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**LINGUISTIC EXPERTISE (LE) OF THE ARTICLE “PHANTOM MENACE”
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Abstract. This paper deals with the theory of LE which is an important means of analysis of applied linguistics. We analyze newspaper article “Phantom Menace” “by The New York Times” and try to reveal the negative nature and negative assessment toward Artsakh war that are presented in this article and create new reality in the mind of the recipient. We also identify the negative information in the article and the form it is expressed: with the statement about the facts that can be verified on the basis of reality, evaluative judgments, assumptions or questions.

Keywords: linguistic expertise; metalanguage; recipient; addresser; theme; rheme.

In modern humanitarian science, issues related to the media occupy a special place. Possibilities of influence of media resources in all aspects of public life are increasingly attracting the attention of researchers-philologists like A. N. Baranov, K. I. Brinev and etc. Under the influence of a virtual information space designed by the media, a person can lose traditional value orientations gaining a false self-identification, begin to rank themselves as reference groups with alien stereotypes and subjective standards of behavior. This is a serious danger, imposing a false assessment on the part of the masses of the population, coming from the modern media. Currently, one of the tools to identify the techniques of media exposure and to disclose the purpose of their use is the linguistic expertise of the text. As the main tool of the media is the word, the concentration of efforts should be focused primarily on the communicative and speech aspects of the mass media, namely the means used in the media and the mechanisms of persuasion, suggestion, deception, creation of false attitudes. That allows the communicator to form a new reality in the consciousness of the recipients. The argumentation, which is the basis of the functioning of the media, is crucial for effective delivery and

adequate perception of media information. Argumentation, as a rule, refers to the process of forming a belief or opinion about the truth of any statement (thesis) using other statements (arguments).

Linguistic expertise is the study of outputs of speech activity aimed at establishing significant facts and receiving answers to questions posed to the expert. LE allows you to define the truth (falsity) or the possibility (impossibility) of descriptive statements about the object. The production of linguistic expertise is based on linguistic theories and linguistic research methods developed in applied linguistics. The objects of linguistic expertise are outputs of speech activity: statements, texts, lexemes, verbal designations of trademarks, etc. In view of the fact that the practical need for a linguistic expertise often arises for the establishment of legal facts during the examination and resolution of court cases, in most cases the term "linguistic expertise" is identical to the concept of "forensic linguistic examination". The expert is faced with certain tasks that are related to the legal nature of the activity [4, p. 15–22]. The most common tasks are:

- the study of the utterance with the purpose of interpreting its semantic content;

- the study of commercial designations for the purpose of establishing their originality;
- establishment of a dominant element in combined trademarks, including verbal designation.

Taking into account the legal objective among the linguistic expertise, the following groups can be distinguished [3, p. 109–123]:

- examination of disputed speech works based on cases of honor, dignity protection and business reputation;
- examination of speech works on libel charges;
- examination of speech works on charges of insulting, contempt of court, insulting a representative of authority;
- examination of speech works on charges of extremism, as well as on charges of inciting racial, religious, national and social hatred and enmity;
- linguistic examination of advertising texts;
- linguistic examination of trademarks.

Undoubtedly, linguistic expertise emerged as a branch of applied linguistics. Solving specific expert tasks within the framework of linguistic examinations of disputed speech works, we can say that there is no category of *fact* in linguistics; linguistic examination must be based on *material*. The category of subjective and objective has been adopted as an instrument of description of the language for a long time, while being borrowed from philosophy it was adopted by applied linguistics uncritically and at the present time it is also used uncritically in linguistic expertise. The identification of veiled information in oral conversations and written texts requires a linguistic examination. This happens when records of conversations are presented as evidence in the case. Sometimes the uttered meaning is not completely understandable. In this case, you need to restore the text content. In some cases, when the conversation is related to illegal actions (giving bribes, illegal drug trafficking, weapons, making forged documents), information is transmitted conspiratorially. The speaker

tries to veil the true meaning of the statement. It should be noted that this or that way of linguistic definition of a word, phrase or sentence in the text of a normative act is not an interpretation of the content of a normative act [2, p. 21]. The legal interpretation differs significantly from the linguistic one. In other words, the linguistic definition is a source of expert information for decision-making. Unfortunately, legally defined terms, taken as a single metalanguage of legislative acts, do not form a consistent system, which often leads to legal conflicts. Especially complicated are cases where in a synonymic series of words some are legally determined, while others are determined linguistically. Among the linguistically defined terms, the law terms are of particular complexity for the linguistic examination of the text, which are outwardly similar to the corresponding terms of the linguistic theory.

In linguistics, the statement is interpreted as a term, as a clause of a certain communicative orientation, and in the theory of speech acts it is interpreted as a special speech act with a corresponding set of conditions for achieving success [1, p. 58].

In the studied article entitled “The Phantom Menace” the core issue is whether the statements in the article by The New York Times dated 17.08.2011 have negative character and negative assessment of Nagorno-Karabakh¹ war. In honor of the third anniversary of the Georgian-Russian war, which occurred in August 2008, the well-known American edition of The New York Times compiled a list of so-called “phantom” countries, noting the danger of their existence. The narrative of the article on the current situation is based on the creation of a negative image of the state by submitting to the addressee *negative information* about it, expressed in an *affirmative form*, and this information is presented as a *fact of reality*. The headline “The New York Times included Karabakh in the list of “phantom”² states” represents the state in the image of something that does not exist, the fruit of a painful fan-

tasy, a figment of the imagination... The sentence “*Phantom states create military forces, hold elections, build local economies and educate children; yet **inhabit the foggy netherworld** between de facto existence and international legitimacy.*” is affirmative. In the mind of the recipient, the phrase “*inhabit the foggy netherworld*” forms the assessment that Nagorno-Karabakh is in an incomprehensible non-existent reality, which also has an unsympathetic color.

The sentence “*With about 70,000 people, South Ossetia is one of the smallest of these oddities of international politics. Its fellow breakaway republic, Abkhazia, has approximately 250,000 (these numbers are disputed). Nagorno-Karabakh and Transnistria are two others in the former Soviet Union.*” is an illocutionary affirmation stating that the Nagorno-Karabakh is included in the list of phantom countries.

The statement “*Phantom governments are often **corrupt**, run by warlords and plagued by drug trafficking and other illicit trade.*” is affirmative, and also creates a negative impression in the reader’s mind. In Oxford Dictionary the word “corrupt” has a meaning of *evil or morally depraved or having / showing a willingness to act dishonestly in return for money or personal gain*. It also conveys a comprehension that heads of unrecognized states commit illegal acts of immoral nature. The utterance describes a state again negatively and contributes to the formation an ill-natured opinion at the addressee.

The statement “they frequently emerge from wars, and are sustained by the threat of further fighting” is associated with the previous sentence in the article with assistance of a pronoun “they”. The personal pronoun “they” faces the recipient with a person mentioned in the statement. In the locution “*Phantom states **stoke** wars, foster crime, and make weak states even weaker.*” The verb “stoke” is the personal form of the infinitive “stoke”. In the Cambridge dictionary the verb “to stoke” has the following meaning

“*to bring into a state of excitement, provocation. In American Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs the verb “to stoke” is explained as “to make some emotion or conflict more violent; intensify something”.* Both meanings have a negative effect. The passage “*By insisting on territorial integrity, the United States and other countries **forgo the chance to turn phantom states into responsible players. So long as phantoms are denounced as separatists or outposts of illicit commerce, the international community has little opportunity to hold their leaders accountable.***” is an affirmative in form. It expresses content as a fact. It is obvious from the context that the object of speech has not changed, i.e. the sentence “*the United States and other countries forgo the chance to turn phantom states into responsible players*” refers to Nagorno-Karabakh and does not generate a flattering assessment in the perception of the receiver.

It is also clear from the context that states which have weight on the world stage do not leave the possibility for Artsakh, with some legitimate authority, to be along with serious, reliable and mandatory participants in world politics. Thus they demonstrate their frivolous attitude towards this country. The meaning of the verb “to denounce” has a semantic fullness of a negative nature, which is fixed in the Cambridge University Press as “*to publicly criticize someone or something, or to publicly accuse someone of something*”. Epitome and comparison of Artsakh with “*separatist stronghold*” show to the addressee a new picture of the state aimed at violating territorial integrity. The author's use of the phrase “*outposts of illicit commerce*” introduces Artsakh to the recipient as a country along the frontier of which goods, valuable items and others are transported illegally presenting a negative image to the reader. The next issue is whether the article contains negative information about the state.

The given passage “*Stuck between these incompatible principles, phantom governments tend to point out **uncomfortable prec-***

edents and double standards and latch on to foreign patrons. Indeed, most phantoms survive in part because of external support. Moscow is the power broker in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, while Armenia holds sway over Nagorno-Karabakh.” is an illocutionary statement, whose communicative-intentional content lies in the assertion that double morals operate on the territory of Artsakh. The term “*Double standards*” is depicted by the variable application of principles, laws, rules, evaluations to the similar actions of different subjects (one of which may be the evaluator himself) depending on the degree of these subjects loyalty or other profit considerations for evaluator. This expression is widely used for the negative description of phenomena in modern political science, journalism, social studies and other humanities. The expression “*Uncomfortable precedents*” characterizes the behavior in a particular situation, actions of which are assessed as unsatisfactory. These terms form the reader’s opinion that the state is criminal, guilty and deserving of censure, i.e., the reader is presented with negative information about Nagorno-Karabakh. The analysis conducted determines the negative information on Nagorno-Karabakh is expressed as a statement of facts that can be verified the validity, since sentences containing such information are affirmative. Sentences are of the same type according to topic-comment relation. In the preposition on can find a theme, and the rheme is in the postposition. To create a negative image of the analyzed material the following stylistic devices were used:

1. Lexemes and word combination having a negative connotational meaning (**to stoke a war, foster a crime, double standards, uncomfortable precedents**)
2. Metaphors (**Phantom states**)
3. Epithets (**foggy netherworld**)
4. Comparison (**phantoms are denounced as separatists or outposts of illicit commerce**)

Although the author notes that most phantom states are war stokers who do not

follow the international order, he also exposes Taiwan as a positive example, which is partially recognized, without sovereignty, but which has retired from an authoritarian regime to a political one, which is based on the method of collective decision-making with equal impact of participants on the outcome of the process. Thus emphasizes that Artsakh is not included in the list of this minority. And by a contrario method, the reader concludes that the unrecognized state of Artsakh really violates the standards of morality. The conclusions made by the writer are affirmative, since nowhere he uses the expression “think”, “seem”, “suppose” and everywhere presents information to the addressee in the form of a statement damaging along with Artsakh the reputation of countries that exist without legitimacy.

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1. Nagorno-Karabakh is the former name of Artsakh
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