SYNONYMIC REPRESENTATION OF “ISLAMIC WORLD” IN AMERICAN MASS MEDIA

(Iryna Semeniuk, Olga Khoroshun, Zhytomyr, Ukraine)

Nowadays the relations between the United States and Muslim world have frayed. A great amount of newspapers articles are devoted to this problem, but they express different points of view on the topic.

Lexical representation of the term “Islamic World” in American printed media is quite various. As we know every language has in its vocabulary a variety of words, kindred in meaning but distinct in morphemic composition, phonemic shape and usage idea, these words are called synonyms.

In spite of the existence of relatively large numbers of the studies, denoted to the opening of the different sides to synonymy, hitherto there is no a unity glance in respect to determinations of the synonyms, methods of their study, principles of the separation and categorizations of the synonyms, and borders of the synonymous row. The majority of scholars share the opinion that synonymy presents by itself the “microcircuit” of the language, which is characterized by their own relations and that it falls into quality of the component part in lexical system of the language as a whole.

As it concerns the determinations of synonymy, there is no existence of the unity among the scholars’ opinions: one researchers come from the generality of the meaning of synonyms, while the others - from the correlation of semantic and subject - logical begin in a word, while the thirds try to prove that synonyms are defined on the base of generality of the structured model of the use and alike combinability of the words.

Considering the semantic generality of the lexical units and their partial interchangeability as the features of synonyms we divide the synonymic representation of “Islamic World” into total, partial and contextual.

**Total synonymy**, i.e. synonymy where the members of a synonymous group can replace each other in any given context, without the slightest alteration in
denotative or emotional meaning and connotations, is an extremely rare occurrence: e.g. Muslim world, Islamic World. These word combinations are total synonyms because according to the Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary Muslim (adj.) = Islamic (adj.), so these words can replace each other.

Partial synonyms come to have either a different shade of meaning or different usage. If two words exactly coincide in meaning and use the natural tendency is for one of them to change its meaning or drop out of the language: e.g. Islamic world, Arab world, the Nation of Mohammedan, Muslims countries. Mohammedan means Muslim, now considered offensive by most Muslims. Society a particular community of people who share the same customs, laws, religion etc. Brotherhood is an organization for formed for a particular purpose, especially a religious society or political organization. Community is a group of people who share the same religion, race, job etc.,

Contextual synonyms are similar in meaning only under some specific distributional conditions e.g. Islamic world, Arab Nation, Muslim communities, Muslim brotherhood, Islamic Society. Arab a person from the Middle East or Africa, whose ancestors lived in the Arabian Peninsula. World a particular part of the earth, particular group of countries or people.

References: