Subject matter: «Functional and semantic analysis of intellectual adjectives in English and Russian»
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Research relevance: adjectives, denoting intellectual activities can be studied from the cognitive aspect; being part of the concept ‘mental’ they nominate different semantic meanings from ‘mind’ to ‘intellectual activities’.
Purpose: to define the group of English intellectual adjectives and classify them in accordance with the functions they perform in speech, comparing them with Russian mental adjectives.
Tasks: to find out the main semantic features of prototypical lexemes ‘mental’ in English and Russian and to define the group of adjectives belonging to the conceptual frame of mentality; also to study the derivative words that constitute the same frame.
Theoretical and practical significance: is in cognitive-pragmatic approach towards the study of lexical items representing the process of intellectual activities in English; as well as in practical importance for teaching communication skills in ESL class.
Results of the research: conceptual frame ‘mental’ is expressed through intellectual adjectives both in English and in Russian; this frame consists of three semi-frames: 1. nominating intellectual abilities, with words like intellectual, cogitative; 2. nominating mental state with words like thoughtful, meditative, contemplative, pensive, reflective; 3. nominating positive thinking with words like intelligent, bright, brilliant, quick-witted, smart. Lexeme mental in English and in Russian preserves its connection with the Latin original meaning but proves to have different semantic features in languages compared.