FARMING TERMINOLOGY AND METAPHORIZATION OF THE TERM “POCHVA” IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

Elina Kalinichenko, Svetlana Zakharova

Saratov State Agrarian Vavilov University, Teatralnaya Square 1, Saratov, Russia

Abstract

The article discusses the process of farming terminology, conditions for the formation of farming vocabulary and metaphorization of the term "pochva (ground, soil, land, earth)" in the modern Russian language, the description of the emotional state and social position of the person through the interpretation of the term "pochva".

Key words: *farming terminology, metaphorization, terms-metaphors, agricultural vocabulary, agricultural metaphor, target domain*

Since the growth in the number of terms of different sciences is outstripping the growth in the number of commonly used words, a significant number of terms enters into the common language, and terminological system has a great influence on the language system as a whole.

The study of the development and current state of one of the most ancient, vast and promising industry terminologies – farming terminology – surely, allows us to identify the important cultural and conceptual information, to reconstruct a significant fragment of the linguistic picture of the world reflected in the farming vocabulary.

By comparing the history of scientific and folk craft terminologies the researchers came to the conclusion that the process of their formation was notable for its bright originality. The specificity of folk-dialectal terminologies is that they are less isolated from the common language, in the colloquial character of the words with production meaning, expressiveness, picturesqueness, transparency of the inner form.

Conditions for the formation of farming (wider – agricultural) vocabulary are rooted in the distant past, affecting the various complexes of extralinguistic and properly linguistic factors.

The system of farming terms in the Russian language was originally formed primarily on the basis of the primordial vocabulary. The system of agricultural terms, especially those related to the way of tilling and cultivation of soils and the character of cultivation of various crops, can rightly be considered one of the most ancient. It was the farming terminological system that was established and formed as functionally self-sufficient, efficiently realized for extended periods of time and using a wide range of resources of the Russian language.

The current state of the specialized vocabulary of agriculture (particularly farming terminology) says for the formation and development of scientific and production sphere, the vivid process of its language supplementation and particular nature of its functioning.

As encyclopedic and specialized dictionaries show, the structure of the term "farming" includes two basic concepts:

1. The system of methods of influence on the soil (its mechanical tilling, fertilization, crop rotation and others) aimed at the conservation and soil enrichment with the goal of getting rich, stable yields.
2. Section of agronomy that studies the key methods of cultivation of agricultural crops and soil enrichment.

In the early period of its development farming was identified with agriculture. However, after separation of animal husbandry into a distinct branch, farming is understood as the crop-producing sector which is connected with the tilling of land – field cropping, vegetable growing, fruit growing,

viticulture, flower growing, grass cropping (industry, producing hay and pasture grass based on the correct management and improvement of natural forage lands and creation of sown meadows) etc.

Besides, the analysis of encyclopedic sources allows identifying the most important factors conditioning the specificity of agriculture as activity:

1. High farming standards involve the use of scientifically proved systems of farming developed in accordance with the specific soil, climatic and other conditions.
2. The most important natural factors for farming activities are soil, irrigation and climate. They, in particular, determine the possibility of farming, choice of crops, the need for fertilizer and irrigation. In this regard, seasonality of production conditioned by the uneven distribution of solar energy during the year and biology of cultivated plants, the necessity of observance of agrotechnical terms of agricultural operations, depending on local soil and climatic conditions, is clearly defined in agriculture.
3. In farming land (soil) and plants act as the main means of production and labor objects.
4. Farming has passed the sequential path of development from the hoe method of land cultivation with the use of human muscle power to tilling (plough method), and modern mechanical method. Accordingly, the set of tools for farming labor has significantly changed.

These extralinguistic factors determine the choice of lexical sets of farming vocabulary, because the necessity of reflecting the major operations and objects of production activities is obvious in the specialized industry vocabulary. However, the rich traditions of farming, the accumulated empirical experience and theoretical knowledge determine the amount and content of farming vocabulary.

Based on the above it is possible to distinguish the following lexical sets:

1. One of the main means of production is the soil while its properties and structure determine the choice of the cultivated crops, tilling methods, tools. Respectively, lexical sets "Soil (its properties and structure)", "Tools", "Soil cultivation" are distinguished.
2. Farming is one of the most important branches of human activity. Providing the efficiency of the process requires the distribution of functions, which determines formations of specific nominations of person from the point of view of their role in the soil cultivation, sowing and harvesting. Consequently, a separate set is "Nominations of person".

Four sets mentioned above are the most numerous and branched. The following five groups are characterized by compactness, which, however, does not reduce their significance for the integrated presentation of farming terminology as a system:

1. Since the amount and quality of a harvest largely depends both on the tilling and the method of sowing, nominations of types of crops also form a special set "Types of crops".
2. The plants being grown are equally important means of production in farming, they can get special names not from the point of view of their belonging to a class and a subclass, species, and from the point of view of necessity and degree of human participation in their growing. Based on these features a lexical set "Plants" is formed.
3. Applicability evaluation of land plot for cultivation, its size and the things located on it form a lexical set "Plots, areas connected with land tilling."
4. Since getting a harvest is the ultimate goal of the farming cycle, and harvesting is the final stage of activities, it is possible to distinguish a lexical set "Products of harvest manufacturing and processing ".
5. At the moment scientific advances and generalization of centuries-old practical experience play a significant role in farming. Summing these data and comprehension of the complex nature of farming nominations "Farming systems" are formed.

Let us consider one of the main lexical sets of the farming vocabulary "Soil (its properties and structure) more detailed.

Nominations ground and land often work as synonyms to the term soil. However, it is the soil, which is the object of the characterization in terms representing word-groups.

As any complex phenomenon, the soil has its own natural properties, pointing to the possibility of agricultural use both at present and in the future.

The ways of formation of terms in this set draw attention. First, the scarcity of units with Greco-Latin stem (biogenesity/ biological activity, hygroscopicity, reaction), and, accordingly, the dominance of units with Russian stem. Second, the productivity of compounding as a way of formation of terms with primordial Russian stems (air-permeability, soil fatigation, etc.). Third, the transparency of the inner form of term units (stickiness, density, swelling property, etc.), including as a consequence of the second feature.

The most essential characteristic for farming, the most important property of soil determined through every other the above mentioned properties – "soil fertility" – is reflected in the nominations that form the opposition from the point of view of presence/absence of this characteristic. To denote fertile soils the terms are used: humus (lat. humus – land) / decomposed dung (including, a constituent of soil from decomposed plant and animal residues), chernozem (blackearth – dark fertile soil, rich in decomposed dung), which can be characterized as the most common in meaning.

To denote the infertility of the soils a number of nominations are used: floating mat, frost (frozen ground), podzol (podzolic soils), solonetzic soils, solonchak. It is worthy of attention that these terms with sufficiently transparent inner form have indication of the reason for the infertility of soils: instability (floating mat), presence of the ice (frost), salinity (solonetzic soils, solonchak), low content of humus (podzols (podzolic soils) – pale grayish-yellow soils).

In the latter case there is a gradation of soil types according to their fertility, as well as chemical composition and conditions of formation, which is manifested in the functioning of the nominations with a color component. So, dark soils with a high content of humus (chernozem) are the most fertile and, for example, the change of color to the light hues indicates the reduction of humus, and, accordingly, the level of fertility. Compare: terms brown forest soil (burozem), brown soil, brown desert-steppe soil (or brown semidesert soils), sod-podzolic soil, chestnut soil, cinnamonic soil, red soil, gray-brown desert soils, gray soils, gray forest soils, podzol (podzolic soils).

In addition, a direct indication on the amount of humus in the soil is contained in the nominations: humus soil, high-humic soil, medium-humic soil, low-humic soil. The concept of the depth of humus horizon of the soil (the thickness of the layer of humus) is related with that soil property. Metaphorical transfer lies in the core of this term - depth/thickness are realized through the spatial extension outside (horizon) and the insights into soil fertility actualize the connection with the concept of force (power). Hence, there is a division of soils on deep, moderately deep, shallow.

As it is seen from the above examples, not only the amount of humus indicates the soil fertility, but the location of the soil (gray-brown desert soil, gray forest soils). This characteristic is reflected in the terms of marsh soils, mountain soils, floodplain soils, sod-carbonate soils.

The equally relevant for all stages of farming granulometric composition of soil (mechanical composition, i.e. the relative content of various-sized particles in the soil) is correlated with the soil fertility. From this point of view, clayey soils are distinguished: slightly clayey, moderately clayey, heavy clayey; loamy soil /loam: slightly loamy, moderately loamy, heavy loamy; sandy soils, loamy sand moderately.

The presence, amount and size of stones in the soil are characterized using the group of terms that indicate stoniness of the soil, its degree (soil: non-stony, slightly stony, moderately stony, heavy stony) and the type of stoniness (soil: boldery, coarse gravelly, rubbly). The features of presence and size of elements are in the basis of this set of terms with the apparent inner form.

The analysis of term units of the lexical set "Soil" has shown the domination of nominations with Russian-specific stem and the scarcity of units with Greco-Latin stem (there are only 13 foreign units to more than 100 ones), as well as the transparency of the inner form and etymology of all terms.

Extralinguistic conditionality of the relationship of term units within this lexical set should be emphasized once more. Soil fertility, i.e. the ability to provide the growth and development of plants, is the most important property of the soil. Therefore, all other features are subordinate, their distinguishing (and, consequently, the formation of specialized nominations) is required for the final soil evaluation as suitable or unsuitable for farming, for selecting specific tools, tilling methods, cultivated plants.

Considering the agricultural vocabulary as one of the oldest basic and social popular layers of word stock of the Russian language, it should be noted that it actively undergoes metaphorization as a layer of concrete nominations of the phenomena of reality, and which manifests itself not only in a significant number of conceptual agricultural metaphors allowing to describe a person by the most important parameters from the point of view of physiology, psychology and social position, but also in their stylistic diversity and expressive nominative potential.

Such linguistic phenomenon as a metaphor plays a great role in the cognitive activity.

In his work "Two Great Metaphors" J. Ortega y Gasset defined a main function of metaphor as the function of concept formation[1]. According to him, there are objects that are not only difficult to name, but which are hard to think about. Metaphor helps the thought to catch them. In this case, auxiliary components of the metaphor are words with a concrete meaning.

As J. Ortega y Gasset supposes, metaphor is the instrument of thought, with the help of which we can reach the most remote areas of our conceptual field. Objects easily comprehended open the thought access to distant and elusive for us concepts.

G. Lakoff and M. Johnson argue that our conceptual system is largely metaphorical, and therefore the way of our thinking, daily experience and behavior are determined by metaphor[2].

As a consequence of metaphorical rethinking, individual knowledge and ideas of the author of the metaphor are transformed into metaphorical information that is generalized in the communication system.

In recent decades, many terms understood as "a word or word-group of a special sphere of use, created (borrowed, accepted) for the exact expression of` special concepts and based on the definition"[3] and related to various spheres of human activity, actively operate not only in science but also in other spheres of use: fiction and publication literature, in the language of print and electronic media, documents, colloquial speech, and "find a second life as common words, which have a special visibility"[6].

Thanks to the imaginative rethinking of the term by the native speakers "a change in functional status occurs, i.e. the transformation of the informative focus of the term, involved in the common use"[4].

The transition of a term in other areas of functioning occurs in the process of determinologization that is the appearance in terminological meaning of a new figurative meaning being common in nature and included in the semantic structure of this word-term.

The basis of this process is a metaphorical use of special vocabulary. According to V. V. Vinogradov, "a new understanding, embodied in the meaning of the term, is not only an element of its semantic structure, but also the element of the semantic structure of the respective language as a whole. The word in its figurative or specialized meaning occurs in the word stock of this national language"[5].

The process of determinologization is carried out in three main forms:

- transition of the term in other areas of functioning in its original meaning;
- metaphorization of the term;
- attachment of common-literary semantics to terminological meaning.

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Mainly the tops of terminological families act as the sources of metaphorization in the agricultural vocabulary:

- common names of “pochva” (ground, soil);
- nominations of the well-known primitive tools (fork, rake, hoe);
- nominations of the easiest ways of tilling (plow, furrow);
- nominations of the dominant plant species and their elements (seeds, root, fruit), etc.

Based on the results of the conducted analysis, the vast majority of metaphorical meanings of lexeme “pochva” (ground) develops as a result of the transfer "layer of the crust, in which plant life develops, the basis of something, the totality of conditions of existence."

In this case the transfer occurs in the direction from the concrete to the abstract, which is relevant to different semantic target domains:

- emotional state of a person;
- conditions of human activity;
- characteristics of human activity.

Emotional state and social position of a person is described through the interpretation of the ground as a solid, stable part of the universe.

For example, phraseological unit solid ground under someone – a stable, reliable position (official, public, and, as a result, emotional state) reflects ancient ideas about the earth as a flat firm ground between heaven and earth, belonging of a human to this median area. Accordingly, the hardness of the soil, the firmness of boundaries between the human world and the “lower” world provide the balance of the universe and the human tolerance – physical and emotional.

Here is the place to consider also somatic characteristics of a human, namely, vertical position natural for him, where legs, inseparable part of the human body, contact directly with the ground (“pochva”).

A detailed linguoculturological interpretation of the image underlying a phraseological unit is proposed in the Great Phraseological Dictionary: in this case, feet (in accordance with the ancient notions of a part and the whole) substitute a person in the totality of his physical, mental, sensual, emotional states and outporings[6].

The basis of the image is a spatial metaphor, in which the "internal" feeling of confidence in the successful outcome of affairs, stability in the social, spiritual and household spheres of human activity likens to "physical" stable position in space on a solid footing –ground.

The importance of this cultural code is manifested in existence and active use of phraseological units, reflecting the "stages" and the subject-object structure of the process of losing ground under someone:

a) feel / experience / find ground beneath someone’s feet /under someone – ascertain in stability, strength of someone’s position, act firmly;

b) the ground quakes/ shakes / swings under someone – the situation becomes precarious, unstable; vibrates;

c) cut the ground from under someone's feet, someone – deprive anyone of confidence, comfort, support in affairs;

d) the ground gave way beneath someone's feet / slipped (out) from someone's feet; lose ground – loss of confidence.

In this case, the emotional state is characterized through a comparison with the loss of physical feeling of stability. This reference to the "basic needs" conditions the relevance of these expressions for indicating the hopelessness of the current situation, which entails the loss of the ability to evaluate the situation soberly.

It should be noted that in synonymous set expressions describing an unstable emotional state or social position, "pochva" (ground) can act as a subject (the ground gave way beneath someone's feet) and as the object of the action (lose ground under the feet; to cut the ground from under the feet).

Subject meaning is conditioned by the ancient conceptions of the universe according to which the features and actions peculiar to living beings are attributed to the inanimate things and objects of the natural world.

The relevance of object meaning is explained by a complex of cultural factors:

- first, by the idea of land (ground) as one of the foundations of the universe, which can be shaken only by "the higher power" (intervention of which also does not contribute to the preservation of confidence of a person in his own abilities);
- second, the functioning of the land (soil, ground) as a means of business – material equivalent of something in market relations; accordingly, the loss of land (soil) as a means of production is also able to shake the social situation and emotional state.

The conditions and characteristics of human activities are described through the perception of soil (land, ground) as the layer of the earth's crust, in which plants form and develop.

This calls for an active functioning of the following conceptual metaphors:

- lay the ground / prepare the ground / clear the soil – prepare the area, favorable conditions for creation of something new, not previously existed – "sowing the seed", which will bear fruit in the future. Compare, for example:

Meantime, the expression "the priority course of measures in the labour market" remains a thing in itself, laying the ground for the issues of the degree of objectivity in selection of these courses [S. Smirnov. Let's get a second look // Domestic notes, 2003.];

It is not necessary to ask around yourself, it's enough to lay the ground for my arrival [V. Belousova. The second shot, 2000];

- fertile / favorable / real / solid / rich soil (ground) – characteristics of the environment, conditions of existence, in which ideas, moral qualities, social relations can grow, ripen and bear fruit, like seeds, etc., compare:

Naturally, they are laying the fertile ground for reaction and counter-reforms [T. Morshchakova. On the road to justice// Domestic notes, 2003];

Russia has always had a special dislike for the state and to visitants, all together this gives rich soil (ample grounds) for this movement [National-anarchism (forum) (2006)];

But its presence is necessary, it is a rich soil for thought, idea, grain planted in it. [V. P. Zinchenko. The mystery of creative inspiration // "Questions of psychology", 2004.10.12];

And then a verbal matrix of apathy and indifference pierces into the unconscious of a human, in the well-dressed soil of poor memory, historical cosmopolitanism, keeping aloof from the pain and misery of his native country. [T. Mironova. The voting person (2004) // "Our contemporary", 2004.01.15];

- test / check / feel / explore the ground – try to find out something beforehand, make the matters clearer, clarify opportunities, conditions for something, compare.:

At one time Mr. Gruppenfuhrer was even dreaming of a quiet place of the governor or statthalter of these fertile mountain areas and was checking the ground for such a beneficial appointment through his patrons in the Fuhrer Headquarters [E. G. Kazakevich. The Star (1946)].

- shaky ground – unsteady, doubtful basis of reasoning, compare:

Then I feel that I am coming on a shaky ground of speculation and psychological constructs, from which I have foresworn in this book [Granin. Bison (1987)];

- poor soil – poor quality base that can't develop anything good contributing to the low quality "crop", "fruit":

Practically, in their accusations both parties investigated only the poor soil, which could spring up this phenomenon of purely psychological nature, which Krasnov and Denisov determined agreeably " the bolshevism disease of the front " [A. I. Denikin. Essays on Russian civil unrest. Volume IV. The armed forces of the South of Russia (1922)].

- poison the soil – prevent the development ("growth"), the further functioning of something:

As if the phrase said by the husband impulsively killed all desires in her and poisoned the very soil from which a need for a tender touch, caress, not to mention the sexual intimacy with him grew [L. Ulitskaya. Journey to the seventh side of the world // New World, No. 8-9, 2000].

According to the Russian National Corpus, lexeme “pochva” (soil, ground) demonstrates the widest co-occurrence in a figurative sense, for example:

- with adjectives: national, ethnic, Russian, Russian, Roman, German; religious; racial; political; industrial, informal, unofficial, conscious, scientific, nervous, frivolous and many others;

- with nouns: on the grounds of common sense, on the grounds of ideological clashes, on the basis of set theory, on the grounds of community of class interests, due to the gastric poisoning, on the grounds of humility and others.

All the above allows to state the following:

- main soil properties are the most significant in formation of transfers – fertility, firmness (stability): favorable ground for discussion; solid ground under someone; lose ground / the ground slipped (out) from someone’s feet;
- reduced expression is not marked in the metaphors with the component “pochva” (soil, ground);
- slang metaphors with the component “pochva” (soil, ground) are not identified.

The given examples of co-occurrence of the lexeme “pochva” (soil, ground) as well as the revealed metaphorical transfers indicate the regularity and functionality of agricultural metaphors in the comprehension of abstract entities – emotional state of a person (go down with nervous disease), peculiarities of people interaction in different spheres of activity (quarrel because of, come together on the basis of common interests).

It is noteworthy that a person with his physical, mental, and especially social aspects is the main target domain in the formation of metaphors with component “pochva” (soil, ground) (particularly, emotional state and social position, the conditions and characteristics of human activity).

It should be also emphasized that the set of metaphors with the component “pochva” (soil, ground) consistently reflects all the stages of farming cycle: affirmation of the presence of the ground (feel the ground), selection of place for agricultural work (lay, probe, test the ground), soil preparation (prepare the ground), including, if necessary, to fertilize or ascertain in the suitability of the soil: fertile, rich soil), creating certainty in the absence of negative factors (poor soil, poison the soil), sow (plant the idea), to gain a harvest – a thought, idea, result.

Thus, metaphorization of the term “pochva” and creation of a large number of conceptual metaphors with it is carried out in close connection with other human activities, both industrial and intellectual, spiritual, social.

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