



## The feature of orientation in the database “Human body and body parts in the Russian language and culture”

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In constructing the semiotic conceptualization of human body one should pay attention to the following characteristics of the human body:

- (1) form and size of the body and its parts, cf. *bolshoj lob* ‘big forehead’, *uzkoglazyj* ‘narrow-eyed’, *sgorblennaja spina* ‘hunched-up back’;
- (2) configuration and inner structure of the body and its parts. Thus, if we want to describe the configuration of a man’s legs or arms, we can say *He has crooked legs/arms* but not *\*He has a crooked eyelid/stomach*;
- (3) topographical characteristics of a body part, i.e. its co-location with other parts of the same body. Cf. Russian *derzhatj yazyk za zubami* that means ‘to hold one’s tongue behind one’s teeth’. This expression implies that the normal place for the tongue when a person doesn’t speak is behind his/her teeth;
- (4) basic functions of the body and body parts.

I argue that the full and precise description of these and some other features of a human body, will lead to the complete and consistent semiotic picture of human somatic world and corporeality. This picture will reflect deep semiotic ideas, cognitive and psychological mechanisms, and linguistic meanings that are kept in the minds of users of the natural language and the corresponding body language

The lexicographical database “Human body and body parts in the Russian language and culture” is aimed at constructing the semiotic conceptualization of human body. It consists of two sets: the set of body features and the set of their values. Some examples of features and their values were given above.

Among the main features included into the database there is the feature of orientation. In my report I shall discuss the features closely related to orientation such as the location and the direction of movement, their interaction in the Russian body language, and the means of expression of their values in the Russian language.

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