

PHILOLOGY

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The image of females in Russian and English proverbs

It is described the image of females that exists in Russian and English proverbs. The analysis is based on comparative semantic and linguocultural analyses. It reveals the universality and specificity of the conventionally fixed representations of women in both cultures. In Russian and English cultures, proverbs about women describe the main stages of their life and position in the society, reflecting the importance of pointing to the social gender. Such proverbs are used to regulate women's further behaviour and social roles in society and family. Russian and English proverbial funds reveal a wide range of means for direct and indirect nomination of females, the latter are associated with stereotypical ideas about gender. A great number of different means of nomination shows the intersection of the zoomorphic, subject and anthropomorphic codes of both cultures.

Key words: proverb, gender, semantics, linguoculture, associations, stereotypes, universality, ethnospecificity.

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