Perception of diminutive suffixes: context and social factors

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The report presents the results of studies the perception of suffixes with emotionally-valued semantics. The authors consider the perception of suffixes outside the context and under the influence of the estimated context semantics. The influence of gender differences on the perception of such units is also considered.

Two experimental series were conducted. In the first experiment, target design units were pseudo-words with diminutive suffixes outside the external context. In the second experiment, these same stimuli were placed in positive and negative contexts. We attracted an equal number of men and women as respondents to measure the influence of gender factors on the revealed differences in the perception of diminutive suffixes.

The statistically significant differences in the perception of groups of suffixes correlated with the grammatical grouping of the diminutives were revealed.

Also sociocultural gender differences in the processing of incentive semantics have been identified. Statistically significant differences in the processing of words with suffixes of negative semantics by male and female respondents are revealed. In addition, female respondents prefer to choose the extreme values of the positive and negative spectrum.

The location of words in contexts predictably affects the perception of diminutives: the unit is evaluated more positively or more negatively in accordance with the evaluation meaning of the sentence. However, the overall pattern of differences in the processing of suffix groups is preserved. Contextual influence reduces sociocultural differences in the perception of these units.

Keywords: diminutive suffix, emotionally semantics, context.