


**SUMMARY**

The article focuses on the modeling scenario “Confrontation in the British Royal family” which is actualized in the British mass-media discourse through an interaction between such concepts as BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY (a culturally marked one), CONFLICT, and RELATIONSHIP, graphically visualized and presented as a complex structure of four parallel subsidiary scenarios (confrontation between Harry and William; confrontation between Harry and his father; confrontation between Harry and Camilla; confrontation between the Duke and Duchess of Sussex and the Royal family) that are realized in the slots of the propositional schemas of the action and thing frames. In order to single out verbalizers of the slots, a corpus of 25 articles about Prince Harry’s memoir book “Spare”, published in the period from January to April 2023 on the web-sites of the British periodicals “The Guardian”, “The Independent”, “Daily Express”, “Daily Record”, “The Sun”, was processed by AntConc programme and analyzed correspondingly. The analysis has allowed to identify the agents, patients, causes and the time frame of the conflict as well as to define the character of interaction between the concepts involved in the scenario. Modeling of the scenario “Confrontation in the British Royal family” on the basis of the British mass-media discourse has resulted in reconstructing the sequence of the dramatic events in the definite period of the British Royal family’s life, giving an insight into the perception of these events by the British society, distinguishing their verbal reflection in the British language community, and
determining the role of the British media in shaping the Royal family’s image in the British minds.

Key words: British Royal family, concept, frame, mass-media discourse, propositional schema, scenario, slot.

Introduction. The present article aims at modeling scenario «Confrontation in the British royal family» actualized in the British mass-media discourse on the basis of the series of articles devoted to Prince Harry’s memoir book «Spare».

Topicality. In the modern cognitive linguistics various means of structuring the world are actively studied in different aspects, involving cognitive and linguocultural approaches, on the basis of all kinds of discourses (B. Barlett, Ch. J. Fillmore, M. Minsky, M. Polyuzhin, D. Rumelhart, H. Zankovska, S. Zhabotynska et al.).

Within a cognitive approach, scientists distinguish various types of concepts and their structures: frames, mental models, scenarios, scripts, prototypes, schemas, symbols, etc. Our research focuses on the scenario as a cognitive structure involved in the context of a definite situation. Scenario is defined as a dynamic cognitive structure which is formed in people’s minds by categorizing their experiences and used to arrange information about the outer world (Hoyle, 2008:16). The prominent characteristic of any scenario is its continuous change in the light of sequence of events described in the discourse as the main function of this cognitive structure is to reproduce a mental image of the events.

In our opinion, mass-media discourse is the most reliable source that provides immediate verbal reflection of any new senses ascribed to the concepts and therefore allows to reconstruct fragments of the world picture in the British people’s consciousness at the definite time as its main task is to depict up-to-date social and political reality, to influence a person’s conceptual world view.

The purpose of our research is to model a scenario «Confrontation in the British Royal family» actualized in the British mass-media discourse.

Literature review. Scenario as a cognitive structure is interpreted as a frame in dynamics. According to M. Minsky scenarios imply a ready causative chain of conventional consecutive events based on prototypical knowledge (Minsky, 1974: 117—124). The dynamism of any scenario is provided by the elements of actions, by the temporal and causative connections between them as well as by the definite situation to which a scenario is involved (Stepanov, 2018). Thus, any scenario reflects interaction of several concepts, in other words, they «are grouped mentally in scenarios» (Hoyle, 2008: 15).

As for the scenario structure, it is described as «a framework with labelled slots for different elements which are expected to occur». The framework provides the reader with the background information which is necessary to correctly interpreting the message. It means that scenarios play a significant role in correct understanding messages of a text (Sanford&Garrod, 2009). Besides, each scenario has a title that serves a start point of such interpretation (Hoyle, 2008). If to extrapolate Hoyle’s idea on the scenarios in the mass-media discourse, in our case newspaper discourse, we claim that a newspaper headline will function as a title of the scenario.

Unlike other cognitive structures, scenarios are culturally marked and therefore are apt to reveal the events specific for a sociocultural community (Polyuzhin, 2009; Stepanov, 2018).

All these features make scenario a relevant tool to construct a model of verbal reflection of modern British socio-political life in the mass-media discourse, in a narrow sense, British Royal family life which is an integral part of the British reality.

Generally, discourse is defined as «a particular way of talking about and understanding the world (or an aspect of the world)» (Phillips & Jørgensen, 2002: 1). In its turn, the mass media discourse is considered to be «a unique dynamic linguistic phenomenon that reacts operatively and sensitively to socio-political, socio-cultural linguistic changes, reflecting today’s realities in many ways» (Kalenykh, 2020: 157). Being an effective means of modeling concepts of socio-political reality (Maklyuk et al., 2020), of realizing a manipulative function to influence and form mass consciousness (Shepel, 2017), mass media discourse is supposed to be a reliable source of the linguistic material that verbally reflects scenarios of the contemporary events that take place and are typical of the British society.

Results and discussion. The analysis of the factual material (25 articles published on the web-sites of «The Guardian», «The Independent», «Daily Express», «Daily Record», «The Sun», in the period from January to April 2023, were downloaded and saved as txt-files, then processed by AntConc programme to single out concordances-verbalizers from the obtained corpus in order to fill the slots) shows that scenario «Confrontation in the British
ish Royal family» includes four subsidiary scenarios which develop parallelly and involve the following members of the Royal family:

1) confrontation between Harry and William;
2) confrontation between Harry and his father;
3) confrontation between Harry and Camilla;
4) confrontation between the Duke and Duchess of Sussex and the Royal family.

All of them include interaction of such concepts as BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY (which is culturally marked as an integral constituent of the British language picture), CONFLICT, RELATIONSHIP, that is realized by propositions of the action and thing frames. Generalized scheme of the scenario «Confrontation in the British Royal family» is presented in Picture 1.

The action frame is represented by the following propositional schema: «Someone acts on Someone Then because of (Cause)>> which reveals the interaction between concepts BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY and CONFLICT. The members of the Royal family are the parts of the conflict, they act within a conflict situation. This fact determines the character of the interaction: concept CONFLICT encircles concept BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY. The verbalizers of the concept BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY are in the slots «agent», «patient» and «cause», meanwhile the verbal means of nominating concept CONFLICT predominantly fill the slot «then».

The subsidiary scenario «Confrontation between Harry and William» is focused on Harry’s claim about Prince William’s physical attack on him during their conflict over his wife Meghan Markle and reproduces the sequence of those events. The slots of the subsidiary scenario «confrontation between Harry and William» are verbalized as follows:

**SLOT AGENT**: William, Prince William, Prince of Wales, brother, elder sibling.

**SLOT TO ACT**: to attack, to hurt, to assault, to confront, to offend, to grab, to rip, to knock, to tease.

**SLOT PATIENT**: Harry, Prince Harry, the Duke (of Sussex), the younger prince.

**SLOT THEN**: during (a / an) argument, conflict, confrontation, row, scandal, heated conversation.

**SLOT CAUSE**: wife Meghan Markle.

«...elder sibling Prince William physically attacked him (Harry) during a row over wife Meghan Markle» (Daily Express, 13.01.2023).


«...his brother Prince William physically attacked him [Harry] during a confrontation over his wife Meghan Markle» (Daily Express, 10.01.2023).

The roles of agent and patient are interchangeable depending on the emphasis made in the scenario. William is easily transferred into SLOT Patient in the context of Harry’s accusations. Then SLOT TO ACT is verbalized by the verbs to accuse, to allege.
«Harry accuses William of violent physical attack after calling Meghan rude and difficult» (Daily Express, 10.01.2023).
Independent of the verbal content of the slots AGENT and PATIENT, Harry is presented as a victim within the given scenario in the British mass-media discourse.
The subsidiary scenario «Confrontation between Harry and his father» predominantly reveals the reasons why Harry took offence on his father as well as their struggle for public positive image. The slots of the frame «confrontation between Harry and his father» are filled as follows:
SLOT AGENT: King Charles III, father, Pa
SLOT TO ACT: to hurt, to offend, not to hug, to call «a spare»), to spin «under the bus»
SLOT PATIENT: William, son
SLOT THEN: William's birth, Princess Diana's death
SLOT CAUSE: marriage to Meghan, stepping back from their duties, Camilla.
«...when his mother Princess Diana died 25 years ago, his father didn't hug him [Harry]» (The Sun, 15.01.2023).
«The Duke of Sussex has revealed his father, King Charles, joked his mother Princess Diana had delivered him an heir and a spare in his new book — also entitled Spare» (The Sun, 5.02.2023).
«...what he [Charles] really couldn't stomach» was someone «coming in and overshadowing him and Camilla» (The Guardian, 11.01.2023).
«...father ignored their wishes when he [Harry] and Prince William asked Charles III not to marry Camilla» (Daily Express, 6.01.2023).
«Charles's team had spun Harry «right under a bus», making up a story about Harry being taken to visit a rehab center» (The Guardian, 11.01.2023).
The subsidiary scenario «Confrontation between Harry and Camilla» is focused on Harry’s accusing Camilla of disclosing on purpose compromising details of his private life and the private life of the Royal family to the British media for her own sake, to improve her image in the British society’s eyes.
SLOT AGENT: Camilla, Queen Consort, stepmother, step-parent
SLOT TO ACT: to hurt (to cause plenty of hurt), to play a game, to sacrifice
SLOT PATIENT: Harry, Meghan, the Royal family
SLOT THEN: princess Diana’s death, recently
SLOT CAUSE: rehabilitation of the image, desire to become a queen consort «...a step-parent ... had recently sacrificed me [Harry] on her personal PR altar» (The Independent, 9.02.2023).
«It’s a move the prince says he understands — given her need to overhaul her image after the death of Princess Diana and ahead of one day becoming queen consort — but also one he says has caused him and others plenty of hurt» (The Independent, 16.01.2023).
«...she [Camilla] is said to have persuaded Charles to hire leaking her conversations with William» (Daily Record, 6.01.2023).
«... Camilla, 75, had leaked stories about the Royal family to the media in a drive to transform her image» (The Guardian, 3.01.2023).
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«The Firm who are determined to discredit Harry at any opportunity» (Daily Express, 20.02.2023).
«The Royal family will deploy «a collective response»» (Daily Express, 10.01.2023).
«... the royal family institution’s silence as «a sensible strategy» that is causing Harry to damage his public reputation” (Daily Record, 3.02.2023).
«...the royal family does «a lot of complaining and a lot of explaining» by leaking stories to the press to paint themselves in a better light or to paint others in a negative one» (Daily Record, 6.01.2023).
«...the false story only leaked after William and Kate let details slip during a dinner with Charles and Camilla — noting that it was evidently Charles who gave the story [spat between Meghan and Kate about bridesmaids dresses] to the press» (Daily Express, 11.01.2023).
«... his family left him behind when they took a plane to visit Queen Elizabeth II as she was dying» (The Independent, 6.04.2023).

Scenario «Confrontation in the British Royal family» includes the concept «conflict» which is verbalized by the core noun conflict and its synonyms confrontation, controversy, tension, scandal, row, feud, war. The concept «conflict» is represented by the propositional schemas (1) «Conflict is such», (2) «Conflict is something else», (3) «Conflict acts / acts on sb/sth»:

(1) The controversy is huge «huge controversy» (The Guardian, 11.01.2023); feud is bitter «bitter feud» (The Sun, 21.01.2023).
(2) Confrontation is like «the whole rolling catastrophe» (The Guardian, 6.01.2023).
(3) The conflict «rattled» the royal family (Daily Express, 22.02.2023), «plagued» the Firm (The Sun, 9.01.2023), «tore them [Royal family] apart» (Daily Express, 5.03.2023), «will have a ripple effect across the world» (Daily Record, 9.01.2023).

In the mass-media discourse the conflict in the Royal family is presented as a dramatic event and, therefore, described correspondingly involving various metaphorical expressions.

The confrontation in the British Royal family resulted in the breakdown of their relationship. Thus, the interaction between concepts CONFLICT and RELATIONSHIP can be characterized as linear and one-vector that is graphically presented in Picture 2.

«The Duke of Sussex’s book, which went on sale on Tuesday, lifted the lid on his troubled relationship with his relatives» (Daily Express, 13.01.2023).
«Prince Harry and Royal Family handed five-point plan to repair damaged relationship» (Daily Express, 13.01.2023).
«Harry had a difficult relationship with Camilla, who had an affair with his father when he was still married to Diana» (The Sun, 1.01.2023).

However, Harry’s fractured relationship with his father has at times been complicated, especially in recent years after the Duke dropped damaging allegations against the royals in bombshell interviews, as well as in his shocking Netflix series and controversial memoir, «Spare» (Daily Record, 20.04.2023).

The analysis of the KWIC has allowed to distinguish the verbal means of reflection of the deteriorating relationship inside the Royal family that are predominantly adjectives with a negative charge used directly (difficult, complicated) and metaphorically (damaged, fractured, sick, etc.), giving evaluative characteristics to concept RELATIONSHIP within the scenario.

Conclusions. The presented procedure of modeling scenario «Confrontation in the British Royal family» allows to reveal cognitive mechanisms of interaction between culturally-marked concept BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY, concept CONFLICT and RELATIONSHIP in the British people’s mind on the basis of the British mass-media discourse which serves as a relevant tool for reconstructing the sequence of the scenario events. The scenario includes four subsidiary scenarios which develop parallelly and reflect the depth and complexity of the confrontation between the involved members of the Royal family. The analysis of the slot verbalization means within the typical propositional schemas of each subsidiary scenario indicate the British Royal family members’ roles in the conflict, its causes and time frames and, thereby, details the perception of the conflict by the British society. The verbalizers of concepts CONFLICT and RELATIONSHIP emphasize negative consequences of memoir’s publication for the Royal family. These findings lead to the conclusion about a significant influence of the British media on the British Royal family’s image (a negative one in particular) and British community’s attitudes to the Royal family as a representative of the British monarchy institution.
The perspective of the research is to study conceptual features of the culturally marked concept BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY on the basis of the British mass-media discourse.

REFERENCES


Corpus of the articles. URL:https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1U0AFucid3TJ3MU1Vye7udp1WtprnZfJRg?usp=sharing

АНТОНАЦІЯ

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ЛІТЕРАТУРА


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ШЛЯХИ ФОРМУВАННЯ ТЕРМІНОЛОГІЧНОЇ СИСТЕМИ ПІДМОВИ МОРСЬКОЇ ТЕМАТИКИ

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АНОТАЦІЯ
У статті розглянуті принципи формування термінів морської тематики, також подано їхній переклад українською мовою. В умовах відсутності...