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A corpus-based analysis of gender lacunae in the cross-linguistic perspective

Lacunarity (zero equivalence or untranslatability) as a particular research issue refers to the most problematic ones, a key aspect of which accounts for the lack (partial or complete absence) of cross-lingual translation equivalents, thus remaining a subject for further scholarly explorations. Lacunary units constitute a group of notions whose properties differ in a contrastive perspective (Szerszunowicz 2015: 6). With regard to the lingual nature of a concept as a unit of knowledge, it is characterized by a more complicated structure than a word, whereas content of the former possesses both a linguistic meaning and a cultural sense, while gender-oriented linguistic elaborations propose new avenues for its advancement.

The suggested seminar discusses the integration of presenting theoretical linguo-cultural knowledge on conceptual perception of gender and its lexicographic representation in the distantly related languages. The seminar will deal with gender lacunae study, their classification and further description through the implementation of descriptive corpus-based methodology.

The objective of the seminar is twofold: first, providing typological classification for gender lacunae in the contrasted languages; and second, validating the possibility of using corpus-based approach for investigating gender lacunae alongside with suggesting a description of their similarities and disparities in the English, Ukrainian and Polish languages.