Problem statement and its connection with important scientific tasks. The lexical set of Ukrainian verbs denoting debate comprises 40 language units. According to the number of their meanings, Ukrainian lexemes under study have been subdivided into three groups: verbs with the highest degree of polysemy, verbs with the middle degree of polysemy, and monosemantic verbs.

The urgency of the research lies in the fact that for the first time the complex comparative study of both lexical and semantic peculiarities of the language units denoting debate in the languages understudy. The aim of our work can be achieved by carrying out the following tasks:

1. to determine the theoretical and methodical basis of the research;
2. to collect the verbs denoting debate in English and Ukrainian;
3. to construct the matrices presenting relations between the lexical units and their meanings;
4. to find out the lexicosemantic peculiarities of the analyzed verbs;
5. to conduct the comparative analysis of the verbs denoting debate in the languages understudy.

The first group of Ukrainian verbs denoting debate contains 6 lexical units, the semantics of which includes 7-4 meanings. They are characterized by the highest degree of polysemy and include the following verbs: змагатися, доводити, сваритися, гризтися, стикацися, суперечити.

The verbs змагатися and доводити each possess 7 meanings, but no correlation between them can be found. The lexical unit змагатися reveals its semantics of debate in the meaning indicating the process or actions of resisting someone/something, protesting against someone/ something, fighting someone/something: 'чинити опір кому-', 'чому-небудь, протестувати проти кохань, чогось, боротись з ким-', 'чим-небудь, за кохань, і щось'. The meaning 'намагатися перевершити, перемогти кохань у чому-небудь, домагаючись кращих, ніж у кохань, результатів, показників: не поступатися кому-', 'чому-небудь в якихсь якостях, властивостях' also refers the studied verb to the lexical group of debate describing it as a lexeme denoting the action of surpassing, defeating someone in something, achieving better results, not yielding to someone/something in any qualities, properties. The verb змагатися denotes quarrels and arguments which is revealed in the following meaning: 'розм. та саме, що сваритися; сперечатися, доводити свою правоту'. In addition, the semantics of the analyzed word includes the meaning 'брати участь у змаганні; перен. стикатися (про протистояння думки, почуття, бажання і т. ін.)' which describes the lexeme as the unit denoting competing and clashing of opposite thoughts, feelings, desires, etc. We should note that the verb змагатися is also used in the meanings that are not associated with the notion of debate, namely: 'пропідбувається на щось, намагатися що-небудь зробити' and 'наростає, збільшується, покидається; наставати'.

The language unit доводити is characterized by the following meaning actualizing the semantics of debate: 'підтверджувати істинність, правильність чого-небудь фактами, незпереможними доказами; доказувати'. Thus, in this meaning the analyzed verb indicates the action of confirming the truth, the correctness of something with facts,

1 Modern explanatory dictionary of the Ukrainian language. URL: services.ulif.org.ua (date of application: 22.03.2021, p. 265.)
The semantics of expressing one's dissatisfaction, arguing, and disputing (4 meanings) have both common and distinctive features.

The common feature of the verbs *спариватися, гризтися, спиритися* and *сперечатися* is 'sparring; quarrelling, dooming oneself to postulate; dispute'. The lexemes *спариватися, гризтися, спиритися* and *сперечатися* also share the meaning 'quarrel; quarrel with someone'. The meaning 'столкнути в суперечку з ким-небудь; сперечатися один з одним' denotes quarrel with someone, arguing with each other. The semantics of expressing one's dissatisfaction, condemnation and scolding is obvious in the following meaning: 'выказывать своё недовольство, осуд (внешне разглядывая, осуждение) ― завивать'.

The ability to form phrases is the characteristic feature of the language units *спариватися and сперечатися*. "Пальцем спариватися ― розмахнувши піднятим угору пальцем, виряховує погрозу, незадоволення, гнів, зборовику і т. ін.‖ and "розти суперечитися кулюком (кулаками); трясти (трусити, трусику) кулюком (кулаками) ― робити погрізливи жест (погрізливе жестом)‖ — which express a threat, dissatisfaction, anger, prohibition. Суперечити [самому] собі ― 'выказывать притяжелые думки, посвятить на цю-небудь.'

Although each of these words has individual meanings. The semantics of threatening is revealed in the meaning of the word *спариватися* 'гробити погрізливи жест'. The lexeme *гризти* reveals a pain and suffering, hostility and animosity even between animals 'дуже страждаю, жертву, переживати'; 'кусики один одному (про тварин)'.

The semantics of the word *спариватися* is observed in a strong desire of a person to defend and protect smb. or smth. 'защищать; оборонять; бороться за збережения чого-небудь'. The necessity of overcoming the various life difficulties arises constantly in our lives. Everyone, in no matter how rich or poor, successful or unsuccessful, healthy or unhealthy, faces with challenges and obstacles along his / her path of life. It is impossible to imagine our lives without difficulties. In one word, fighting for smth., defending smb. and overcoming the difficulties is our constant work. The semantics of human relations is revealed in the meaning of the verb under study indicating meeting with someone, communication with someone, having relationships with someone: 'несподівано зустрічатися з ким-небудь; тільки док, зустрічаюся, познайомимся з ким-небудь; з ким, щоб вступити в спілкування, в які-небудь стосунки з ким; з ким, перен. вступити в спілкування, з якою-небудь людиною; з ким, перен. працевлаштування відстоювати свої вподобання; з ким, перен. мати можливість пізнавати чого-небудь, зважатися з чим-небудь, зазнавати чого-небудь, перен. правильно, досліджуючи, вивчаючи і т. ін., зустрічатися, мати справу з чим-небудь, вивчати щось'.

The lexeme *спариватися* is also characterized by the meanings denoting various actions and processes which are not related to the notion of debate: 'рухаючись назустріч, натикаючись одне на одне, на кого-, чого-небудь, ударами об кого, щось; взаємо торкається, дотикается, перен. бути пов'язаним з чим-небудь, близьким до чого; тільки недок. похібним, розуяватимися, птицтися'.

The analyzed verb is used in the set expression *доводитися до гріха* — быть причиной чьє-небудь незаконных вчинков. It allows to deeper disclose its semantics.

In the next subgroup, the lexemes *спариватися, гризтися, спиритися* and *сперечатися* have the following semantic features of the verb: *протистояти*; *протидіяти*; *протистояти* characterized by the semantic features expressing the process or action of resisting someone/something, protesting against someone/something, fighting, quarreling with someone, arguing with each other, etc. Three verbs reveal their semantics in phrases.

The second group of Ukrainian language units denoting *debate* contains 16 lexical units, the semantics of which includes 3-2 meanings. They are characterized by the middle degree of polysemy and include the following lexemes: *протистовити, сперечатися, засперечитися, спрацювати, заперечувати, протистовувати, посередувати, відстоювати, спорити, торгувати, переконувати, спостерігати, сваритися* and *забагатися*.

The first eight verbs in the given group are characterized by 3 meanings and have both common and distinctive features. The lexemes *протистовити, сперечатися, засперечитися, спрацювати* and *заперечувати, протистовувати* have the distinctive meaning of the word *спариватися* 'побитися об заклад'.

The semantics of arguing, leading a debate is actualized in the meanings of the verb *спорити*: 'чиясь опір, опиратися'; 'прошукувати; протистовити и 'не давати перемогти; не поступатися'; *суперечити*, which express resisting the action, the pressure of someone or something, withholding the pressure of someone or something. The meaning of resisting the action, the pressure of someone or something, withholding the pressure of someone or something is evident in the following semantic features of the verb *спорити*: 'чиясь опір дії, напору кого-, чого-небудь, витримувати напір з боку кого, щось и 'отакую, протистовити кому', 'чому-небудь, не давати йому можливості перемогти, посередити, мати вплив на кого, щось і т. ін.' The distinctive meaning of the word *спорити* is 'побитися об заклад'.

The semantics of arguing, leading a debate is actualized in the meanings of the verb *спорити*: 'вести суперечку, доводити чого-небудь; заперечувати проти чого-небудь, не давати своєї згоди на щоці'. The semantics of resisting an opposing is evident in the meaning 'відстоювати своє право на чого-небудь, на володіння чимсь; чинити опір чому-

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2 Ibidem, P. 268.
3 Ibidem, P. 269.
The common feature of the verbs **перечити**, **оспорювати** and **споритися** is to express one’s disagreement, to deny smth., to object, to raise or to make an objection, to oppose, etc. ‘висловлювати свою незгоду, заперечувати’. Among the distinctive semantic features, we point out the following: for the verb **оспорювати** – ‘докладати відповідної прави на це-небудь через суд’; for the word **споритися** – ‘доводити невпинність, помилковість, хибність чого-небудь’.

The words **свартитися** and **займіться** coincide in the meaning of ‘сваритися; латити; висловлювати невдоволення’. The peculiarity of this lexical unit is the usage of a specific semantic meaning which expresses a reproof, rebuke, reproach (‘докрити, докрити – сваратися’). The verb **займіться** characterizes human inaccuracy: ‘після часу її забруднювання її обличчя біля рота’.4

The analysis of the Ukrainian language units with the middle degree of polysemy denoting debate shows that they are interrelated in their meanings outlining debate as contradicting, disagreeing, resisting and opposing, condemnation, dissatisfaction, quarreling and aggravating relations, etc. The characteristic feature of the verbs with the middle degree of polysemy is the availability of the meanings in their semantics that refer them to various spheres of human activity: economy, law, human relationships, human actions, etc.

The first group of words denoting debate in English is represented by 5 lexical units possessing 8-6 meanings (**to oppose**, **to argue**, **to fence**, **to struggle**, **to dispute**).

The first in this group is the lexeme **to oppose** which possesses 8 meanings characterizing it as a verb indicating the process of opposing someone as an antagonist: ‘to set as an opponent or adversary’, ‘to be in opposition’. The meaning of resistance is clearly obvious in the sense ‘to act against or furnish resistance to; combat’ which correlates this lexeme with the verb **to dispute**. The two verbs are also semantically close in the meanings indicating opposition ‘to set against, esp. for comparison or contrast’ and ‘to set (something) opposite something else, or to set (two things) so as to be opposite one another’. The word **to oppose** also indicates the state of unfriendliness, enmity, and animosity – ‘to be hostile or adverse to, as in opinion’ as well as preventing, inhibiting and baffling – ‘to hinder or obstruct’. The analyzed lexeme reveals its semantics in the set phrase **as opposed to** as defined as follows: ‘as contrasted with’.

The language unit **to argue** is semantically close to the word **to dispute** in its meaning ‘to participate in a formal debate’. The distinctive positive lexical feature of the analyzed verb is its ability to indicate discussing and clarifying the issue – ‘to state the reasons for or against’ and explaining, indicating – ‘to maintain in reasoning’, ‘to show; indicate’. The indication to convincing and presenting support is obvious in the meaning ‘to persuade or compel by reasoning’. In addition, the lexeme **to argue** is capable of forming set phrases revealing its semantics of debate: **argue around and around** – ‘to argue (about something) in a circuitous, indirect fashion, without an end or satisfactory result’, **argue back** – ‘to respond angrily or rudely at an inappropriate or unwelcome time’, **argue out** – ‘to discuss opposing views, with the goal of resolving a dispute’, **argue the toss** – ‘to dispute something’, **argue the sake of arguing** – ‘continuing a disagreement solely out of obstinacy’, **can’t argue with that** – ‘a phrase used when one cannot or does not want to dispute what another person has said or

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4 Ibidem, P. 271.
5 Ibidem, P. 272.
6 Ibidem, P. 272.
The data of the table prove that the verbs with the middle degree of polysemy comprise the largest group in the research sample making up 65% of all selected English language units. The group of monosemantic lexemes denoting debate is represented by 22.5% of lexemes while the group of verbs with the highest degree of polysemy is the least represented and comprises 12.5% of the total sample.

Conclusions. The study of the lexico-semantic structure of words denoting debate revealed their qualitative and quantitative characteristics, which contributed to the allocation of common and distinctive features of verbs.

The common semantic features of the lexical units denoting debate in Ukrainian and English include:

a) the classification of the verbs’ lexical stock according to the degree of polysemy: language units with the highest degree of polysemy, words with the middle degree of polysemy, and monosemantic ones;

b) the correlation of semantics between the words within the lexical group;

c) the ability to disclose the semantics of debate in phrases and set expressions;

d) positive and negative semantics to reveal debate;

e) the availability of individual semantic features lying outside the semantic space of debate.

The perspectives of our further research lie in the contrastive study of lexemes denoting different human relations in English and Ukrainian.

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**Table 1.1.**

| № | Group of verbs | Quantity | Percentage |
|---|----------------|----------|------------|
| 1 | Verbs with the highest degree of polysemy | 5 | 12.5% |
| 2 | Verbs with the middle degree of polysemy | 26 | 65% |
| 3 | Monosemantic verbs | 9 | 22.5% |
| Total | | 40 | 100% |

The following semantics meanings: ‘to engage in skilful or witty debate, repartee, etc.’ and ‘to evade a question or argument, esp. by quibbling over minor points’ semantically refer the lexeme to fence to the semantic space of debate and unites it with the word to argue. The studied word is also used in the following positive meanings: ‘to construct a fence on or around (a piece of land, etc.)’, ‘to close (in) or separate (off) with or as if with a fence’, ‘archaic to ward off or keep out’. The negative meanings of the lexeme include: ‘to fight using swords or foils’, ‘to receive stolen property’.

The meaning of arguing and competing is characteristic to the verb to struggle – ‘to compete or argue with somebody/something especially in order to get something’. Other meanings of the lexeme describe it as a verb of fighting, wrestling: ‘to fight against somebody/something in order to prevent a bad situation or result’, ‘to fight somebody or try to get away from them’. The analyzed word also denotes striving and attempting – ‘to try very hard to do something when it is difficult or when there are a lot of problems’ and toiling – ‘to move somewhere or do something with difficulty’. The lexical unit also reveals its semantics in the set phrase to struggle against someone or something – ‘to strive or battle against someone or something’.

The word to dispute possesses six meanings which describe it as the verb of arguing, debating ‘to engage in argument or debate’, ‘to argue or debate about’, ‘to argue against’, ‘call in question’, quarrelling ‘to argue vehemently; quarrel’, ‘to quarrel or fight about; contest’ and opposing ‘to strive against; oppose’. Thus, the verb is semantically close to all lexemes with the highest level of polysemy – to oppose, to argue, to fence, to struggle. In addition, the investigated language unit has the ability to form phrases: dispute something with someone – ‘to argue with someone about something, such as an amount of money’.

**Скрицька Наталія – викладач кафедри суспільних наук та украйноznавства Вищого державного навчального закладу України “Буковинський державний медичний університет”. Автор та співавтор монографії, понад 30 наукових робіт. Коло наукових інтересів: історія філософії, філософія мови, філософія культури.**

**Скрайська Наталя – a teacher of Department of Social Sciences and Ukrainian Studies of Higher State Educational Establishment of Ukraine “Bukovinian State Medical University”. The author and coauthor of the monograph, above 30 scientific works. Research interests: history of philosophy, philosophy of language, philosophy of culture.**

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