic embodiment of the category of self in English.

2) In modern English, "an" is converted variable form of the indefinite article "a". It is also the indefinite article but used only before nouns that begin with vowel sound:

An /ən; strong æn/ indefinite article, determiner used instead of "a" when the following word begins with a vowel sound: an orange/ an X-ray/ It's such an old house.¹⁸

In the English language under the influence of conversion "an" is also the suffix -an which, when attached to the stem of a noun, gives the following meanings:

1. Someone or something from a place, or relating to place: an American/ Appalachian music;

2. Relating to the ideas of a particular person or group, or someone who follows these ideas: Lutheran theology/ a Republican;

¹⁷ Коперина, Н.А. Эволюция self в английском языке // Вестник ИрГТУ, – 2015. № 11(106), – с. 345

¹⁸ Longman. Advanced American Dictionary. / – Edinburg, – 2001. – p.44

3. Relating to or similar to a person, thing, or period of time: the Roman Empire.¹⁹

As can be seen from the definitions, the meanings of the suffix -an completely coincide with the meanings of the indefinite article "a/an". And this indicates that the suffix -an is formed from the indefinite article "a/an". Therefore, under the influence of the conversion, the article has changed its function - an independent word has begun to be perceived also as a morpheme.

In addition to the suffix -en, words can be formed using a prefix an- in English. The difference is not only in functionality between article and suffix, and in meaning: a prefix -an when attached to the words it gives the negative meaning. In this meaning, it is synonymous with the prefix a-, borrowed from the Latin language. Compare: anarchy and atypically, anaerobic and amoral. The presence of two prefixes borrowed from the Latin language is explained by their different use, which is similar to the use of the article "a/an": when words begin with a consonant sound the prefix a- is used, but before nouns which begin with a vowel sound -an is used. The similarity of the forms of the article "an" and the prefix an- (from the preposition) and a- (of Latin origin) is, of course, explained in English as a mechanism of the principle of language saving. But in this case the conversion is not as a mechanism of the principle of language saving, it is homonym of two forms.

Type of model: D-Mpref-Msuf

Thus, we consider conversion as one of the mechanisms of the principle of language saving. In English conversion is used at the different levels of the language: phonetic, word-building, morphological, syntactic and lexical. All cases of conversion in English are connected with development of definite categories, for instance: category of negation, category of quantity, category of self, category of type.

The third chapter is titled **“Cognitive Foundations of Conversion in Modern English”**. As already noted, conversion is an extension of the functional component of the sign. Under the

¹⁹ Longman. Advanced American Dictionary. / – Edinburg, – 2001. – p.44

influence of conversion, while maintaining its shape, a new sign can be transformed into:

- A) a sign of another level of the English language system;
- B) a sign of the same level of the English language system.

In the first case, conversion is heterogeneous signs, in the second, homogeneous signs. In turn, dissimilar signs serve to link the levels of the English language as a system, while homogeneous signs expand the potential of each level of the language. Moreover, both types of conversion are characterized by certain semantic transfers.

When forming conversion, three types of transfers are distinguished:

- 1) metaphorical;
- 2) homonymous;
- 3) transfer by function.

These three types of semantic transfer in English can be observed both in pure and mixed forms. Metaphorical transfer is based on the similarity of material characteristics: color, shape, character of movement. Relatedly, three types of metaphor are distinguished: motivated, syncretic and associative, which are observed during conversion.

1. Motivated linguistic metaphor: the semantic element explicitly links the metaphorical meaning with the original one. The metaphor in these cases is transparent. For example:

The police are looking for a man aged between 30 and 35. - My aged parents.

In both examples, "aged" is an adjective that differs functionally and semantically. In the first sentence, it acts as a participle II and is part of the participial construction, and also denotes a sign - indicates the age. In the second example, "aged" is a definition that conveys the semantics of the degree of the attribute - "very old" (*parents*). Consequently, under the influence of the conversion in the word "aged", an expansion of the syntactic function is observed, which entails the development of meaning, namely, a gradual meaning: a feature indicating age may also indicate the degree of this feature. In other words, conversion, thanks to a motivated metaphor, forms conversions-synonyms.

2. A syncretic linguistic metaphor based on sensations:

Aw shucks, you're making me blush! - He's filled with aw shucks niceness.

As an adjective, "aw shucks" means "shy". As an interjection, it also expresses this emotion. Consequently, a specific emotion by metaphorical transference becomes a sensual exclamation of embarrassment, timidity, and bashfulness. In this case, not only the shade of the meaning changes, but also the function. If "aw shucks" defines a noun as an adjective, then as an interjection this word becomes a direct, uncontrollable expression of emotion.

3. An associative linguistic metaphor is based on the ability of consciousness to find analogies between any objects of reality. Such a linguistic metaphor is based on the association of signs or psychological parallelism. For example:

an Afro-American - Afro (a hair style popular with African Americans)

In the first case, "Afro" is a prefix that denotes everything related to Africa, or people from Africa, and conveys the semantics of the feature. In the second case, "Afro" is a noun. Metaphorical transfer is observed here in the switching of a certain attribute to a specific concept. The transparency of the metaphor lies in the fact that the sign of people or things is transferred to the style, hairstyle that distinguishes these people in society. Therefore, in this case, we observe an associative metaphorical transfer based on a feature.

When converting between signs of the English language, cases of homonymous semantic transfer can also be observed. At the same time, the homonymy that arose under the influence of conversion differs from homonymy - a linguistic universal. Let's compare the two types of situations.

The heart of Indonesia, Java Islands, is an incredible destination to witness the complex Indonesian culture (www.traveltriangle.com, 10 March 2019). - Java is powering the innovation behind our digital world (www.oracle.com, 16 September 2019). - There has been a revolution in coffee making over the past decade, with one's choice and style of java becoming about as

personalized as his or her fingerprints (Outdoor Life, 8 January 2020).

As you can see from the examples, in English, "Java" is the name of one of the Indonesian islands, the unofficial name of coffee and the programming language. According to the etymological dictionary, the unofficial name of coffee comes from the name of the island of Java: originally a kind of coffee grown on Java.

Consequently, two concepts - the name of the island and the designation of coffee - were formed on the basis of a motivated metaphor. In the twentieth century, namely in 1995, the unconventional name for coffee gave its name to the new software language Java.

However, despite the fact that etymologically all three words are interconnected, in modern English they are semantically different from each other, and, therefore, are homonyms.

In contrast to linguistic homonyms, homonyms that arise during conversion, despite their graphic coincidence, differ a) semantically, b) in part of speech, and, as a consequence, c) functionally. It is this homonymy that we observe, for example, in the word "acting".

In English, "acting" can be an adjective and a noun:

- *The lack of acting* (Adj.) *Nominations could also spell doom for its chances (only 11 other films have ever won best picture without receiving nominations in any acting categories)* (Washington Post, 3 February 2020).

- *Tensions have grown between Hong Kong's ethnic minorities and protesters, who accuse South Asian gangs of acting* (N) *as thugs for hire, paid by Triad criminal organizations and other shady groups to intimidate and beat up protesters* (Time, 20 October 2019).

The sign "acting" was formed from the verb "act" by the suffixing method: "act + -ing". There is also a semantic difference. The noun "acting" has developed its meaning on the basis of functional transference, while the adjective "acting" on the basis of a motivated metaphor. At the same time, the meaning of a noun and an adjective is so different that in modern English they are perceived as homonyms.

Thus, the semantic component of conversion is three types of transfer of values: metaphorical, homonymous, and transfer by function. At the same time, the development of these meanings can be observed both in homogeneous units and heterogeneous ones, since all types of hyphenations we noted above are most often found in English in a mixed form.

It should also be noted that conversion reveals such linguistic universals as polysemy, synonymy and antonymy. So, the phenomenon of polysemy of words of the English language perfectly demonstrates all the richness, abundance and complexity of the English language, and also shows us the history of its development and formation. In the theory of linguistics, two types of polysemy are distinguished - chain and radial.

The chain path of the development of polysemy presupposes the development of each meaning of a word from the previous one, i.e. along the chain. For example, the noun "brain":

1. the organ inside your head that controls how you think, feel, and move: The doctors have found a tumor in his brain;
2. the ability to think clearly and learn quickly: If you had any brains at all, you wouldn't ask such a stupid question;
3. someone who is intelligent, with good ideas and useful skills: Some of the best brains in the country are here tonight.

Each meaning of a noun is derived from another: the name of the body that controls the entire vitality of a person, on the basis of a metaphorical transfer, begins to indicate the ability of a person to think clearly and clearly. With the development of meaning, this word begins to denote the person himself - smart and intelligent. Consequently, the development of the meanings of the word "brain" is built along the chain "organ → ability → person", and is a polysemantic word.

However, "brain" can develop its meaning under the influence of conversion. So, in English, in addition to the function of a noun, "brain" is also used as a verb: *The yawning space between is echoed by an endless lateral runway that makes every entrance and exit seem like a trek and requires the actors to duck their heads to avoid*

getting brained on the way out (The Hollywood Reporter, 16 October 2019).

As a verb, "*brain*" has the meaning "*to hit someone very hard on the head*",²⁰ which arose from the first meaning of the noun "brain" also based on a motivated metaphor.

An example of radial polysemy is "step".

The noun "step" in English usually has 5 basic meanings:

1. the movement you make when you put one foot in front of the other when walking: Sal quieckened his steps toward the hotel.

2. one of a series of things that you do in order to deal with a problem or produce a particular result: Backer said his next step will be to demand a new trial.

3. a flat narrow piece of wood or stone, especially one in a series, that you put your foot on when you are going up or down, especially outside a building: Ellen ran up the steps and banged on the door.

4. a stage in a process, or a position on a scale: Completing your degree would move you up a step on the salary scale.

5. a movement of your feet in dancing: I can't remember all the steps.²¹

As can be seen from the above definitions, all meanings of the noun "step" are derived from the first meaning "step", which expresses the semantics of movement. The original meaning is central, and from it, like rays, secondary, derived meanings depart.

Note that in English there is also a polysemous verb "step", expressing:

1. to raise one foot and put it down in front of the other one to move along: Please step this way.

2. to bring your foot down on something: What did you step in?

There is a chain link between the meanings of the verb: the verb "step" in the meaning of "to step" was formed from the meaning of "to step".

²⁰ Longman. Advanced American Dictionary. / – Edinburg, – 2001. – p.156

²¹ Longman. Advanced American Dictionary. / – Edinburg, – 2001. – p.1426

There is also a connection between the noun "step" and the verb "step". In relation to each other, they act as conversions, forming a polysemy of the word "step" in English. But at the same time they differ from each other by their part-of-speech affiliation and their functions in the sentence.

So, polysemy as a universal linguistic phenomenon and the polysemy of a word that arose under the influence of conversion are two different processes. If the first develops in a word for historical reasons, but at the same time does not change its syntactic and morphological functions, then with the polysemy that appears under the influence of conversion, the word, while retaining its form and partly content, changes its function.

Synonymy is based on the ability of the language system to have several signifiers for one signified and helps to reflect in the language the various properties of the objective world using a minimum of linguistic means. Synonymy is manifested at all levels of the language, therefore, phraseological, grammatical, derivational and lexical synonyms are distinguished.²² The combination of synonyms on a single basis is called a synonymous series, which helps to convey gradation in the expression of thoughts, feelings, in the characteristics of objects and phenomena. Note that the unifying for words of the synonymous series is not only the concept that denotes them all, but also the fact that they all belong to one and the same part of speech and act as definitions in the sentence.

In contrast to synonymy as a universal phenomenon, synonymy resulting from the action of conversion manifests itself in a slightly different way. So, in English, the lexeme "braid" can act as a noun, as well as a verb.

The noun "braid" conveys the following meanings:

1. a length of hair that has been separated into three parts and then woven together;
2. a narrow band of material formed by twisting threads together, used to decorate the edges of clothes.

²² Елисеева, В.В. Лексикология английского языка: [Электронный ресурс]. URL: <http://www.classes.ru/grammar>

The verb "braid" means to weave or twist together three pieces of hair or cloth to form one length.²³

As can be seen from the above interpretations, the verb denotes the same concept of "materiality" as a noun, therefore, it acts as a synonym in relation to a noun, and differs from it only in its function. Antonyms are words that are different in pronunciation and opposite in meaning: *good - bad, early - late, strong - weak*, etc. As a rule, antonyms belong to the same part of speech and perform the same function in a sentence. Conversion antonyms manifest themselves differently in the language. For example, the lexeme "amount" in English can be a noun and a verb. Both words are ambiguous. In one of its meanings, the noun "amount" means used to say that something has no effect:

According to the agency's website, aspiring astronauts should be Inuted States citizens who hold a master's degree in a science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) field , or have completed an equivalent amount of cousework and training (Smithsonian Magazine, 3 March 2020).

The noun "*value*" is opposed to one of the meanings of the verb "*amount*": "to have the same result or effect": She may not have killed him herself, but helping Dave to do it amounts to the same thing.²⁴ Thus, the lexemes "*amount*" are not only conversions, but in some of their meanings they are antonymic to each other.

It is interesting to provide another example of antonymic conversion.

The fixation of the word "*appropriate*" as an adjective in English written records dates back to the 15th century: He will take appropriate action once the investigation is over.

Under the influence of conversion, it expands its functions and begins to be perceived as a verb, but depending on the situation, the verb "*appropriate*" develops antonymic meanings:

*Carline is suspected of appropriating company funds. - Congress appropriated \$ 11.7 billion for anti-drag campaigns.*²⁵

²³ Longman. Advanced American Dictionary. / – Edinburg, – 2001. – p.156

²⁴ Longman. Advanced American Dictionary. / – Edinburg, – 2001. – p.43

²⁵ Longman. Advanced American Dictionary. / – Edinburg, – 2001. – p.58

In both situations, the word "*appropriate*" is a verb, but in the first case, the meaning of the verb was formed on the basis of psychological parallelism and acquired a negative assessment. In the second case, the meaning of the verb developed on the basis of a motivated metaphor and retained a positive connotation. As a result, the verb "appropriate", being the converse of the adjective, on the one hand, enters into antonymic relations with it, and on the other hand, into synonymous relations.

Thus, the conversion, influencing the semantics of linguistic units, can cause such semantic phenomena as polysemy, synonymy, homonymy and antonymy.

But the most important and significant is the consideration of conversion at the text level. At the cognitive-communicative level, as part of the continuum, all language units under the influence of conversion begin to serve one goal, chosen by the native speaker. For example, "*age*" in English can be a noun, a verb, and a suffix:

*Experts have given different estimates of the age of the painting. The scotch is aged for ten years in oak barrels. - the passage of a bill through Congress.*²⁶

The semantics of "*age*", expressed in the noun "*age*", is preserved in the verb during conversion. Moreover, this meaning is retained in the suffix *-age*, which in English forms nouns and thereby emphasizes actants. But the suffix *-age*, forming nouns, as part of a complex word with a root ascending to the verb, begins to give the word the semantics of length in time, thereby actualizing the predicate zone.

Therefore, at the cognitive-communicative level, conversion is aimed at actualizing what is important to the speaker. At the same time, conversion as a universal linguistic phenomenon affects language units of all its levels, thereby creating the interaction of these units in a systemic, and not in a chaotic manner. Moreover, the cognitive study of discourse makes it possible to assert that in real communication, language chooses "easy forms". Conversion as a mechanism of the principle of economy of language is just such an

²⁶ Longman. Advanced American Dictionary. / – Edinburg, – 2001. – p.27

"easy form" when the speaker, depending on communicative tasks, does not need to think about choosing a form, he/she activates consciousness on specific "light" information that can be verbalized by conversions.

Conclusions are presented at the end of the dissertation. Considering conversion from the point of view of cognitive linguistics in modern English provided the following results:

1. One of the principles of organization and existence of language is the principle of economy, when the language strives to achieve the greatest result using fewer means. This phenomenon is possible due to the asymmetric dualism of the sign. Conversion in this case is a mechanism that incorporates the new into the old framework and qualitatively changes the internal content of the sign. In this case, the conversion:

- 1) associates a sign with an object;
- 2) connects the sign with other signs;
- 3) combines the signs as the means of reflecting thoughts.

In other words, conversion as a mechanism of the principle of linguistic economy under one form unites different semantic concepts, and also transfers linguistic units of one level to another.

2. Depending on the mode of action, the conversion is built according to certain structural models that characterize the most significant connections and conversion properties. These connections and properties are revealed as a result of the functioning of the components of the conversion model.

3. In modern English, conversion operates at all linguistic levels: phonetic, derivational, morphological, lexical and syntactic. It expands the potential capabilities not only of units of the same language level (i.e., it is homogeneous), but also of units of different levels of the language (i.e., it is heterogeneous). In other words, conversion is an extension of the functional component of the sign.

4. In modern English, the cases of conversion actions are associated with the development of certain categories, for example: the category of negation, the category of quantity, the category of self, the category of gender, etc.

5. Conversion is based on 3 types of semantic hyphenation:

- 1) metaphorical;
- 2) homonymous;
- 3) transfer by function.

Arising on the basis of these semantic transfers, the conversion serves the development between conversions of such universal phenomena of language as polysemy, homonymy, synonymy and antonymy.

6. Cognitive-communicative conversion goal in a broad sense is aimed at actualizing what is important for the speaker. At the same time, conversion as a universal linguistic phenomenon affects language units of all its levels, thereby creating the interaction of these units in a systemic rather than chaotic order.

Moreover, in real communication, the language chooses "*easy forms*". Conversion as a mechanism of the principle of economy of language is precisely such a form when the speaker, depending on communicative tasks, does not need to think about choosing a form, but consciousness is activated on specific "*light*" information that can be verbalized by conversions.

7. Consideration of the cognitive basis of conversion in a narrow sense allows us to conclude that

a) conversion manifests itself in words consisting of one root, i.e. "*light*" in their composition, while words formed by a combination of a root and a suffix that determines the part of speech belonging to a lexeme are not subject to conversion;

b) conversion can serve as a kind of criterion for the entry of a lexeme into the nominative field of a particular concept, otherwise it indicates the degree of actualization of one or another feature expressed in the concept verbalizer;

c) the conversion of lexemes in English depends largely on the semantic fixation to a particular concept, as well as on the position in the sentence.

8. While considering conversion, an important role is played by its study in the comparative historical and historical and cognitive aspects. The cognitive connections formed in the concept sphere of the proto-language create a kind of matrix structure. On its basis, in the future, the formation of verbalizers of this or that concept and the

development of their meanings take place. Therefore, it is interesting to follow the conversion action in the proto-language.

Thus, the analysis of the cognitive basis of conversion in modern English has shown that conversion is one of the universal means of language, observed both between units of the same level, and between units of different levels of the language. Moreover, as a mechanism of the law of economy of language, conversion in English turned out to be the most convenient means for actualizing individual fragments of consciousness at the verbal level.

The main content and scientific provisions of the dissertation are reflected in the following articles and the PhD thesis by the author:

1. Особенности категории числа существительных в азербайджанском и болгарском языках // – Bakı, Filologiya məsələləri, – 2014. №10, – s.69-73;
2. Konversiya və onun söz yaradıcılığında yeri // – Bakı, Azərbaycanca xarici dillər, – 2015. № 1,(27), – s.48-52;
3. İngilis dilində verballaşma // Xarici dillərin tədrisinin aktual problemləri, respublika elmi-praktik konfransı, I bölmə, – Bakı, may 2015, s.55-58;
4. Dilin lüğət tərkibinin zənginləşməsində konversiyanın rolu // – Bakı, Dil və ədəbiyyat, – 2015. № 2, – s.71-75;
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6. İngilis dilində müxtəlif nitq hissələrinin konversivlərinin təhlili // – Bakı, Humanitar elmlərin öyrənilməsinin aktual problemləri, – 2015. № 4, – s.68-72
7. The conversion of phraseological verbs // – Canada, International Journal of English Linguistics, – 2016. – p.202-208;
8. Об основных разновидностях конверсии в английском языке // – Bakı, Dil və ədəbiyyat, – 2017. № 1, – s.105-110;
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11. Konversiya və sözlərin çoxmənalılığı // Müasir dilçiliyin aktual problemləri, Beynəlxalq elmi konfrans, – Bakı, – 2019, iyun. – s.153-156;
12. İngilis dilində qrammatik konversiya // – Bakı, Filologiya məsələləri, – 2019. №13, – s.193-197;
13. Some facts about the conversion in English // Актуальные вопросы филологии, II международная научно-практическая конференция, 20 декабря, – 2020. – 40-42;
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