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**Bachelor's Paper**

**FRIEND :: ENEMY OPPOSITION IN MODERN ENGLISH**

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## CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CHAPTER I. THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF VABULARY AS A GENERAL LINGUISTIC PROBLEM.....</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1. The concept of lexical-semantic field in linguistic.....	5
1.2. The structure of the lexical-semantic field.....	10
Conclusions to the 1 <sup>st</sup> chapter.....	12
<b>CHAPTER II. OPPOSITION AS A METHOD OF LINGUISTIC RESEARCH.....</b>	<b>14</b>
2.1. Opposition theory.....	14
2.2. Types of oppositions at the lexical-semantic level of language and its stylistic techniques.....	16
Conclusions to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> chapter.....	20
<b>CHAPTER III. THE CONCEPTS OF FRIEND AND ENEMY IN MODERN ENGLISH.....</b>	<b>22</b>
3.1. General characteristics of concepts "friend" and "enemy".....	22
3.2. The analysis of FRIEND/ENEMY opposition.....	25
Conclusions to the 3 <sup>d</sup> chapter.....	32
<b>CONCLUSIONS.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>APPENDICES.....</b>	<b>41</b>

## INTRODUCTION

Modern society is extremely complex and diverse, attracting the attention of researchers from various fields of science. One of the key aspects that shape our community is the interaction between people, which is reflected in language and culture. The words and concepts we use to describe interpersonal relationships evoke certain associations, reproduce our ideas about how we relate to other people, and determine our actions and reactions.

The study of systematic relations in the vocabulary is one of the urgent issues of modern linguistics. The concepts of "friend" and "enemy" are included in the basic semantic inventory of any culture. The interest in these concepts is determined by the fact that when studying them, one can identify the foundations on which the norms of the relationship between friends and enemies are born. The concepts of "friend" and "enemy" were explored by Carl Schmitt, Roman Jakobson, Eve Clark, Sergueï Sakhno, Nicole Tersis, Ian Cook, Jacques Derrida and many others. However, the concepts of "friend" and "enemy" from a linguistic point of view have not been sufficiently studied yet.

**The relevance** of the study: this work is devoted to the study of FRIEND/ENEMY opposition in Modern English. The relevance of this bachelor paper is determined by the fact that the existence of friends and enemies is an integral part of human existence and if we want to understand the concepts of "friend" and "enemy", we have to study it not only from the view of sociology, politology and psychology, but also from the linguistic view. Understanding and analyzing this opposition will allow us to better understand the role and meaning of these concepts in speech and interpersonal relations, as well as reveal their influence on the formation of our community.

**The aim** of the research is the study of the lexical-semantic field of concepts of "friend" and "enemy", the study of their semantic characteristics, the study of ways of expressing this opposition in language and the disclosure of its influence on interpersonal attitudes and communication. The work aims to enrich linguistic research and contribute to the understanding and improvement of communication in our society.

**The objectives** of the work are following: giving the definitions of lexical field and explaining its structure; describing the opposition theory with the types of oppositions along with its stylistic techniques; explaining the concepts of "friend" and "enemy" and identification of signs on the basis of which the structure of two antonymous concepts is formed, based on the selected linguistic material - in this way the core and periphery of the concepts will be determined.

**The object** of the study is FRIEND/ENEMY opposition in Modern English.

**The subject** of the research is lexical and semantic features of FRIEND/ENEMY opposition in Modern English.

**The methods** in the work are following: analysis that includes text searching, comparison, classification, generalization, semantic analysis that focuses on the study of the meaning of words and their relationship, pragmatic analysis that examines the use of language in specific communicative situations, discursive analysis that analyzes linguistic material at the text or discourse level and syntactic analysis that examines the role and relationship of words in a sentence.

**The novelty** of the study: this work is one of an attempt at the analysis of lexical units that make up the core and periphery in FRIEND/ENEMY opposition as well as the analysis of this opposition from different points of view.

**The practical significance** of the work includes different aspects, such as literature, as it contributes to a deeper understanding of the plots and emotional aspects of the works; media and politics, as it helps to critically perceive information, to distinguish between manipulative techniques and to understand how this opposition can be used to influence society; cultural and intercultural communication; interpersonal relations, as it promotes the development of emotional intelligence and social skills.

**The language** data of the research includes different books of modern English and American writers, articles and Internet sources that relate to the chosen topic of the bachelor paper.

**The structure** of the bachelor paper consists of the introduction, three parts with the conclusions to each part, the conclusions to the work and references.

# CHAPTER I. THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF VOCABULARY AS A GENERAL LINGUISTIC PROBLEM

## 1.1. The concept of lexical-semantic field in linguistics

A review of the literature of the past decades, devoted to the development of theoretical issues of lexical semantics, in particular the lexical-semantic field, shows the constant interest of researchers in the principles of combining lexemes into various lexical-semantic structures.

The semantic field is a system through which semantic changes in language are studied. Field theory is more than a hundred years old, but this does not reduce the interest of scientists in its study. The patterns of semantic connections between language units and the systematic nature of vocabulary were written about in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. (H. Ipsen, R. Meyer, M. Pokrovsky, O. Potebnia, etc.).

It seems that the study of language as a system has found its successful embodiment in the field method. Combinations of words into semantic fields are especially relevant for creating ideographic dictionaries, as well as computer lexicographic sources; semantic fields are used in the process of teaching foreign languages [23].

The term itself was first used by G. Ipsen, who defined the field in linguistics as a set of words that have a common meaning. [40].

W. Porzig examines the "semantic field" by examining words as independent linguistic units based on the connection of their meanings, which are revealed in phrases and words. The scientist tried to reveal the connections embedded in the meanings of the words themselves (for example, "*to kiss*" is connected with "*lips*", "*to grab*" is connected with "*a hand*"). W. Porzig's fields are simple relations consisting of a verb and a subject or an object or an adjective and a noun. At the same time, the words capable of expressing signs and performing a predicative function, i.e. verbs and adjectives, are dominant [51].

J. Trier used the terms "lexical field" and "semantic field" together for the first time. As noted by E. Koseriu and H. Heckeler, J. Trier did not clearly formulate the differences between these two types of fields, but, most likely, by the conceptual field

he meant the content side of the lexical field. Thus, the lexical field is actually one of the varieties of the semantic field.

The basis of Trier's concept is the idea of language as an independent closed system that determines the essence of all its constituent parts. Language demarcates the world that exists in human consciousness in the form of a certain system of concepts. This system is the content side of the language.

Any such field in the conceptual field corresponds to a lexical field, which in turn consists of a set of individual words. Lexical fields completely cover words with the corresponding meaning and thereby delineate their boundaries.

On the other hand, the belonging of words to a specific conceptual field determines the composition of the lexical field, which exists as an independent unit and occupies an intermediate position between the language system in general and a single word. The independence of such units, according to J. Trier, lies in the fact that individual words are not the only carriers of meaning. Each of them has a corresponding meaning because other words adjacent to it, included in the same field, have a similar meaning. In this regard, a person can understand a single word if the entire field of verbal signs is present in his consciousness, that is, the word has meaning only within the whole field and thanks to this whole field.

An important point of J. Trier's concept is the assertion of the existence of a strict (practically unambiguous) correlation between the system of concepts (logical components) and field structures in the vocabulary, the existence of an unambiguous distinction between a concept and a lexeme [56, p. 55–57].

Only a verb and an adjective can be a nuclear element of the "semantic field", the field itself includes those linguistic elements that are connected with the nuclear one. Therefore, the "semantic field" is based on the valence properties of words and is a syntagmatic formation.

Worthy of attention is the opinion of F. Zhilko, who defined the semantic field as a complex functional system-structural unit of the lexico-semantic level. He emphasized that combining words into a lexical-semantic field is possible only in the

presence of common semantic sems that provide semantic-meaningful connections within the formed unit [11, p. 125].

R.H. Robins writes that the theory of semantic fields is intended to demonstrate that the lexical composition of a language at any time of its development is not a simple accumulation of independent elements and that the meaning of words cannot always be unambiguously interpreted [52, p. 48].

As one of the most relevant issues in lexical semantics, some scientists consider the structure of the lexical-semantic field. They call the factors of understanding the lexical-semantic field as a structure that has a core and a periphery [6, p. 25].

So, the semantic field has the following characteristic properties:

- 1) the presence of semantic relations (correlations) between its constituent words;
- 2) the systemic nature of these relations;
- 3) interdependence of lexical units;
- 4) relative autonomy of the field;
- 5) continuity of designation of its semantic space;
- 6) interconnection of semantic fields within the entire lexical system.

The analysis of the specified properties of semantic fields demonstrates that by being an abstract construction they have a complex structure with the possible interpenetration of units of one class into other classes.

The main content of approaches to the analysis and description of lexical semantics is that a systematic view of the meaning of words was gradually formed, which found its expression in the "method of the semantic field". According to the definition of W. Porzig, a lexicon, or a dictionary, is a collection of vocabulary. The corpus of vocabulary (in other words, the entire vocabulary of the language) is built on a hierarchical basis. It is divided into groups of words - semantic fields, which, in turn, are divided into smaller lexical-semantic groups, families, combinations of words, individual words [51].

R. Meyer, for example, distinguishes three types of semantic fields [47]:

- 1) natural (names of trees, animals, body parts, etc.);

- 2) artificial (names of military ranks, component parts of mechanisms, etc.);
- 3) semi-artificial (terminology of hunters and fishermen, ethical concepts).

S. Denisova notes that the semantic structure of the field (core-peripheral structure in the language) is formed not by the signs of binary opposition (relevance or irrelevance), but by the principle of gradation - the degree of detection of features with a center consisting of features of a high degree of determinism, and the periphery is a phenomenon with a high level of variability [9, p. 65].

M. Zhgenti notes that the semantic order of the verbal field is determined by a semantic feature - the verbal meaning of the units that make up its composition. The researcher proposes the technique of "semantic signs" which allows us to compare the structural and semantic organizations of the fields of different languages [8, p. 17–20].

Semantic fields belonging to different languages present the structural organization of the surrounding world, which can be verbalized with the help of language. They are ways of speech describing reality. Since the conceptual and linguistic content in the linguistic cultures of different languages varies, the semantic fields as a way of representing linguistic pictures of the world depend on the national perception of the world.

The French linguist B. Schwischay writes that the semantic field is a certain closed system that connects the lexical field and the conceptual field; to the extent that the conceptual field can be designated by a single word (rather than a paraphrase), the semantic field is the relationship between a set of special terms and a general term [54].

The semantic field can be considered as a means of representing reality, as a linguistic category, and as a method of describing the lexical composition of a language. In addition, the semantic field is a philosophical category aimed at learning about the regular connections between the phenomena of linguistic reality. Being a higher-order category, the semantic field acts in a different way as a method of system-functional analysis of language. The interpretation of this or that fragment of reality in the form of a hierarchically organized semantic space in language is represented by the most complete and adequate method of knowing the world and the most important connection between its objects [2, p. 129].

When describing semantic fields, it is important to take into account the hierarchical ordering of content components in the meaning structure. The relationships between semes are established, which are described by syntactic positions, which occupy components in the phrase and are distinguished through logical analysis and fix generic-species relations, that is, the presence of some semes necessarily implies the presence of other semes.

The semantic field is a structure of a high degree of abstraction, the formation of which occurs on the basis of the selection of a certain component of the content common to the meaning of all members of this structure, regardless of their belonging to one or another morphological category. The main criterion for the selection of semantic fields is the commonality of meanings based on the commonality of terms, while grammatical paradigmatics are not taken into account.

Traditionally, vocabulary research in the aspect of field organization is carried out in two directions:

- 1) onomasiological (from the concept);
- 2) semasiological (from the word).

The second approach is dominant as the lexical-semantic field as a group of words of the same language has a fairly close semantic connection.

Regarding various groups of vocabulary, it is worth noting the rather arbitrary use of the term "field" in linguistics. Some of the definitions provide the maximum, somewhat redundant list of features of the semantic field (semantic attraction, integrity, orderliness, mutual determination of elements, completeness, continuity, arbitrariness and blurring, others emphasize belonging to the field of words with a common component of meaning and different grammatical meaning or connection with the same topic.

So, lexical-semantic fields are characterized by the connection of words or their separate meanings, the systemic nature of these connections, which ensures the continuity of the semantic space. Each field is a kind of mosaic of words, where each individual word occupies a certain place in the lexical-semantic space. This mosaic does not coincide in different languages, because each language divides the objective

world in its own way. The national specificity of lexicosemantic fields is revealed in the number of words present in the field and in the nature of the opposition between the components of the field [2, p. 109].

### **1.2. The structure of the lexical-semantic field**

In the structure of the lexical-semantic field, linguists distinguish the following parts:

1) the core of the field, which is represented by the generic seed - a component around which the field unfolds. Since the core is a lexical expression of meanings, or semantic features, it can replace each of the members of the paradigm, being a representative of the entire paradigm;

2) the center of the field consists of units that have an integral, common value with the core and with each other;

3) the periphery of the field consists of units that are the most distant in terms of their value from the core. They detail and specify the main meaning of the field. Usually, peripheral elements are in connection with other semantic fields, forming the lexical-semantic integrity of the language system;

4) field fragments are a vertical nuclear and central-peripheral structure, which, according to its semantics, forms a separate hyper-hyponymic structure of various types [3, p. 59].

Any lexical-semantic field has a core, which includes the name of the field, closely related species name, synonyms and generic name, as well as antonyms. On the periphery of the field there are words whose semes intersect with nuclear words by separate semes [1, p. 84].

Any lexeme of interest to the researcher can be chosen as a core lexeme or a group of lexemes for the role of a field name, however, the results of the analysis may be limited if the lexeme is chosen unsuccessfully, if it does not have the properties of attracting a large number of lexemes. Belonging to the core or periphery directly depends on the semantics of words, which determines their meaning and place in the lexical-semantic field.

Field functions are distributed between the core and the periphery: one part of the functions goes to the core, and the other goes to the periphery. There is no clear boundary between the core and peripheral zones. The constituent elements of a field can belong to the core of one field, while simultaneously being on the periphery of another. The periphery of the field is composed of units that are the most distant in terms of their value from the core. They detail and specify the main meaning of the field.

The field principle of the organization of the language system testifies to the mandatory presence of the periphery in each field. No linguistic phenomenon can consist only of the core, because the periphery is the same full-fledged element of lexical meaning as the core [6, p. 26].

As one of the most relevant issues in lexical semantics, F. Batsevich considers the structure of the lexical-semantic field. He calls the understanding of the lexical-semantic field as a structure that has a core and a periphery as a factor that unites the views of researchers. The researcher proposes the technique of "semantic features", which allows to compare the structural and semantic organizations of the fields of different languages [3, p. 64].

The semantic space is organized differently in languages, the number of cells within the lexical-semantic field does not coincide, and therefore the meanings of corresponding words do not coincide. The core contains the most important words, they are connected with each other by strong semantic relations and form synonymous, antonymic and genus-species groups [7, p. 38]. The periphery contains functionally less important words that, as a rule, also belong to another lexical-semantic field. Within the lexical-semantic field, lexical-semantic groups are distinguished, for example, in the temporal lexical-semantic field:

- 1) names of inexact time segments (time, season, period, epoch, era, etc.);
- 2) names of exact time segments (second, minute, hour, day, week, month, year, century, etc.);
- 3) names of seasons (spring, summer, autumn, winter);
- 4) names of parts of the day (morning, afternoon, evening, night);

5) names of months (January, February, etc.);

6) names of days of the week (Monday, Tuesday, etc.)

In the middle of lexical-semantic groups, even more closely related semantic associations (they are called lexical-semantic categories) synonyms, antonyms, converses, hyponyms are distinguished. Synonyms are words of the same part of the language, the meanings of which completely or partially coincide. Synonymy reflects the properties of the objective world in language, which is why it is a linguistic universal. In linguistics, there are several approaches to the study of synonymy. Some researchers focus on the identity or similarity of meanings, others on their complete or partial interchangeability in the text, and still others on their evaluative characteristics.

So, the lexical-semantic field consists of a core, nuclear and peripheral zone. The field has certain properties and develops in two directions; it can have a synonym or antonym in the middle of its structure among the lexemes used to denote the lexical-semantic field.

### **Conclusions to the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter**

The picture of the world as a set of ideas about the environment is revealed through the language structure, in particular the lexical-semantic system of language units. The system of relations of this structure is a hierarchically ordered whole with a complex structure, which is based on a semantic framework that creates a model of the lexical-semantic field. The culture of the people is verbalized in the language, it is the language that accumulates the key concepts of culture, transmitting them in a symbolic embodiment - words.

The semantic field is a compact part of the dictionary that reveals a certain "conceptual sphere" of this language. So, the semantic field is a set of mutually determined word meanings (sets of semes), united by the commonality of any conceptual sphere of language, has a certain structural and functional orientation and expresses the way of world perception of the people.

The lexical-semantic field is characterized by its structure: it consists of a core, nuclear and peripheral zone. The core contains the most important words, they are connected with each other by strong semantic relations and form synonymous,

antonymous and generic groups. The periphery is formed by functionally less important words that, as a rule, also belong to another lexical-semantic field.

It is the lexical-semantic fields that present a "linguistic picture of the world", that is, a way of reflecting reality in the human mind, which consists in perceiving this reality through the prism of linguistic and cultural-national features.

## CHAPTER II. OPPOSITION AS A METHOD OF LINGUISTIC RESEARCH

### 2.1. Opposition theory

Double perception, or the formulation of questions from the point of view of opposites, has a long tradition, starting with the understanding of such binary oppositions as "the sun - the moon" [31, p. 22].

G. E. R. Lloyd speaks of the extraordinary prevalence of opposition-based theories in many societies at various stages of technological development, which illustrates the human tendency to a binary perception of the world. He believes that contrast is an element of any classification, and the primary form of antithesis, one might say, is the division into two groups - the simplest form of classification is dualistic [45, p. 80].

Considerable attention in the linguistic literature is paid to the theory of "binary opposition", which defines a specific tool for a person's knowledge of the world around him, awareness of its essence.

The theory of binary opposition received the most rapid development in the works of structuralists. According to F. de Saussure, binary opposition is a means by which language units have meaning; each unit is defined by mutual definition with another term, as in binary code. This is not a contradictory relationship, but a structural, complementary one [14]. Binary opposition is an important concept of structuralism, which regards such differences as fundamental to all language and thought; it is a contrast between two mutually exclusive terms, such as *up/down* or *left/right* [21].

Representatives of the "Prague School" played a special role in the study of binary oppositions. For example, B. Trnka puts the idea of binary into the very concept of phoneme, according to which phonemes are defined as fundamental phonological oppositions that ensure the construction of words in the language. Phonemes contrast with each other in words and, accordingly, are able to distinguish words. Each phoneme has its options, that is, sounds in which the phoneme is realized. Options, accordingly, can be positional, occurring in a special position in the word, and free that are used independently of the phonetic environment and are substitutes for ordinary sounds

according to different pronunciation styles, or used only by certain speakers as a result of their idiolectic skills [57, p. 3–6].

However, the concept of "binary opposition" is traditionally associated with the scientific activity of N. S. Trubetzkoy [58]. in the field of phonology. After M. S. Trubetsky built a phonological methodology, the system of binary differential signs began to be used in almost all areas of structural humanitarian studies. According to S.I. Bali, binary oppositions are the fundamental conceptual oppositions that structure Western thought [22].

According to the theory of N. S. Trubetzkoy, two things can differ from each other only when they are opposed to each other, in other words, only insofar as there is a relationship of contradiction or opposition between them. Having used the term "binary opposition" for the first time, N. S. Trubetzkoy defines this phenomenon as a universal means of rational knowledge of the world, where two opposite concepts are considered at the same time, one of which affirms a certain quality, and the other denies it. [58]

D. Crystal understands opposition in phonology as a phonological term used to indicate contrasts between distinctive features of sounds, or between the presence or absence of a feature [24, p. 342]. The difference between [p] and [s], for example, can be considered as a combination of two opposites - place and manner of articulation. It should be noted that in phonology there is a distinction between the concepts of contrast and opposition, the first of which refers to differences in the chain of phonemes; the second - on differences in the phonetic system [46, p. 93].

D. Jones, who studied phonology based on the material of the English language, suggests that when a person is faced with a phonological opposition, that is, has the need to choose which of two sounds should be used to identify a certain sign, then they choose the sound that is more similar to the sign, which needs to be identified. D. Jones explains this by giving the example of [z] and [s], which are not in opposition after pauses and fricatives. For example, after an unvocalized sound in *puts* [puts], the *s* can sound like [z], but cannot be identical to *z* [z] at the beginning of a word, as in *zeal*

[zi:l], as opposed to the *s* in *seal* [si:l]. In the latter case, [z] and [s], according to D. Jones, are in a state of phonological opposition [36, p. 55].

Contrast that creates opposition can be manifested not only directly in the organization of linguistic units, but also in the organization of artistic space at the text level. In modern literary studies, the concept of "binary opposition" is one of the main ones in the analysis of a literary text [12, p. 335], since in the European cultural tradition, life is usually studied in binary oppositions, when life and death, soul and body, form and content, happiness and sorrow, etc. are opposed, and this applies not only to philosophical studies, but also to literary works.

Cultural research led to the understanding that fundamental conceptual oppositions significantly influence and even shape the field of culture. The binary archetype is an undeniable attribute of the national culture as a whole. This understanding is embedded in the specific characteristics of archaic-mythological thinking. Since at the basis of social life at the archaic stages of culture was the antithetical and antagonistic structure of society itself, when the entire world of thought is organized according to oppositions, with the help of binary analysis in national culture it is possible to reveal the experience of the people that has features being. Therefore, the question of binary oppositions is a question of the universal properties of reality itself and the universal regularities of its reflection in human consciousness. The binary model of the world is a psychological feature common to all people, besides, it is a defining feature of the modern cultural paradigm, which is characterized by an ambivalent, non-dominant consciousness.

## **2.2 Types of oppositions at the lexical-semantic and stylistic levels of language and its stylistic techniques**

The systematicity of vocabulary in the external aspect of the system is implemented in various lexical associations based on paradigmatic relations, such as synonymous and antonymous.

In the simplest form, synonyms are defined as words that have the paradigmatic relation and have the same lexical meaning, [55, p. 194].

According to A.O. Kapeliushnyi, synonyms are words denoting the same concept, common in their basic meaning, but differing in semantic nuances, or emotional and expressive coloring, or both at the same time [10, p. 26]. O.D. Ponomarov defines synonyms as words that are close or identical in meaning, which call the same concept differently. Synonymy is a complete or partial coincidence of the meanings of two or more words; the similarity of words, morphemes, and phraseological units in terms of meaning with the difference in their sound form [17, p. 52].

Synonymous words by their common meaning, which is common to them, are united in one group, which is called a synonymous nest, or a synonymous row. According to I.K. Bilodid, in the synonym nest, words are distinguished by various signs that somehow supplement the basic meaning of each synonym [4, p. 74]. Thus, according to their general meaning, synonyms are combined into one group, and according to their additional meaning, they differ from each other. So, there is every reason to consider the synonymous series as an opposition.

The next type of paradigmatic relations, which reveals the properties of lexical-semantic relations, is antonymy. Antonym pairs express opposite or incompatible meanings, that is, antonyms are words that are opposite in meaning. An example can be the pair *poor – rich*, which demonstrates that a person cannot be both rich and poor at the same time [25, p. 3]. Speaking of antonyms, researchers use the term "opposite" to indicate the semantic relationship between pairs of antonyms - that is, antonyms are words with opposite meanings [41, p. 3]. D. Crystal states that in the most general sense, antonymy denotes all types of semantic opposition, which are further divided into groups (for example, graduated antonyms, such as big - small, and ungraded antonyms, such as single – married) [24, p. 29].

The set of stylistic techniques of the opposition is united by a common content and ensures the continuity of the semantic space of the opposition. All techniques in this collection are connected to each other by relations of mutual opposition and semantic correlations of a systemic nature, which allows us to talk about such techniques as a "field", which includes not only clearly demarcated and opposed

formations, but also transitions between such formations that blur the boundaries between them.

The core of the generalized and typified ways of expressing opposition at the stylistic level is the antithesis - a rhetorical figure consisting in a deliberately emphasized juxtaposition of two opposite but interrelated concepts, phenomena, things, ideas and images to enhance impressions for greater persuasiveness [18].

The rhetorical figure of antithesis is based on the philosophical understanding of the world as a unity of opposites [18]. The main goal of the antithesis is the deliberate demonstration of opposition (contrast) and it is achieved by the interaction of several symmetrically located oppositions, the range of paradigmatic characteristics of which is extremely large. The contrastive essence of the compared subjects of language is also emphasized by the mutual actualization of opposite relations of 2-3 pairs of lexical antonyms. *"That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."* (Neil Armstrong).

The stylistic technique of the synthesis of opposites, carried out by combining words contrasting in meaning, which by a number of features logically exclude each other, but in unity give a new concept, is an oxymoron [5, p. 6], which consists in the deliberate combination of words with opposite or simply mutually exclusive meanings to express a new integral concept or a separate phenomenon, drawing attention to its contradictory nature in its original form [19, p. 400]. The components of this figure are aimed at creating the effect of expressing the speaker's feelings [15, p. 72]. O.O. Selivanova defines an oxymoron as a stylistic figure based on a combination of opposite, semantically incompatible concepts in the creation of a new concept [13, p. 235].

An oxymoron is a rather expressive stylistic device: using a minimum of speech means, it characterizes the complexity, internal contradiction of the described object or fact, makes it possible to show the dialectical essence of this or that phenomenon especially clearly and clearly, to create a new, vivid concept, impression: *"I am a deeply superficial person."* (Andy Warhol).

A metaphor also appears as a means of expressing oppositional attitudes. A metaphor is a trope, word or expression used in a figurative sense, which is based on an unnamed comparison of an object with another one based on their common feature [48].

A metaphor is usually defined as a hidden comparison made by applying the name of one object to another and thus reveals an important feature of the second. Also, this is the relationship between the subject-logical meaning and the contextual meaning, based on the similarity of the features of the two concepts. Metaphor is, thus, one of the means of pictorial representation of reality. The importance of this stylistic technique in the style of artistic expression is difficult to overestimate. Metaphor is often seen as one of the ways to accurately reflect reality in an artistic way. However, this concept of accuracy is quite relative. There are no instructions for creating metaphors, no guides to determine what it means or what it communicates [48, p. 45].

Gibbs explores the textual function of metaphor in his "The Poetics of Mind " (1994). He argues that the use of metaphors in discourse contributes to the cohesion of a text because metaphor works in discourse by providing vivid context. The researcher also insists that "metaphor can be used, consciously or unconsciously, to structure the development of a text, as an organizing principle that gives the text lexical coherence, which indicates that the study of metaphor has reached a new stage of research and application. At this stage, some scientists begin to notice the importance of analyzing metaphors at the discourse level [39, p. 120].

Concepts as mental units are content, structurally and functionally heterogeneous; some of them play an important role in the processes of categorization of reality. For the formation of a conceptual metaphor system, it is necessary to assume the existence of some initial or primary concepts, from which all others develop, they organize the conceptual space itself and act as the main rubrics for its division into parts [50, p. 93].

From the very beginning of the study, metonymy, along with metaphor, was understood as a simple trope [59, p. 221]: it is indicative that one of the most outstanding thinkers of antiquity, Aristotle, did not recognize the distinctive character

of metonymy and reduced it to a subtype of metaphor [49, p. 1]. Some modern linguists have preserved this approach to metonymy, when it is considered as a sub-trope [35, p. 47], although at the same time they reject the idea that its manifestation should be limited exclusively to figurative language [59, p. 221].

As a means of creating imagery, metonymy focuses on specific objects that are used in a generalized sense [53, p. 117]: *Wall Street* is often used as a metonymic designation for the financial and corporate sectors of the United States, while *Hollywood* is used as a metonymy for the country's film industry [38, p. 63].

G. Lakoff states that metonymic concepts allow us to conceptualize one thing on the basis of its relation to something else. He does not elucidate the nature of the relation mentioned, but instead tries to explain this phenomenon with the help of a taxonomy explained by metonymic schemes such as "producer of the product", "object used by the user", "controller for controlled", etc. [44, p. 38–39]

Nevertheless, the nature of this relation is described in the anonymous work of ancient times “*Rhetorica ad Herrenium*”, in which it is noted that metonymy takes its expression from close and similar things [43, p. 141], and the phenomenon itself metonymy, although it still refers to a figurative means, described in terms important for understanding metonymy, namely "closeness" and "similarity" [59, p. 222], which determine its possibilities of creating relations of opposition based on similarity.

### **Conclusions to the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter**

The binary of human perception is its integral characteristic, which is laid down evolutionarily and has psychological-physiological foundations conditioned by evolution.

Ideas about the binary nature of human thinking were laid down by ancient philosophers, and the school of structuralism formalized these ideas into the theory of binary oppositions. The binary nature of human thinking, from the point of view of logic and philosophy, is due to the need to compare and contrast the objects or phenomena being studied, with the aim of knowing them and realizing their essence.

So, oppositions at the lexical-semantic level are implemented by opposing language units on the basis of their commonality: relations of synonymy and antonymy

of individual units, as well as lexical-semantic groups and lexical-thematic fields for groupings of lexical units. Among the stylistic means of implementing oppositions, we single out antithesis and oxymoron as means of creating opposition, and metaphor and metonymy as means of creating opposition based on the common characteristics of objects or phenomenon.

## **CHAPTER III. THE CONCEPTS OF FRIEND AND ENEMY IN MODERN ENGLISH**

### **3.1. General characteristics of concepts «friend» and «enemy»**

A concept is an abstract structure that helps generate knowledge about the world by organizing, naming, and giving meaning to its features. The study of the conceptual sphere of language allows us to reveal the peculiarities of the mental world of one or another ethnic group, to see, metaphorically speaking, the specifics of the trajectory of the flight of human thought, therefore, to learn about culture at various stages of its formation [20].

The study of the concept represents a modern trend in linguistics, born of the achievements of cognitive science. Given the rapid technological development of mankind, the concept represents a fundamental concept of such modern sciences as linguistic and cultural studies and intercultural communication, as well as related disciplines [30]

The concept of "friendship" is a basic concept in any culture. Nevertheless, each ethnic group puts its own meaning into it, since friendship reflects a complex system of spiritual and moral and moral and ethical dimensions of the picture of the world and the inner, spiritual life of a person. The concept of "friendship" is marked by national and cultural marking.

Friendship is a complicated social nomination that names not a specific, objectively existing object or phenomenon, but an abstraction, a feeling, an emotional state that cannot be fully and completely understood and explained by a human.

The concept of "friendship" reflects a complex system of spiritual and moral and ethical measurements of the picture of the world of the inner, spiritual life of a person. Philosophy also deals with problems of relations between friends and questions about the limits to which these relations can and should extend. This once again confirms the importance of the concepts of friend and enemy for any human community. In the history of philosophy, the basis of friendship was seen in mutual benefit (Epicurus), virtue (Aristotle), feeling of "natural sympathy" (A. Smith), promoting "mutual happiness". Friendship is the most difficult of all human feelings, because it is the only

one that requires reciprocity. It is possible to love, hate and even be indifferent in a unanimous order, but it is impossible to be friends without reciprocity. Thus, one cannot deny the need to study the features of the concept of "friendship" and to understand the impact on the present. Dictionary observations on the token "friendship" make it possible to describe the disclosure of the content of the concept in revealing the specifics of its linguistic expression.

The conceptual component of the concept "friend" in the English-speaking mind is etymologically interpreted as follows. The name of the concept is based on the idea of love, affection - frijaz (Goth.) - beloved, dear, free. This root goes back to the Indo-European \*rii- (dear, worthy). The word 'friend' in Old English sounded like freond, in Old Saxon - friend [42, p. 100].

In English FRIEND has the following definitions:

1. Friend is one attached to another by affection or esteem [29]
2. Friend is a person who you know well and who you like very much, but who is usually not a part of your family [37]
3. Friend is a person who gives assistance [28]
4. The friends of a country, organization, cause, or a famous politician are the people and organizations who support and help them. [27]

The conceptual characteristics of the concept "Friend" in the English language are specified taking into account its systemic connections in terms of similarity and opposition. The following units appear as synonyms for the word "friend" in English: "acquaintance", "buddy", "partner", "ally", "companion", "mate", "associate", "comrade", "cousin", "patron", "supporter", "pal", "chum", "bro", "amigo", "confidant", "blood", "cobber" etc.

The concept of "enemy" causes a storm of various emotions in our souls, all of them turn out to be negative.

The word "enmity" was borrowed in the 13th century AD. from Old French, derived from the word enemistie - "ill-wisher, enemy" [42, p. 141]. The concept of "enemy" in the English language, that is, "enemy", is perceived first of all as a person

who opposes any political beliefs, is hostile to state power, an opponent, and only then as an enemy of a certain person, a person attempting to intentionally harm someone.

The concept of "enemy" is associated not only with the daily life of people, but also has a religious and military character. The synonyms of the word "enemy" show that an "enemy" is a person who wishes evil to another person and experiences a feeling of malicious joy in the failure or misfortune of someone else. Satan in religious and mythological concepts is the main opponent of the heavenly forces, representing the highest personification of evil and pushing a person onto the path of spiritual death. A military adversary is an even more dangerous force, since in the course of hostilities a person can lose the most precious thing - life.

In English ENEMY has the following definitions:

1. Enemy is a person who hates or opposes another person and tries to harm them or stop them from doing something [34]
2. Enemy is an army or other force that is opposed to you in a war, or a country with which your country is at war [26]
3. Enemy is something that harms or threatens someone or something [32]
4. Enemy is any hostile group of people [33]

The synonyms to the word "Enemy" are "foe", "opponent", "competitor", "adversary", "antagonist", "rival", "nemesis", "challenger", "attacker", "invader", "villain", "opposition", "agent", "detractor", "opposer", "aggressor" etc.

The concept of FRIEND / ENEMY in modern English is socially determined, that is, the nominations of the concepts have different social designations depending on their use. The seven that stand out in the concept nomination are: "gender" (partner, friend), "cooperation" (friend), "rivalry" (opponent, rival, competitor), "dispute", "enmity", "harm" (enemy, antagonist). The narrow meaning of the concept is characterized by their combination, which is observed in the nominations friend / enemy. And in the English-speaking picture of the world, "friendship" is associated with support, help, warm, tender feelings, and trust. Basically, all phraseological units associated with this concept have a positive emotional characteristic [60].

### **3.2. The analysis of FRIEND/ENEMY opposition**

FRIEND/ENEMY opposition is one of the fundamental basic oppositions that reside in the naive, or pre-scientific, consciousness and, accordingly, in the picture of the human world. This mental formation presupposes the mental division of reality into two poles: it draws a line between the world perceived by the carrier of linguistic consciousness as "own", "close", "safe", evaluated positively, and the world evaluated as "foreign", "bad", "dangerous". Demarcation of oneself and "MY" from "not-MY", "OTHER", is inherent in every person in particular and every human community in general. That is why it can be called a universal cognitive operation, performed in the mind of any language group and aimed at its self-identification and self-evaluation. During this operation, a person (and in general the ethnic group to which he/she belongs) separates not only what belongs to him/her by blood, spirit or material, but also what does not belong to them and does not concern them.

According to V. Sukovata, FRIEND/ENEMY opposition is the subjective intentionality of consciousness, which recognizes, concentrates the socio-biological experience of one's own defenselessness in front of the world and at the same time realizes it in symbols of cultural activity and mental (mental) development [16, p. 58]. This binary can take the forms of ethnic, class, racial, individual, military and other oppositions. The array of this opposition (and it belongs to the universal ones) is a "tree" that has "branches" from the conceptual core to smaller, concrete, individualized embodiments of the main socio-cultural patterns. These patterns reflect the most essential human needs, which are present in every historical epoch, in any society, but acquire different symbolic forms, depending on the characteristics of culture, era, society [16, p. 56].

As a linguistic phenomenon, the conceptual FRIEND/ENEMY opposition, accumulating in itself the historical and cultural experience of the nation, being one of the forms of mythological consciousness, implementing a complex psychological mechanism and forming a phenomenal formation, receives a specific expression in language and, moreover, acts as a basic fragment of the linguistic picture of the world, as its multi-level cognitive unit.

Language means of expressing the concepts of "friend" and "enemy" have national and cultural specifics, implemented in such a concept as "national character", which is a stable set of values, attitudes, and behavioral norms specific to a given culture.

The concepts of "friend" and "enemy" form a binary opposition and are characterized by multicomponent and cultural conditioning. They differentiate each other, mutually complement and specify their meanings, which, in turn, makes it possible to more fully and adequately define and clarify their semantic fields - the core and periphery - according to the identified conceptual features.

The lexical-semantic field of the word "friend" includes a set of lexical units related by meaning and associations with this concept. The main idea of the lexical-semantic field is that the words in this field have certain common semantic features and can be used to describe various aspects of the concept "friend". The semantics of proximity and interaction includes such words as *companion, interlocutor, colleague, partner, familiar*. The semantics of loyalty and trust includes such words as *true, loyal, reliable, devoted, sincere, trustworthy, solidary*. The semantics of support and assistance includes such words as *support, help, care, compassion, understanding*. The semantics of intimacy and personality includes such lexical units as *nearest, dearest, close person, intimate friend, soulmate, best friend*. The semantics of membership and group includes such lexical units as *team member, family member, group friend*.

These words reflect different aspects and attributes of the concept of "friend" and can be used to describe different contexts and situations related to the status of "friend" and his interaction with other people.

According to G. Wouter, the core of the English concept "Friendship" is the lexeme "friend", and the peripheral zone should include 7 words: *companion, comrade, acquaintance, partner, intimate, supporter, ally*. The differential sems are *buddy, pal*, which are very informal [60].

The lexical-semantic field of the word "enemy" includes a set of lexical units related by meaning and associations with this concept. It reflects various aspects and attributes of the "enemy" concept. The semantics of dislike and antipathy includes such

words as *hostile, hostility, antipathy, disgust*. The semantics of conflict and struggle includes such words as *conflict, rivalry, competition, struggle, opposition, divination*. The semantics of threat and damage includes such words as *threat, danger, damage, attack, destruction*. The semantics of distance and alienation includes such lexical units as *suspension, alienation, separation, hostility, stranger*. The semantics of opposites and differences include such words as *distinctive, confrontation, incompatibility, opposite*.

These lexical units help to express different aspects and nuances of the concept of "enemy" and can be used to describe different situations, interaction with the enemy and perception of this concept in different contexts.

According to G. Wouter, lexico-semantic field of the "enemy" concept consists of the lexeme *enemy*, potential sems *enmity, hostility, dissension, hate, rivalry, struggle, fight* and differential sems *cattle, snake, beast, garbage* [60].

Analysis of the semantic fields of FRIENDS / ENEMY concepts shows their absolute opposite in view of the formal opposition of lexical units.

The binary FRIEND/ENEMY opposition is the opposition of two opposite concepts expressing different types of relationships between people. The opposition between these concepts reflects the contradiction and opposite in their character and behavior. The main features of the binary opposition "friend" and "enemy" include the following:

1. Positive/negative evaluation: "*Friend*" is associated with positive aspects such as mutual understanding, support, trust and solidarity. While "*enemy*" has a negative connotation and conveys the idea of conflict, enmity and harm.
2. Stability/Variability: "*Friend*" usually characterizes a long-term, stable relationship built on mutual trust and respect. On the other hand, an "*enemy*" can arise as a result of a change in circumstances, differences in values, or negative actions.

3. Cooperation/Conflict: "*Friend*" is associated with cooperation, compatibility and positive interactions. "*Enemy*" conveys the idea of conflict, rivalry and irreconcilability.
4. Affiliation/Aloofness: "*Friend*" reflects belonging to a social group or community, mutual support and friendship. The "*enemy*" can exclude from these groups, break ties and cause feelings of alienation.
5. Communication/Dislike: "*Friend*" implies active communication, shared interests, and friendly exchange of information. On the other hand, the "*enemy*" can cause enmity, silence, or reluctance to communicate.

These opposites in the opposition "friend" and "enemy" are used to express and understand the relationship between people from different perspectives, including lexical, semantic, syntactic and pragmatic perspectives.

The definition of the features of the opposition of the FRIEND / ENEMY concept in the context of its use by English speakers shows that the image of the enemy in British and American linguistic culture is associated with its study as a problem of social and "mental" history, as a problem of perceiving a "stranger" in extreme situations. In the mass consciousness, the "enemy" is a collective image that can be personified and refer to a specific person, and can also be associated with an ethnic group, state, and society.

The internal form of "friend", embedded in its etymology, contains the component "friend" - close, beloved, relative.

*These types of weapons could allow a state that is weaker militarily to defend itself against a stronger enemy.* (75) In this case, we can see that the word ENEMY is personified and denotes a specific state or group of people.

*It was a play on the efforts to "reshore" domestic production in critical industries, but including allies or "friends" in these rebuilt supply chains.* (65). In this case, the word FRIEND is used in business discourse and has a meaning of an ally or a partner.

Thus, the two concepts can be used in political and business discourse, not only in the sphere of personal life.

Different connotations and evaluations attached to the notions of "friend" and "enemy" are a manifestation of the semantic opposition between these words. The investigation of associations, emotional weight, and perception of words associated with the notions of "friend" and "enemy" is included in the study of their meanings.

- *My best friend always supports me in difficult moments.* (67, p. 87)
- *This project was implemented thanks to the help of our friends.* (74, p. 276)

In these examples, "*friend*" is used in a positive context, denoting a person who is supportive, confidant, with whom there is a common interest and a friendly relationship.

- *We have to be careful because enemies can exploit our weak points.* (62, p. 290)
- *These countries were enemies, that is why they are at war with each other.* (68, p. 59)

In these examples, "enemy" has a negative meaning and refers to a person or force that causes enmity, danger, or harm. This term is often associated with conflict, mistrust and hostile relationships.

These examples demonstrate the semantic opposition between "friend" and "enemy". "Friend" has positive connotations associated with support, mutual understanding and common interests. On the other hand, "enemy" has negative connotations associated with enmity, danger, and harmful consequences.

Some idiomatic expressions may reflect the opposition between "friend" and "enemy" by using specific word combinations that convey different meanings.

Example: "*friend in need*" (it means that a person shows true friendship when another person needs help), "*enemy of the people*" (it refers to a person or group considered to be enemies or harmful to a society or nation)

Language is a powerful tool for communicating intense emotions, which can highlight the contrast between "friend" and "enemy". Expressions, intonation, and lexical decisions can all convey attitudes and feelings about an individual or a group of people.

Example: "*Best friend*" (expresses a particularly close and positive relationship), "*mortal enemy*" (emphasizes strong enmity and danger).

Nouns or adjectives can be used to express the opposition between "friend" and "enemy", providing additional information about the relationship between people.

Example: "*Traitor*" (refers to a person who does something against the interests or expectations of another person), "*Reliable ally*" (refers to a person who reliably supports another).

The syntactic opposition between the words "friend" and "enemy" can be expressed through different syntactic constructions that are used to express friendly or hostile relations. Here are some examples:

1) Construction with the conjunction "and":

- *He is my friend and reliable partner at work.* (61, p. 24)
- *This book is my friend and counselor in difficult times.* (63, p. 105)

In these examples, the conjunction "and" is used to combine the concepts of "friend" and "trusted partner" or "friend" and "advisor", showing that both concepts are interrelated and inherent in the same person or thing.

2) Construction with the opposition "not only..., but also...":

- *He is not only my friend, but also my closest interlocutor.* (73, p. 140)
- *This player is not only my friend, but also my strongest competitor.* (76, p. 82)

In these examples, the construction "not only..., but also..." is used to express two different traits or qualities that are inherent in a person or object. They show that this person or object is both a "friend" and something else that adds to their status.

3) Construction with the conjunction "but":

- *She was my friend, but after the betrayal she became my enemy.* (64, p. 173)
- *We were friends, but differences of opinion made us enemies.* (70, p. 249)

In these examples, the conjunction "but" is used to express the opposition between "friend" and "enemy". It shows a change in status or relationship between people due to certain circumstances or events.

These constructions in syntactic constructions help to express the opposition between "friend" and "enemy", showing different aspects or changes in the relationship between people.

From a pragmatic point of view, the opposition between "friend" and "enemy" can be analyzed taking into account the context, communicative goals and the impact of words on the interaction between interlocutors. Here are some aspects:

1) Expression of solidarity and positive attitude.

The word "friend" is often used to denote a close, faithful and supportive interlocutor. The use of this term may indicate a pragmatic purpose to emphasize a positive attitude toward the individual and to show agreement, solidarity, and sympathy.

- *He is always by my side. That is why he is my best friend.* (72, p. 52)

2) Expression of conflict and negative attitude:

The word "enemy" is used to denote a person with whom there is a hostile relationship or conflict. The use of this term can have a pragmatic purpose to express a negative attitude towards someone, to warn of a possible danger, or to condemn or reject a person's actions.

- *Don't trust him, he is my enemy and always tries to harm me.* (71, p. 318)

3) Context change and status conversion:

The use of the words "friend" and "enemy" can change depending on the context and transform the status of the interlocutor. A person who was previously a "friend" can become an "enemy" through betrayal or conflict, and vice versa.

- *It was a long time ago when we were friends, before your mother was even born, but now he has become my worst enemy and only God knows why.*  
(69, p. 95)

4) Ironic use:

In a pragmatic aspect, the words "friend" and "enemy" can be used ironically or sarcastically, when the actual relationship between individuals does not correspond to these terms.

- *He let me down yesterday. Great friend, huh?* (66, p. 320)

These pragmatic aspects demonstrate how the use of the words "friend" and "enemy" can affect the communicative situation, defining the relationship between the interlocutors, conveying emotions and expressing the goals of the communicative act.

### **Conclusions to the 3<sup>d</sup> chapter**

The concepts of "friend" and "enemy" are key in human thought and language, as they reflect the basic aspects of human relationships.

Lexical analysis shows that words related to the concept of "friend" have positive connotations, such as closeness, loyalty, support and cooperation. Instead, words associated with the concept of "enemy" have negative connotations such as hostility, conflict, threat, and enmity.

The binary FRIEND/ENEMY opposition reflects the opposition and contrast between these two concepts. It is used to denote different types of interactions, relationships and attitudes between people. FRIEND/ENEMY opposition is important from a pragmatic point of view, because it determines the quality of communication, interaction and communication between people.

The use of words and phrases related to the concepts of "friend" and "enemy" depends on the context, cultural factors and personal experiences of the person.

The pie chart with the most common words associated with the word "friend" in percentage can be found on the page 41 (appendix 1).

The pie chart with the most common words associated with the word "enemy" in percentage can be found on the page 42 (appendix 2).

Summing up, the concept of "friend" and "enemy" reflect important aspects of interpersonal relations, and the binary opposition "friend/enemy" reflects the opposite of these concepts, which is revealed through lexical, semantic, syntactic and pragmatic means of language.

## CONCLUSIONS

FRIEND/ENEMY opposition affects the way speech is perceived and interpreted, as well as the construction of interactions and attitudes between people. It allows distinguishing positive and negative aspects of relationships and determines the quality of interpersonal communication.

In the first and in the second part of the bachelor paper the theoretical material was laid out, which was the basis for the research in the third part. In the first part, we considered the theory and structure of the lexical field and came to the conclusion that the lexical-semantic field includes a group of words that have similar or related meanings and are used to express a certain notion or concept. General analysis of lexical-semantic fields helps us to better understand the organization of language, the connections between words and their semantic nuances. The study of these fields contributes to the development of linguistic science and contributes to a better understanding of the speech process and communication. The lexical-semantic field is flexible and changeable, it can expand, change and evolve depending on changes in language and culture. In the second part, we considered the theory of opposition and its types at the lexical-semantic level of language and its stylistic techniques. We concluded that the binary opposition implies the presence of two opposite concepts that can be expressed through opposition or exclusion. The theory of opposition allows us to identify and analyze common features, differences and relationships between opposite concepts. The study of binary opposition helps reveal the principles of language organization, promotes awareness of categorical thinking, and influences the way concepts are perceived and expressed in language and culture.

In the third part, we defined the concepts of "friend" and "enemy" and explored their opposition. The study of the lexical-semantic field of the word "friend" revealed that it includes various lexical units that reflect aspects of closeness, loyalty, support and cooperation. The study of the lexical-semantic field of the word "enemy" revealed that it includes various lexical units that reflect aspects of hostility, conflict and threat.

The use of words and phrases related to the concepts of "friend" and "enemy" depends on the context, cultural factors and personal experience of the person.

The theory of oppositions indicates that the opposition between "friend" and "enemy" is the opposition of two opposite concepts. This opposition is based on the opposite of meanings, semantic characteristics and expressive means used to express these concepts. The study of FRIEND/ENEMY opposition showed that this binary opposition reflects the contrast and opposition between the concepts of "friend" and "enemy". Words associated with "friend" have positive connotations, while words associated with "enemy" have negative connotations. The syntactic FRIEND/ENEMY opposition can be manifested in the use of various lexical-grammatical constructions, as well as in ways of organizing speech. This opposition is used to express different types of interactions, relationships and attitudes between people. Studying the opposition "friend/enemy" from a pragmatic point of view allows us to find out how this opposition affects communication and interaction between people. Understanding the pragmatic aspect of the FRIEND/ENEMY opposition helps to explain the use of appropriate language devices in different contexts and situations.

The FRIEND/ENEMY opposition chapter reveals various aspects of interaction between people through the opposition of the concepts of "friend" and "enemy". It analyzes the use of language devices that reflect this opposition and examines its impact on communication and attitudes towards others.

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### **Supporting materials**

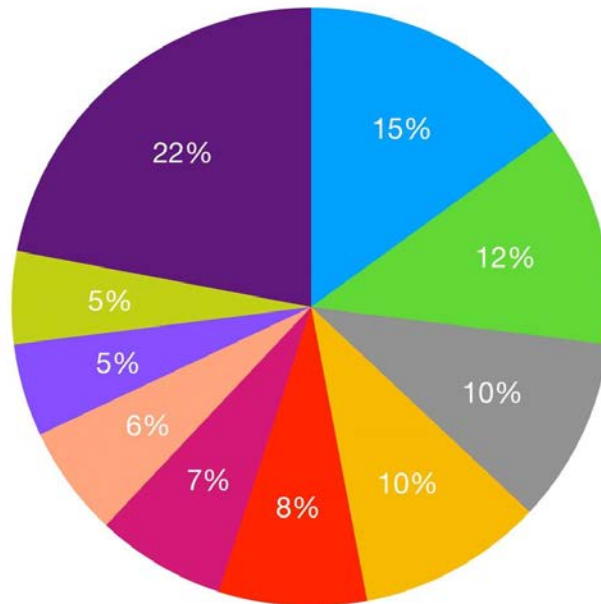
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# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1

- Trustworthy
- Supportive
- Loyal
- Caring
- Reliable
- Companionate
- Fun
- Kind
- Helpful
- Others



## APPENDIX 2

- Opponent
- Aggressor
- Rival
- Threat
- Villain
- Foe
- Opposition
- Hostility
- Others

