

ON THE TRADITIONAL LEXICAL SEMANTIC AND GRAMMATICAL SEMANTIC FEATURES OF THE PARTS OF SPEECH

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The paper presents an overview of the traditional differentiation among the major parts of speech. I place emphasis on some lexical semantic and grammatical semantic features mentioned in passing in the existing definitions as peripheral and insubstantial which may in fact form the basis for a new linguistically, logically and philosophically more adequate classification of the words classes in natural language.

The major parts of speech are defined as mental concepts denoting a different number of semantic components: 1 for nouns, cardinal numbers and adverbs; 2 for adjectives and ordinal numbers; 4 for verbs. It is the semantic microelements that determine the number and type of morphological categories of the different parts of speech. The main criterion for the existence of a part of speech is for it to possess at least one morphological category that differentiates it from all others (a necessary corrective is the existence of at least a few simple, primary words within each part of speech).

Keywords: parts of speech; lexical semantic features; grammatical semantic features; grammatical categories; morphological categories; shifters; Bulgarian language

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