

The meaning of the word

The word is an independent linguistic unit which, as opposed to the phoneme or syllable, has an independent meaning. There is no general definition of the word. The article considers the notion of word meaning and some difficulties appearing in the process of usage of certain words in the speech. The author reviews the point of view of the Austrian-English philosopher L. Wittgenstein on the notion of word meaning. The main peculiarity of the word lies in the fact that, on the one hand, the word is a minimum independent linguistic unit and, on the other hand, the meaning of many word depends on the context of their usage. The article reveals that some words, which are part of a language field, have different stylistic colouring. The author stresses the fact that stylistic «neutrality» is a certain linguastylistic «colouring» of the word because neutrality is its semantic and expressive component. All theoretical statements are proved drawing on specific linguistic examples.

Key words: word, meaning, semantics, linguistics, phoneme, syllable, speech, language, neutrality, stylistic colouring, expressiveness, usage, L. Wittgenstein.