LIUDMYLA NAUMENKO
Institute of Philology, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Fields of research: linguistic conceptology, discourse analysis, lexical semantics, business communication, theory of translation, linguodidactics. orcid.org/0000-0002-4325-1673

LILIIA BILAS
Institute of Philology, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Fields of research: American and British area studies, cross-cultural communication, methodology of teaching English. orcid.org/0000-0002-5514-9799

VIRA PONOMAROVA
Institute of Philology, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Fields of research: theoretical phonetics, methodology of teaching foreign languages, CAT in teaching English. orcid.org/0000-0003-1880-4691

THE LEXICAL-SEMANTIC GROUP 'AUSSIE' IN CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN SLANG

Leksinė-semantinė „Aussie" grupė šiuolaikiniame Australijos slenge

The Lexical-Semantic Group 'Aussie'
in Contemporary Australian Slang

ABSTRACT

The aim of the article is to study the lexical-semantic group 'Aussie' in contemporary Australian slang (also *strine*). The objectives of the article are to determine the semantic structure of the lexeme *Aussie* and relations between its LSVs, to reconstruct the LSG 'Aussie' and its synonymous rows, to explore its representation in lexicographical and Internet sources, as well as to make lexical-semantic and stylistic analyses of the members of the synonymous rows of its LSVs. The conducted research has ascertained that the lexeme *Aussie* has four meanings in Australian slang: the main one – 'Australia' (the basic sema 'country'), the derivative ones – 'an Australian' / 'Australian people' (the basic sema 'inhabitant(s)'), 'Australian English' (the basic sema 'language'), 'Australian dollar' (the basic sema 'money'). The main and derivative meanings are in lexical-semantic relations 'the whole – the part'. Each meaning (LSV) forms a synonymous row of slang nominations – words and word combinations in the following numerical representation: 'Australia' – 13, 'an Australian' – 170, 'Australian English' – 4, 'Australian dollar' – 45 lexical units. The lexical-semantic and stylistic analyses of synonyms have revealed: a) the ways of their formation – by affixation, compounding or both, clipping, abbreviation, hypocoristic shortening, blending, iteration; b) the naming processes – by periphrasis, metaphoric or metonymic transference, antonomasia, alliteration, assonance, onomatopoeia, rhyming, ablaut / gradation, allusion; c) the semantic traits that facilitate their creation – colour, size, material, function, appearance, social status, location, climate, pastime, feeling.

KEYWORDS: Aussie, Australian slang, lexical-semantic group (LSG), lexical-semantic variant (LSV), synonymous row.

ANOTACIJA

Straipsnio tikslas – ištirti leksinę-semantinę grupę „Aussie" šiuolaikiniame Australijos slenge (taip pat žinomame kaip „strine", t. y. australiškasis anglų kalbos variantas). Straipsnio tikslas yra nustatyti leksemos „Aussie" semantinę struktūrą ir jos LSV (leksinių-semantinių variantų) ryšius, rekonstruoti „Aussie" leksinę-semantinę grupę (LSG) ir jos sinonimiškas eiles, ištirti jos vaizdavimą leksikografiniuose ir interneto šaltiniuose, taip pat atlikti jos LSV sinonimų eilių narių leksinę-semantinę ir stilistinę analizę. Atliktas tyrimas parodė, kad leksema „Aussie" Australijos slenge turi keturias reikšmes: pagrindinė reikšmė – „Australija" (pagrindinė sema „šalis"), vediniai – „australas" / „australai" (pagrindinė sema „gyventojas (-ai)"), „australų anglų kalba" (pagrindinė sema „kalba"), ir „Australijos doleris" (pagrindinė sema „pinigai"). Pagrindinės ir išvestinės reikšmės atsispindi leksiniuose-semantiniuose santykiuose „visa–dalis". Kiekviena reikšmė (LSV) sudaro sinoniminę slengo nominacijų eilutę – žodžius ir žodžių junginius, pateiktus šia skaitine forma: „Australija" – 13, „australas" – 170, „australų anglų kalba" – 3, „Australijos doleris" – 45. Leksinė-semantinė ir stilistinė sinonimų analizė atskleidė: a) jų formavimo būdus – afiksus, dūrinius, trumpinius, abreviatūras, hipokoristinius sutrumpinimus, maišinius (sulietus žodžius), (pa)kartojimus;

b) įvardijimo procesus – perifrazę, metaforinius ar metoniminius perkėlimus, antonomaziją, aliteraciją, asonansą, onomatopėją, rimą, abliaciją / gradaciją, aliuziją; c) semantinius bruožus, palengvinančius jų kūrimą – spalvą, dydį, medžiagą, funkciją, išvaizdą, socialinę padėtį, vietą, klimatą, pramogą, jausmą.

ESMINIAI ŽODŽIAI: Aussie, Australijos slengas, leksinė-semantinė grupė, leksinis-semantinis variantas, sinonimų eilė.

1. INTRODUCTION

For a long time English has been studied in its only form – BBC English or the British Received Pronunciation (RP); the other name is the 'Queen's English'. When contacts became more personal at the end of the 20th – the beginning of the 21st centuries due to the Internet, mobile telephones, satellite communication and other electronic devices, social varieties of English have attracted attention both of common people and scholars. The above-mentioned contacts in many cases are stipulated, on the one hand, by the general tendency towards globalization of the world, and, on the other hand, by genuine interest in the local peculiarities of the regional talk.

Among the scholars who have focused on Australian English, one can think of the works by J. R. L. Bernard (1969), K. Burridge and J. G. Mulder (1999), P. Collins (2012), F. Cox (2006), D. Moore (2008), etc. Among the Ukrainian scholars it is worth mentioning the contribution by L. Bilas (2017) and V. Parashchuk (2014). Though the authors consider Australian English from different points of view – phonological, stylistic, sociolinguistic, historical, etc. – our primary attention is devoted to those publications that elucidate its non-standard, everyday, colloquial and slangy layers.

The aim of the article is to study the lexical-semantic group 'Aussie' in contemporary Australian slang. The objectives of the research are to determine the semantic structure of the lexeme *Aussie* and relations between its LSVs, to reconstruct the LSG 'Aussie' and its synonymous rows, to explore its representation in lexicographical and Internet sources, as well as to make lexical-semantic and stylistic analyses of the members of the synonymous rows of its LSVs.

2. BODY

2.1. Preliminary observations

Australian English (AuE, AusE, AusEng, en-AU) is a relatively new version of the language (the first British colony was settled in 1788 in the New

South Wales province in Australia) that originated from now-vanished English, the Scottish and Irish dialects, Cockney slang, aboriginal and other languages brought to the continent by its dwellers (Moore, 2008). Australian English began as *koine* of the second generation of white settlers. J. Bernard refers to it as 'proto-broad' that diverged from a large-scale immigration influx from Britain in the 1850-80s into three identifiable accents: *Broad*, *General* and *Cultivated* (Bernard 1969). As it is stated on the *ATMC Social Portal*, general accent represents the most common type of English spoken in Australia; broad accent is usually described as more extreme (and associated with working class speech); cultivated accent is a prestige variety somewhat closer to the British RP (although actual speakers of the latter are in the minority) (3TAA 2018).

The Australian phonetician Felicity Cox believes that at present AusE embraces three groups according to the manner of pronouncing words: *Standard AusE*, *varieties of aboriginal English*, *ethnocultural AusE dialects* (Cox 2006: 10). The position of Australian English is used to be further defined according to three categories: regional Australian dialect, variant of Standard English, independent national language of the Australian continent (3TAADB 2011).

At present, Australians operate by their own bulk of vocabulary which differentiates into certain sublanguages or language layers. This vocabulary borrowed many words spoken by British and Irish convicts that at present have variations in their meanings: *bush* – 'a rural territory', *mate* – 'a friend' (BrE 'a spouse'), *paddock* – 'a field' (BrE 'a small enclosure for livestock'), *station* – 'a cattle or sheep farm', *to tie up* – 'to stick to the pole', etc. Some other loanwords are considered unique: *bluey* – 'a red-headed person', *dinkum* – 'true, authentic', *brumby* – 'a wild horse', *damper* – 'a simple kind of bread', *sheila* – 'a woman', *swagman* – 'a traveler'. Some more words are incorporated from local aboriginal languages as names of people: *koori* – 'an aboriginal person', *jackaroo* – 'an agricultural worker'; mythology: *alcheringa* – 'dreamtime', *bunyip* – 'a water monster', *yowie* – 'an ape-like monster'; flora and fauna: *bind-eya* – *coolibah* (any of several eucalypts), *bilby* (a kind of a rabbit), *galah* (a pink and grey cockatoo), *joey* (a baby kangaroo), *jumbuck* (a sheep), *kangaroo, koala, ostrich, quokka* and *wallaby* (small and mid-sized kangaroos), *quoll* (a kind of a marsupial), *yabby* (any of several freshwater crayfish); natural phenomena: *billabong* – 'an arm of a river made by water flowing from the main stream', *bombora* – 'a wave formed over a reef or rock', *gilgai* – 'a terrain of low relief with hollows, rims, and mounds'; arms: *boomerang*; musical instruments: *didgeridoo*, *yidaki* (wind instruments); actions: *cooee* – 'a high-pitched call', *yakka* – 'hard work', *bogey* – 'to swim or bathe', *boots'n'all* – 'to do something with gusto', etc.

Besides, Australians have their own colourful vernacular called *strine* that originated from Cockney slang and the Irish dialect of early convicts and

acquired the name of *flash language*. It is an informal, humorous and metaphoric sublanguage of the rebellious subculture that reflects the originality of the country. It is Australia's greatest creative product that can be ironic and self-deprecating, but also rude, crude and cruel (Hampshire 2010). Australian slang, which is defined as "informal language or specific words used mainly in spoken language" (100ASWP 2020), is full of abbreviations, profanities and vulgarisms, e.g.: *arvo* (for *afternoon*), *Aussie* (for *Australia* or *an Australian*), *ABC* (for *an Australian born Chinese*), *barbie* (for *a barbecue*), *doco* (for *a document*), *footy, footie* (for *football*), *smoko* (for *smoking*), *telly* (for *a television*), *G'day, gidday* (for *Good day), BYO* (for *bring your own*) meaning 'people should bring their own drinks, food or dessert' (AS); *white maggot* (for *an Australian football player*, derog.), *wog* (for *a person of Mediterranean or Middle Eastern descent*, less derogatory now but still offensive) (TBGAS 2004: 120); *prawn* (for *a fool person*, abusive) (MOAWI); *piss* (for *beer*), *piss up* (for *a party*), *pissed as a newt* (for *drunk*), *a piece of piss* (for *an easy talk*) (UASD 2011: 46). The latter nominations bear vulgar and rude connotations.

In the *Encyclopedia Britannica* the notion 'slang' is defined by D. W. Maurer as "unconventional words or phrases that express something new or something old in a new way. Its colourful metaphors are generally directed at respectability, and it is this succinct, sometimes witty, frequently impertinent social criticism that gives slang its characteristic flavour" (Maurer 2020). These words correspond to the definition of slang by Ukrainian scholar Lesia Stavyts'ka: "Slang is a linguistic environment of communication of a great number of people which is evaluated by the society as expressively non–official, everyday, familiar" (Stavyts'ka 2005: 24). J. Hunter, the editor of *The True Blue Guide to Australian Slang*, remarks: "Australians are known for their informality and laid–back nature, and this is reflected in their liberal use of colourful and amusing slang" (TBGAS 2004). Aussies are rather liberal in their language behaviour, they use jokes and metaphors, rhymes, curses, dysphemisms, sexual innuendo, words expressing idiosyncrasies. The Aussie slang has become a casual, informal, common talk for the country that values irrelevant wit, humor, irony and self-deprecation. Such phrases as *budgie smugglers* ('a man's swimming costume'), *dingo's breakfast* ('no breakfast at all'), *ducks on the pond* ('women are coming') (ASDKN 2018) became typical for everyday communication of native Australians.

2.2. Methodology

The methodology of the research is based on the works of Australian lexicologist J. R. L. Bernard (1969) and phonetician Felicity Cox (2006) devoted

to the regional and local varieties of AusE, i.e., its pronunciation variants and lexical-semantic differentiation. So, the research is focused on Australian slang as a sociolinguistic phenomenon. The methodology applied includes the methods of word definitions and comparison of meanings of slang words in different lexicographical and Internet sources, componential analysis of the lexeme *Aussie*, lexical-semantic and stylistic analyses of the members of the synonymous rows of LSVs. The theoretical background of the research is supported by the generally accepted idea of the systemic organisation of a language or a sublanguage, Australian slang in particular. The presumption of this point of view is based, on the one hand, on Ferdinand de Saussure's theory of a language as a hierarchical system of relations: "In a language everything is based on relations" (Saussure 1916: 122) – linear / syntagmatic, paradygmatic, associative, oppositional, identical, equivalent, similar, complementary, contrastive, of inclusion / exclusion, cause–result, hyponym–hyperonym, etc.; on the other hand, on the systemic-structural organisation of the language vocabulary in lexical-semantic fields (LSF), lexical-semantic groups (LSG), synonymous rows (SR), thematic groups (TG), etc. (Levytskiy 2012: 271).

A lexical-semantic group of words is understood as "a set of differently structured units formed on the basis of the common semantic kernel which determines dependence and relations of its elements as units of the language system" (Krekhno 2005: 25). According to L. M. Vasiliev, a lexical-semantic group is considered "a class of words (lexemes) united at least by one lexical paradigmatic sema" (Vasiliev 1971: 109).

Prominent Ukrainian scholar V. V. Levitskiy proposes seven differential criteria to distinguish an LSG from other lexical microsystems, i.e.: 1) the linguistic / extra-linguistic determination of lexical links; 2) the type of structural relations (commutation / substitution) in the framework of a microsystem; 3) the type and place of a group name; 4) the material / ideal denotatum; 5) the discreteness / non-discreteness of nominated objects of the reality; 6) the volume of a group; 7) the configuration of a group (one-, two-, or three-dimensional) (Levitskiy 2012: 269-283).

According to the first two criteria, an LSG is a microsystem with non-relevant relations with objects of the reality, and thus, the arrangement of its lexis takes place on the basis of interlanguage relations – both synonymous and antonymous. According to the other criteria, an LSG includes the words which nominate both material and ideal objects, as well as words with abstract and concrete meanings; the lexical dominant is a word-member of the group; the elements of the group are in the relations of commutation and substitution; the volume of the group comprises at least several members, and it has a two-dimensional configuration.

As Russian lexicologist A. A. Ufimtseva states, "the basis of an LSG is a word <...> in its variable and complex relations with other dictionary units" (Ufimtseva 2002: 4). Such a basic word (also *name* or *semantic dominant*) is a polysemantic lexeme. Each of its lexical-semantic variants forms a synonymous row with other words which belong to this LSG. So, the lexical-semantic structure of a semantic dominant of an LSG, according to V. V. Levitskiy (2012: 280), can be illustrated by the following scheme:

		a^1	–	a^2	–	a^3	–	a^4	–	a^5
A	→	b^1	–	b^2	–	b^3	–	b^4	–	b^5
	↘	c^1	–	c^2	–	c^3	–	c^4	–	c^5

Scheme 1. Lexical-semantic structure of the semantic dominant of an LSG

According to Scheme 1, symbol A represents a polysemantic basic word of an LSG; the main LSV is represented by symbols $a^1 – a^2 – a^3$, etc.; the remaining LSVs – by symbols $b^1 – b^2 – b^3$, etc. and $c^1 – c^2 – c^3$, etc. correspondingly.

The next step of studying an LSG is to reconstruct the semantic structure of the basic word, to trace relations between its LSVs, to compose synonymous rows to each LSV, to make lexical-semantic and stylistic analyses of synonyms.

2.3. Corpus data

The gathered corpus data comprise authentic Australian slang dictionaries, vocabularies, lexicons, i.e.: *Australian Guide to Language* (AGL), *Australian Slang* (AS), *Aussie Slang Dictionary* (ASD 2004), *Aussie Slang Dictionary. Koala. net* (ASDKN 2018), *Australian Slang and Other Local Lingo* (ASOLL 2017), *Dictionary of Australian Slang* (DAS), *Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (CNPDSUE 2008), *A Dictionary of Australian Words and Terms* by G. W. Lawson (DAWT 1997), *Meanings and Origins of Australian Words and Idioms* (MOAWI), *The True Blue Guide to Australian Slang* by J. Hunter (TBGAS 2004), *The Ultimate Aussie Slang Dictionary* (UASD 2011), *Word up. A Lexicon and Guide to Communication in the 21st Century* by M. McCrindle and E. Wolfinger (WLGC21C 2011), *100 Australian Slang Words and Phrases* (100ASWP 2020), *125 Australian Slang Words and Phrases. A Guide to Aussie Slang* (125ASWP 2015); Internet resources connected with the topic under scrutiny: *Crow-eaters, Sandgropers, Banana benders, Cornstalks and More* (CSBBCM 2016), *Ever Colourful Australian Currency Slang Nicknames* (ECACSN), *Holey Dollars to Grey Nurses* by M. Gwynn (Gwynn 2014), *Slang:*

What Aussies call other Aussies, by F. Povah and A. Middleton (Povah 2013), *Slang Terms for Money. Current Denominations* (STMCD), and the online platform for clarifying the meaning of particular slang words: *Browse the Aussie Slang Dictionary* (BASD 2020).

2.4. Reconstruction of the LSG 'Aussie'

The LSG 'Aussie' has been selected for the analysis from such considerations: it is nominated by a polysemantic word (with at least four meanings) as well as it possesses the most numerous number of synonyms (231 lexical units) in comparison with other nominations (sports and games – 50, place names – 40, politics – 24, military matter – 19) according to our calculations of slang units in the material researched.

The next steps, with reference to the above-exposed methodology, are to elucidate the meanings / LSVs of the word *Aussie*, to reconstruct its semantic structure (to determine the main and derivative semas and relations between them), to build synonymous rows to each LSV according to the explored lexicographical and other relevant sources.

Thus, the lexeme *Aussie* is lexicographically recorded with the following meanings: 1) 'Australia' (MOAWI); 2) 'Australian' (AS; ASDKN 2018; MOAWI; UASD 2011: 15), 'an Australian' (DAS), 'Australian people' (TBGAS 2004:10); 3) 'Australian English' (MOAWI); 4) 'Australian dollar' (MOAWI).

The main meaning of the word *Aussie* is 'Australia', the others – 'an Australian / Australian people', 'Australian English', 'Australian dollar' – being its derivatives. They originated on the basis of the main meaning by metonymic transference and correspond to it as 'the part' to 'the whole', thus forming the lexical–semantic relations 'the whole – the part'.

The first meaning / LSV 'Australia' (the basic sema 'country') forms the following row of synonyms represented by 13 lexical units: *Bazzaland* – 'Australia' (UASD 2011: 17); *Down Under* – 'Australia and New Zealand' (ASDKN 2018); *The Great Southern Land*; *The Land of the Long Weekend* (TBGAS 2004: 65); *The Lucky Country* – 'a term synonymous with Australia' (ASDKN, 2018); *Never Never* – 'the centre of Australia' (ASDKN 2018); *Outback* – 'the interior Australia' (ASDKN 2018); *Oz* – 'Australia' (ASD 2004; ASDKN 2018; DAS; UASD 2011: 45); *RARA* – 'rural and regional Australia' (TBGAS 2004: 86); *Straya* – 'Australia' (125ASWP 2015), 'short for Australia' (100ASWP 2020); *Top End* – 'the far north of Australia' (ASDKN 2018); *the wide brown land / the sunburnt country* – 'refers to Australia' (MOAWI).

The first row of synonyms is represented by slang units formed by: clipping of the already existing word in a form of a syncope – *Straya* (Australia); abbreviation in the form of an acronym – *RARA* (rural and regional Australia); compounding – *Bazzaland*; iteration – *Never Never*; renaming. Renaming produces periphrases on the basis of the following semantic traits: 'location': *Down Under – Outback – Top End*, *The Great Southern Land*; 'climate': *the sunburnt country*; 'colour': *the wide brown land*; 'pastime': *The Land of the Long Weekend*; 'feeling': *The Lucky Country*, or allusion: *Oz*.

It is interesting to note that the nickname *Bazzaland* was formed under the influence of the cartoon character Barry (Bazza) McKenzie created by Barry Humphries in 1973 (CNPDSUE 2008: 39). The place name *Oz* reproduces in writing the pronunciation of the toponym *Australia*. Its first evidence as *Oss* appeared in 1908; occasionally, the word was written as *Aus*, but pronounced in the same way. Presumably, the form was influenced by 'The Wizard of Oz' (screened on the plot of the fairy tale by L. Frank Baum), a film that gained worldwide popularity in 1939. The first record of the word *Oz* in the meaning 'Australia' was marked in the wartime newsletter in 1944 (MOAWI). The periphrasis *The Great Southern Land* first appeared in the name of a single released by the Australian rock band *Icehouse* in 1982; *the wide brown land* and *the sunburnt country* originated in the poem 'My Country' by Dorothea Mackellar in 1908.

The second meaning / LSV 'an Australian' / 'Australian people' (the basic sema 'inhabitant(s)') forms the following row of synonyms represented by 170 lexical units: *ABC* – 'an Australian-born Chinese' (AS); *abo / boong* – 'an aborigine' (AS); *apple eater* – 'someone from Tasmania' (UASD 2011: 14); *banana bender* – 'a person from Queensland' (ASDKN 2018; UASD 2011: 16); *bruce* – 'an Aussie bloke' (125ASWP 2015), *bushie* – 'a bushman' (ASDKN 2018; DAS; TBGAS 2004: 27; UASD 2011: 21); *cabbage patcher* – 'a resident of the state of Victoria' (AS; UASD 2011: 21); *cane toad* – 'someone from the state of Queensland' (AS); *cockroach* – 'a person from New South Wales' (ASDKN 2018); *crow eater / pie eater* – 'a South Australian resident' (AS; ASDKN 2018; UASD 2011: 44); *dinky di / dink / dinkum / ridgy didge* – 'a genuine Aussie' (AS; ASOLL 2017; DAS; TBGAS 2004: 36; UASD 2011: 55); *Easterner* – 'a person from the eastern states' (UASD 2011: 28); *geebung* – 'a native born Australian living in a remote area' (UASD 2011: 32); *gumsucker* – 'a resident of the state of Victoria' (UASD 2018: 33); *Joe Bloggs, Joe Blow* – 'an ordinary Aussie' (DAS; TBGAS 2004: 60); *magpie* – 'a South Australian' (UASD 2018: 41); *mainlander* – 'a person from the mainland of Australia' (UASD 2011: 42); *Mexican* – 'a person from the south of Queensland or New South Wales border' (ASDKN 2018); *norm* – 'an average bloke' (TBGAS 2004: 74); *Oz* – 'an Australian' (ASD 2004); *sandgroper* – 'a person from Western Australia' (AS; ASDKN 2018; UASD 2011: 50); *swaggie*

/ *swagman* – 'a bushman' (UASD 2011: 53); *Sydneysider* – 'a Sydney citizen' (DAS); *tassie tiger* – 'a resident of Tasmania' (UASD 2011: 54); *Taswegian* – 'a person from Tasmania' (ASDKN 2018; UASD 2011: 54); *top ender* – 'a person from the northern territory' (UASD 2011: 55); *true blue* – 'a very genuine, loyal, expressing native values Australian' (MOAWI); *westie* – 'a person from the western suburbs of Sydney' (TBGAS 2004: 118; DAS); *whitefella* – 'a non-aboriginal person of European descent' (TBGAS 2004: 119); *wog* – 'a person of Mediterranean or Middle Eastern descent'(ASDKN 2018; TBGAS 2004: 120; UASD 2011: 58), 'a migrant from southern Europe' (MOAWI); *Zorba* – 'an affectionate nickname of a person of Greek ancestry' (TBGAS 2004: 125).

This synonymous row also includes Australian slang words that comprise certain additional semas, i.e.:

'gender': *bint* – 'a woman' (DAWT 1997: 8); *bit of muslin* – 'a woman' (DAWT 1997: 26); *bloke* – 'an Australian man' (TBGAS 2004: 17); *blokette* – 'an Australian woman' (TBGAS 2004: 17); *bodgie* – 'a teenage larrikin' (MOAWI); *fluff* – 'a female' (DAWT 1997: 16); *gin* – 'an aboriginal woman' (DAWT 1997: 18); *Jane* – 'a woman' (DAWT 1997: 18); *jackaroo* – 'a male cattle station worker' (UASD 2011: 37); *jillaroo* – 'a female cattle station worker' (UASD 2011: 37); *lubra* – 'an adult female Australian aboriginal' (DAWT 1997: 24); *mate* – 'a form of address for men' (TBGAS 2004: 70); *ocker, ockerdom* – 'a typical Australian male' (ASD 2004; DAS; MOAWI; TBGAS 2004: 75); *ockerette*, *ockerina* – 'an ocker's female counterpart' (MOAWI; TBGAS 2004: 75); *sheila* – 'an Australian female, a girl or woman' (UASD 2011: 51); *skirt* – 'a girl' (DAWT 1997: 35); *tabby* – 'a girl' (DAWT 1997: 37); *tin plate* – 'a mate' (DAWT 1997: 37); *twist and twirl* – 'a girl' (DAWT 1997: 38); *widgie* – 'a female counterpart of a bodgie' (MOAWI);

'age': *ankle biter* – 'a small child' (UASD 2001: 14); *billy lids* – 'kids' (ASOLL 2017; UASD 2011: 18); *cornstalk* – 'a young Australian' (DAWT 1997: 9); *crumblies* – 'frail old people' (AS); *grumblebum* – 'an older person who habitually complains' (UASD 2011: 33); *kiddiewink* – 'a child' (UASD 2011: 39); *mark foy* – 'a boy' (UASD 2011: 42); *nipper* – 'a young child' (AS; UASD 2011: 43); *rug rats* – 'children' (AS); *tacker* – 'a young child' (TBGAS 2004: 107); *tin lid* – 'a child' (UASD 2011: 55); *whipper-snapper* –'a young person' (AS); *wrinkie* – 'an old person' (TBGAS 2004: 121);

'relations': *ball and chain* – 'one's wife' (AS); *battleaxe* – 'a wife or mother-in-law' (UASD 2011: 17); *cheese & kisses* – 'a missus, a wife' (UASD 2011: 22); *cobber* – 'a friend' (DAWT 1997: 13), 'a companion or friend' (ASOLL 2017), 'a mate, a friend' (TBGAS 2004: 29); *cook* – 'one's wife' (UASD 2011: 24); *folks* – 'one's parents' (ASD 2004); *mate* – 'a close friend or acquaintance' (MOAWI); *missus* – 'a wife' (TBGAS 2004: 70); *ol' cheese* – 'a mother' (UASD 2011: 44); *old Dutch* – 'a wife' (DAWT 1997: 29); *oldies / olds* – 'parents' (TBGAS 2004:

76; UASD 2011: 44); *ol' man / old man* – 'a father' (UASD 2011: 44); *old pot* – 'a father' (DAWT 1997: 31); *pard* – 'a friend' (DAWT 1997: 30); *rellie / rello / rels* – 'a family relative' (ASOLL 2017; UASD 2011: 49); *tart* – 'a girlfriend or sweetheart' (MOAWI); *trouble and strife* – 'a wife' (WLGC21C 2011: 81);

'social status': *battler* – 'a person who struggles to make a living' (CNRDSUE 2008: 38; UASD 2011: 15); *bunyip aristocracy* – 'Australians who bung on aristocratic airs and graces' (TBGAS 2004: 23); *feral* – 'a person living outside the conventional bounds of society' (MOAWI); *silvertail* – 'a member of the upper class' (TBGAS 2004: 97); *squatter* – 'a person of elevated socio-economic status' (MOAWI); *squattocracy* – 'the early landed gentry in the white settlement of Australia' (TBGAS 2004: 101); *tall poppy* – 'a person with great wealth or status' (ASD 2004; DAS; UASD 2011: 54), 'successful people or celebrities' (ASOLL 2017);

'appearance': *arse wipe* – 'a very unpleasant person' (AS); *beanpole* – 'a tall, thin person' (TBGAS 2004: 14); *bluey* – "a red–headed person" (MOAWI), *bush pig* – 'an ugly person' (AS); *curly* – 'a bold person' (AS); *eggshell blonde* – 'a bold person' (ASD 2004); *half pinter* – 'a small person' (UASD 2011: 34); *head-turner* – 'an attractive person' (ASD 2004); *keg-on-legs* – 'a short, obese person' (ASD 2004; TBGAS 2004: 62); *looker / good-looker* – 'a good-looking person' (ASD 2004); *nasty piece of work* – 'an unpleasant person' (UASD 2011: 43); *scunge* – 'an untidy person' (UASD 2011: 51); *spunk* – 'a good-looking person (of either sex)' (ASDKN 2018); *stickybeak* – 'a nosy person' (ASDKN 2018);

'mental abilities': *boob* – 'a foolish person' (AS); *boofhead* – 'a fool or simpleton, a stupid, uncouth person' (MOAWI; TBGAS 2004: 19); *dickhead* – 'an idiot' (ASDKN 2018; UASD 2011: 26); *dill* – 'someone who is not too smart' (UASD 2011: 26); *dingaling* – 'a silly person' (UASD 2011: 26); *dingbat* – 'a fool' (UASD 2011: 26); *dingdong* – 'a foolish person' (UASD 2011: 26); *dipshit* – 'a stupid person' (ASD 2004); *drongo* – 'a stupid person' (TBGAS 2004: 39), 'an idiot' (ASOLL 2017), 'a fool, a simpleton, an idiot' (MOAWI); *duffer* – 'a fool' (DAWT 1997: 9); *fruit loop* – 'a fool' (UASD 2011: 31); *galoot* – 'a foolish fellow' (TBGAS 2004: 48); *gink* – 'a silly person' (UASD 2011: 32); *goose* – 'someone who is not too smart, silly' (UASD 2011: 33); *grommet* – 'an idiot' (ASD 2004; DAS; UASD 2011: 33); *mullet* – 'a stupid person' (ASD 2004); *ningnong* – 'a fool, an idiot' (UASD 2011: 43); *nong* – 'a fool, an idiot' (DAS); *prawn* – 'a fool', *abus*. (MOAWI); *schmick* – 'a very smart, stylish person' (TBGAS 2004: 94); *schmuck* – 'a stupid person, an idiot, a fool' (ASD 2004); *smart arse* – 'a smart alec, know-all' (ASD 2004); *smeg-head* – 'an idiot' (ASD, 2004); *tosser* – 'a stupid or annoying person' (ASD, 2004); *wacka / whacka / whacker* – 'a fool, a drongo, an idiot' (UASD 2011: 57-58); *wacker* – 'a crazy person' (UASD 2011: 57); *wad* – 'a stupid or annoying person' (ASD 2004); *zonk* – 'a fool' (UASD 2011: 59);

'behaviour': *arse-licker / boot-licker* – 'a 'yes-man'' (UASD 2011: 15); *bad lot* – 'a dishonest, disreputable person' (ASD 2004); *bogan* – 'an uncultured, boorish or uncouth person' (MOAWI), 'a rough, uncivilized person' (UASD 2011: 19); *brick* – 'a good and reliable person' (TBGAS 2004: 21); *dag* – 'an eccentric, scruffy person' (UASD 2011: 25); *deadshit* – 'an annoying person' (TBGAS 2004: 35); *flake* – 'an eccentric person' (TBGAS 2004: 45); *galah* – 'a loud, rudely behaved person' (TBGAS 2004: 48); *gutless wonder* – 'a cowardly person' (TBGAS 2004: 53); *hoon* – 'someone who displaces antisocial behaviour' (TBGAS 2004: 57); *larrikin* – 'a wild-spirited person who has little regard to the authority' (TBGAS 2004: 65), *mongrel* – 'a dreadful person' (TBGAS 2004: 70); *ripsnorter* – 'an extraordinary person' (TBGAS 2004: 89); *shonk / shonky* – 'a dishonest person' (TBGAS 2004: 96); *weirdo* – 'someone who behaves eccentrically' (TBGAS 2004: 118); *wowser* – 'a person whose behaviour is puritanical or prudish, a killjoy' (MOAWI); *yahoo* – 'an unrefined, loutish, uncultivated person' (TBGAS 2004: 122); *yawn* – 'a bore' (TBGAS 2004: 123); *yob / yobbo* – 'a slob, a hooligan, a lout' (TBGAS 2004: 123).

Some synonyms of this LSV, besides the basic sema 'inhabitant(s)', also possess several additional semas, i.e.: 'age' + 'gender' – *boiler* – 'an old woman' (AS), *codger* – 'an old man' (AS), *fowl* – 'an old woman'(DAWT 1997: 16); 'appearance' + 'gender' – *bat* – 'an ugly woman' (AS), *nugget* – 'a short muscular man' (ASD 2004), *slapper* – 'an ugly or unrefined girl or woman' (ASD 2004), *wing-nut* – 'a man with protruding ears' (TBGAS 2004: 120); 'behaviour' + 'gender' – '*lair / mug lair / two-bob lair / lairize* – 'a brash, vulgar young man' (TBGAS 2004: 65).

The second group of synonyms is represented by slang words formed by means of: affixation – *Easterner*, *looker, good-looker*, *top ender*; clipping – *abo, boong, hoon, rel*; clipping + affixation (so-called *hypocoristic shortening*) by adding suffixes *-a*, *-o*, *-ie* – *rello, bushie, rellie, swaggie, westie, wrinkie*; compounding – *battleaxe, cockroach, dingbat, magpie, swagman*; compounding + affixation – *mainlander, Sydneysider*; compounding + clipping + affixation – *whitefella*; blending – *squattocracy* (*squatter* + *aristocracy*). Some slang words originated by transference of meaning in a form of: periphrasis on the basis of a particular feature of an object – *ankle biter, apple eater, banana bender, bit of muslin, cabbage patcher, cane toad, crow eater / pie eater, gumsucker, kiddiewink, old pot, rug rats*; antonomasia – *bruce, Jane, Joe Bloggs, Joe Blow, Mexican, ocker, sheila, Zorba*; metonymy – *skirt*; metaphor – *bat, battleaxe, beanpole, brick, boiler, curly, eggshell blonde, fowl, galah, half pinter, head-turner, keg-on-legs, nipper, sandgroper, stickybeak, wing-nut*. The semantic traits that facilitate the process of metaphorization are the following: 'colour' – *bluey, eggshell blonde*; 'appearance' – *bat, boofhead, bush pig, stickybeak*; 'social status' – *battler*; 'size' – *half*

pinter, *keg-on-leg*s; 'age' – *ol' cheese*, *oldies, olds*, *ol' man*; 'material' – *brick*; 'function' – *boiler*, *cook*, *nipper*. The others were formed by alliteration: *ridgy didge*, *whipper-snapper*; assonance: *true blue*; rhyming (so-called *rhyming slang*): *ball and chain* (Jane), *billy lid / tin lid* (kid), *cheese & kisses* (misses), *mark foy* (boy), *tin plate* (mate), *trouble and strife* (wife), *twist and twirl* (girl); ablaut / gradation (phonetically varied twin forms): *dingdong*, *ningnong*; onomatopoeia: *dingaling*, *dingbat*, *geebung*, *wowser*; allusion: *yahoo* (an imagery race of brutes created by J. Swift in *Gulliver's Travels*, 1726).

Certain common slang words that originated from proper names have their historical background: *bruce* – 'a man', as in the Monty Python's sketch where all the Australians were named Bruce (UASD 2011: 19); *ocker* was initially applied only to men named *Oscar* (1920's) but its meaning extended to all men during the 20th century (MOAWI); *sheila* derives from the proper name *Sheila*; it initially referred to a woman of Irish origin, but since the 19th century onwards – to any woman or girl (MOAWI).

Slang words that nominate citizens from particular parts of Australia have the following explanations of their origin: *apple eater* is "someone from Tasmania where apples are the first of the primary products" (AS); *banana bender* is based on association with banana-growing industry in tropical Queensland ('Banana land') (MOAWI); *cabbage patcher* is "a citizen from Victoria state that is called the *Garden state* or *Cabbage Patch* because of its small size" (Povah 2013); *crow eaters* are the settlers who from the necessity ate some crows disguised as 'mount backer pheasants' (Povah 2013); *cane toad* is "a Queenslander named after the influx of the massive amounts of cane toads that appeared in this state from 1940 to 1980 in five-year intervals" (AS); *gumsucker* was applied to all colonials for their pastime of sucking sweet gum from some species of wattle; now it refers solely to Victorians (Povah 2013); *sandgroper* refers to the residents of Western Australia, "a nickname possibly received after the burrowing insect found in the land rich in sand" (CSBBCM 2016).

Only some four synonyms have been found to the third meaning / LSV 'Australian English' (the basic sema 'language'). They are: *Ozspeak* – 'Australian vernacular' (AGL); *Ozwords* – 'Australian vernacular' (Gwynn 2014); *strine* – 'Australian English' (DAS), 'Aussi English' (AS), 'stereotypical Australian accent' (WLGC21C 2011: 79), 'Australian slang and pronunciation' (ASDKN 2018; UASD 2011: 53), 'Australian vernacular' (AGL).

The major ways of forming synonyms in this group are shortening (in a form of syncope) – *strine* (from *Australian*) and compounding – *Ozspeak*, *Ozwords*. The word *strine* was popularized by professor Afferbeck Lauder's book *Let Stalk Strine* published in Sydney in 1966.

The fourth meaning / LSV 'Australian dollar' (the basic sema 'money') forms a row of synonyms represented by 45 lexical units: *axle grease* – 'money' (UASD 2011: 15); *bickies, bikkies / big bickies* – 'a lot of money' (AS; ASD 2004; TBGAS 2004: 15; UASD 2011: 17); *big notes* – 'large sums of money' (MOAWI); *big sugar* – 'big money' (DAWT 1997: 8); (*blue*) *bond* – 'a deposit' (ASOLL 2017); *blue swimmer / crab* – 'a $10 note' (CNRDSUE 2008: 46); *boodle* – 'money' (DAWT 1997: 8); *brass* – 'a coin' (DAWT 1997: 9); *bread and honey* – 'money' (WLGC21C 2011: 81); *dosh* – 'money' (AS); *dough* – 'money' (ASD 2004; DAWT 1997: 14); *fiver, deep sea diver*, *sky diver* – 'a $5 note' (ECACSN; STMCD); *folding stuff* – 'money (notes & coins)' (AS); *grey nurse* – 'a $100 note' (TBGAS 2004: 53); *lobster / red lobster, redback & rusky* – 'a $20 note' (ECACSN; STMCD); *moola, moolah* – 'money' (ASD 2004); *motza, motsa*, *motser*, *motzer* – 'a large amount of money' (TBGAS 2004: 71), 'a large sum of money; a fortune' (MOAWI); *Oxford scholars* – 'dollars' (ASOLL 2017); *pineapple / big pineapple* – 'a $50 note' (ECACSN; STMCD); *pony* – '25 pounds' (DAWT 1997: 30); *pot* – 'a sum of money' (DAWT 1997: 31); *prawn* – 'a $5 note' (ECACSN); *quid, quid fiddly, saucepan* – 'originally one pound sterling, now one dollar' (AS; STMCD); *razoo / arse razoo / brass razoo* – 'a non–existing coin of trivial value' (AS; MOAWI); *redback* – 'an Australian $20 note' (BASD 2020; TBGAS 2004: 88); *rhodes scholar* – 'a dollar' (UASD 2011: 49); *score* – 'a sum of 20 dollars' (ASD 2004); *slab* – 'a thousand dollars, $1000' (ASD 2004); *stuff* – 'a coin' (DAWT 1997: 36); *sugar* – 'money' (DAWT 1997: 36); *the needles* – 'money' (DAWT 1997: 28); *tin* – 'money' (DAWT 1997: 37); *zac*, *zack* – 'a sixpence' (ASDKN 2008; DAWT 1997: 43).

The major ways of forming slang words in the fourth group of synonyms are periphrasis – *axle grease*, *folding stuff*; metaphor on the basis of semantic traits 'colour' – (*blue*) *crab / blue swimmer* ('blue'), *grey nurse* ('between 1984–1994 a $100 note had a grey colour'), *lobster* ('red'), *pineapple* ('yellow'), *prawn* ('pink') and 'material' – *brass*, *tin*; alliteration – *redback & rusky* and rhyming: *bread and honey* (money), *fiver, deep sea diver*, *sky diver* (diver), *Oxford scholars* (dollars), *rhodes scholar* (dollar), *saucepan lid / quid* (quid).

2.5. Results

The conducted research permits to formulate the following statements: a) Australian English is represented by *Standard AusE*, *varieties of aboriginal English*, and *ethnocultural AusE dialects*; b) *Standard Australian* has certain peculiarities, like variations in the meaning of English words, unique words and aboriginal borrowings; c) Australian slang (also *strine*) is the informal language

of the rebellious subculture which is full of specific abbreviations, profanities and vulgarisms; d) Aussie slang is formed on the basis of particular concepts that organise its lexical-semantic fields, and the latter split into smaller units – thematic and lexical-semantic groups; e) lexical-semantic groups are organised on the basis of polysemantic words whose LSVs form certain synonymous rows.

3. CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVE

Australian English is a separate regional dialect whose specific features are determined by several factors: distant location from the parent country, specific historical development of the society, an influx of immigrants from different parts of the world, local aboriginal culture, a system of education and cultural life, development of one's own literature tradition, an interest in aboriginal languages, customs and traditions of the indigenous population, self-consciousness as a true independent nation. The Australian vernacular *strine* that originated from Cockney slang, the Irish dialect and local aboriginal languages is an informal, humorous, metaphoric sublanguage that reflects the originality of the country.

In the process of the research it has been ascertained that the lexeme *Aussie* has four meanings in Australian slang: the main one – 'Australia' (the basic sema 'country'), the derivative ones – 'an Australian' / 'Australian people' (the basic sema 'inhabitant(s)'), 'Australian English' (the basic sema 'language'), 'Australian dollar' (the basic sema 'money'). The main and derivative meanings are in lexical-semantic relations 'the whole – the part'. Each meaning forms a synonymous row represented by different slang nominations in the following numerical representation: 'Australia' – 13, 'an Australian' – 170, 'Australian English' – 4, 'Australian dollar' – 45 lexical units.

The synonyms in a form of words and word combinations have different ways of their formation – by affixation, compounding or both, clipping, abbreviation, hypocoristic shortening, blending, iteration. They underwent various naming processes, i.e.: periphrasis, metaphoric or metonymic transference, antonomasia, alliteration, assonance, onomatopoeia, rhyming, ablaut / gradation, allusion. Certain synonyms also include particular semantic traits that facilitate the process of their creation – colour, size, material, function, appearance, social status, location, climate, pastime, feeling.

The article opens a perspective for the further study of Australian slang from different points of view: a) historical – transformations during the following periods: colonization of the continent in the 18th – 19th centuries, the Gold Rush (1850s), the First World War, the post-war immigration (1945-1960s), the

late 20th – the beginning of the 21st centuries; b) linguistic cultural – sources of borrowing slang words from different English dialects, aboriginal and other languages; c) social cultural – origin of slang words in different social spheres and subcultures: politics, business, army, sport, Internet communication, the talk of convicts, teenagers, bushrangers and beachcombers.

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Leksinė-semantinė „Aussie" grupė šiuolaikiniame Australijos slenge

SANTRAUKA

Straipsnyje nagrinėjama nepelnytai apleisto kalbinio reiškinio, t. y. Australijos slengo, kuris apibūdina kasdienį bendravimą šiuolaikinėje Australijoje, problema. Straipsnio tikslas – ištirti leksinę-semantinę grupę „Aussie" šiuolaikiniame Australijos slenge. Straipsnio siekiniai yra nustatyti leksemos „Aussie" semantinę struktūrą ir jos leksinių-semantinių

variantų (LSV) ryšius, rekonstruoti „Aussie" leksinę-semantinę grupę (LSG) ir jos sinonimų eiles, ištirti jos vaizdavimą leksikografiniuose ir interneto šaltiniuose, taip pat atlikti jos LSV sinonimų eilių narių leksinę-semantinę ir stilistinę analizę.

Preliminarūs tyrimai apima Australijos slengo tyrinėjimą užsienio ir Ukrainos mokslininkų darbuose, atitinkamų šiuolaikinių žodynų, tezaurų, interneto svetainių ir interneto šaltinių, skirtų šiam kalbiniam reiškiniui, leksinę-semantinę ir lyginamąją slengo žodžių analizę pagal įvairius šaltinius, siekiant išsiaiškinti jų reikšmes ir kilmę. Tyrimo metodologinis pagrindas grindžiamas naujausiais semasiologiniais ir leksikologiniais tyrimais ir suponuoja atitinkamus metodus: žodžių apibrėžimų analizę, lyginamąją, sudėtinę, leksinę-semantinę ir stilistinę analizę.

Tyrimo metu buvo nustatyta, kad leksema „Aussie" turi keturias pagrindines reikšmes šiuolaikiniame Australijos slenge: pagrindinė reikšmė – „Australija" (pagrindinė sema „šalis"), vediniai – „australas" / „australai" (pagrindinė sema „gyventojas (-ai)"), „australų anglų kalba" (pagrindinė sema „kalba") ir „Australijos doleris" (pagrindinė sema „pinigai"). Pagrindinės ir išvestinės reikšmės atsispindi leksiniuose-semantiniuose santykiuose „visa–dalis". Kiekviena reikšmė (LSV) sudaro sinonimų slengo nominacijų eilę – žodžius ir žodžių junginius, pateiktus šia skaitine forma: „Australija" – 13, „australas" – 170, „australų anglų kalba" – 3, „Australijos doleris" – 45.

Leksinė-semantinė ir stilistinė sinonimų analizė atskleidė: a) jų formavimo būdus – afiksus, dūrinius, trumpinius, abreviatūras, hipokoristinius sutrumpinimus, maišinius (sulietus žodžius), (pa)kartojimus; b) įvardijimo procesus – perifrazę, metaforinius ar metoniminius perkėlimus, antonomaziją, aliteraciją, asonansą, onomatopėją, rimą, abliaciją / gradaciją, aliuziją; c) semantinius bruožus, palengvinančius jų kūrimą – spalvą, dydį, medžiagą, funkciją, išvaizdą, socialinę padėtį, vietą, klimatą, pramogą, jausmą.

Straipsnis atveria tolesnio Australijos slengo tyrimo perspektyvą skirtingais požiūriais: a) istoriniu – virsmai šiais laikotarpiais: XVIII–XIX amžiaus žemyno kolonizacija, Aukso karštligė (1850 m.), Pirmasis pasaulinis karas, pokario imigracija (1945–1960 m.), XX a. pabaiga–XXI a. pradžia; b) kalbinių-kultūrinių – šaltiniai, iš kurių galima pasiskolinti slengo žodžius iš angliškų tarmių, aborigenų ir kitų kalbų; c) sociokultūrinių – slengo žodžių kilmė skirtingose socialinėse sferose ir subkultūrose: politikoje, versle, kariuomenėje, sporte, interneto komunikacijoje, nuteistųjų, paauglių, bušido ir paplūdimio žaidėjų pokalbiuose.

LIUDMYLA NAUMENKO
Institute of Philology,
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv
T. Shevchenko Blvd. 14, Kyiv 01060 Ukraine
v-naumenko@ukr.net