




<https://doi.org/10.22363/2687-0088-32005>

Research article / Научная статья

An explanatory combinatorial dictionary of English conflict lexis: A case study of modern political discourse

Olga SOLOPOVA   and Tamara KHOMUTOVA 

South Ural State University (National Research University), Chelyabinsk, Russia

 o-solopova@bk.ru

Abstract

Though political discourse is in the mainstream of modern studies, scholars haven't so far paid much attention to compiling political discourse-oriented dictionaries. The need to further develop lexicographic theory and practice for specific purposes and advance new methods to dictionary making is a challenge that linguists are facing today. The aim of the case study is twofold: to work out the principles for making an Explanatory Combinatorial Dictionary (ECD) of English political conflict lexis and the microstructure of an ECD entry. The source of the data is the NOW corpus; the material is current American political discourse (2022). The ECD is generally consistent with Mel'čuk's Meaning-Text theory (MTT). The authors describe a process of collecting and processing the data: corpus search and analysis, automatic and manual text processing, glossary compilation with the use of lexicographic, semasiological, and etymological methods and present an example of an ECD entry consisting of semantic, phonological, and cooccurrence zones. The findings prove that the use of electronic text corpora offers an effective way for compiling a specialized discourse-based dictionary. The research illustrates the validity of MTT: though based on the data of "language in context", the dictionary is synthesis-oriented: it aims at speech production. The paper is the first result of a bigger project sketching the overall framework of the discursive ECD of political conflict lexis, which subsequent studies will hopefully develop with more precision and detail. The dictionary will be helpful for scholars in linguistics, discourse analysis, media and communication, political science, and conflict studies.

Key words: *lexicography, political discourse, explanatory combinatorial dictionary, conflict-provoking lexis, corpus, dictionary entry*



For citation:

Solopova, Olga & Tamara Khomutova. 2022. An explanatory combinatorial dictionary of English conflict lexis: A case study of modern political discourse. *Russian Journal of Linguistics* 26 (4). 1050–1077 <https://doi.org/10.22363/2687-0088-32005>

**Принципы создания англоязычного
толково-комбинаторного словаря
конфликтотенной лексики:
на материале современного политического дискурса**

О.А. СОЛОПОВА  , **Т.Н. ХОМУТОВА** 

*Южно-Уральский государственный университет
(национальный исследовательский университет), Челябинск, Россия*

 o-solopova@bk.ru

Аннотация

Необходимость разработки теории и практики специальной лексикографии и применения новых дискурсивных методов к составлению словарей для специальных целей представляет собой важную задачу, которая стоит перед современной лингвистикой. Целью настоящей работы является: 1) разработка принципов создания англоязычного толково-комбинаторного словаря (ТКС) политической конфликтотенной лексики на материале корпуса текстов политического дискурса; 2) разработка микроструктуры словарной статьи. В качестве методологических принципов построения ТКС политической конфликтотенной лексики использованы принципы теории «Смысл-Текст» И.А. Мельчука. Источником материала является корпус News on the Web. Материал исследования представлен современным американским политическим дискурсом (2022). В статье рассматривается процесс сбора и обработки данных, включающий четыре этапа: формирование и анализ корпуса текстов, автоматическую обработку текстов, ручную обработку текстов, создание глоссария с использованием методов лексикографического, семасиологического и этимологического анализа. Приводится пример словарной статьи, микроструктура которой включает семантическую, фонологическую и сочетаемостную зоны. Результаты проведенного исследования подтверждают, что использование электронных корпусов текстов позволяет эффективно создавать специальные дискурсивные словари, «встраивая» лексикографические данные в социальный, политический и геополитический контекст. В статье представлены первые результаты большого проекта, которые определяют общую методологию создания англоязычного ТКС политической конфликтотенной лексики. Принципы теории «Смысл-Текст», ориентированные, прежде всего, на языковой синтез и производство речи, не исключают возможности его дальнейшего использования для анализа текста и дискурса. Словарь будет полезен специалистам в области лингвистики, дискурс-анализа, массмедиа, политологии и конфликтологии.

Ключевые слова: лексикография, политический дискурс, толково-комбинаторный словарь, конфликтотенная лексика, корпус, словарная статья

Для цитирования:

Solopova O.A., Khomutova T.N. An explanatory combinatorial dictionary of English conflict lexis: A case study of modern political discourse. *Russian Journal of Linguistics*. 2022. V. 26. № 4. P. 1050–1077. <https://doi.org/10.22363/2687-0088-32005>

Dedication

Many people have contributed, both directly and indirectly, to the ideas and analyses of this project. But most of all we would like to thank Igor A. Mel'čuk and Alexander K. Zholkovsky for the inspiration we gained from their Explanatory Combinatorial Dictionary. The insights of Mel'čuk's Meaning-Text theory turned out to be a source of challenge and motivation: his contribution to the project has been invaluable. Using the metalanguage of lexical functions, adopted in the Meaning-Text theory, to characterize Igor Mel'čuk as a lexicographer, we must state that he is genuine (Ver), influential (Magn), and well-versed (Bon) in the system of language.

1. Introduction

Recent years have seen a great surge of interest in lexicography, which is caused by the active development of science, and growing political, cultural and research contacts. Lexicography is generally understood as the theory and practice of compiling dictionaries, which are closely connected and interrelated. The focus of lexicography is the ways of organizing a dictionary entry, the structure of dictionaries and the methods of their compilation. We share the view advanced by Bergenholtz and Gouws (2012) that lexicographic theory is “a discipline not only directed at compiling dictionaries, but in a more general way at producing information tools”, which “can ensure enhanced information retrieval” (Bergenholtz & Gouws 2012: 40). Modern lexicography has significantly expanded and upgraded its tools with computer technologies for compiling and using dictionaries. At the same time, studies that organize lexicographic knowledge and introduce new lexicographic theories are rather scarce.

Within the context of novel lexicographic studies those of discourse lexicography should be highlighted, as the classical definition of lexicography is being transformed and modified in modern discourse studies. At the current stage of development, lexicography is interpreted more as the theory and practice of *knowledge representations* about the world, since, as Kozyrev and Chernyak (2015) state, dictionaries “respond to all changes in life and society, demonstrating a picture of dynamic language processes in a static form” (Kozyrev & Chernyak 2015: 6). Lexicographic practice has reached a new level and is becoming more anthropocentric and sociocentric. Lexicography functions within the framework of lexicographic discourse, which is interpreted as a discursive practice, as Issers (2015) puts it, “the dynamic organization of those communication systems within society, which, on the one hand, reflects the speech behavior and thinking mode of a social community, and on the other hand, it creates new forms of communication

in a given socio-cultural reality” (Issers 2015: 65). In the case of considering lexicographic discourse as a discursive practice, it is possible to “refer to the sociocultural, cognitive, communicative and pragmatic features of the dictionary” (Plotnikova 2014: 23). The study of sociocultural, cognitive and communicative-pragmatic influence on dictionary compilation and interpretation determines the appeal to advance new discursive technologies in dictionary making.

Keen interest in the anthropocentric perspective of lexicographic research can be traced in dictionaries of political discourse, since political discourse, to a great extent, sets the linguistic worldview of people. At the same time, political lexis functions both as a unit of language and as a discourse formation that implements not only dictionary but wider meanings due to the existence of a certain system in the social and cognitive-discursive space. However, to date the number of political discourse-oriented dictionaries is relatively limited, one that we could think of is the Dictionary of Modern Political Labels (Skovorodnikov & Kopnina 2021), which is definitely not enough. With this gap in mind, we propose a discourse approach to compiling a dictionary of political conflict lexis. Modern political discourse is abundant in such lexis, which presses for its lexicographic study.

Our aim is to work out the principles for building an explanatory combinatorial dictionary (ECD) of English political conflict lexis based on a large corpus of political discourse texts that will test theoretical and computational methodologies, but, above all, to provide a tool for linguists, discourse analysts, translators, interpreters, and linguistic expertise specialists. As such, our project draws on previous work that shows the inadequacies of current dictionaries to meet the needs of the specialized user.

2.Theoretical framework

2.1. Discourse lexicography

Fesenko (2015) introduces the concept of a discourse dictionary which has the following characteristics: 1) it describes not only the denotative, but also the connotative meaning of the entry (appearing in the context); 2) the dictionary is not prescriptive, but descriptive; 3) the dictionary contains socio-cultural, cognitive and communicative-pragmatic information; 4) the entry is presented in all genre and stylistic diversity (Fesenko 2015: 52). Compiling discourse dictionaries is a labor-intensive process that requires enormous efforts on the part of both theorists and practitioners of lexicographic science. Currently, linguists have done much work on the way of reforming lexicography and turning it from a theoretical construct into such a system that, as Sandomirskaya (2001) states, “refracts the general narrative of the language into the field of practical action, and captures the structure of this general narrative in its own settings” (Sandomirskaya 2001: 219).

Discourse dictionaries include a number of products, one of them is the electronic terminographic dictionary of phraseological units which actively function in Ukrainian and Russian linguistics of the last century (Krasnobaeva-

Chernaya 2020). Active use of popular science discourse in mass media accounts for inclusion of terminology in the dictionary of neologisms that reflects the discursive vector of modern lexicography (Gromenko 2020). Another innovative lexicographic product is a discourse dialect dictionary based on data from Internet search engines, where “contexts act as a means of illustrating semantics” (Golev 2019: 114). A new multilingual dictionary of metaphors correlates with the discursive and lingua-cultural vector of development of lexicography, which is aimed at “solving the problem of lexicographic presentation of cultural connotation, assigned to the semantics of figurative words and expressions” (Gerasimova 2020: 95). Obviously, the lexicographic product serves to preserve the cultural heritage of a certain lingua-cultural community. In this regard, dictionaries of concepts act as an effective tool to gain insight into a certain culture, for example, on the basis of Russian vocabulary, phraseology and paroemiology (Con 2010), dialectology (CDDL 2006–2012), lingua-cultural logic (ML 2005, 2009, 2014), concepts of Russian culture (Radbil & Saigin 2019), etc. The lingua-cultural aspect in dictionary compilation is clearly seen in the study of a dialect linguistic personality and its lexicographic fixation (Zemicheva 2017), gender parameters of dialect speech (Demeshkina & Tolstova 2017, VD 1998–2002, MDS 2009–2010). A broad overview of discursive dictionaries is provided by Koshkarova and Solopova (2021) (Koshkarova & Solopova 2021).

Our brief analysis shows that present-day lexicography develops in the mainstream of the discursive-anthropocentric paradigm, when the dictionary reflects the functioning of the language not after the fact, but at the moment of its existence in the language community, which brings about the problem of specialized lexicography.

2.2. *Specialized lexicography*

Relative to discourse lexicography, as well as lexicography in general, is the problem of general and specialized lexicography. According to Bergenholtz and Gouws (2012) there are three branches of lexicography with respect to its object and functions: general lexicography, specialized lexicography, and general and specialized lexicography. The three branches of lexicography describe language for general purposes, language for specific purposes (LSP), and both languages simultaneously (Bergenholtz & Gouws 2012).

As stated above, discourse lexicography is anthropocentric and sociocentric, which means that discourse dictionaries describe the actual functioning of discourse at the moment of its generation in specific settings: social, cultural, temporal, spatial, etc. This brings about the idea that discourse lexicography is specialized *per se*. Nielsen (2013) points out that the two key fundamentals of specialized lexicography are its object, the dictionary, and its objective (Nielsen 2013). The dictionary is a tool providing specific types of help concerning one or more subject fields and their related LSP to specific types of users in specific types of situations. A specialized dictionary contains the necessary lexicographic data, arranged and

presented using appropriate lexicographic structures. Dictionary functions thus become the point of departure for any discussion of dictionaries and the data they contain must be specifically adapted to user needs and competences. By identifying the key components of specialized lexicography lexicographers can draw up guidelines that can help them design, evaluate, make and use “ideal” and specific types of objects in LSP lexicography (Nielsen 2013: 24).

Our aim, as noted earlier, is the ECD of English political conflict lexis of the XXI century (second decade). It means that problems of political lexicography, as well as relations between lexicography and ideology, power and politics are of great importance for our research.

2.3. *Political lexicography*

Lexicography and dictionaries are never value-free, apolitical or asocial. Instead, they are subject to ideology, power and politics (Chen 2019: 362). Ideology and power are aspects of a dictionary that a lexicographer and a dictionary user have to encounter in any serious lexicographic enterprise (Kachru 1995: lxv). Chen (2019) states that “a discourse approach to lexicography is needed to unmask the power relations behind, and the ways in which language serves to sustain or disrupt the relation in the global context, before a change in the status quo is possible, as such an approach – with emphasis on social context – enables a practitioner to look at the lexicographic event as a social event and the dictionary as discourse with its own rules and principles” (Chen 2019: 364). Thus, the social context and power relations surrounding the production of a dictionary should not be overlooked.

This approach is taken by Benson (2002) who seeks to reveal the ethnocentric representation in the English dictionaries published in Britain/USA and to show how knowledge in the English dictionaries is filtered through Anglo-American perspectives on English in the world (Benson 2002, Preface). He showcases that the Oxford English Dictionary was more or less explicitly a project of British imperialism concerned with the consolidation of English as the dominant language of the world. It means that the dictionary does not simply replicate its source or just ‘transport’ meaning; rather, it creates meaning; it rewrites and represents things in new ways (Chen 2015). We share Chen’s idea (2019) that “a researcher in lexicographic discourse analysis should embed the lexicographic data in the social context, taking a political stance explicitly and focus on self-reflection as a scholar” (Chen 2019: 368).

Chen states that discourses project meaning; therefore, they evoke ideologies (Chen 2019: 370). Wodak and Meyer (2015) define ideology as a “collectively shared coherent and relatively stable set of beliefs or values” (Wodak & Meyer 2015: 30) while van Dijk (1998) presents a multidisciplinary approach to ideology involving cognitive and social psychology, sociology and discourse analysis (van Dijk 1998). That is, as Chen (2019) puts it, “socially, ideologies sustain the interests of groups; cognitively, they serve to organize the social representations (attitudes,

knowledge) of the group, and thus indirectly monitor the group-related social practices, and hence also the discourse of its members” (Chen 2019: 370).

A dictionary is a representation of the world/society seen through the lexicographer’s perspective. Lexicographers are not immune from ideology. Ideologies as ways of representing and constructing society reproduce unequal relations of power, relations of domination and exploitation. For example, we may investigate how lexicographers create a dictionary, within which the historical depth and geographical breadth of the language and the world could be exposed for examination from different perspectives. To take an example, western lexicographers can define “Russian special military operation” as: a war waged by Russia against Ukraine (2022) following Ukraine’s attempt to join the EU. This definition attributes the Russian aggression to Ukraine’s act of ‘national-liberation movement’, which contradicts Russia’s official view. Russian lexicographers will attribute it to the special military operation of Ukraine’s demilitarization and denazification which Russia was forced to engage in. The operation was triggered by US and European elites in search of making Ukraine an enclave of NATO, which threatens Russia and Russian people in Ukraine. Lexicographic discourse studies may also be used to examine how the dictionary influences social understanding of a language and what the world is like. All this brings about the need for a special branch of lexicography, that of political lexicography.

The term “political lexicography” has been introduced by the Russian linguist S. A. Manik (Manik 2019). The novelty of her approach is determined by a broad lingua-cultural and discursive-pragmatic context, including the involvement of users in the process of dictionary compiling. The researcher gives a broad overview of existing political terminology dictionaries (Manik 2019). However, none of them are classified as discourse dictionaries. The author explores the discursive-communicative and cultural properties of English political terminology but fails to attribute the corresponding dictionaries to those of political discourse. Since our aim is to build an ECD of English *political conflict* lexis, we went in search of political conflict dictionaries.

Among the existing dictionaries we managed to find some special dictionaries of conflict, or conflict-provoking terms, which are rather few (Davletchina 2005, Dmitriev 2012, Merriman & Barrach-Yousefi 2021, Miller & King 2003, The Law Dictionary, Shipilov & Antsupov 2020). Conflict-provoking terms are understood as words that cause negative emotions and trigger conflicts. As for special political conflict dictionaries we failed to find any. That is why our research will be based on large corpora of English political conflict discourse and dictionaries of conflict terms available. One more issue worth discussing in connection with compiling the dictionary of political conflict lexis is that of combinatorial lexicography.

2.4. *Combinatorial lexicography*

Many of the discourse dictionaries mentioned are in fact combinatorial dictionaries, i.e., dictionaries of collocations. DeCessaris (2013) points out that

“most words in the general vocabulary of a language do not have a clearly identifiable meaning out of context, rather they have a meaning potential that becomes specified once the context of use is established” (DeCessaris 2013: 16). Firth (1957) states that meaning only exists in context and through interpretation of that context, so that words can only be understood through the company they keep (Firth 1957: 11), thus, dictionaries can only ever show meaning potentials. Meaning lies in the present, it is about how people use words now: words do not have meanings, meanings have words. Once these premises are accepted, we can look for meaning potentials in corpora (Williams 2013: 26). Hence, we can term combinatorial dictionaries the forerunners of discourse lexicography which paved the way to discourse lexicography proper. Early examples of research into collocations appeared in Shakhmatov (1898), Ushakov (1935–40), Ozhegov (1949), but current understanding of a collocation as a fundamental factor in word meaning started in Russian lexicography only with DMLR (1948–1965), and in foreign studies with “Les mots et les idées. Dictionnaire des termes cadrant avec les idées” (Lacroix 1956), and the BBICDE (1990).

By the end of the XX century, the ideas of lexicographic reflection of lexis combinatorial properties continued to develop and improve. Russian lexicography started to explore new approaches to the interpretation of syntagmatic connections of words, e.g., Apresyan (1974), Zholkovsky & Mel’čuk (1967), Morkovkin (1977), etc. The description of the combinatorial properties of words was provided in the Dictionary of Combinability of the Russian language (DCRL 2002); Dictionary of Russian and English Lexical Intensifiers (DRELI 2007); ECD of the Russian Language (Mel’čuk & Zholkovsky 1984, 2016); New Explanatory Dictionary of Russian Synonyms (NEDRS 2000); Russian Associative Dictionary (Karaulov 2002) and others. A comprehensive overview of different trends in the development of Russian and foreign combinatorial lexicography is offered in (Vlavatskaya 2013).

In this paper we will try to apply the principles of compiling combinatorial dictionaries put forward by Mel’čuk and Zholkovsky (Mel’čuk & Zholkovsky 1984, 2016). We share the view advanced by M. V. Vlavatskaya (2013) that up to date this is the most original and effective dictionary project describing combinatorial-syntagmatic potential of the word (Vlavatskaya 2013). Mel’čuk and Zholkovsky’s *ECD* is a theoretical dictionary, anchored in a linguistic theory – namely, Meaning-Text theory (MTT) – and making use of its conceptual tools. The general concept of the dictionary claims: “Natural language is a system that establishes correspondences between any given meaning and all texts expressing it; accordingly, the linguistic description of a certain language should be a set of rules that put all the texts of this language in line with any meaning” (Mel’čuk, 1995: 4). In MTT, meaning is no more than the invariant of synonymous paraphrases and it is thought to be directly accessible to speakers, being a part of their intuitive language competence.

The ECD has three general characteristics: 1) it is active, oriented towards speech production; 2) it is semantic (explanatory); 3) it is combinatorial, describing syntactic and lexical cooccurrence in a systematic way. Mel'čuk and Milićević advance the following principles for compiling an ECD: 1) the formality principle which stands for the formal description of lexical units; 2) descriptive coherence principles which mean that both internal and external coherence should be achieved; 3) uniform treatment principles which demand that all linguistic units of the same class and vocables of the same lexical field must be described in a similar way; 4) the internal exhaustiveness principle which means that the description of a lexical unit must contain all the necessary information to use language correctly and find any other lexical units semantically related to this particular lexeme (Mel'čuk & Milićević 2020: 203–209).

The best-known feature of the ECD and its basic notion is a lexical function that serves “a formal tool used to describe all types of lexical relations in a systematic way” (Mel'čuk & Milićević 2020: 142, 161). This dependency associates with a lexical unit (its argument or keyword) and a set of synonymous lexical units that express a specific meaning associated with the former. Lexical functions can be paradigmatic and syntagmatic: paradigmatic lexical functions are derivative, related to the selection of an adequate value of the keyword, while syntagmatic lexical functions are combinatorial, encoding the collocational potential of the keyword. Any function meets specific requirements: it must embrace a relatively large number of pairs of words; it can be expressed in various ways, which implies the existence of a phraseological relation between the arguments and their values (for detailed treatment see Mel'čuk & Milićević 2020).

The proposed dictionary, as well as ECDs in general, lexicographically provides the performance of the Meaning-Text model (MTT) and is similar to explanatory dictionaries, where lexical combinability and syntactic properties of words are reflected. This concerns general language dictionaries. However, discourse, which is language in real life context, is as multifaceted as life itself, and compiling such a dictionary would imply much time and effort on the part of lexicographers. Here arise the notions of domain-specific knowledge and specialized lexicography which is intended to help users build LSP discourse. As stated above, we refer discourse dictionaries to specialized lexicography. In our project we will try not merely copy Mel'čuk's model but introduce some novel principles to modern lexicographic practice, which will allow us to describe the conflict-provoking system of political discourse as a mobile and dynamic formation that is influenced by extra-linguistic factors.

3. Materials and methods

The case study, presented in the paper, addresses the specific issue of building an ECD of English Political Conflict Lexis by the in-depth analysis of the principles of compiling the dictionary and the microstructure of an ECD entry through both qualitative and quantitative methods. The principles of a research corpus

compilation are of utmost importance for the results to be obtained. Collecting and processing the data for the research was a four-fold process, involving a) corpus search and quantitative analysis, b) automatic text processing, c) manual text processing, and d) glossary compilation with the use of lexicographic, semasiological, and etymological methods.

3.1. Research corpus compilation and corpus search

The source of the material was the News on the Web Corpus from English-Corpora.org (NOW). Nowadays text corpora are considered the most important tool for research in both computational and other branches of modern linguistics (Soloviev et al. 2022). Currently, the corpus contains web-based periodicals (2010–present), covering newspapers and magazines from more than twenty English-speaking countries. As the ECD of English Political Conflict Lexis is planned to be an experimental dictionary based on a large corpus of political discourse texts, it determines the data the source of the material and the research corpus are supposed to comprise. The central topic of discourse must concern a controversial or divisive political issue that centers on conflicting international priorities: this year one of the highest rated concerns in global political news has been the outbreak of a military clash between Ukraine and Russia, turning the latter into the most sanctioned nation in the world. As US officials frame America’s role in the war in ambitious terms and their strategic thinking in relation to Russia and Ukraine is quite transparent, it is the American discourse that was chosen as the material for analysis.

Thus, the search query for compiling Research Corpus 1 was American articles, matching the keyword “Russia” within the date range: 24 February 2022–present, with the result being 1194347 matching strings. Normally, the NOW corpus has a query system that allows for effective searching by word form, lemma, or part of speech, including frequency lists and collocates sorted by time period, creating n-grams lists, generating concordance lines, comparing one section of the corpus to another. As the authors had a restricted license and a limited access to the options of the corpus, including only the search by a keyword and a time period (because of the sanctions context mentioned above), they had to compile Research Corpus 2, cutting it down to 500 texts (580544 words), sorted by relevance (Fig. 1) for the data to be processed with modern technologies using the data processing software, similar to the one the Now corpus is normally equipped with.

LIST NAME ↓	# TEXTS ↓	# WORDS ↓	FIND KEYWORDS <input checked="" type="radio"/> SPECIFIC <input type="radio"/> FREQ
RUSSIA	500	580,554	NOUN VERB ADJ ADV N+N ADJ+N

Figure 1. Research Corpus 2

Corpus 2 comprised breaking news and editorials from top US news agencies and periodicals (APN, CNBC, CNN, Chicago Tribune, Daily Beast, Forbes, Fox News, Newsday, New York Post, Politico, the Atlantic, the New York Times, the

Washington Examiner, the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and others) to be further processed by LanA-Key program.

3.2. LanA-Key automatic processing

LanA-Key program is an easy-to-use application that requires neither special programming skills nor a preliminary stage of a corpus tagging, which serves as “an instrument for the automatic extraction of multi-component grammatically correct typed lexical phrases, featuring intelligent output and computationally attractive properties” (Sheremetyeva 2017) for various languages (Russian, English, German, French, Spanish, Chinese) and specific subject areas. The program was tuned to the extraction of nominal terminology from the English language political domain.

Processing the input string (Corpus 2), the program automatically lemmatized any word that can be unambiguously linked to a single headword¹ (Fig. 2) and generated a frequency list of lemmas, excluding numbers and functional parts of speech (Fig. 3. NP Frequency).

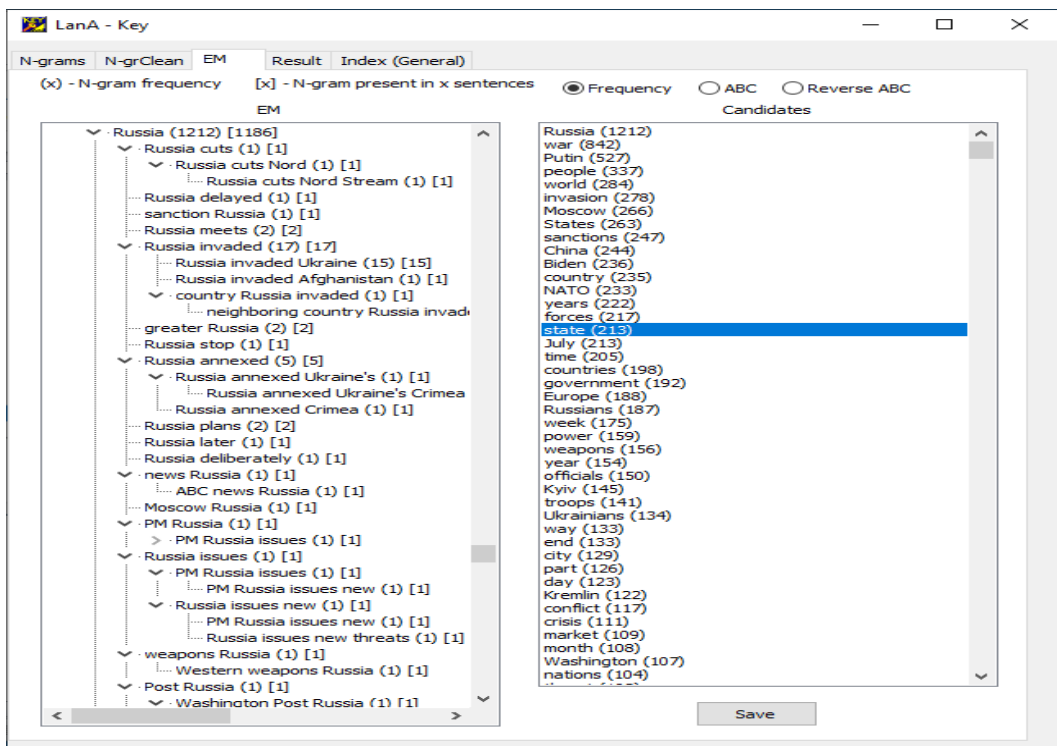


Figure 2. Fragment of LanA-Key processing

At the second stage the program sorted nouns and noun phrases (NPs) with lengths in 1–4 words alphabetically (Fig. 3. NP ABC list) and in reverse order

¹ The total number is 23485 lemmas, including numbers and functional parts of speech.

(Fig. 3. NP Reverse ABC list), the latter being relevant for fixing attributive clusters (an attributive cluster is understood here as a group of NPs with a key noun and different attributive components modifying it). The iterative process allowed for classifying meanings within the ontology and revealing new words that will be included in the dictionary because of their environmental relevance rather than their simple frequency.

1)	2)	3)
[1224] Ukraine	[3] Russian hegemony	[58] regime
[1212] Russia	[1] Russian historical figures	[1] Assad regime
[857] war	[4] Russian history	[1] Soviet-backed regime
[527] Putin	[1] Russian history shows	[1] Kremlin-sponsored regime
[337] people	[1] Russian hostilities	[5] unacceptable regime
[334] country	[1] Russian identity	[1] end Ukraine's unacceptable regime
[299] year	[1] Russian imperial guard	[1] oppressive regime
[295] world	[1] Russian imperialism	[1] governing regime
[287] Moscow	[1] Russian imperialism	[1] authoritarian regime
[278] invasion	[1] Russian imperialism	[1] Russian regime
[263] State	[1] Russian imperialist way	[5] Putin regime
[258] force	[2] Russian import ban	[1] President Vladimir Putin's regime
[247] sanction	[2] Russian imports	[1] President Alexander Lukashenko's regime
[247] time	[3] Russian influence operations	[5] Putins regime
[244] China	[1] Russian influence shops	[1] legitimize Putins regime
[236] Biden	[2] Russian information operations	[1] entrenchment of Putins regime
[233] NATO	[1] Russian institutions	[1] comprehensive sanctions regime
[213] July	[1] Russian intelligence services	[3] autonomous sanctions regime
[213] state	[2] Russian interests	[1] current sanctions regime
[211] government	[3] Russian interference	[1] Soviet regime
[211] week	[1] Russian interference effort	[4] puppet regime
[188] Europe	[2] Russian interior Ministry	[1] Russian puppet regime
[187] Russian	[1] Russian intervention	[1] Stalinist regime
	[1] Russian intrusions	[1] Kyiv regime
	[2] Russian invaders	[1] Moscow regime
	[38] Russian invasion	[1] pro-Moscow regime

Figure 3. Fragments of 1) NP Frequency, 2) NP ABC, 3) NP Reverse ABC

3.3. Manual processing

The NP Frequency list with the lemmas ‘Russia’ (with 1212 entries, ranking second out of the total 23485 NPs) and ‘Russian’ (with 187 entries, ranking twenty first) shows that Corpus 2 is quite representative for further analysis. The process of compiling an initial glossary² for the dictionary is a sequence of several data reduction phases that require manual processing and linguistic analysis with the help of etymological, lexicographic, and semasiological methods. Each procedure takes the input (a list of words) from the previous one and feeds its output (a new list of words) to the next phase.

The procedures used were as follows:

1) List 1, comprising 859 NPs with ‘Russia’, ‘Russian’ used as attributes, was extracted from the NP ABC.

2) The data were compared with the NP Reverse ABC; the NPs that had no attributive clusters were excluded from List 2, which was reduced to 423 NPs. In addition to NPs with ‘Russia’ and ‘Russian’, used attributively, List 2 contained NPs with nouns modified by ‘Kremlin’ (134 entries), ‘Moscow’ (287), ‘Putin’ (527)

² The glossary presented in the paper is but the first step in compiling a more or less complete list of terms that will be included in the ECD of English Political Conflict Lexis.

as metonymic names of the country in political discourse, with some dictionaries considering them synonyms of Russia (Power Thesaurus).

3) To check the meaning of each key noun from List 2 six specialized dictionaries (both English and Russian) accessible via the Internet were used (Davletchina 2005, Dmitriev 2013, Merriman & Barrach-Yousefi 2021, Miller & King 2003, The Law Dictionary, Shipilov & Antsupov 2020). The available dictionaries present collections of words related to the concept of *conflict* and provide concise definitions of basic and specific terms, with one of the dictionaries (Dmitriev 2013) having a special mark of a ‘conflictogene’ (conflict-provoking concept / conflict trigger) for over a hundred of entries. Still, a number of important limitations to this pilot study need to be considered. First, the dictionaries have a different number of conflict terms: two small-sized dictionaries (Merriman & Barrach-Yousefi 2021, Miller & King 2003) contain fewer than 200 entries while, for instance, the Law Dictionary includes over 15,000 words. The second important limitation lies in the fact that, in our opinion, some words, registered in the dictionaries, neither have conflict-provoking connotations nor belong to the concept of conflict; for this reason, further lexicographic data collection is required to determine a final list of terms either with precise ‘conflict’ meaning in some uses or peculiar to the field of conflict studies. Third, when using Russian dictionaries of conflict studies, we focused mainly on a targeted search to choose between terms suggested by bilingual translation aids with the special subject area ‘politics’ (Multitran Dictionary, ABBYY Lingvo 12, Cambridge Dictionary). In order to validate the findings further study needs to be carried out through a focus group method that offers a more effective way of assessing the quality of the resulting dictionary. However, as it has already been mentioned in 2.3, few dictionaries have been able to draw on any systematic description of conflict terms, with none of them focusing on *political* conflict studies, which points to an urgent need for a renewed discussion of compiling a dictionary of the kind. Thus, notwithstanding the limitations, the six dictionaries were used for lexicographic analysis.

The criterion for including a term in the initial glossary was its having a particular meaning related to the field of conflict studies, registered in at least two of the dictionaries (Table 1; the asterisk (*) specifies the meaning / form / use of the word).

Table 1. Fragment of lexicographic analysis

Word (frequency)	Davletchina	Dmitriev	Merriman & Barrach-Yousefi	Miller & King	Shipilov & Antsupov	The Law Dictionary
Violence (58)	+	+ *conflict-provoking	+	- *non-violence	+	+
Sanction (398)	+	+ *used only in the singular	+	+	+	+

The key nouns of NPs excluded from List 3, which finally formed the glossary, fell into three groups:

a) basic lexemes (183): e.g., *action, behavior, choice, effort, hand, history, hospital, literature, option, people, treatment, version, vision, etc.*:

- (1) *The town abuts the key highway that leads from the capital to western Ukraine and Lviv, so keeping it out of **Russian hands** is important in the effort to prevent Kyiv from being encircled* (The New York Times, 16.04).

b) discourse-specific lexemes (97), relating to politics and political discussion, registered in the specialized dictionary (Raymond 1930–1992): *ambassador, capital, civilization, constitution, diplomat, economy, leader, media, Minister, official, politics, President, state, etc.*:

- (2) *To deflect from his failure to deter **Russian President Vladimir Putin** from invading Ukraine, President Biden has praised his anti-Russia coalition as a triumph of diplomacy* (The Hill, 17.03).

NPs with key nouns belonging to these two vocabulary tiers are used frequently over multiple contexts (e.g., the NP ‘Russian President’ has 527 entries in Corpus 2). Moreover, they often have apparent conflict-provoking negative connotations in the context. Still, following from synthesis-oriented MTT that “aims at speech production rather than speech understanding” (Mel’čuk & Milićević 2020: 8), pragmatic knowledge was not considered. At a later stage of the dictionary compilation lexemes belonging to the group will be analysed and considered for listing as the dictionary entries.

c) ‘conflict-provoking’ lexemes (54), not registered in the dictionaries: *exclusion, horde, intrusion, isolation, kleptocracy, massacre, nationalism, Putinism, regime, separatist, vassaldom, etc.*:

- (3) *The autocratic **Russian kleptocracy** does not trust low-ranking and middle-ranking officers, and so cannot allow the imaginative, flexible decision making that NATO air forces rely upon* (The Atlantic, 09.05).

Key nouns of NPs, forming the group, typically or potentially have conflict-provoking connotations in their dictionary meanings. For example, the etymological and lexicographic analyses of the noun *kleptocracy* in (3) shows that the lexeme has a strong negative connotation: Latin *clepere* “to steal, listen secretly to” (cognate with Greek *kleptes* “a thief, a cheater”), used with a noun forming element *-cracy* (cognate with Latin *-cratia* “power, might; rule, sway; power over” and Greek *-kratia* “rule or government by”) make up a term, denoting a corrupt political regime, characterized by widespread theft of its nation’s wealth and resources, often practiced under an autocratic government that seeks status and personal gain at the expense of the governed (dictionary.com, Online Etymology Dictionary, Webster’s, MacMillan). Hence, the noun denotes a form of leadership

universally seen as negative; describing any country as an example of a modern kleptocracy, closely associated with military states, oligarchies, and dictatorships, is a purposeful attempt to insult and humiliate the state, characteristic of conflict discourse. At a more advance stage of the project the lexemes forming the group will be analysed and considered for inclusion into the list of entries.

3.4. Glossary compilation

As a result of the data reduction procedures described above and illustrated in the table (Table 2), the overall amount of data was reduced in a trackable and safe manner that ensured that the entries in the final list are frequent and typical of the current conflict political discourse vocabulary.

Table 2. Results of the data reduction procedures

	Procedure / method	Source	Unit	Amount
1	LanA-Key automatic processing, quantitative analysis	NPs Frequency List	NPs with lengths in 1–4 words	23485
2	LanA-Key automatic processing, quantitative	NPs ABC	NPs with ‘Russia’, ‘Russian’ used attributively	859
3	analysis, manual processing	NP Reverse ABC	NPs having attributive clusters	423
4	Quantitative analysis, lexicographic, etymological, semasiological analyses	Six dictionaries on Conflict studies	Nouns registered in the dictionaries	88

Thus, List 3 includes 88 entries that remained after using the four reduction procedures. Each noun in List 3 contains its frequency in square brackets [count of its occurrences in Corpus 2], an attributive cluster of NPs with lengths in 2–4 words, and illustrative examples from the discourse:

- (4) **invasion** [388]: Russia’s invasion, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Russia’s full-scale invasion, Russia’s bloody invasion, Russia’s botched invasion, Russian despot’s reckless invasion, Putin’s invasion, Putin’s initial invasion, Putin’s invasion of Ukraine, Putin’s latest invasion, Putin’s calamitous invasion, Putin’s invasion claims, Moscow’s invasion, Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine, Moscow’s full-scale invasion. *Given the aftershocks of **the Russian invasion** of Ukraine and the relentless US campaign to isolate and punish the Kremlin, there may never have been a worse time to be an American imprisoned in Russia* (CNN, 07.07.2022).

Finally, an alphabetical list of 88 terms, frequent in current conflict political discourse and constituting the initial glossary of the ECD, was formed (Figure 4).

A	crackdown	G	R
abuse	conquest	genocide	regime
accusation	crackdown	H	revolution
aggression	crisis	hegemony	risk
ally	crime	hostility	S
ambition	cruelty	I	sanction
annexation	czar	imperialism	security
anger	D	influence	siege
army	damage	interference	spy
assault	danger	intervention	strategy
atrocity	despot	invasion	strike
attack	dictator	M	T
authority	disaster	menace	tactics
B	disinformation	mobilization	takeover
barrier	defense	O	terror
blockade	dissident	objection	theft
C	E	occupation	threat
campaign	empire	offense	tyranny
catastrophe	enemy	operation	U
challenge	escalation	P	ultimatum
coalition	expansion	policy	V
colonization	F	power	value
competition	fault	pressure	violation
conflict	fear	propaganda	violence
confrontation	force	protestation	W
control	front	provocation	war
			warfare

Figure 4. Glossary of the ECD of English Political Conflict Lexis

4. Results and Discussion

The ECD of English Political Conflict Lexis is generally compiled on the lines of the methodological principles of MTT, but it is much simplified if compared with the ECDs, fully consistent with MTT. As the proposed dictionary is meant not only “to boost the science of language” but also to satisfy practical needs, serving a particular public (linguists, discourse analysts, speechwriters, linguistic expertise specialists, etc.), it is “adapted to a particular level of understanding of its prospective users” (Mel’čuk 2006: 6). The aim of the authors is to test “the theoretical lexicon of a language”, successfully applied to compiling the ECDs of Russian and French (Mel’čuk & Žolkovsky 1984, Mel’čuk et al. 1992), on the data of the English language, to be more particular, of American political conflict discourse.

MTT postulates that any act of linguistic communication involves three major entities: meaning (a content to be communicated by linguistic signals), text (a complex signal to be used to communicate the content), natural language (a mapping between meanings and texts) (Mel’čuk & Žolkovsky 1984, Mel’čuk & Wierzbicka 2018). The sets of infinite meanings and infinite texts are contrasted to the finite number of correspondences between them. The postulates of MTT are

applied to compiling the ECD, believed to be “a research tool, providing a standardized framework for the description of the lexical stock of any language” (Mel’čuk 2006, Mel’čuk & Milićević 2020: 203). The ECD deals with strictly linguistic meaning: the literal meaning of lexemes, which can be arrived at solely on the basis of linguistic knowledge, without any reference to the extralinguistic context or common sense (the data for the present study are collected automatically and the information is presented exclusively from the viewpoint of text synthesis, enabling the user to pass from a given meaning to the corresponding text, which is of primary importance when analyzing conflict discourse). Any ECD entry presents a full description of a lexeme, comprising three major divisions that correspond to the triple nature of the linguistic sign, with the signified and the signifier taken in their Saussurean sense, and with syntactics denoting “a set of properties that control its cooccurrence with other signs” (Mel’čuk 2006: 20). As MTT considers meanings and texts to be formal objects that can be described by means of formal languages and specified by formal devices, it puts forward a system of special techniques, symbols, abbreviations, writing conventions (for detailed treatment see Mel’čuk & Milićević 2020: 21–27), used for a rigorous and formalized description of the proposed ECD entry.

Thus, the microstructure of an ECD entry consists of three core zones, described in conformity with each other. The Semantic Zone contains the definition of the lexeme, its semantic label and connotations. The Phonological / Graphematic Zone specifies phonological features of the lexeme (its pronunciation, syllabification, and non-standard prosodic properties (if any)). The Cooccurrence Zone, divided into several sub-zones, presents combinatorial properties of the lexeme: 1) morphological (covering its inflectional paradigm), 2) syntactic (describing active and passive syntactic valence), 3) lexical (based on the notion of a lexical function, associated with semantic derivations of the lexeme paradigmatically and with its collocational potential syntagmatically), and 4) stylistic (including usage labels). The list of lexical functions includes those describing standard lexical paradigmatic relations: synonymy (Syn), antonymy (Anti), and conversion (Conv); derivational relations (S, A); syntagmatic lexical relations (adjectival functions (Magn, Ver, Bon), support verbs (Oper), phasal verbs (Incep, Fin, Cont), causative verbs (Caus, Liqu), some semantic derivations and several examples of complex lexical functions.

The source of the material for filling up the semantic and phonological zones as well as for stating the lexeme’s morphological cooccurrence, stylistic cooccurrence and paradigmatic lexical functions is the dictionaries, while the lexeme’s syntactic cooccurrence and syntagmatic lexical functions are studied using the corpus data of conflict political discourse. The use of the corpus data implies 1) checking the frequency of words in the corpus, 2) listing the collocations of the word, conventionally used together in conflict political discourse of the analyzed time span: N + the keyword, the keyword + N, Adj + the keyword, V+ the keyword (the output is a list of wordforms with significance scores for their co-

occurrence with the keyword, ordered from high to low significance) (Fig. 5), 3) comparing the collocates of two words to see how they differ in meaning and usage (Fig. 6). The procedure helps the lexicographer “to sharpen the focus of definitions, highlighting salient facts and omitting remote possibilities, and to formulate explicit rules for choosing among near synonyms” (Kruyt 1995).

HE LP			ALL FORMS (SAMPLE) : 100 200 500 WORDS	FR EQ	TOTAL 519 UNIQUE 181 +
1			SANCTION PACKAGE	32	
2			SANCTION LIST	29	
3			SANCTION WEAPON	21	
4			SANCTION PUTIN	17	
5			SANCTION EVASION	16	
6			SANCTION RULES	14	
7			SANCTION TARGETS	14	
8			SANCTION ORDERS	11	
9			SANCTION LISTS	10	
10			SANCTION OLIGARCHS	10	
11			SANCTION MEASURES	9	
12			SANCTION POLICIES	9	
13			SANCTION INDIVIDUALS	8	

Figure 5. Fragment of the collocations list “SANCTION +Noun”

WORD 1 (W1): SANCTION (0.34)					WORD 2 (W2): PUNISHMENT (2.97)						
WORD	W1	W2	W1/W2	SCORE	WORD	W2	W1	W2/W1	SCORE		
1	RUSSIA	1164	639	1.8	5.4	1	RUSSIA	639	1164	0.5	0.2
WORD 1 (W1): SANCTION (0.12)					WORD 2 (W2): PENALTY (8.58)						
WORD	W1	W2	W1/W2	SCORE	WORD	W2	W1	W2/W1	SCORE		
1	RUSSIA	1164	370	3.1	27.0	1	RUSSIA	370	1164	0.3	0.0
WORD 1: COERCION					WORD 2: SANCTIONS						
		W1		W2			W2		W1		
	RUSSIA		51		50629		RUSSIA		50629	51	

Figure 6. Fragment of comparing the keyword and its synonyms

An example of the simplified and user-oriented entry “SANCTION” as it is meant to appear in the ECD of English Political Conflict Lexis is presented below. The word has been chosen for the illustration as it is registered in all the dictionaries of conflict studies used for lexicographic analysis (Table 2). Though the Illustration Zone (exemplifying typical uses of the lexeme) is at times considered redundant, it is quite appropriate in the ECD of English Political Conflict Lexis as it makes it easier for the prospective user to understand a lexicographic description and substantiate the claims about conflict-provoking connotations of the lexeme; thus, the use of the entry lexeme in the corresponding zone (syntactic cooccurrence and syntagmatic lexical functions) is illustrated by actual sentences from the corpus.

SANCTION

The semantic zone

Definition: sanctions of X against Y concerning Z for W – coercive action/s concerning Z taken by country/ies X against the country Y which is considered to have violated international law in W to end the violation

Semantic label: coercive action

Connotation: punishment, ban, boycott, enforcement (negative, conflict-provoking)

The phonological zone

US /'sæŋkʃən/ UK /'sæŋkʃən/

The cooccurrence zone

(a) *Morphological cooccurrence:* Noun [C, usually plural], Politics;

(b) *Stylistic cooccurrence (usage label):* a conflict-provoking term used in political discourse, international law, and diplomatic discourse;

(c) *Syntactic cooccurrence:*

▪ *Active valence syntactic cooccurrence (Government Pattern)*³

X ⇔ I [who imposes sanctions]	Y ⇔ II [against whom the sanctions are imposed]	Z ⇔ III [concerning what the sanctions are imposed – the object of sanctions]	W ⇔ IV [the reason for sanctions]
1. Subjectival → Ncom(x)	1. Indirect-objectival → LprepN(y)	1. Modificative → AoL	1. Indirect-objectival/ modifcative → LprepN
2. Subjectival → NP(x)			
3. Subjectival → NPabbr(x)			
4. Indirect objectival → prep(by)/ NP/NPabbr(x)			
5. Modificative → Nabbr(x)L	2. Modificative → Ao(y)L	2. Modificative → AoVedL	2. Indirect-objectival/ modifcative → LprepVingN
6. Modificative → Ngen(x)L	3. Modificative → N(y)L		
7. Modificative → NPabbr gen(x)L			
8. Modificative → Ao(x)L			
9. Determinative → Prnposs(x) L			

Examples:

X ⇔ I

CI.1 Subjectival → Ncom(x): **America / Europe / the West:** *Since America imposed sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine in late February, it has granted foreign bondholders an exemption to allow them to receive money from Moscow* (Yahoo Finance, 05.05).

CI.2 Subjectival → NP(x): **the United States / European Union:** *The United States imposed sanctions on Russia: it is accused of gross human rights violations* (CNBC, 15.03).

³ Though basically applying notations proposed by Mel'čuk, in the case of Government Pattern we use standard notations for parts of speech, their grammatical categories and syntactic functions accepted in Modern English Grammar (N – noun, com – common case, gen – genitive case, NP – noun phrase, NPabbr – abbreviated noun phrase, Prn – pronoun, Prnposs – possessive pronoun, A – adjective, o – zero degree of comparison, comp – comparative degree, superl – superlative degree, V – verb, Ved – participle II, Ving – participle I, gerund, VP – verb phrase, Vtrans – transitive verb, prep – preposition, etc. L stands for the entry lexeme).

CI.3 Subjectival→NPabbr(x): **the US / EU**: *When the US imposed sanctions on Russia in April 2018—the US has a long history of imposing sanctions on Russia for a variety of reasons – the volatility in prices was similar* (Yahoo Finance, 05.05).

CI.4 Indirect-objectival→prep(by)N/NP/NPabbr(x): **by the West / United States / EU**: *With Moscow's war of aggression against Ukraine and the sanctions imposed by the West, these days seem to be over* (Seeking Alpha, 16.06).

CI.5 Modificative→Nabbr(x)L: **US sanctions / EU sanctions**: *EU sanctions against Moscow have snarled the fertilizer trade further* (Politico, 11.08).

CI.6 Modificative→Ngen(x)L: **America's / West's / Biden's sanctions**: *The new set of Biden's sanctions on Russia came in reaction to the country's invasion of Ukraine* (Business Insider, 27.02).

CI.7 Modificative→NPabbrgen(x)L: **EU's sanction** list against Russia: *Russia, blaming payment issues prompted by the latest round of EU's sanctions, cut off the flow of oil in a pipeline that runs through Ukraine* (USA Today, 09.08).

CI.8 Modificative→Ao(x)L: **American / European / Canadian / Japanese / international / western** sanctions: *Hungary's Prime Minister reiterated his opposition to European sanctions against Russia* (The Telegraph on MSN.com, 16.09).

CI.9 Determinative→Prnpos(x)L: **the US – their** sanctions: *The West lifts its sanctions against Russia and Russian companies, heightening a stand-off between Russia and the continent* (Forbes, 06.09).

Y⇔II

CII.1 Indirect-objectival/modificative→LprepNy: **sanctions against Russia / sanctions on Iran**: *The Western sanctions against Russia were a reasonable non-violent response* (wral.com, 09.09).

CII.2 Modificative→Ao(y)L: **anti-Russian / Russian / Iranian** sanctions: *With Russian sanctions in place on Russian oil, choices are limited* (Market Watch, 15.08).

CII.3 Modificative→N(y)L: **Russia** sanctions: *US unveils new Russia sanctions, implements ban on new imports of Russian gold* (CNN, 28.06).

Z⇔III

CIII.1 Modificative→AoL: **economic / financial / diplomatic / political / disciplinary / nuclear** sanctions: *Russia claims punitive economic sanctions imposed by the West are responsible for the indefinite halt to gas supplies via Europe* (CNBC, 06.09).

CIII.2 Modificative→AoVedL: **nuclear-related** sanctions: *Even if the U.S. lifts nuclear-related sanctions under a new deal, numerous other American sanctions on Iran would remain* (Politico, 24.08).

W ⇔ IV

CIV.1 Indirect-objectival / modificative→LprepN: **sanctions for violation of the international law**: *Washington and its allies aim to cut off energy imports from Russia in line with sanctions over its war on Ukraine* (The Hill, 27.06).

CIV.2 Indirect-objectival / modificative→LprepVingN: **sanctions for 'beginning' invasion**: *European leaders have accused the Kremlin of using*

its energy to punish and blackmail the bloc over sanctions for invading Ukraine (Forbes, 22.08).

Possible complex syntactic cooccurrence

CI.1-5+CII.1-3+CIII.1-2+CIV.1-2: As part of American sanctions against Russia for its unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, U.S. officials have stepped up efforts to seize the ruling elite's toys and assets (The New York Times, 10.04).

Impossible

CII.1+CII.2-3: Russia/n sanctions against Russia

▪ **Passive valence syntactic cooccurrence**

1. Direct-objectival→VtransL: **impose / announce / evade / face / lift / avoid / enforce / tighten / violate / increase / apply / support / breach / bolster / bypass / ease / join / slap / implement/ introduce / strengthen / expand sanctions: Russia will face additional sanctions and become even more of a global pariah than it is now** (The Washington Post, 03.08).

2. Indirect-objectival→VprepL: **speak about sanctions: The way we tend to think about sanctions is an alternative to war** (The New York Times, 01.04).

3. Modificative→LN: **sanction/s package / list / weapon / rules / targets / regime / policy / strategy / tools / campaign / club: Its owner is not on the E.U. sanction list even** (New York Magazine, 17.03).

4. Modificative/ Direct-objectival→LNverbal: **sanction enforcement / violations / restrictions / breaches / exemptions: Sanction restrictions – how the grain sector is adapting to the new reality** (CNN, 12.05).

5. Modificative→AoL: **new / significant / severe / fresh / tough / strong sanctions: A common ground between the United Kingdom and the U.S. has been its heavy sanctions against Russia** (Washington Examiner, 05.09).

6. Modificative→AcomL: **tougher / harsher / stronger / stricter sanctions: The NATO lawmakers approved a resolution calling for stronger sanctions against Russia** (The Denver Post, 30.05).

7. Modificative→AsupL: **latest / toughest sanctions: The White House is expected to allow toughest sanctions on controversial Russian gas pipeline** (CNN, 10.03).

8. Modificative→VingL: **crippling / sweeping / existing / increasing / punishing / blocking sanctions: It prompted sweeping economic sanctions against Russia and military support for Ukraine from Washington and its Western allies** (Reuters, 14.09).

9. Modificative→VedL: **reimposed / imposed / increased / proposed / renewed / coordinated / limited sanctions: He once again called for increased sanctions against Russia, including its entire banking sector and oil industry** (Washington Examiner, 18.04).

10. Modificative→Num-N-L: **12-point sanction / 250\$a-day sanction: The EU extended its six-month sanctions against Russia** (Time, 09.09).

(d) Lexical cooccurrence (lexical functions)

Syn _c	discipline
Syn _o	punishment, coercion
Syn _n	penalty

Anti	support, permission, approval
Conv	sanction (in the meaning of approval) ⁴
Gener	measure, policy
Figur	blockade, boycott
S ₁	sanctioner
S ₂	target [of sanctions]
A ₁	sanctionable
A ₂	sanctionative
A ₃	sanctionless
A ₄	sanctioned
V ₀	sanction
S _{instr}	embargo, ban, restriction, prohibition <i>The next round of sanctions against Russia includes an oil embargo (The Guardian on MSN.com).</i>
S _{loc}	foreign policy, diplomacy, economy
S _{res}	negative effects, material costs
Sing	round of <i>Member nations are expected to approve another round of sanctions targeting Russia’s defense industry and technology sector (Defense One, 11.07).</i>
Mult	list of, range of, set of <i>The Biden administration has banned energy imports as part of a set of sanctions against Mr. Putin (The New York Times, 08.04).</i>
Loc _{in} Centr	amidst <i>The Russian rouble has devalued in the wake of the invasion and amidst sanctions (Fox News, 07.03).</i>
A _i	under [sanctions] <i>Russian banks are under sanctions (The Nation, 06.08).</i>
Able	sanctionable, sanctioned <i>Department also issued guidance on its website warning that gold-related transactions involving Russia may be sanctionable by U.S. authorities (Reuters, 24.03).</i>
Magn	toughest, harshest, biggest, maximal <i>Russia now finds itself targeted by the toughest sanctions ever agreed against Moscow by the EU, US and UK (International Business Times, 26.02).</i>
[AntiBon + Magn]	lighter, lesser, mild <i>The Treasury department hit other institutions with lesser sanctions, including Alfa bank (New York Times, 01.03).</i>
Magn ^{temp}	prolonged, continuous <i>European Commission said that the “reinforced, prolonged EU sanctions against the Kremlin” send “a strong signal to Moscow (The Washington Post, 16.03).</i>
Magn ^{quant}	substantial, relevant <i>The U.S. and Europe have pledged to hold Moscow accountable, with more damaging and substantial sanctions against Russia now being readied by western powers (CNBC, 24.02).</i>

⁴ Sanction has two opposite lexical meanings: it can refer to penalizing or disciplining someone or something, or to authorizing or approving something; it is sometimes known as a “Janus word”.

Ver	punitive, disciplinary <i>The United States and European allies are looking to step up punitive sanctions on Russia for invading Ukraine</i> (Euronews.com, 06.03).
Bon	appropriate, proper, effective, powerful, <i>Washington should hit Moscow with the most effective sanctions possible against Russia’s financial system</i> (The National Interest, 28.02).
Pred	sanction <i>Singapore will restrict military and high-tech exports to Russia and sanction four Russian banks</i> (Forbs, 03.05).
Oper ₁	impose, place, put, issue, introduce <i>The U.S. and the U.K. plan to impose sanctions against Russia in reaction to the latest developments</i> (Business Insider, 25.02).
IncepOper ₁	initiate, levy <i>The United States and European Union have levied sanctions on Russia’s biggest banks and its elite</i> (TwinCities.com, 01.03).
IncepInvolvOper ₁	join <i>Serbia rejects Western calls to join sanctions on Russia</i> (ABC, 25.02).
ContOper ₁	keep, maintain <i>Evidence that Russian troops murdered hundreds of Ukrainian civilians is leading some U.S. lawmakers to insist that America and its allies keep sanctions on Moscow so long as Vladimir Putin remains in power</i> (Politico, 06.04).
FinOper ₁	end <i>French far-right leader Marine Le Pen called for Europe to end sanctions against Russia to avoid a blackout</i> (YahooFinance, 02.08).
LiquOper ₁	remove, waive, exempt <i>A growing number of Italians want to remove sanctions against Russia</i> (Politico, 05.09).
Oper ₂	face, get <i>Get up to speed: Russia faces sanctions for ‘beginning’ invasion</i> (CNN, 24.02).
ContOper ₂	be under <i>If Ukraine will fall, Putin will not stop... especially when Russia is under sanctions...</i> (Washington Examiner, 26.03).
FinOper ₂	evade, escape, avoid <i>Metals Giant Avoids Sanctions. So far, the U.S. and its allies haven’t sanctioned Russia’s MMC</i> (MarketWatch, 07.03).
LiquOper ₂	circumvent, breach, bypass, undermine <i>The U.S. and its allies were shutting down Russia’s ability to use gold to circumvent sanctions</i> (The New York Times, 24.03).
F ₁ = IncepPred Plus ^{refl}	extend, expand, lift, enforce, tighten, toughen, increase, escalate, strengthen, intensify <i>The EU must leave itself with an ability to significantly tighten and escalate sanctions should Russia hit back</i> (Politico, 31.03).

Though not fully living up to MTT’s requirements and its well-developed lexicographic metalanguage, both the project of the proposed dictionary and the entry microstructure utilize some of its basic lexicographic concepts, having theoretical orientation and formalized character as its distinctive properties.

5. Conclusion

The results of the study are significant in at least three respects. Firstly, they contribute new findings and additional evidence, suggesting that computer technologies, including computational and corpus linguistics, are relevant to lexicography. The current findings add to a growing body of literature on computerized compilation of dictionaries, based on large electronic text corpora, proving that corpus-based technologies support lexicographical practice and enhance the quality and consistency of the resulting dictionary. Moreover, the analysis and interpretation of the corpus data by the researcher can be improved by automated linguistic analysis of language samples, which offers different views on the data by various types of sorting and rearranging options according to the criteria set by the lexicographer (frequency lists, reverse lists, collocations with the keyword, distribution over the sources, etc., supported by statistical tools). Secondly, the use of electronic text corpora offers an effective way for compiling a specialized discoursed-based dictionary that particularly focuses on a specific subject area, embedding the lexicographic data in the social, political, and geopolitical contexts. The specific subject area in the proposed dictionary merges political and conflict types of discourse as politics often becomes a platform for conflict deployment and conflict escalation. Thirdly, though based on the data of “language in context”, being primarily an object of discourse *analysis*, the dictionary is designed on the principles of MTT from the viewpoint of text *synthesis*, successfully applied to its compilation (including both collecting the data and presenting the information about lexemes). However, the two are not mutually exclusive: the synthetic orientation of the dictionary does not prevent its use for further analysis. Thus, the ECD of English Political Conflict Lexis would cater to specific needs of its targeted user group and would be most helpful for scholars in linguistics, discourse analysis, media and communication, political science, and conflict studies.

The research which is the initial draft stage of compiling the ECD of Political Conflict Lexis has highlighted a number of questions that need to be addressed. They include quality assessment of programming tools, lexicographic sources and methods used, as well as the evaluation of the ECD itself and its microstructure, which calls for an increase in the list of entries and their more user-oriented description. We hope that the answers provided by our further studies will help us compile a full-fledged dictionary of modern political conflict lexis.

Acknowledgments

The research is financed by Potanin Foundation grant for master’s degree faculty #gk22-000396 “Artificial intelligence for NLP”.

We are also most grateful to Svetlana O. Sheremetyeva for kindly providing us with her Lana-Key programming tool that enabled us to widen the scope of our research and bring it up-to-date, as well as for her advice and help.

REFERENCES

- Apresjan, Yurij D. 1974. *Lexical Semantics. Synonymic Means of Language*. Moscow: Nauka. (In Russ.)
- Benson, Phil. 2002. *Ethnocentrism and the English Dictionary*. London & New York: Routledge.
- Bergenholtz, Henning & Rufus H. Gouws. 2012. What is lexicography? *Lexicos* 22. 31–42.
- Chen, Wenge G. 2015. Bilingual lexicography as recontextualization: A case study of illustrative examples in a New English-Chinese Dictionary. *Australian Journal of Linguistics* 35 (4). 311–333.
- Chen, Wenge G. 2019. Towards a discourse approach to critical lexicography. *International Journal of Lexicography* 32 (3). 362–388.
- DeCessaris, Janet. 2013. Incorporating context into dictionary presentation. In Olga M. Karpova (ed.), *Life beyond dictionaries*, 16–17. Ivanovo: Ivanovo state university.
- Demeshkina, Tatyana A. & Maria A. Tolstova. 2017. Gender dialectology and dictionaries as its source. *Russian Journal of Lexicography* 12. 83–105. <https://doi.org/10.17223/22274200/12/5> (In Russ.)
- Kruyt, Johanna G. 1995. Technologies in Computerized Lexicography. *Lexikos* 5. 117–137.
- Fesenko, Olga P. 2015. Lexicography of language, speech, and discourse. *Omsk Scientific Bulletin* 1 (135). 52–54. (In Russ.)
- Firth, John R. 1957. *Papers in Linguistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Gerasimova, Marina V. 2020. Culturological support of dictionary entries in the digital multilingual dictionary of metaphors. *Russian Journal of Lexicography* 17. 90–110. <https://doi.org/10.17223/22274200/17/5> (In Russ.)
- Golev, Nikolay D. 2019. A modern dialect vocabulary discourse dictionary (based on Runet materials): An innovative lexicographic project. *Russian Journal of Lexicography* 16. 113–137. <https://doi.org/10.17223/22274200/16/7> (In Russ.)
- Gromenko, Elizaveta S. 2020. The problem of term selection for a dictionary of neologisms (based on the material of contemporary periodical popular science publications). *Russian Journal of Lexicography* 17. 5–25. <https://doi.org/10.17223/22274200/17/1> (In Russ.)
- Issers, Oksana S. 2015. *Discursive Practices of the Present Time*. Moscow: LENAND. (In Russ.)
- Kachru, Braj B. 1995. Introduction. In Braj B. Kachru & Henry Kahane (eds.), *Cultures, Ideologies, and the Dictionary: Studies in Honor of Ladislav Zgusta 64*, lxiii–lxvi. Tübingen: Max Niemeyer Verlag.
- Koshkarova, Natalya N. & Olga A. Solopova. 2021. Cognitive and discursive approach to lexicography: How dictionary reflects place-naming system. In Elena V. Dzyuba & Svetlana A. Yeryomina (eds.), *Cognitive Strategies of Philological Education in Russia and Abroad III*, 69–73. Ekaterinburg: Ural state pedagogical university. (In Russ.)
- Kozyrev, Vladimir A. & Valentina D. Chernyak. 2015. *Russian Lexicography: Present and Past Centuries*. Saint-Petersburg: A.I. Herzen RSPU Publishing House. (In Russ.)
- Krasnobaeva-Chernaya, Zhanna V. 2020. The terminological data bank “Classification parameters of phraseological units” as an electronic terminographic product: Design experience. *Russian Journal of Lexicography* 18. 117–132. <https://doi.org/10.17223/22274200/18/6> (In Russ.)
- Manik, Svetlana A. 2019. *English Political Lexicography: Formation, Development, Present State*. Doctor of Philology thesis. Ivanovo: Ivanovo state University. (In Russ.)
- Mel’čuk, Igor A. 1995. *The Russian language in the Meaning-Text perspective*. Wien: Wiener Slavistischer Almanach. Moscow: Languages of the Russian Culture School. (In Russ.)

- Mel'čuk, Igor. 2006. Explanatory combinatorial dictionary. In Giandomenico Sica (ed.), *Open problems in linguistic and lexicography*, 225–355. Monza (Italy): Polimetrica.
- Mel'čuk, Igor A. & Anna Wierzbicka. 2018. Semantic decomposition, and the Meaning-Text approach. *Russian Journal of Linguistics* 22 (3). 521–538. <https://doi.org/10.22363/2312-9182-2018-22-3-521-538>
- Mel'čuk, Igor A. & Jasmina Miličević. 2020. *An Advanced Introduction to Semantics: A Meaning-Text Approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Morkovkin, Valerij V. 1977. *Ideographic Description of Lexis: A Case Study (Analysis of Words with Temporal Meaning in Russian)*. Moscow: Moscow University Publishing House. (In Russ.)
- Nielsen, Sandro H. 2013. Foundations and key components of specialized lexicography. In Olga M. Karpova (ed.), *Life beyond dictionaries*, 24. Ivanono: Ivanovo state university.
- Plotnikova, Anna M. 2014. New trends in Russian lexicographic discourse. *Novosibirsk State Pedagogical University Bulletin* 3 (19). 22–29. (In Russ.)
- Radbil, Timur B. & Vadim V. Saigin. The concept “grekh” (“sin”) in the context of the lexicographic description of key concepts of Russian culture. 2019. *Russian Journal of Lexicography* 15. 36–59. <https://doi.org/10.17223/22274200/15/3> (In Russ.)
- Sandomirskaya, Irina. 2001. *The Book about Motherland: Experience of Discursive Practices Analysis*. Wien: Wiener Slawistischer Almanach Sonderband. (In Russ.)
- Sheremetyeva, Svetlana O. 2017. *Linguistic Models and Tools for Processing Patent Claims*. Chelyabinsk: SUSU Publishing Centre.
- Skovorodnikov, Alexander P. & Galina A. Kopnina. 2021. On the conception of the modern political labels dictionary. *Russian Journal of Lexicography* 20. 105–118. <https://doi.org/10.17223/22274200/20/6> (In Russ.)
- Solovyev, Valery, Marina M. Solnyshkina & Danielle M. McNamara. 2022. Computational linguistics and discourse complexology: Paradigms and research methods. *Russian Journal of Linguistics* 26 (2). 275–316. <https://doi.org/10.22363/2687-0088-30161>
- Van Dijk, Teun A. 1998. *Ideology: A Multidisciplinary Approach*. London: Sage.
- Vlavatskaya, Marina V. 2013. *Theoretical Foundations of Combinatorial Linguistics: Lexicological and Lexicographic Aspects*. Doctor of Philology thesis. Novosibirsk: Novosibirsk state technical university. (In Russ.)
- Williams, Geoffrey. 2013. Blast from the past: Meaning change through collocational resonance. In Olga M. Karpova (ed.), *Life beyond dictionaries*, 25–26. Ivanono: Ivanovo state university.
- Wodak, Ruth & Michael Meyer. 2015. Critical Discourse Studies: History, Agenda, Theory and Methodology. In Ruth Wodak & Michael Meyer (eds.), *Methods of Critical Discourse Studies*, 18–50. London: Sage.
- Zemicheva, Svetlana S. 2017. A conception of the electronic thesaurus of a dialect language personality. *Russian Journal of Lexicography* 12. 24–38. <https://doi.org/10.17223/22274200/12/2> (In Russ.)
- Zholkovsky, Alexander K. & Igor A. Mel'čuk. 1967. On semantic synthesis. *Problems of Cybernetics* 19. 177–238. (In Russ.)

Dictionaries and other sources

- ABBYY Lingvo 12. Retrieved from <https://www.lingvolive.com/en-us>. (accessed 1 July 2022).
- BBICDE 1990 – Benson, Morton, Evelyn Benson & Robert Illson. *The BBI Combinatory Dictionary of English*. Special edition (USSR). Moscow: Russian language.
- Cambridge Dictionary. Retrieved from dictionary.cambridge.org. (accessed 1 July 2022).

- CDDL 2006–2012 – *Complete Dictionary of a Dialect Language Personality*. Vol. 1–4. Tomsk: Tomsk University Publishing House.
- Con 2010 – *Conceptosphere of the Russian Language: Key Concepts and their Representations (based on lexis, phraseology and paroemiology): Project of a Dictionary*. Ekaterinburg: Ural University Publishing House. (In Russ.)
- Davletchina, Svetlana B. 2005. *Dictionary of Conflictology*. Ulan-Ude: VSSTU Publishing House. (In Russ.)
- DCRL 2002 – *Dictionary of Combinability of the Russian language*. Denisov, Pyotr N. & Valerij V. Morkovkin (eds.). Moscow: Astrel: AST. (In Russ.)
- Dictionary.com. Retrieved from <https://www.dictionary.com>. (accessed 23 July 2022).
- Dmitriev, Anatoly V. 2013. *Conflict studies: Dictionary of Terms*. St. Petersburg: SPbGUP. (In Russ.)
- DMLR 1948–1965 – *Dictionary of Modern Literary Russian*. Vol. 1–17. Moscow: USSR Academy of Sciences; Nauka. (In Russ.)
- DRELI 2007 – Oubin, Ivan I. *Dictionary of Russian and English Lexical Intensifiers*. Moscow: R. Valent.
- Karaulov, Yuriy N et al. 2002. *Russian Associative Dictionary*. Vol.1–2. Moscow: AST: Astrel. (In Russ.)
- Lacroix, U. 1956. *Les mots et les idées. Dictionnaire des termes cadrant avec les idées*. Paris: Fernand Nathan.
- MacMillan. Retrieved from <https://www.macmillandictionary.com>. (accessed 23 July 2022).
- Mel'čuk, Igor A. & Alexander K. Zholkovskiy. 1984; 2016. *Explanatory Combinatorial Dictionary of Contemporary Russian*. Vienna: Wiener Slavistischer Almanach 14; Moscow: Global Com: Languages of the Slavonic culture. (In Russ.)
- Mel'čuk, Igor, Nadia Arbatchewsky-Jumarie, Lidija Iordanskaja & Suzanne Mantha. 1992. *Dictionnaire explicatif et combinatoire du français contemporain*. Recherches lexicos-sémantiques III, Montréal: Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal.
- Miller, Christopher A. & Mary E. King. 2003. *A Glossary of Terms and Concepts in Peace and Conflict Studies*. San Jose, Costa Rica: Universidad para la Paz.
- Merriman, Hardy & Nicola Barrach-Yousefi. 2021. *Glossary of Civil Resistance: A Resource for Study and Translation of Key Terms*. ICNS Press: International Center on Nonviolent Conflict.
- ML 2005, 2009, 2014 – *Man and his Language. Materials of the Complex Linguacultural Learner's Dictionary*. Issues 1–4. Nizhny Novgorod: Nizhegorodsky University Publishing House.
- Multitran Dictionary. Retrieved from <https://www.multitran.com/en/ru>. (accessed 23 June 2022).
- NEDRS 2000 – Apresjan, Yuriy D. et al. *New Explanatory Dictionary of Russian Synonyms*. Moscow: Languages of the Russian Culture. (In Russ.)
- NOW – News on the Web. Retrieved from <https://www.english-corpora.org/now/>. (accessed 13 February 2022).
- Ozhegov, Sergej. I. 1949. *Dictionary of the Russian Language*. Moscow: State Publishing House of Foreign and National Dictionaries. (In Russ.)
- Online Etymology Dictionary. Retrieved from <https://www.etymonline.com>. (accessed 17 May 2022).
- Power Thesaurus. Retrieved from <https://www.powerthesaurus.org>. (accessed 25 June 2022).
- Raymond, Walter J. (1930–1992). *Dictionary of politics: Selected American and foreign political and legal terms*. Lawrenceville, Va.: Brunswick Publishing Company.
- Shakhmatov 1898 – *Dictionary of the Russian Language*. Shakhmatov, Aleksey A. (ed.). Saint-Petersburg: The Imperial Academy of Sciences Printing House. (In Russ.)

Shipilov, Anatoly I. & Anatoly Y. Antsupov. 2020. *Dictionary of Conflict Studies*. Moscow: Prospect. (In Russ.)

The Law Dictionary. Retrieved from <https://dictionary.thelaw.com>. (accessed 1 July 2022).

Ushakov 1935–1940 – *An Explanatory Dictionary of the Russian Language*. Ushakov, Dmitry. N. (ed.). Vol. 1–4. Moscow: State Institute “Soviet Encyclopedia”. (In Russ.)

VD 1998–2002 – *Vershininsky Dictionary*. Vol. 1–7. Tomsk: Tomsk University Publishing House. (In Russ.)

Webster’s. Retrieved from <https://www.merriam-webster.com>. (accessed 23 July 2022).

Article history:

Received: 26 September 2022

Accepted: 04 October 2022

Bionotes:

Olga SOLOPOVA is Dr Habil. in Philology, Professor at the Department of Linguistics and Translation at the Institute of Linguistic and International Communications of South Ural State University (National Research University). Her research interests include lexicography, typological linguistics, grammar, metaphor studies, discourse analysis, political linguistics, and diachronic linguistics.

e-mail: o-solopova@bk.ru

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4170-7267>

Tamara KHOMUTOVA is Dr Habil. in Philology, Professor at the Department of Linguistics and Translation Studies at the Institute of Linguistics and International Communications of South Ural State University (National Research University). Her research interests include discourse analysis, integral linguistics, lexicography, political linguistics, cultural linguistics, and corpus linguistics.

e-mail: khomutovatn@susu.ru

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5244-3960>

Сведения об авторах:

Ольга Александровна СОЛОПОВА – доктор филологических наук, профессор кафедры лингвистики и перевода Института лингвистики и международных коммуникаций Южно-Уральского государственного университета (национального исследовательского университета). Ее научные интересы включают лексикографию, типологическую лингвистику, грамматику, изучение метафор, анализ дискурса, политическую лингвистику и диахроническую лингвистику.

e-mail: o-solopova@bk.ru

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4170-7267>

Тамара Николаевна ХОМУТОВА – доктор филологических наук, профессор кафедры лингвистики и перевода Института лингвистики и международных коммуникаций Южно-Уральского государственного университета (национального исследовательского университета). Ее научные интересы включают анализ дискурса, интегральную лингвистику, лексикографию, политическую лингвистику, лингвокультурологию и корпусную лингвистику.

e-mail: khomutovatn@susu.ru

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5244-3960>