

PHILOLOGY

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Word *VIRAGO* and its derivatives in the history of English military vocabulary

The article describes the semantic and etymological features of the lexeme “virago”, as well as its derivatives and related words denoting a female warrior and describing her appearance, character and moral qualities. It is noted that the history of the word “virago”, its derivatives and related words reflects changes in the perception of gender roles and stereotypes in Western culture, and poets and writers played a significant role in the evolution of the language, enriching the English language with borrowings, new meanings and neologisms. The word “virago” has often been used to describe aggressive, domineering, or "masculine" behavior of a woman that goes beyond traditional norms, emphasizing the unacceptability of such behavior. It is shown that in modern English the word "virago" is rare, archaic and is used mainly in historical or literary contexts to describe a woman who shows strength, determination or independence, sometimes with a touch of irony, criticism and in a feminist context.

Key words: virago, female warrior, English military vocabulary, extralinguistic factors, semantic evolution, etymology.

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