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BELGIAN VARIANT OF FRENCH AS AN OBJECT OF DIDACTICS

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Abstract. *In the article the basic differences of the Belgian variant of French from normative French in France at the level of vocabulary are examined. The main word-formation models adopted from different languages, and also some archaisms that no longer exist in French of France, are presented. Examples of word-formation models by means of affixation, compound words, and also semantic derivation are given. Archaisms that mainly correspond to the field of law, and also to some extent to the common language are considered. In Belgian French an important number of words, formed with help of affixes, used in French of France, can be found. The difference is that words of modern coinage that we get in this way, don't exist in French of France. It is shown, that in everyday language of Brussels some diminutival elements of Flemish origin are used. There exist a lot of words, that have different meanings in Belgian French and in French of France, i.e. semantic Belgicisms. It is proved that borrowings in Belgian French are conditioned by geographical situation and administrative arrangement of Belgium, and also by the fact that Belgium was under the governance of Spain and Austria for a long time. Different examples of Flemish and English borrowings are given, as well as the reasons for their appearance. The multitude of dialectal and sociological variants, that specificate Belgian French, establish a framework for deeper studies of French, as it has multifaceted character. It is concluded that in French language studies the existence of different norms of French should be considered, that are conditioned by the existence of different variants of French in different French-speaking countries.*

Key words: *linguistic norm, vocabulary, word formation, borrowings, archaisms, didactics.*

The main problem. As a result of colonial expansion French language is used on five continents, as a consequence it suffered the fate of all widespread languages: change and variety. The problem is that the fact that all languages are affected by change should be explained by teachers to the students and we should justify the existence of differences in every particular case. From all the variants of French we can distinguish the French of Switzerland, which is characterized by a number of Roman and German elements, the French of Canada with a lot of archaisms and Anglicisms and The French of Belgium, characterized by local Brussels' elements and Wallonian terms, including a number of Belgicisms.

The aim of the paper is to define the peculiarities of Belgian French at the level of vocabulary. As a matter of fact, we will call such elements Belgicisms and we will understand by Belgicisms all expressions used in common French of Belgium, that are not used in French of France. This is owing to lexical Belgicisms, that we can recognize a Belgian talker whose mother tongue is French.

Analysis of main research and scientific papers. The peculiarities of Belgian French have been considered by a lot of international scientists. First of all the books of French scientists.

F. Larousi et S. Babault [3], H. Walter [8] and G. Lebouc [4] should be mentioned. All of them highlight geographical differences in the use of Belgicisms, Wallonian and Flemish ele-

ments in Belgian French. It is also necessary to mention Belgian philologists who devoted their research to English influences on Belgian French these are M. Lenoble-Pinson [5] and A. Goosse [1]. At last the papers of two international scientists J. Kadlec [2] and L. Milickova [6,7] are of great importance and consider different aspects of Belgian French.

Main results of the research. First of all formation of new lexical units in Belgian French was considered. We can find an important number of words, formed with help of affixes, used in French of France. The difference is that words of modern coinage that we get in this way, don't exist in French of France. As for suffixes we can encounter, these are *legumier* (the one who sells vegetables), *seniorie* (a home for the aged), *pigeonniste* (pigeonneer), *siroperie* (a factory where syrup is produced), *legistique* (the action of drafting legislation), *jeteuse* (card reader), *aidant* (the one who helps), *laverie* (laundry), *amiteux* (friendly), *exemplatif* (related to the example), *subsidiable* (that can be subsidized), *subsidier* (subsidize). Prefixes help produce nouns *decumul* (fiscal division of income of a married couple), *meconduite* (bad behavior), verbs *adire* (convince), *decumuler* (divide from fiscal point of view), *se meconduire* (misbehave), *prepensionner* (warn people they are preretired). Very often the Flemish prefix *ver-* is used to form new words. For example *veroublier* (forget), *verexpliquer* (explain). In everyday language of Brussels some diminutival elements of Flemish origin are used: these are *le petit manneke pis* (garçon – a statue of a little boy in Brussels). In Belgian French there exist some verbs, Which have the same roots that in French of France, but having some additional prefixes: *s'abaisser* (in the meaning of *baisser*), *acconduire* (in the meaning of *conduire*), *soulever un lievre* (in the meaning of *lever le lievre*). Sometimes different affixes are used in Belgian French and French of France. These are *rabattre les oreilles* (*rebattre les oreilles* in France), *affiler* (*enfiler* in France), *chamoisette* (*chamoisine* in France), *rancuneux* (*rancunier* in France).

Among compound words that differ from those of French of France we can invoke *acrocroche-pied* (*croche-pied*), *apres-quatre-heures* (part of the day between afternoon tea and dinner), *avant-plan* (up front), *bel-etage* (high ground floor), *brise-vue* (a kind of curtain), *carte-vue* (post card), *court-vite* (quickly), *demi-doux* (a simpleton), *frotte-manche* (a flatterer), *chef-garde* (a collector), *chemin-de-ferriste* (railman), *leche-plat* (a scrubber), *mele-tout* (someone who meddles into everything), *porte-paquet* (porter), *tapis-plein* (a fitted carpet).

There exist a lot of words, that have different meanings in Belgian French and in French of France. In this case we should speak about semantic Belgicisms: *banlieu* (a slow train), *bouger a* (touch to), *calepin* (a school backpack), *cour* (WC), *doubleur* (repeater), *farde* (a shirt), *griffe* (scratch), *lycee* (a secondary school for girls), *mallette* (briefcase), *pantoufle* (gym shoes), *pistolet* (small round bread), *place* (dwelling), *prefet* (lyceum principal), *provisieur* (deputy lyceum principal), *quartier* (small apartment), *torchon* (floorcloth).

We should also mention a number of archaisms that exist in Belgian French. As a matter of fact, if a country is isolated from parent state, a lot of archaisms can be expected. Among them we can invoke the next ones: the nouns *clignoteur* (turn indicator instead of *clignotant* in French of France), *aubette* (stand), *gazette* (a newspaper), *lessiveuse* (washing machine), *malle* (a ship), *minerval* (the right to study in some schools), *nonnette* (a monk), *roulage* (traffic), a adjective *cru* (cold and humid weather) or some verbs *epastrouiller* (startle), *courtiser* (to be the smb's groom). In the same way the use of names of meals *dejeuner*, *diner* et *souper* can also be considered as archaic.

We should also say a few words about the vocabulary of law in Belgian French. It has emerged that it is even more archaic than the one of France. Instead of the verb *enqueter* (enquire) the verb *indaguer* is used, instead of the expression *il resulte* (it appears), they use in Belgium *il conste* and instead of the noun *pertinence* (relevance) and the adjective *pertinent* (relevant)

we can meet *relevance* (les faits sans relevance dans notre affaire) et *relevant* (faits relevant). Other archaisms in this field can also be mentioned, for example the noun *prescrit* (something prescribed by the law) or the verb *comminer* (Il peut comminer des peines contre les infractions) (award judgement).

As for linguistic borrowings, we should underline that Belgian French has been under the influence of German and Flemish for a long time, on the other hand Spanish Habsbourgs' governance also left an imprint on everyday French of Belgium. We shouldn't forget some borrowings from English and also from regional languages Walloon and Picard, that have the same origin that French (language of oil). Belgian French borrowed from regional languages a lot of words, that are used by the majority of French speaking population of Belgium: nouns *archelle* (whatnot), *cacaille* (a useless thing), *cumulet* (somerset), *escabelle* (stepladder), *flatte* (a cap of some groups of students), *gosette* (a sock with fruits), *place* (lodging), *rawette* (a supplement given for free), the verbs *ravoir* (get back own) and *se ravoir* (recollect oneself), the expression *prendre le cafe* (to eat by 4 p. m.). The use of other words is geographically limited: *raccuser* (snitch), *grandiveux* (arrogant), *ne pas faire de bien* (to feel uneasy), *avoir bien le temps* (be wealthy), *aller se faire enrager* (go to Bath).

As for Spanish borrowings, they appeared on the territory of modern Belgium in XVIIe et XVIIIe centuries. The majority of such borrowings were used only occasionnaly apart from such words as *amigo* (prison), *caracole* (snail), *escaveche* (fish in aspic), that are used in Belgium even now. Among more recent borrowings we can invoke the noun (beer stand), considered in Belgium as obsolete. In general, it should be mentioned that the number of borrowings from Spanish in Belgian French is restricted and leur importance is overestimated.

The influence of German on Belgian French is limited enough. We can give such examples as *frwbel* (nursery), *ring* (ring road), *maitrank* (a drink from white wine with cognac and flowers of rockweed). On the other hand there exist to Flemish borrowings in Belgium. These are the fact that the population of Belgium is partly bilingual and there are tight connections between French speaking Belgians and Flemish speaking ones. Among Flemish borrowings we should distinguish the ones that are close to Flemish by their form and used only in Brussels and other ones, used on all the territory of Belgium. In the first groupe we can give the next examples: *bastring* (kippered herring), *broil* (disorder), *broubeler* (murmur), *kapstok* (coat-hanger), *kakebak* (pancake), *krotje* (a girlfriend), *platekees* (farmer cheese), *snul* (fool), *sukkeleer* (poor fellow), *zwanze* (a kind of humour in Brussels), *en stamelings* (in hugger-mugger), *avoir des ruses avec quelqu'un* (faire des ruses a quelqu'un) (to be in a mess), *faire de son nez* (make it hot for sms), *ne pas savoir de chemin avec quelqu'un* (to be at odds), *tirer son plan* (turn the corner). The following words belong to the second group : *bourgmestre* (mayor)», *couque* (a cookie), *crolle* (chip), *dringuelle* (a tip, pocket money), *cour* (WC) and *ecole gardienne* (nursery).

Belgian French is also under the influence of English. As a matter of fact, French of France is not so subject to English borrowings as Belgian French, as it is a monolingual country. As a multilingual country Belgium doesn't resist to the influence of English, sometimes English is used here as a bridge between the Flemish and French speaking Belgians. There exist an important difference between France and Belgium in the frequency of use of English borrowings. To speak about football players the French use the words *gardien*, *arriere*, *milieu* and not *keeper*, *back*, *half*; at the same time they are usually used in Belgian French. There are differences even in pronunciation of English borrowings. The Belgians pronounce [aj] at the beginning of the word *iceberg*, at the same time in France pronunciation [aj] and [i] is adopted. The word *steward* is pronounced in Belgium in the same way as in English but the French pronounce it in gen-

eral [stiwaRt]. There exist similar differences in military terminology, especially in aviation navy. Belgian navy uses the word midship, and at the same time the French prefer to use nouns aspirant and enseigne. In Belgian aviation, on they often use the word wing but the French prefer escadre. In Belgium the use of English elements is a lot less restricted than in France by administrative measures. That is why it is possible to met in Belgian shops such Anglicisms as after-shave (apres – rasage in the French of France) or body-milk (lait de beaute in the French of France). Belgian travel agencies offer minitrip (a short organized trip). Among other Anglicisms, that are usually used in Belgium, can be mentioned the next ones: home (usual address), full time (part time) (mi-temps), caddie (a trolley), panty (tights).

Conclusion. A language is a set of dialectal and sociological variants, that are connected between each other linguistically and dominated by a set of standard elements, recognized as pre-scripted ones. But one shouldn't forget about the existence of universal French, that includes geographical norms of France, Belgium, Canada, Switzerland, Africa etc. Thus, studies of French, that take into consideration the existence of multitude of norms play an important role in didactics and perception of cultural and linguistic diversity of French.

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БЕЛЬГІЙСЬКИЙ ВАРІАНТ ФРАНЦУЗЬКОЇ МОВИ ЯК ОБ'ЄКТ ДИДАКТИКИ

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Анотація. У статті розглядаються основні відмінності бельгійського варіанту французької мови від нормативної французької, що нею розмовляють у Франції, на рівні вокабуляру. Представлені основні словотворчі моделі, запозичення з різних мов, а також деякі архаїзми, що більше не існують у нормативній французькій. Наведено приклади утворення нових слів за допомогою афіксації, утворення складних слів, а також семантична деривація. У бельгійській французькій розповсюдженим є афіксальне словоутворення, причому за допомогою суфіксів, що використовуються у Франції. Але у французькій Франції не існує новоутворень, подібних до вищезгаданих. Наведено словотворчі моделі, притаманні Фламандській мові, зокрема дімінутивні елементи, за рахунок яких виникають

нові лексичні елементи. Підкреслюється, що важливе місце серед новоутворень займають семантичні Бельжицизми, тобто ті слова, які мають однакове звучання у двох варіантах французької, але є різними за значенням. Розглянуто архаїзми, що здебільшого відносяться до сфери юриспруденції, та деякою мірою з загальновоживаної мови. Доведено, що запозичення у бельгійській французькій обумовлені географічним положенням та адміністративним устроєм Бельгії, а також тим фактом, що довгий час Бельгія знаходилася під управлінням Іспанії і Австрії. Бельгія є плурлінгвістичною країною, саме тому вона знаходиться під більшим впливом запозичень з англійської, ніж монолінгвістична Франція. Англійська часто виступає своєрідним мостом, що об'єднує французькомовне і фламандськомовне населення країни. Підкреслюється, що навчання французької мови повинно проходити в контексті плурінормалізму, коли регіональні відмінності беруться до уваги як елементи «живої» французької мови.

Ключові слова: лінгвістична норма, вокабуляр, словотвір, запозичення, архаїзми, дидактика.

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БЕЛЬГИЙСКИЙ ВАРИАНТ ФРАНЦУЗСКОГО ЯЗЫКА КАК ОБЪЕКТ ДИДАКТИКИ

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Аннотация. В статье рассматриваются основные отличия бельгийского варианта французского языка от нормативного французского во Франции на уровне вокабуляра. Представлены основные словообразовательные модели, заимствованные из разных языков, а также некоторые архаизмы, которые больше не существуют во французском Франции. Приведены примеры образования новых слов с помощью аффиксации, образования сложных слов, а также семантической деривации. В бельгийском варианте французского распространенным является аффиксальное словообразование, причем с помощью суффиксов, которые используются во Франции. С той лишь разницей, что во французском Франции не существует новообразований, подобных вышеупомянутым. Приведены словообразовательные модели, присущие Фламандскому языку, в частности диминутивные элементы, за счет которых возникают новые лексические элементы. Подчеркивается, что важное место среди новообразований занимают семантические Бель-

жицизмы, то есть те слова, которые имеют одинаковое звучание в двух вариантах французского языка, но являются разными по значению. Рассмотрены архаизмы, которые большей частью относятся к сфере юриспруденции, и, в некоторой степени, общеупотребительному языку. Доказано, что заимствования в бельгийской французском обусловлены географическим положением и административным укладом Бельгии, а также тем фактом, что долгое время Бельгия находилась под управлением Испании и Австрии. Бельгия является плюрилингвистической страной, именно поэтому она находится под большим влиянием заимствований из английского языка, чем монолингвистическая Франция. Английский язык часто выступает своеобразным мостом, который объединяет французскоязычное и фламандскоязычное население страны. Подчеркивается, что изучение французского языка должно проходить в контексте плюринормализма, когда региональные отличия принимаются во внимание как элементы «живого» французского языка.

Ключевые слова: лингвистическая норма, вокабуляр, словообразование, заимствование, архаизмы, дидактика.