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A study of metonymy in compliments to the female gender in Russian youth speech (In comparison with Chinese youth speech materials)

К вопросу изучения метонимического переноса в комплиментах в адрес представительниц женского пола в речи российской молодёжи (в сопоставлении с материалами речи китайской молодёжи)

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Abstract

This article is devoted to metonymy in the lexical units of compliments to the female gender in youth speech of Russian. Metonymy, as one of the tropes, is an important means of semantic change and replenishing the lexical stock of youth speech. This paper collects complimentary expressions using metonymy in modern Russian youth speech, divided into 6 different lexical-semantic groups through component analysis. The purpose is to analyze the cognitive-semantic features of metonymy in Russian and compare its similarities with Chinese compliments for females in youth speech. As a result of the study, the following is shown: 1) metonymy, as a common means of semantic change, is widely used in youth speech; 2) metonymy of adjectives is more frequently used in compliments for females in youth speech based on the cause-and-result relationship between features of objects; 3) metonymization is closely related to extra-linguistic factors, in which reflected the aesthetic standards of youth for female; 4) the comparison with Chinese materials shows the similar metonymization of youth speech in two languages as well as differences in expressions, which reflects the connection of metonymy with the national, linguistic picture of the world.

Аннотация

Данная статья посвящена метонимии в лексических единицах комплиментов женскому полу в молодёжной речи российской молодёжи. Метонимия, будучи одним из тропов, является важным средством семантического переноса, а также средством пополнения лексического запаса молодёжной речи. В работе собраны комплиментарные выражения с употреблением метонимии в современной речи российской молодёжи, выделены 6 лексико-семантических групп посредством компонентного анализа в целях анализа когнитивно-семантических характеристик метонимии в молодёжной речи, а также сопоставляются сходные лексические единицы в речи китайской и российской молодёжи. В результате исследования выделено следующее: 1) метонимия в качестве одного из средств семантического переноса широко применяется в молодёжной речи; 2) в молодёжной речи чаще всего наблюдаются метонимия прилагательных на основе отношения признак – признак его каузатора / результата; 3) метонимический перенос тесным образом связан с внеязыковыми факторами, в котором отражается эстетическое восприятие молодого поколения; 4) сопоставление материалов китайского и русского языков показывает сходный механизм работы метонимии в двух языках, а также

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различия в переносных выражениях, что отражает связь метонимии с национальной языковой картиной мира.

Ключевые слова: комплимент, молодёжная речь, метонимический перенос, женский пол, русский язык.

Introduction

As a common sociolinguistic phenomenon, compliments are extensively used in daily communications. The term 恭维语 (compliment) in Chinese corresponds to the Russian term комплимент. However, definitions of which in the two languages are slightly different: in Chinese, it is understood as “to ingratiate someone with laudatory expressions” (China Academy of Social Sciences, 2002); while in Russian, it means “polite, pleasant expressions, laudatory comments” (Ozhegov & Shvedova, 1996). There is a motivation difference between the two terms, despite which the laudatory and praiseful aspects of compliments are emphasized in Russian and Chinese languages. Therefore, this article generally comprehends compliments as words and expressions with positive, laudatory meanings.

In modern communication, compliments represent a basic conceptual category of speech activities with many similarities in different languages. Among all these similarities, gender characteristic is one of the most significant aspects that attracts many researchers' attention in recent years' linguistic study. As J. Holmes mentioned (1988), women give and receive significantly more compliments than men.

In modern sociolinguistic theories, youth speech is interpreted as a variant of standard language, on the one hand, being under the influence of physiological and psychological characteristics of young people. However, on the other hand, it is affected by the rapid development of modern information technology and the multi-cultural atmosphere in the context of globalization. These factors lead to the distinctive features of youth speech – the chasing of catch words and unconventional expressions. Furthermore, compliments also play a significant role in youth speech as an important component of speech activities. Among these, complimentary expressions for the female gender count for a large proportion.

Metonymy is generally interpreted as a rhetorical device that consists of the regular or occasional transfer of an object from one class or a single

object to the object of another class or another single object, associated with the given one by contiguity or involvement in the same situation (Iartseva, 1990). Metonymy is considered a basic model of polysemy in Russian linguistics (Shmelev, 1973; Novikov, 1982; Apresyan, 1995). As a kind of trope, metonymy is closely connected with lexical semantics and is an important means of forming neologism. As mentioned above, there is a large number of catchwords and unconventional expressions in youth speech. Among them, many are formed through metonymic transfer. It is an effective means of replenishing the lexical stock of youth speech.

Therefore, this paper collects words and phrases constituted by metonymic transfer in compliments for the female gender in modern youth speech of Russian. In this paper, we describe the cognitive-semantic characteristics of complimentary expressions of youth speech utilizing component analysis and divide materials into 6 lexical-semantic groups.

Language materials chosen for this article are mainly from the dictionary of Russian youth slang, jargon, and catchwords; and the dictionary of network buzzwords: Dictionary of popular and colloquial speech of the city Arkhangelsk, volume 2, part 2, youth jargon of Arkhangelsk (Morozova, 2019), Dictionary of youth slang (Zakharova, 2014), New Russian-Chinese Slang Dictionary (Ding, 2008), etc., complemented with electronic dictionaries and corpora.

In addition, the article also conducts dynamic collection from major youth user-oriented social media platforms to ensure the currency of the materials, mainly referring to the postings and statements of users on the platforms like Twitter and Vkontakte.

Theoretical Framework

Basic units of lexical-semantic descriptions

Speaking of component analysis, we must first introduce the basic concepts in describing lexical

semantics. It is well known that the main unit of the lexical-semantic system is the word; as a combination of sign and meaning, it is a constituent part of the language system and a mapping of the real world. These two aspects are also reflected in the study of lexical meanings: lexical meanings are systematic, governed by paradigmatic and syntagmatic relations, and the influence of extra-linguistic factors must also be taken into account in the process of lexical meaning study.

In the context of structuralism, words are divided into morphemes, the smallest phonological-semantic combinations; accordingly, lexical meaning, as a complex object of semantic study, is also dismantled into basic units: the seme and the sememe. Sememe is the meaning of a lexeme, while seme is the smallest semantic component of a lexeme, which consists of sememe (Sun, 2015).

The understanding of lexeme is relatively nonconsensual, as V.V. Vinogradov (1938), in his early works, used the term lexeme to describe a system of forms that express the corresponding meaning, while the word as the smallest element of sentences, i.e., with a specific meaning and form in context. However, in his later works, the term "word" was used instead of the original lexeme. The term "word" was replaced by the lexical form of the word in order to maintain the unity of linguistic terminology (Vinogradov, 1938).

L. A. Novikov (1982) adopted another term – a lexical-semantic variant of the word, the basic constituent unit of the lexical-semantic system, which differs in lexical meaning between variants but has the same form. The lexical-semantic unit is a combination of form and meaning, and L. A. Novikov regards lexeme and sememe as the signifier and the signified of the lexical-semantic variant.

In addition, as mentioned above, words can be divided into morphemes, and different morphemes also have their meanings, called morpheme meanings. The relationship between seme, sememe, and morpheme meanings is close and complex. Seme, rather than a lexical component, is a linguistic-theoretical building block generalized to facilitate the depiction of semantic relationships among linguistic units (Zhang, 2011). A seme can be derived from comparing sememes, which correspond one-to-one to lexical-semantic units. At the same time, morpheme meanings correspond to morphemes,

which do not necessarily manifest themselves in sememe.

Cognitive-semantic features of metonymy

In Russian linguistics, polysemy and metonymy are the semantic relations in language. They provide a convenient way of preserving information and linguistic economy, meaning one sign can mean many objects, properties, and phenomena (Krasina & Novikova, 2019). While modern cognitive linguistics views metonymy as a kind of salience in the same cognitive model (Lakoff, 1987; Taylor, 1995; Panther & Radden, 1999), replacing the object with its most obvious feature.

The Russian scholar E. V. Padoucheva in her study of dynamic analyses of lexical semantics (2004), argues that metonymic transfer is caused by shifting the focus from one participant of conceptual structure to another, raising the communicative rank of the former and lowering the rank of the latter. For example, verbs generally have two participants in their conceptual structure: agent and patient. In metonymic transfer, the focus of the word changes from the agent to the patient or vice versa, and the meaning of the word changes accordingly.

E. V. Rakhilina (2010) adds to E. V. Padoucheva that metonymic transfer includes a shift in the focus of lexical participants and a shift in the focus of the verb from process to result. For instance, "walked over a thousand hills" - "walked over", where "over" in the former emphasizes a process, and the latter emphasizes the result. The author believes that adjectives can also be metonymic transfer.

However, for adjectives, there is only one participant: the noun, so E. V. Rakhilina suggests that adjectives have implicit participants: participant of participant (part-whole relations, etc.) or spatio-temporal participant (Rakhilina, 2010).

Adjectival metaphors can be divided into the following.

- 1) Partial characteristics → overall characteristics
- 2) Individual characteristics → overall characteristics
- 3) characteristics → the time/place when / where it is implemented
- 4) characteristics → the causer or the result of the characteristics

- 5) characteristics → specific demonstration of the characteristics
- 6) Size → Distance

As noted above, the nature of metonymy is the semantic change resulting from a change of focus in the cognitive model from one participant to another. Described in rhetorical terms, it will be substituting a vehicle for a tenor. Based on the component analysis, collected materials can be divided into lexical-semantic groups, aggregating the same part of speech with common semis. By dividing the lexical-semantic groups, it is possible to observe the process of metonymic transfer based on a word with similar sememes, i.e., to analyze the substitution process of tenors based on similar vehicles.

The reason for not dividing materials based on the metonymical types that the scholars mentioned above in this paper already summarize is that it is difficult to present all types of metonymies limited by collected language materials.

Besides that, divided lexical-semantic groups allow for a better observation of the common types of metonymic transfer in youth speech, reflecting their cognitive-semantic characteristics.

According to the collected materials in this paper, six lexical-semantic groups were divided through component analysis, and their main composition is noun or adjective + noun phrase.

Results and Discussion

Table 1.
Lexical-semantic group “beautiful”

Russian	Literal translation	Interpretation
Крутая герла	cool girl	beautiful girl.
Сасная девушка	sassy girl	very pretty, seductive girl, from the English word "sassy" (saucy, confident).
няша / няшка / няшная	“meow” girl	beautiful and sexy girl. “Ня-” from the Japanese word for meow.
Няшная телка	“meow” heifers	a young, beautiful, and nice girl

(The table is made by the authors of this article)

In the lexical-semantic group, "beautiful" exist typical expression formed by metonymic transfer.

The Russian expression *крутая герла* (“cool girl”) is used to describe the beautiful appearance of a young lady. The adjective *крутой* usually means “decisive, impressive” when describing a person. In the case of referring to a young lady, a metonymic transfer of the word can be observed in its semantic change: when used in compliment to a female, the focus of this word shifts from the “general impression” to the “feature of appearance”, the seme [beautiful] is a cause of the original seme [impressive], in this word, there is a transfer from characteristics to the cause of this characteristics.

In the second example, the adjective *сасный* originally means “saucy, overbold”, and is generally used to describe the "character trait" of a person. Furthermore, in some situations, it transferred to the meaning “confident”, which is the opposite comment of similar behavior. When this word is used for female, from this sememe derived the sememe [pretty], [sexy]. In the process of semantic change, the focus is

transferred from the “character trait” to “the feature of appearance”, where the “beauty of appearance generally generates the "confidence". In other words, there is a transfer from the characteristics to the cause of these characteristics.

While the metonymic transfer in the third and fourth examples is slightly different from those mentioned above, the word *няшный* is formed based on metonymic transfer: its root morpheme *ня-* gets the meaning “meow” in the Japanese language. In the word-formation process, the focus transfers from the sound characteristics of a cat to its appearance features, from which derived the semes [cute], [soft], and [beautiful]. When this word is used for females, there is a metaphorical transfer based on metonymic transfer, which compared the appearance characteristics of a female with a cat, and the words *няша/няшка/няшная* got their sememes beautiful and sexy girl.

Furthermore, the phrase *няшная телка* is also based on both metonymic and metaphorical transfers. The word *телка* is metaphorically used to describe a young woman. While the word

няшная, as mentioned above, is formed based on metonymic and metaphorical transfers, this

complimentary expression is formed by complicated semantic transfer.

Table 2.
Lexical-semantic group “cute”

Russian	Literal translation	Interpretation
тян / тянка	chan	lovely girl, from the Japanese word “ちゃん,” a suffix used to indicate intimate address, usually for younger subjects.
чика / чикса / чикуля	chick	lovely and beautiful girl.
цыпочка	little chicken	
мальшка	kid	lovely girl.
малая	small	
крошка	crumbs	a very cute little girl.
Дюймовочка	Thumbelina	a cute and pretty little girl.

(The table is made by the authors of this article)

The Russian word *тянка* (“chan”) consists of the root *тян-* and the suffix *-к* indicating feminine. The formation of this word is also based on metonymic transfer, where the focus of root morpheme *тян-* in this word is transferred from “the address of a younger person” to “age characteristics”, highlighting the seme [young] of the object. In contrast, based on this, in Russian, this morpheme refers in particular to females, which transfers the focus from [age characteristics] to the “feature of appearance”, from which derived the seme [cute]. That is a transfer from characteristics to the result of these characteristics.

Likewise, the words *чика*, *цыпочка*, and *мальшка* have the same seme [young], which when referring to a female, the focus transfers from “age characteristics” to “feature of appearance”, from which derived the seme

[cute]. Moreover, based on metonymic transfer, the words *чика* and *цыпочка* are metaphorically used to describe females, comparing lovely young girl with “chick” and “little chicken”. These examples also belong to the transfer from characteristics to the result of these characteristics.

While the examples *малая* (small), *крошка* (crumbs), and *Дюймовочка* (Thumbelina) have the same seme [small], which in these examples transfers the focus from “form characteristics” to the “features of appearance, visual feature”, metonymically connecting the seme of [small] with [cute]. Furthermore, except for the metonymic transfer, the word *Дюймовочка* (Thumbelina) obtained its sememe “cute and pretty little girl” as well based on metaphorical transfer, which compared the female figure with a thumb.

Table 3.
Lexical-semantic group “sexy and charming”

Russian	Literal translation	Interpretation
Конкретный агрегат	fitting equipment	Sexy and charming girl. The literal meaning of the word <i>агрегат</i> is equipment or device.

(The table is made by the authors of this article)

In the lexical-semantic group “sexy and charming”, the Russian word *конкретный агрегат* is used to describe the body shape of a woman: the original meaning of the word *агрегат* is the combination of several different types of machines or devices. At the same time, in this situation, it refers to “fitness equipment”. Moreover, in this lexical-semantic group, this word obtains its sememe “sexy and charming girl”. In the process of metonymic transfer, the focus of the situation “getting charming body

shape through using fitness equipment” transfer from “equipment” to “the charming body shape”, the two partitions of this situation are associated with the cause-and-result relationship.

In addition, the adjective *конкретный* in this phrase is also metonymically transferred. That is because the original meaning of *конкретный* is “specific”, which is derived from the sememe “good, great, with high quality” in the youth discourse. Moreover, in the process of

transferring, the focus of this word shifts from "behavioral features" (speaking specific words and doing specific things) to "evaluation".

Therefore, it is also a transfer from characteristics to the result of this characteristic.

Table 4.
Lexical-semantic group "kind"

Russian	Literal translation	Interpretation
галабобер	a girl like a beaver	Very kind, animal-loving girl. In Russian, <i>Гала</i> is a common name for women; <i>бобер</i> means beaver.

(The table is made by the authors of this article)

An example in this lexical-semantic group clearly shows that the meaning of morphemes does not correspond to sememes. In Russian, the word *галабобер* is composed of the root morpheme *гала-* and *-бобер*. *Гала-* is a common name for a female, and the original meaning of the morpheme *-бобер* is a beaver. The sememe of this lexical-semantic variant is the combination of these two morphemes by metonymic transfer.

The root morpheme *-бобер* gained the seme [animal] through replacing the whole with the individual. In this example, as a result of focus transferring, the participant "person" of the situation, "a person who loves animals", takes the center position instead of the participant "animal", based on which the morpheme derived the semes [animal-loving person], [kind].

In particular, the root morpheme *гала-* derived its seme [women] by substituting the individual for the whole, *гала-* as a representative, standing for the whole group of females.

Furthermore, by the combination of the metonymically transferred meaning of morphemes, the word *галабобер* obtained its sememe "a girl, who is very kind, loves animals".

Table 5.
Lexical-semantic group "dressed in style"

Russian	Literal translation	Interpretation
хипстерша	hipster girl	very fashionable girl, with an iPad, Starbucks coffee, and skateboard.
продвинутая	advanced girl	the girl who knows about fashion very well.
элегантушка	elegant woman	gorgeously-dressed female

(The table is made by the authors of this article)

In the lexical-semantic group "dressed in style", the word *хипстерша* (hipster girl) is formed by metonymic transfer of its morphemes, in which including the root morpheme *хипстер-* (representative of the hipster subculture) and the suffix *-ш* used about women. The Russian word *хипстер* has come from the English word "hip" (hipster culture), which indicates the subculture that was born in the 1940s and 1950s in opposition to the mainstream culture and was well received among youth people in those days. In today's youth speech, its original meaning was derived from the semes [popular], [trend] by transferring the focus from the name of the subculture "hipster" to "the feature of this subculture". Based on this, it transferred the overall characteristics to the individual characteristics, using this word to describe the

feature of its representative. The word *хипстерша* (hipster girl) is formed in the context of the massive popularity of the hippie culture and the young people's admiration for it.

While the second example in this group, *продвинутая* is derived from the verb *продвинуть* (move forward), which originally means "advanced, be in the forefront". In the process of semantic change, the focus transferred from the "feature of behavior (pursuit of the most modern and recently developed ideas)" to the "dress style (fashion)" of females, which belongs to the transfer of characteristics to the result of this characteristics.

Moreover, in the example *элегантушка*, the root morpheme *элегант-* (elegant) of this word

derived the sememe [gorgeously dressed] also by focus transferring, which put the “dress style” in the center instead of the “qualities

characteristics”. It is a transfer of characteristics to the cause of these characteristics.

Table 6.
Lexical-semantic group “excellent”

Russian	Literal translation	Interpretation
альфачка / альфа-самка	alpha girl	cool, confident, and beautiful women sought after by men. The word came from the initial of the Greek alphabet “α”.
топовая тьянка	top girl	the most beautiful, the best, the sweetest girl, from the English word “top”.

(The table is made by the authors of this article)

In the lexical-semantic group “excellent”, the Russian word *альфачка* (alpha girl) is formed by the root *альф-* and the suffix *-чка*, which refers to a person. The root morpheme *Альф-* is come from the initial of the Greek alphabet *α*, which obtained its seme [first] by transferring the focus from the name of this letter to the “feature of it”, and from which gained the semes [excellent], [best]. On this basis, when using to female, the formed word means the best characteristics of a female, which include [cool], [confident], and [beauty].

When it comes to the phrase *топовая тьянка*, the original meaning of the adjective *топовый* is top; in this example, it gained the seme [best] by metaphorical transfer. When it is used for female, the focus of this adjective transfer from the “overall characteristics” to the “appearance feature”, highlighting the physical characteristics of female.

Above analyzed the metonymy transfer of complimentary expression in Russian youth speech, while in Chinese youth speech, there are similar transfers, so below is a comparative analysis in both languages.

In Chinese, the word *正妹*, which translates into “correct” sister, is used to describe a woman with good (correct) facial features and a beautiful appearance. The metonymization of the word *正* is the opposite of *крутой* in the example *крутая герла*, which is the transfer of characteristics to the result of this characteristic (the good facial features led to the pleasant external appearance).

In Chinese youth speech also metonymically associated “small” with “cute”, e.g., *小姐姐* (little sister), *小仙女* (little fairy), *小美女* (little beauty), etc. The brackets show the literal translations of these examples, which have the

same meaning – cute girl, just like those examples in Russian: *тян*, *чика*, *цыпочка*, *малышка*, etc., also belongs to the transfer of characteristics to the results of these characteristics. However, it can be noted that unlike the Russian language, where mostly the two sememes of “small” – [young age] and [petite figure] are expressed separately (except for the example *малая*), in Chinese, they are more closely related. For instance, the word *тян* associated [young age] with [cute], while *крошка* [petite figure] with [cute]; while the word *小* of the example *小姐姐* can on the one side emphasizes [young age] of the cutie girl, on the other side – hers [petite figure].

In addition, Chinese youth speech prefers to associate “cute” with “soft”, e.g., *软萌* (soft and cute), *软妹* (soft sister), which are formed by metonymic transfer based on tactile metaphor. This process is similar to the example *няша/няшная* in Russian, but the order of metonymic and metaphorical transfer is slightly different. As mentioned above, the word *няша* is formed by metaphorical transfer based on metonymy. While in the two examples of Chinese youth speech compared the character of a person with an object that does not have sharp angles or hard edges, on this basis, the word *软* (soft) obtain the sememe [gentle] and [nice], which describe the feature of temper or personality. While in these two examples, the focus transfers from the “character feature” to “a whole feature of person”, transferring the characteristic to the results of this characteristic, giving this word a new sememe [cute]. Multiple semantic transfers form these examples in both Russian and Chinese. Though the vehicles of metaphors are different, they emphasize similar features of this vehicle and use these features to describe the overall character of a girl.

Analogous to *xунстепуа* in the semantic group of “fashion” in Chinese youth speech, the word 洋气 (*foreign flavor*), where the word 洋 obtains its sememe [popular] by a similar semantic transfer. The original meaning of the word 洋 is wide water, such as 海洋, which means ocean. While it has another sememe [foreign(country)], e. g.: 东洋, which means orient foreign countries, and 西洋 – western foreign countries by metonymization – replace the names of other countries by their positional features (over the oceans). In the youth speech, the sememe [foreign] is further metonymically transferred to [popular], [novel], where “a whole characteristic of a region” is transferred to “the characteristic of an individual in this region”. In contrast, the example in Russian *xунстепуа* transferred the focus from “a whole characteristic of a subculture” to “the characteristic of an individual, who represents this subculture”. Both belong to the transfer from overall characteristics to individual characteristics. Furthermore, these examples fully reflect the influence of the extra-linguistic factors: *xунстепуа* (hipster girl) obtained its metonymic sememe [fashionable/trendy girl] in the context of the massive popularity of hippie culture among young people in the world. In contrast, the metonymic meaning of 洋气 (*foreign flavor*) is closely related to the low productivity of China in the first half of the 20th century.

Similar to the example *альфачка* (*alpha girl*) in Russian youth speech, in Chinese, the expression 超 A 的 (*super A*), which means “handsome, aggressive”, when used for female. The word “A” in this expression comes from the first Greek letter “alpha”. It obtains its sememe [first] from the postural characteristics of this letter. And then in youth speech, this sememe of this word metonymically transferred to the features of the human, female gender, which in Chinese obtain the sememes [leadership], [aggressive], [cool]; while in Russian – [cool], [self-confident], [beautiful]. Although the processes of semantic transfer in two languages are similar and the vehicles of two metonymies and metaphors are the same, it can be found that the transferred meanings are not the same in both languages. The Russian language emphasizes more on the characteristics of an outstanding female, while the Chinese language concentrates on highlighting their masculinities.

The above comparative analysis of the complimentary expressions for the female gender in Russian and Chinese youth speech leads to the followings:

In complimentary expressions of youth speech of both Chinese and Russian languages observed, lexical units with a metonymic transfer share a similar metonymization mainly manifested as the transfer from characteristics to the result of this characteristic and from overall characteristics to individual characteristics. It shows that metonymy, as a universal linguistic and cognitive phenomenon, is widely used in youth discourse.

In addition, a semantic transfer is a complicated process, usually not always completed by a single metonymic or metaphorical transfer but by combining the two. That can be proved by the examples of Russian and Chinese youth speeches.

As a variant of the standard language, youth speech, despite its willingness to be different, is based on standard language. Nation's linguistic, social, and historical factors subtly influence speech behavior. For example, the two sememes of 小 (*small*) in Chinese and the different expressions in Russian; and the extra-linguistic factors reflected behind the expressions 洋 (*foreign*) and *xунстепуа* (*hipster girl*).

There are a lot of borrowed words in youth speeches of both languages, such as *сасный*, *хунстеп* from the word *хунстепуа*, *альфа* from the word *альфачка*, etc. Some semantic transfers happened in the original languages of these borrowed words. For example, “sassy” and “hip” of *сасный* and *хунстепуа* already have the sememes [beautiful] and [popular] in the English youth speech. At the same time, some words obtained their new sememes only after they entered the new language. For instance, [cute] of the expression *тян / тянка* in Russian, unlike Japanese, which only means a gentle address; and “alfa” in expressions 超 A 的 and *альфачка* in two languages obtained different sememes.

Conclusions

With the discussion and analysis above, the followings are observed:

- 1) Metonymy, as an important means of replenishing the lexical stock, has many applications in youth speech. Metonymic transfer in complimentary expressions for female gender of Russian youth speech is mainly formed by adjectives, with a small number of nouns.
- 2) In the adjective metonymy, the most common mode is “transfer of the characteristic to the result or cause of this characteristic”, occurring through the causal

connection between the metonymy's vehicle and the tenor. Besides that, the metonymic transfer in the word-formation process can be observed, where most use the object to replace the feature of itself, giving the morpheme the adjective meaning to describe the female gender.

- 3) The process of metonymical derivation is closely connected with extra-linguistic factors and reflects the female aesthetics of youth; we can see many qualities of the female gender are highlighted in the metonymization of these examples. Such as the "beautiful and confident" in *сасный*, the "young" and "diminutive figure" in *крошка* and *чика* and other examples, and the "charming body line" in the example *конкретный агрегат*, etc.
- 4) It can be noted that a large part of the compliments for the female gender in Russian youth speech is oriented towards their appearance, emphasizing their beauty, sexiness, or loveliness; a small part of the compliments is directed at women's clothing. Even the most common positive expressions *альфа-* and *тоновой*, which do not have a specific object of compliment, in complimentary expressions for the female gender emphasize women's physical appearance. That is a result of the traditional female aesthetic, where women's appearance is always the object of compliments, and women are used to complimenting each other's appearance (Coates, 1994).
- 5) In the complimentary expressions in youth speech also reflect a subtle change in the Russian youth's aesthetics of the female gender, emphasizing their self-confidence and courage to pursue fashion, such as *сасная*, *хипстера*, *альфачка*, etc. Of course, there are other expressions, but this article is limited to analyzing the lexical units with a metonymic transfer, which presents just a part of the complimentary expressions in youth speech.

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