Professional jargon units in workplace communication (by the example of professional languages of miners, oilmen, railway workers and ambulance doctors)

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Abstract. This paper explores professional jargon units used by specialists in workplace communication in various fields. Professional jargon, as a means of internal informal workplace communication, is an important element of the organizational culture of any enterprise. Professional jargon units as products of professional and sign activity can be interpreted as verbal manifestations of social symbolism in professional communication. The authors define distinctive features of professional jargon, composition and internal structure of organization of subsets with professional jargon units used by representatives of different professions. The article describes functioning of professional jargon, mechanisms of jargon nomination, its specificity in relation to different professional spheres.

1. Introduction
The study of professional jargon (PJ) units functioning in workplace communication of representatives of different professions enables us to understand actual changes in the modern language within the anthropocentric paradigm in the context of socially determined parameters of its implementation and reflection of professional language picture of the world in it.

Learning any profession and subsequent professional activity includes as a mandatory component mastering a professional vocabulary; and organizational culture of any enterprise is a complex system, where formed skills of professional communication are an important element, its professional jargon plays a significant role, primarily as a means of internal informal workplace communication.

PJ units reflect dynamic aspect of professional (sub)culture [Elistratov 1995], which we interpret as a certain standard determining, among other things, rules of speech behavior in the professional environment, fixed in minds of its representatives as a traditional, “inherited” aspect of normativity, causing individuals’ adaptation to the environment through behavior unification, they represent the values of subculture (normative and value aspects determine each other). At the same time, a nationwide language functions as a basis for forming PJ units, it is manifested in the remaining semantic connections of professional jargon units and common lexical units. On the other hand, PJ units are associated with a specific terminological sphere of use, special nature of meaning, and paradigmatic relations with terms.

PJ units as products of professional and sign activity can be interpreted as verbal manifestations of social symbolism in professional communication, reflecting the result of socialization of professional group members, acquiring conventional norms and values, common goals, assimilating the corresponding picture of the world, defining and providing group identity, consciously striving for isolation [Kulpeisova 2009].

For the Russian language, scientists identify four periods of jargonization (1. after the October revolution in 1917, due to “proletarian language” spread; 2. in the middle 30s and post-war 40s of the 20th century, associated with massive repression, increase in crime; 3. 60s-70s of the 20th century, due to the endeavor to form a counterculture; 4. since 90s of the 20th century, associated with restructuring, capitalization, emphasizing the value of civil and linguistic freedom) [Beregovskaya, 2013].
According to YouGov Jargon Survey [https://today.yougov.com/join-community] professional jargons are becoming more widespread, employees of different departments, workers of large and small enterprises have used PJ units actively, but differently. Due to the limited range of carriers of professional subculture, their differentiating and integrating functions and expressive connotations they can foster (with informal oral internal workplace communication on narrowly specialized topics) or hinder (with external or official internal communication) solution of speakers’ communicative tasks [MESSAGE (technology of effective communication) 2010. No. 6. http://www.media-factor.ru/img/august/index.html].

Characteristics of professional jargon usually include duplication of terminology, expressiveness, stylistic lowering (there is, however, a point of view according to which PJ units, when used in the workplace communication for its intended purpose, have no stylistic function), relevance of various word-formation models and their core functions: communicative, contact, and expressive [Golovanova, 2008; Morozova, 2006; Putsenko, Eritskaya, 2015; Savinov, 2007; Yakovenko, 2007].

Environment and language can influence each other, which is also true for different pictures of the world, reflected in the nationwide language and its socially determined varieties.

Some professional jargons (for example, ones of soldiers, sailors, programmers, doctors) have been analyzed quite extensively.

2. Results and Discussion
The study explored PJ units used in workplace communication of miners, railway workers, oil workers, ambulance doctors. Our analysis shows that PJ units in different professional languages represent a means of effective brief formation of the concept and corresponding meanings in workplace communication. They reveal the similarity of internal structure for organization of the relevant subsets, namely the same composition of PJ units’ subgroups, distinguished on denotative ground: PJ units that nominate items in the relevant industrial sphere (equipment, tools, buildings and facilities, material, products, industrial clothing); subjects or actors of the industrial sphere (employed in the production, customers); professional actions. The first two classes of the mentioned nomination objects are considerably larger in terms of lexical representation.

To illustrate this statement, we present fragments of relevant professional jargons (table 1)

| professional group using jargon | items of professional sphere                                                                 | professional actions                                                                 | people (members of professional groups, clients)                      |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| miners                         | (equipment of mines, parts and components of machines, mine sections, specialized facilities, equipment of miners) | басить – (‘to sing bass’) – lift the side of something with a lever (possibly from the Kazakh word ‘басу’ (push)); палить – (‘to burn’) – explode; качать (‘swing’) – to transport coal by conveyor; забуриться (‘go off the rails’) – go off the rails; водолей (‘water-carrier’) – miner, pumping, water from the workings; ежик (‘small hedgehog’) – student of the miner; погонялка (‘goad’) – shift supervisor; проходничек (‘passerby’ or ‘con-man’) – shaft sinker; бандерлог (‘bandar log’) – operator of mine or conveyor transport at work site; белые каски / белоголовые (‘white helmets’ / |
| Jack | 'White-headed') – chiefs (orange helmets for workers); 'mutnозвон – 'blurred ringing') – operator; упырь (pronounced [upyːr], meaning 'undead') – shaft sinker (from abbreviated name of site – UPR); |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 'Oilmen | (production tools, facilities, raw materials, products, equipment) |
| '铁路员工 | (trains, lines, types/series of trains, train parts and components, railroad equipment) |

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|------|----------------|----------------|
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on the Moscow – St. Petersburg line; вазелин / лизун (‘petroleum jelly’ / ‘slime’) – rail lubricating train / locomotive; велосипед (bicycle) – railway trolley; генерал (‘general’) – steam locomotive P-36 (has red stripes on the sides, resembling trouser stripes); горбатый – (‘humpback’) – train with an oversized load; дупло (‘hole in a tree’) – metrodepot;

метельник (‘sweeper’ (from ‘sweep’)) – track cleaner; носатый (‘horned’) – electric locomotive; крокодил (‘crocodile’) – locomotive ZTE10M (long and green);

Серго (Sergo) – steam locomotive series CO; сопли (‘snot’) – electric cables for rolling locomotive out the depot ditch; череп (‘skull’) – electric locomotive VL8; Вильгельм (Wilhelm) – electric locomotive VL-8; башкировоз (carrier for Bashkirs)– train Ufa-Sibai

day’) – ticketless passengers running over to an already checked car; дать / дёрнуть петуха (‘take a fake’, ‘squeaky note’) – to apply the emergency brake; дёрнуть за хвост (‘pull the tail’) – to open the end crane of the last car of the train to purge the brake line of the train; играть в шахматы (‘to play chess’) – to provide and remove cars on access roads

ambulance doctors

померация (pomeratsia) – intensive care unit; буксир (‘tugboat’) – sodium oxybutyrate (psychotropic drug) (re-interpretation of sound complex and association by function); валежник (‘fallen’ / ‘lying trees’) [valezhnik] (from валежать [lezhat’] (to lie) – ward with immobile patients; галочка с фенечкой [galochna s fenechkoy] – combination of the drugs haloperidol and phenazepam (sound associations); гармошка (‘accordion’) – lung ventilator manually-operated (similarity of appearance, characteristic "manual"); дискотека (‘disco’) – (turned on) siren and flashing lights of the

стрельнуть / стукнуть (‘to shoot / to hit’) – to use a defibrillator; загрузить пациента (‘to download patient’) – to introduce psychotropic drugs; сделать скворечник (‘to make a birdhouse’) – to make the operation of cranial trepanation;

train depot Babaevo; кнут (‘whip’) – train dispatcher / station duty officer (association by function); снегирь (‘bullfinches’) – track workers (because of orange vests); внезапник (‘inspector with sudden’ / ‘unexpected inspection’) – inspector of slow passenger trains; душманы (‘mujahideen’) – children and teenagers on rail ways; мухомор (‘fly agaric’) – operator (because of red cap)
In the professional jargon of railway workers, there is a significant group (in quantitative terms) formed by 1) names of locomotives and trains; motive for jargon designation’s nomination includes similarity of appearance with the everyday object (non-professional sphere, for example, генерал, крокодил, череп, рогатый), associations with abbreviations nominating models, series of trains / locomotives / electric locomotives (for example, Вильгельм, Серго); reinterpretation on the basis of daily experience of speed characteristics, function of train or passenger characteristics (e.g., вазелин / лизун; бешеные, башкировоз, барыга, метельник); 2) names of locomotive crews, their jargon nomination is often based on geographical concepts (e.g., бабушины, болотники); 3) designations of workers employed in this professional sphere, based on accentuation of external features similar to non-professional sphere objects (e.g., снегирь, мухомор) or functions, re-interpreted on the basis of associative features of everyday experience fragments (e.g., кнут, внезапник). Widespread use of proper names in the jargon nomination formation is typical of railroad workers’ professional jargon (that it is due to professional specific nature of this sphere) [see about vocabulary based on personal names of such jargon Feoktistova 2010].

Characteristics of miners’ work also affect formation of a professional picture of the world, which is reflected in the unique professional language [see about professional language and professional picture of the world of miners Pribytova 2005]. This professional sphere involves using various tools and special equipment with many components identified by comprehensive and detailed terminology, which explains wide representation of relevant jargon units in miners' professional language, providing a quick and brief exchange of information at their workplace. In this PJ units’ subgroup frequent motives for nomination are similarity of appearance, similarity of function, emotional associations; however, extreme nature of the profession, high physical and psychological stress determine the function of emotional release, performed by PJ units (e.g., баран, кишка, соха, балда, верблюд, лифчик, маргарин, теща, борода). Denominations of professional sphere subjects constitute the second subgroup (by quantitative parameters); the function performed at work (which is also reinterpreted in a humorous / ironic way), as well as external signs of subjects (e.g., водолей, погонялка, проходимец, упырь, мутнозвон, бандерлог, белоголовые) are important for their nomination.

Oil industry employees are different-area specialists: drillers, operators for oil extraction, diesel operators. As D.S. Ermolin noted [Ermolin 2008], jargon of drillers is most developed, which might be associated with a higher (compared to the drilling table) level of production noise in diesel-engine room or near the oil production plant, which led to development and widespread use of sign communication system of diesel mechanics and operators and less significant use of verbal communication. In this subset as in the professional jargon of miners, nomination of equipment and its parts play a crucial role, frequent motives of the nomination include similarity of appearance to everyday objects and associations by functions (for example, ёлка, кривулька, яйца, мамка-мамка, мамка-папка, папка-папка), diminutive forms of words are its distinctive feature. The second group (in quantitative terms) includes naming of the production sphere subjects, where the overriding motive for nomination is reinterpreted similarity by function and features of actions (for example, помазок, маслопун, лепила, пуля). Several researchers [Golovanova 2008; Morozova 2006; Suleymanova

| Ambulance; жаба (‘toad’) | – morgue attendant; банан (‘banana’) |
| angina; крикай (крхкай) | – patient with yellow disease; безпилотник (‘drone’) |
| insufficient anesthesia | – unconscious patient; дураки (‘fools’) |
| (association by function); ПМЖ (PMZh) | – workers of Emergency medical services, part of psychiatric brigade |
| ЛМЖ (PMZh) | – clinic by place of residence; уши (‘ears’– phonendoscope; будильник – (‘alarm clock’) - liquid ammonia solution |
2006; Gläser 2000] mentioned high relevance of astrometric parameters (age characteristics, physical signs and condition, emotional experiences, body parts, etc.) for jargon nomination.

Ambulance doctors use jargon to refer to equipment, medicines, medical institutions and facilities, diseases and their external signs, doctors and patients. A common feature for ambulance doctors' PJ units is active use of a laughable metaphor, pun, language game, which is associated with specific psychological conditions of their professional activities [Kuvshinnikov 2011]. Nomination of professional sphere subjects is often based on humorous reinterpretation of sound complex of the corresponding term and association by function (e.g., померация, буксир), similarity of appearance (e.g., гармошка, дискотека), transfer by function, combined with its ironic evaluation (крикакия). Designations of subjects (mainly patients) constitute the second largest group; the most frequent motives determining nomination are external features (e.g., банан, синий одутловатик), humorously reinterpreted on the basis of similarity with non-professional sphere objects, the cause of condition or the condition of patient (e.g., скрипач, безпилотник, рецидивист, консервы). When denoting colleagues, humorously reinterpreted function becomes a leading motive (e.g., архангел, самоделкин).

The analysis proves that common social experience assumes common typified emotions, emotive meanings, which explains typification of PJ units’ connotations, their adequate interpretation and identification regarding the objects of thought by representatives of professional groups (these elements of the PJ units’ semantics point to the important for workplace situation aspects of the referent).

3. Conclusion

Professional jargon as a socially determined type of language reflects a professional picture of the world of specialists, emphasizing their values and specific nature of semantic images. Specialization of conceptual professional apparatus, importance of generating new knowledge about objects and phenomena of professional spheres based on expressive, imaginative reinterpretation, significance of linking scientific experience with the ordinary, importance of subjectivity in non-professional and professional spheres are the key for professional jargon functioning.

In professional jargons of the spheres characterized by deep specialization in the professional field (all considered jargons), jargon units duplicating formal terms of the professional language or naming terminologically uncovered objects and processes prevail over units that coincide with common lexical items.

PJ units arise as a result of creative reinterpretation taking place at work reference situations or their elements and are characterized by new meanings that do not coincide fully with the professional terms, due to new image associations with nomination objects, as well as different motives of nomination. Semantic images, forming nomination by PJ units and by terms can vary greatly. Deeper, essential features as motives determine terminological nomination (for example, cause-and-effect relations, etc.), while for jargon nomination they are more superficial (for example, similarity of appearance with everyday objects, environment and surroundings, similarity in use). Motivating component is reflected in the internal form of PJ units, which is a point of conjugation of the original and reinterpreted meanings, providing "inheritance" of information and generating new knowledge about nomination object, accentuation of significant for the production situation features of the object that determine associated (subjective, stereotypical) image, which, in turn, provides expressiveness of PJ units, based on the subjectivity of understanding.

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