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**„FORMATION OF LEXICAL BLENDS IN ENGLISH AND BULGARIAN“**

Doctoral Dissertation Abstract  
for the acquisition of a PhD educational and scientific degree

Professional Area: 2.1. Philology (Germanic Languages: English Language)

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Plovdiv  
2020

The PhD thesis was discussed and its public defense was suggested at an extended department meeting of the English Philology Department at the Faculty of Philology of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv on July 9<sup>th</sup> 2020.

The public defense of the doctoral thesis will be on ..... at ..... in ..... auditorium at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

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## CONTENTS

1. Overview of the PhD thesis.....	3
2. Contents of the PhD thesis .....	4
3. Review of the Introductory Part .....	5
4. Review of Chapter One (Theoretical Grounding of the Study) .....	6
5. Review of Chapter Two (Meaning Construction of the Lexical Units in the Analyzed Corpus via Conceptual Integrated Networks) .....	9
6. Review of the Concluding Part .....	20
7. Scientific Contribution of the PhD Thesis .....	26
8. Bibliography Cited in the Dissertation Abstract .....	28
9. Publications on the Subject of the PhD Thesis .....	31

## 1. Overview of the PhD Thesis

Traditional approaches to linguistics regard lexical blending as a word formation process of secondary importance since its productivity cannot be compared to that of other processes usually considered to be of greater significance, such as composition. The semantics of blend words is also a problematic research area because the traditional semantic approach to lexical blending tries to categorize blend words without taking into account the fact that the ‘live’ language is intricately linked with the communicative process. Cognitive linguistics allows for a more adequate analysis of the semantics of lexical blends which cannot be reduced to the sum total of the meanings of their source units. It offers useful theoretical foundations if we wish to study the fluid compositionality of lexical blends.

The structural variety of blend words cannot be accounted for by the traditional classifications of the morpheme-based approach to lexical blending. This is because of the existence of grey areas between lexical blending and other word formation processes, i.e. the existence of lexemes which cannot be subsumed without hesitation under the heading of one or another word-formation process. Therefore, we can decide whether a new word is the product of lexical blending if we determine its prototypicality. In Cognitive Linguistics, the central members of graded/ radial categories are perceived to be positioned in their center whereas the less typical members approach the periphery of the category which is in proximity to other categories. This means that the graded category has fuzzy boundaries.

**The object** of the present study includes English and Bulgarian nouns formed via lexical blending which are used in various knowledge areas: the language of computer specialists and Internet technologies; scientific discourse; the names given to plants and animals which are the product of cross-breeding; mass media language; tourism industry terminology; teen slang. The object of the study has been chosen because it reflects contemporary tendencies in the dynamic development of both English and Bulgarian brought about by the intensive advances in new technologies, the globalization era, and language contacts.

**The linguistic material**, which the dissertation is based on, includes 1833 constructions in English and 361 constructions in Bulgarian which have been subdivided into two corpora compiled by the author in view of the objectives of the research. The corpora include not only words long established in the system of language but also occasionalisms/ nonce-words and neologisms. The analysis is focused on the formation of nouns in both languages as well as substantivized adjectives in English, e.g.: words denoting nationality.

The linguistic material does not contain only typical examples of lexical blending. In the Bulgarian corpus, we find constructions referred to as “clipped compounds”. In Bulgarian linguistics, lexemes belonging to this structural type are known as “partially clipped words” (*медсестра, райсвѐт*) which, together with lexical blends, are classified as “group abbreviations” (using the terminology in Krumova and Choroleeva 1982). The linguistic material under study also includes lexical units containing combining forms of Greek and Latin origin, lexical units containing abbreviations, and nouns with a final fragmentary component such as – *nik, -(a/o)holic, -scape*, etc. which can be analysed as a transitory stage between lexical blending and affixation or as an example of affixation or affixoidation brought about by lexical blending.

The examples in the two corpora are analyzed on the basis of the onomasiological categories they belong to: nouns denoting people; nouns reflecting the concept of TIME; nouns denoting places; nouns for plants and animals; nouns for material and immaterial entities; nouns for actions and activities.

**The subject** of the study is the meaning construction of blend words, clipped compounds and constructions with components of a disputable origin in both languages.

**The objectives** of the study are to establish how meaning is constructed with the help of underlying cognitive processes, i.e. conceptual integrated networks, and how English affects Bulgarian via contrastive analysis.

**The methodological and theoretical foundations** of the research are the premises of Cognitive Linguistics as such (Langacker 2008, 2009; Lakoff 1973, 1987; Lakoff and Johnson 1980, etc.), Conceptual Integration Theory/ Conceptual Blending Theory (Fauconnier 1997; Fauconnier and Turner 2002, etc.), Frame Semantics (Fillmore 1976, 1982; Barsalou 1992, etc.), Construction Grammar (Goldberg 2006, etc.) and Language Contact (Heine and Kuteva 2005, etc.). On the basis of these theories, an analytical model is developed which is illustrated via diagrams. When necessary, in order to analyze certain word formation tendencies, quantitative parameters are also used.

Ts. Luizova-Horeva uses an analytical inter-frame model based on cognitive linguistics, frame semantics, construction grammar and language contact theory in order to study English and Bulgarian compounds in the sphere of tourism (Luizova-Horeva 2015). Such an analytical model is suitable when the study attempts to explain the differences in the semantic compositionality of constructions. The analytical model in the present PhD thesis differs from Luizova-Horeva's in that it is grounded in Conceptual Integration Theory to be applied on typical and atypical lexical blends. Frame semantics is considered to be useful because it helps us identify the type of the conceptual integration network constructed and it minimizes the subjectivity of Fauconnier and Turner's theoretical model (see, for instance, Fauconnier and Turner 2002).

## **2. Contents of the PhD Thesis**

The PhD thesis contains four chapters (an introductory part, two main chapters, a concluding part) and appendices.

**The Introductory Part** discusses the object, the subject, the objectives, and the methodology of the study and specifies the linguistic material and the excerpted sources. It also explains the terminology used in the dissertation and briefly presents the history of the linguistic interest in lexical blending.

**Chapter One (Theoretical Grounding of the Study)** discusses the theoretical foundations the study is based on. It reviews a few important definitions of lexical blending and suggests a working definition which the extraction of the linguistic material is based on. Chapter One reviews the major linguistic approaches to the analysis of lexical blending, including the cognitive approach used in the PhD thesis. It pays attention to the usus and the occasional usage of blend words as well as to the attitude of linguistics to lexical blending as affected by the traditional creativity-productivity dichotomy. The similarities between lexical blending and paronomasia are also pointed out. From the point of view of cognitive semantics and cognitive approaches to grammar, this chapter clarifies the cognitive prerequisites for the formation of blend words, the most significant ideas of Conceptual Integration Theory, Frame Semantics, Conceptual Metaphor and Conceptual Metonymy theory. This is to explain the analytical model used in the dissertation which is grounded in the assumption that the meaning of linguistic units, constructed and decoded "online", is fluid since it is based on the integration of mental spaces structured by modifiable frames. Chapter One also discusses the contemporary idea of iconicity, profiling as part of the figure-ground segregation phenomenon, and the highlighting of attributes in the frames of the concepts being active zones in those concepts. Due to the comparative character of the dissertation, this chapter also points out some important issues which language

contact theory is interested in because language contact has a great impact on the advent of lexical blending in Bulgarian word formation.

**Chapter Two (Meaning Construction of the Lexical Units in the Analyzed Corpus via Conceptual Integrated Networks)** explains the mixed analytical model used in the dissertation which is applied in order to uncover the meaning construction of prototypical lexical blends and analogical constructions in English and Bulgarian. This model determines the type of conceptual integrated networks constructed in the interpretation of the analyzed constructions. This is done by means of identifying the frames participating in conceptual integration, together with the attributes highlighted in inter-frame mapping. The analytical model is applied to the examples in the corpora from the point of view of their belonging to onomasiological categories. The analysis is contrastive and compares the English and Bulgarian constructions in each subgroup of lexical units. Chapter Two also arrives at certain conclusions regarding conceptual metaphor and conceptual metonymy as exemplified by the units in the two corpora.

**The Concluding Part** is interested in the foreign language influence on Bulgarian blend words and clipped compounds. It pays attention to the constituents making up the examples in both corpora in order to show how lexical blending shares grey areas with other word formation processes. This chapter summarizes some conclusions having to do with the onomasiological categories the lexemes reflect and the effect of conceptual integrated networks on the meaning construction of lexical blends and other, related, derivatives. This chapter also corrects the working definition of lexical blending and outlines the scientific contribution of the dissertation.

**The appendices** comprise a list of the diagrams used, bibliography, and the corpus compiled in two parts:

- an English corpus where the items are arranged in an alphabetical order; and
- a Bulgarian corpus where the items are arranged in an alphabetical order.

The dissertation amounts to 240 pages of scientific text and 66 pages of appendices, the latter including 19 pages of bibliography and a list of excerpted sources. The scientific literature used in the dissertation includes 250 titles: 184 in English, 46 in Bulgarian, 18 in Russian, and 2 in Italian.

### **3. Review of the Introductory Part**

The Introductory Part of the dissertation explains a number of terms used in the study. It points out that *contamination* is here regarded as a non-deliberate combination of linguistic forms in speech, which is attributable to a number of intralinguistic or extralinguistic factors, whereas *blending* is considered to be a deliberate combination of linguistic forms. *Lexical blends/ blend words* are those constructions which demonstrate blending to a greater or lesser extent and their identification is based on the working definition of blending offered in the dissertation.

The PhD thesis also refers to the notion of splinter, widely used in English linguistics, without attempting to establish its usage in Bulgarian linguistics. Krumova and Choroleeva, for instance, talk about “severed parts” of words and “fractions” having in mind clipped parts of words which coincide or do not coincide with syllables and roots (Krumova and Choroleeva 1982: 83).

The Introductory Part also specifies the usage of the terms “combining form” and “affixoid”, including “prefixoid” and “suffixoid”. The group of the so-called combining forms is extremely heterogeneous from an etymological, structural, and semantic point of view, which makes it difficult for linguists to arrive at a categorical definition of combining forms. In linguistic

literature, combining forms, being “morphemically indefinable components”, are also called: affixoids, unifixes, uniradixoids, bound components, bound roots, lexico-morphemes, semiprefixes, quasiprefixes, quasisuffixes, etc. (Avramova 2003: 34-35). The derivatives in which they recur have an indeterminate status, as a result of which they are studied as examples of abbreviation, composition, affixoidation, and so on (ibid.). In the dissertation, the initial components of this type are called prefixoids, whereas the final ones appear as suffixoids. The general category is referred to as combining forms or affixoids. These components have to be taken into account in the study of lexical blending since they testify to the so-called group derivation via blending.

The Introductory Part of the thesis also briefly reviews the first fundamental studies of lexical blending from the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when a greater number of blends entered the English language as compared to previous time periods. The Introductory Part summarizes the findings of the first linguists interested in lexical blending, i.e. Sundén (Sundén 1904), O. Jespersen (in Jespersen 2010), Bergström (Bergström 1906), L. Pound (Pound 1914). The significance of their research is emphasized but stress is also put on the problematic issues concerning the way lexical blending is referred to as, its definition, and its classification as a word-formation process.

#### 4. Review of Chapter One (Theoretical Grounding of the Study)

Chapter One contains eleven sections. The first section is interested in the existing definitions of lexical blending which illustrate that linguists are not unanimous as to how to define this word formation process. This section points out that some definitions are quite general whereas other definitions are too restrictive. Due to the lack of an appropriate definition of lexical blending, this section offers a **working definition** to be applied in the dissertation. It is the following one:

Lexical blending is the composition of two or more source units via word overlap/ haplology (*аташетане, banalysis*) or the contraction of at least one of the source units *coinciding with their point of fusion*, as a result of which a splinter is formed, i.e. a non-autonomous fraction of a word which is not a morpheme (*горгонблонди < Горгонзола + блонди, bordinary < boring + ordinary*), and the contraction itself may also be coupled with word overlap. The derivative thus formed is characterized by unique semantics which is not the sum total of the meanings of the source units, which can lead to stylistic differences between the source words and the new word. Although it does not pay attention to morphotactic rules, lexical blending usually observes phonotactic ones.

The working definition of lexical blending has helped us excerpt the linguistic material in both corpora since we have taken into account whether the linguistic material observes one of the following criteria: 1) merging of the source words via word overlap; 2) shortening of the source words (only the first source word is contracted or all source words are contracted *at the point of fusion*); 3) merging *and* shortening of the source words (when the place of the shortening does not coincide with the point of fusion).

The present study does not offer a stricter definition of lexical blending since the combination and shortening of linguistic material characterizes other word-formation processes as well. Therefore, we resort to the prototypical approach, with the help of which we can visualize lexical blending as a graded category. The very essence of the graded category hinders and even prevents its strict opposition to other categories.

Section Two comprises five subsections devoted to the major contemporary approaches to the linguistic analysis of lexical blending, i.e. the structural morpheme-based approach, the semantic approach, the phonetic approach, the psycholinguistic approach, and the cognitive approach. This section of Chapter One outlines some problems regarding the application of the above-mentioned approaches and emphasizes the advantages of the cognitive approach as exemplified by Conceptual Integration Theory, Image Schema Theory, Prototype Theory (Rosch 1978) and Štekauer's Cognitive Onomasiological Theory (Štekauer 2005).

Sections Three and Four are devoted to the usus and the occasional usage of blend words as well as to the linguistic attitude to blend words which has been influenced by the traditional creativity-productivity opposition accounting for the categorization of lexical blending as a more or less unproductive and unpredictable word formation process that disregards the morphological rules of language. It is emphasized that the traditional creativity-productivity dichotomy is irrelevant from the viewpoint of the communicative act which has contextual grounding so that meaning can be constructed via negotiation by the participants in the communicative process. It is also pointed out that the very term "creativity" is misleading since it prescribes characteristic features to the system of language and it does not show that the manipulation of linguistic units follows not only from the application of certain rules but also from their contravention (Bagasheva and Stamenov 2013).

Section Five is interested in paronomasia in Bulgarian and English since a large part of the linguistic material in the two corpora can be regarded as paronomasic. This section makes the point that the distinction between lexical blending and paronomasia could be problematic because many blend words exhibit phonetic similarity with at least one of their source words or contain an overlapping sound sequence, which is attributable to a number of contextual and pragmatic factors. As regards their semantics, however, both lexical blends and paronyms can be analyzed as products of conceptual integration since their interpretation necessitates the establishment of conceptual links between different mental spaces.

The sixth section of Chapter One discusses the cognitive prerequisites for the occurrence of blend words. It makes the point that lexical blending testifies to the insertion of new categories in the category system, which affects the system in its entirety as well as the categories in proximity to the novel categories. In this way, lexical blending contributes to the parameterization of the concept which is superordinate with respect to the new concept appearing as a result of conceptual blending. What is more, the ergonomic shape of blend words reflects the attempt to achieve cognitive economy, one of the basic principles of categorization (on categorization, see Rosch 1978). This section emphasizes the interdependence between this principle and chunking, the result of which is a unit functioning as a means of memory organization (Miller 1956). The focus is also placed on the relationship between chunking and the recombination of discrete units in alternative arrangements. Recombination and emergentness characterize recombination, the dynamic cognitive mechanism accounting for the appearance of a new unit with its own identity (Talmy 2018). The latter can be regarded as a construction since neither its form nor its function can be predicted with the help of already existing constructions (Goldberg 2006).

Section Seven is devoted to Conceptual Integration Theory (Fauconnier 1999; Fauconnier and Turner 2002) which can be applied to the analysis of linguistic forms with different degrees of compositionality since compositionality is not predictable solely on the basis of truth conditions which the components of the linguistic forms are to observe or solely on the basis of contextual factors. This section explains the process of conceptual integration as the construction of networks of mental spaces, i.e. conceptual integrated networks (CIN), each of the latter comprising at least four mental spaces: a generic space, input spaces, and a blended space. The



section also analyzes the types of conceptual relations affecting the construction of CIN, namely the so-called vital relations, as well as the main types of CIN: simplex networks, mirror networks, single-scope networks, and double-scope networks. The advantages of the visual representation of CIN in the form of diagrams are emphasized since the organization of information in the form of tables hinders the identification of inter-space links and the new, emergent, structure of the blended space.

Section Eight discusses the development of Frame Semantics as an experiential research tradition interested in the interaction between language and human experience. This section clarifies the term “frame” which Fillmore redefined from a system of linguistic options to a system of categories (Fillmore 1982). It also clarifies the terms “schema”, “script”, “scenario”, “cognitive model” and “propositional model”. A focus is placed on the importance of image schemata in human memory which are physiologically grounded and can be based on cause-effect relations or symbolization (Fillmore 1976). The section takes into account L. Barsalou’s cognitive frame theory which differs from previous frame theories by envisioning frames as contextually dependent and flexible dynamic relational structures (Barsalou 1992). Barsalou’s theory is applicable to the analysis of concept combinations expressed by compounds and lexical blends.

Section Nine analyzes the terms “iconicity”, “profiling” and “active zone”. The contemporary idea of iconicity holds that the form of the linguistic sign is a reflection of its referent in certain respects and complex linguistic signs are relatively motivated (Saussure 2011). In language, iconicity is exemplified by means of the observation of the iconic principle of proximity/distance, the iconic principle of sequential order, and the iconic principle of figure and ground. According to the iconic principle of proximity, conceptual elements which are in close proximity are positioned close to each other on the morphemic level. Lexical blends are characterized by a greater degree of iconicity since the reduction and combination of linguistic material reflect the approximation, compression and integration of the relevant concepts.

Figure-ground segregation studied by Gestalt Psychology, demonstrating how human perception functions, is closely linked to the so-called profiling which is also an attentional phenomenon. Linguistic units profile things or relations. Langacker points out that grammatical categories do not presuppose the entire conceptual content of linguistic expressions but depend on the character of their profiled elements (Langacker 2008). Nouns and substantivized linguistic units profile things whereas the other grammatical classes of words profile relations. When relations are profiled, the trajector and the landmark represent the primary and the secondary figure in the profiled relationship (Langacker 2009). The landmark can be referred to in general terms but what is meant will be its active zone, i.e. that part of the object which directly participates in profiling (ibid.). The terms discussed in Section Nine can be used in a more general way when analyzing the interactions (profiling and active zones) between the frames of the concepts taking part in conceptual integration.

Section Ten of Chapter One is dedicated to conceptual metaphor and conceptual metonymy. It has three subsections. The first subsection discusses Conceptual Metaphor Theory (Lakoff and Johnson 1980; Grady 2005). It regards image schemata and the mapping scope of metaphor as extremely important. This subsection discusses the main types of conceptual metaphor: structural metaphor, ontological metaphor, orientational metaphor, conduit metaphor. The second subsection pays attention to the cognitive approach to metonymy according to which metonymic relations replace two elements within the same idealized cognitive model, perceived as a gestalt and structured by frames, image schemata, metaphorical and metonymical mappings (Lakoff 1987). The third subsection discusses the interactions between metaphor and metonymy,

Jakobson's idea of metaphoric and metonymic poles (Jakobson 2003), the metonymic sources of metaphor as well as integrated metaphonymy and cumulative metaphonymy (Goossens 2003). This subsection points out the difficulties in defining metaphor and metonymy as analyzed by A. Barcelona (Barcelona 2003). It outlines the attitude to metaphor and metonymy expressed by Conceptual Metaphor Theory.

The eleventh section of Chapter One, focused on linguistic contactology, brings to the fore the following question posed by Ch. Stamenov: what motivates the appearance of lexical blends in Bulgarian (Stamenov 2007). The answer to this question is partly traceable to the globalization of the modern world characterized by intensified language contacts. This section contains two subsections discussing the essence and manifestations of language contact, interference/ language transfer, and lexical borrowing. It pays attention to the influence of Turkish and English on Bulgarian and the major types of adaptation of English loans in Bulgarian (Zidarova 2011).

## **5. Review of Chapter Two (Meaning Construction of the Lexical Units in the Analyzed Corpus via Conceptual Integrated Networks)**

Chapter Two comprises nine sections. Section One presents the analytical model to be used in the dissertation and specifies which constructions are excluded from the analysis because they do not correspond to the working definition. It is explained why a mixed analytical model, based on Conceptual Integration Theory and Frame Semantics, is opted for. This section points out the advantages of semantic frames which are language independent, based on existing examples, and embrace all participants in the communicative situation (Koeva 2008). It acknowledges that Fauconnier and Turner's conceptual integration model is too general in itself because it is mainly interested in routine cognitive processing by leaving behind the very object of study (in this case, blend words and related constructions) and its semantics based on cognitive frames and image schemata (see Bundgaard et al. 2006). This section presents the hypothesis which is to be tested in the dissertation. It holds that the meaning of the whole, i.e. the construction, cannot be predicted with the help of the meanings of its constituent parts but the mappings in the course of conceptual integration processes are predictable on the basis of the linguistic forms making up the construction (Fauconnier and Turner 2002).

We expect that the meaning of lexical blends from two or more nouns reflects the integration of concepts placed on a cognitively equal standing, as a result of which the construction and interpretation of their semantics are attributable to conceptual integrated networks (CIN) of four types: mirror networks, single-scope networks, double-scope networks, and megablends/ multiple blends. With mirror networks, all mental spaces participating in the construction of the CIN share the same organizing frame which is a specific configuration of attribute-value sets and the blended space preserves the topology of generic and input spaces although it has new elements in its frame (Fig. 1). In the case of single-scope blends, the blended space copies the organizing frame of one of the input spaces, the other input space contributing certain attributes or values. The input space providing the organizing frame is a source space whereas the space which has to be interpreted with its help is the target space. In this way, conventional metaphorical mapping is carried out (Fig. 2). Double-scope networks contribute to a greater extent to the linguistic inventiveness in the construction and interpretation of the semantics of the combinations of linguistic forms. The organizing frames of both input spaces are inherited by the blended space although the frame of one input space is usually predominant. The CIN is strikingly asymmetrical (Fig. 3).

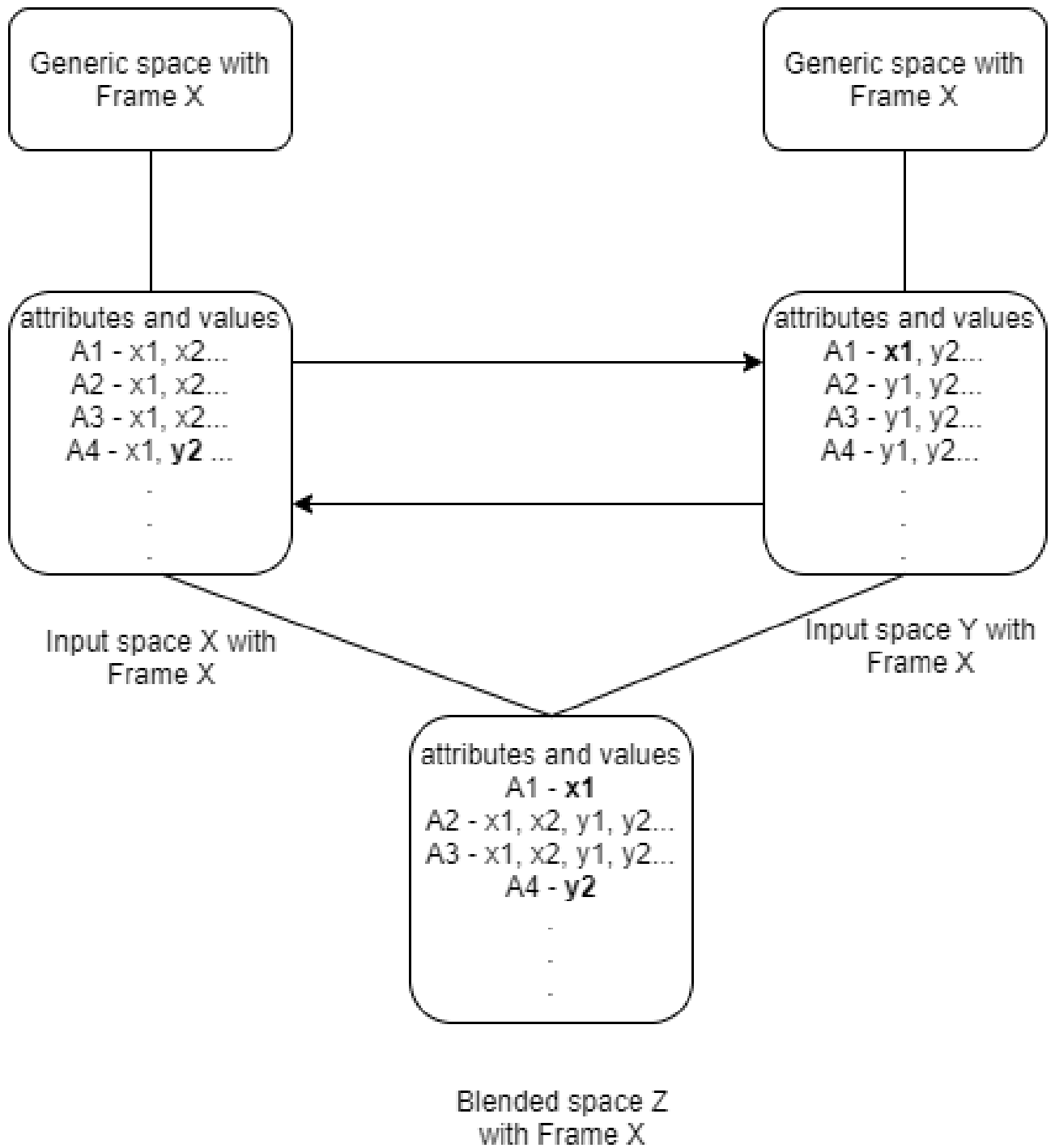


Fig. 1. Construction of a mirror network.

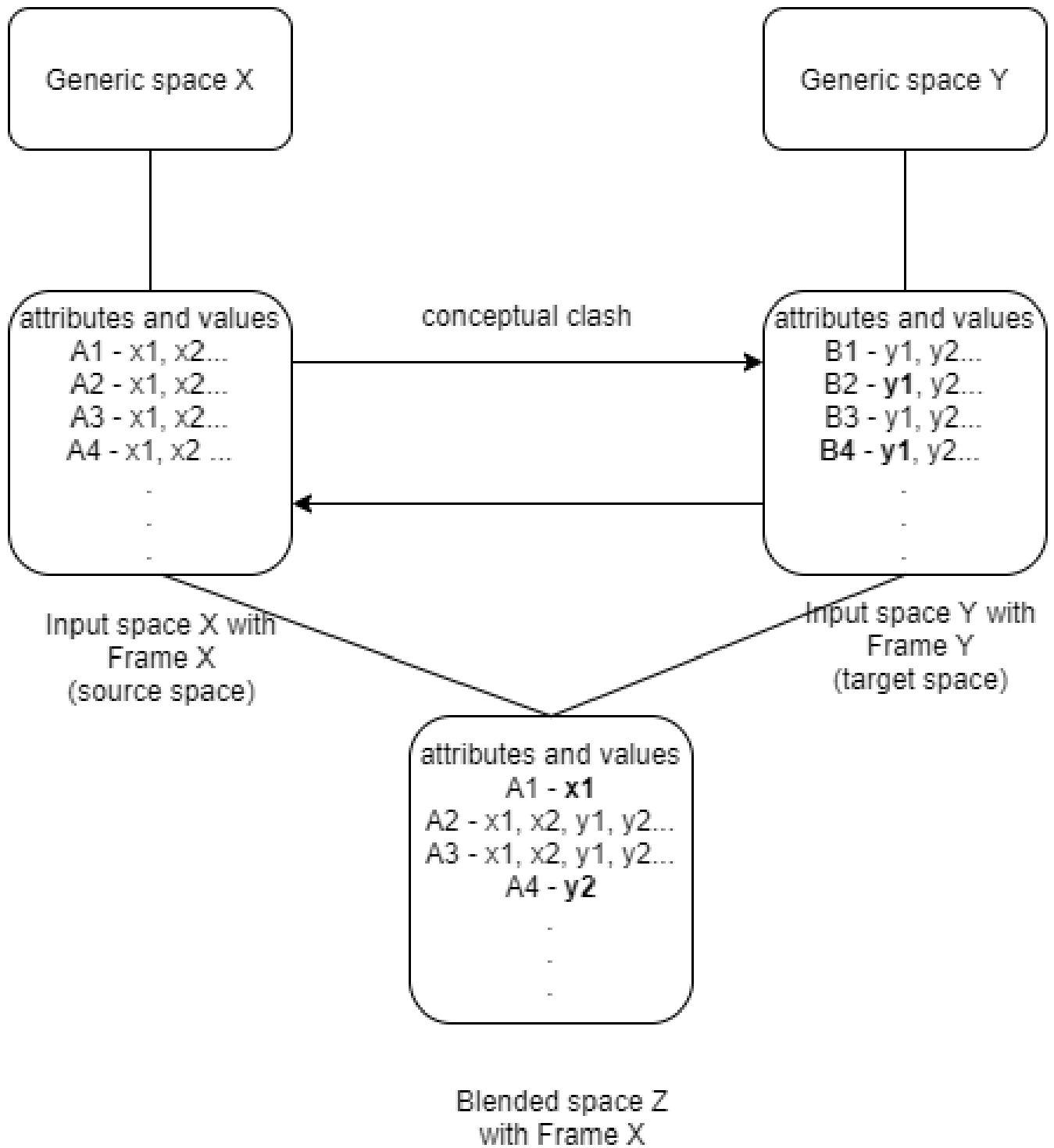
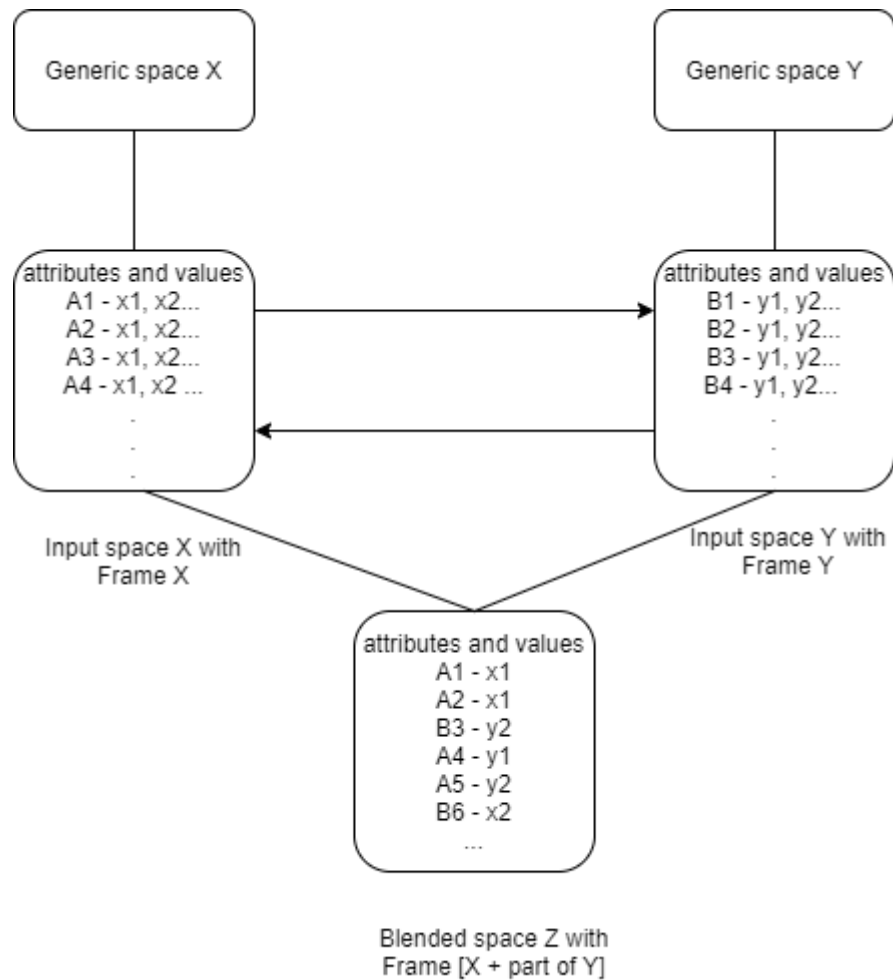
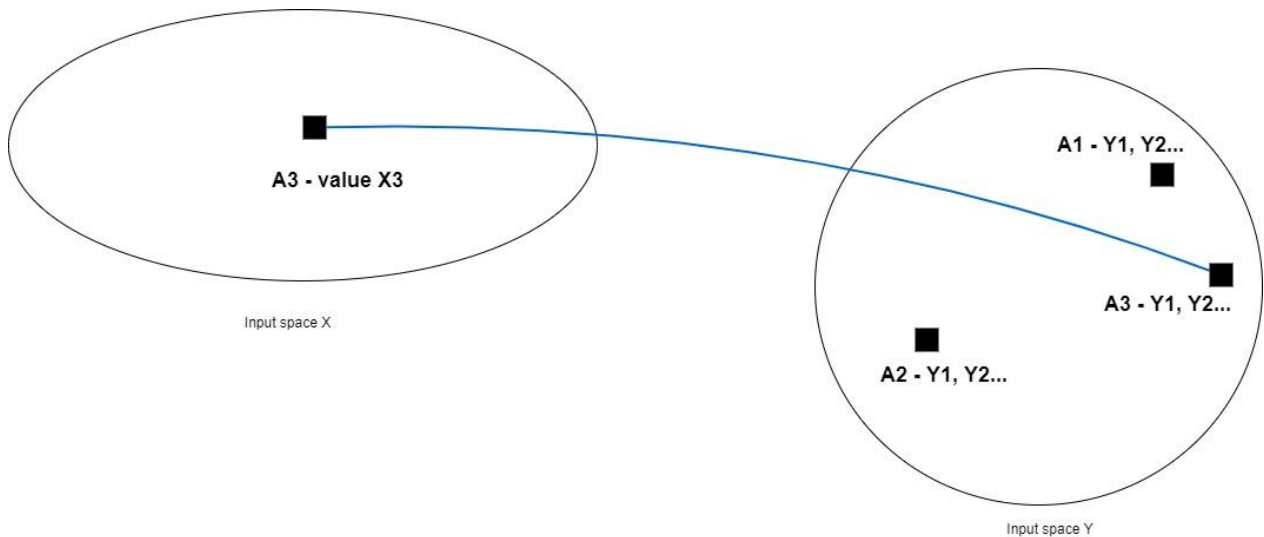


Fig. 2. Construction of a single-scope network.



*Fig. 3. Construction of a double-scope network.*

We think that simplex networks are constructed in the case of constructions where one of the source units profiles the main concept whereas the other source unit highlights its active zone via a subordinate concept (an attribute or a value) mapped onto the frame of the new blended space (Fig. 4). Lexical blends from an adjective and a noun, a verb and a noun, a pronoun and a noun, and a preposition and a noun demonstrate the integration of cognitively unequal concepts since verbs, adjectives, pronouns, etc. are linked to relational concepts, whereas nouns activate autonomous concepts (Radden and Dirven 2007: 41). Therefore, we expect that the meaning of such constructions reflects simplex networks.



*Fig. 4. Construction of a simplex network.*

From the point of view of their structure, the examples in the analyzed corpus are to be discussed via the prototypical approach which has its disadvantages but is applicable to the study of word formation processes affected by neighboring categories. This approach is grounded in restrictions, as presented in this section, which help in the placement of more typical examples of lexical blending in the center of the category, the less typical ones approaching the periphery whose boundaries are fuzzy and not clear-cut. These restrictions are the following:

1) Lexical blending presupposes shortening of at least one source unit. If no such shortening is observable, then there is overlapping of sounds and/or letters at the point of fusion of the source units.

2) If all source units are contracted, they contain an initial splinter from the first source unit and a terminal splinter from the second (last) source unit (because we support Bat-El's opinion that if both source units preserve initial splinters we have to do with a subtype of clipped compounds which we do not regard as belonging to lexical blending (see Bat-El 2006)).

3) New words from two splinters, observing the second restriction, which demonstrate overlapping of sounds and/or letters, and haplological forms are more typical representatives of the category than two-splinter derivatives which observe the second restriction but do not show any overlap of the kind.

4) New words where one source unit is kept intact are not considered to be typical representatives of the category.

The first section of Chapter Two also specifies the notations used in the study. It emphasizes the preference for the visual representation of CIN in the form of diagrams since it is easier to identify inter-space links and the new, emergent, structure of the blended space.

The cognitive analysis of the constructions in the two corpora, English and Bulgarian, is carried out in the next eight sections of Chapter Two. Sections Two to Eight discuss the constructions in both languages on the basis of their subdivision into onomasiological categories. All sections but one comprise two main subsections: the first subsection is devoted to English and the second one to Bulgarian. The last section of Chapter Two is interested in conceptual metaphor and conceptual metonymy as manifested by blend words.

Section Two is focused on blend words denoting people. The subsection on English contains ten smaller subsections where the examples are grouped according to the character of the

components of lexical blends. It is evident that English blend words denoting people boast a much greater structural variety in comparison to the English lexemes belonging to the other groups.

The first subsection of Section Two analyzes English constructions composed of two or more nouns. The largest group of blend words here includes combinations of two or more common nouns. The construction and interpretation of their meaning rests mainly on the creation of single-scope CIN and double-scope CIN. The organizing frame of the new concept does not always originate from the concept accessed by the source unit which is kept intact. Moreover, the second source unit usually contributes to a greater extent to the structure of the new integrated concept.

In English, the lexical blends for people containing two or more proper nouns are largely anthroponyms and ethnonyms. In the case of anthroponyms, e.g.: *Robama* < *Mitt Romney* + *Barack Obama*, mirror conceptual integrated networks are constructed. Ethnonyms denote national, ethnic, or racial belonging. Their meaning is also constructed with the help of mirror CIN and often via a locational profile, e.g.: *Asiental* < *Asian* + *Oriental*.

The meaning of English lexical blends for people combining a proper noun and a common noun is constructed on the basis of single-scope CIN and double-scope CIN. Some single-scope networks impose a locational profile on the concept, e.g.: *Asialationist* < *Asia* + *isolationist*. Double-scope networks are constructed in the case of, for instance, *bridezilla* < *bride* + *Godzilla* and *groomzilla* < *bridegroom* + *Godzilla* containing the suffixoidal element *-zilla*.

In the group of English blend nouns for people from an adjective and a noun, we find a family of words derived from *yuppie*, all of the latter combining two splinters. With English adjective-noun constructions for people, the integrated concept is based mainly on simplex CIN. The integrated concept acquires some features and highlights the attributes *\*Characteristic\**, *\*Sex\** and *\*Age\**. The frame of the integrated concept is inherited from the concept accessed by the second source word which is a common noun or a proper noun. With some words in this group, the second source unit ends in the *-er/-or* derivational morpheme and is a deverbal noun. In this case, the integrated concept highlights as active zones the attributes *\*Agent\** and *\*Activity\**, e.g.: *neweeter* < *new* + *tweeter*.

Some English blend words for groups of people are collective nouns. Collective nouns participating in the formation of lexical blends are: *tribe*, *aristocracy*, *bourgeoisie*, *family*, *proletariat*, *threesome*, *couple*, *infantry*, *artillery*, *staff*. From a cognitive linguistic perspective, collective nouns can be positioned between the two poles of a continuum. They presuppose two interpretations of their grammatical meaning which are constructed via conceptual integration. If the group as a whole is brought forward, then the collective noun approaches the uniplex end of the continuum and the referent is perceived as an inanimate object. When the group members are more salient, then the noun approaches the multiplex pole of the continuum and the referent is regarded as animate (Radden and Dirven 2007: 74). The meaning construction of English blend words for groups of people is carried out with the help of conceptual integrated networks of various kinds where the input space associated with the group of people is structured by the “Aggregate” frame.

Subsections Four to Six analyzing English lexical blends for people are devoted to the following constructions: verb + noun, initialism + noun, and pronoun + noun. In the group of verb-noun constructions, some more interesting examples contain a modal verb or a verb form in a specific tense. These are grounding elements (*wasband* < *was* + *husband*; *Mexican't* < *Mexican* + *can't*). The meaning of initialism-containing words is harder to interpret because of the combination of the processes of abbreviation and lexical blending. Some examples demonstrate that the same initialism may originate from different source expressions. Pronoun-

containing constructions (*meformer* < *me* + *informer*) stand out since personal pronouns have a deictic function in communication: speakers use them to refer a given object to the concrete communicative act in such a way that the addressee will be able to achieve cognitive access to the object or to establish mental contact with it (Janssen 2002: 152).

The seventh subsection discusses group derivation via lexical blending in English, where our attention is attracted by the splinters *-nik*, *-(e)rati*, *-(a)razzi*, *-(a/o)holic*, *-naut*, etc. Suffixoidal components look like bound morphemes and are interpreted as derivational elements although they are the result of shortening (Pencheva 2004: 204). The lexemes containing *-(e)rati*, *-(a)razzi*, *-naut* and prefixoids are analyzed with the help of the prototypical approach and are situated on a lexical blending continuum (Fig. 5). This subsection also presents a hyponym chain of the words derived from *literati*. It summarizes the basic meanings of the suffixoidal elements. There is the conclusion that some meanings of the suffixoids are more general while others are more specific depending on the character of the mental space accessed by the other source word, the emergent structure of the derived word which includes them, and the salience of the attributes or values in the integrated space. This means that the meanings of the same fragmentary component can form a hierarchical structure where some meanings exist on the same level whereas others do not.

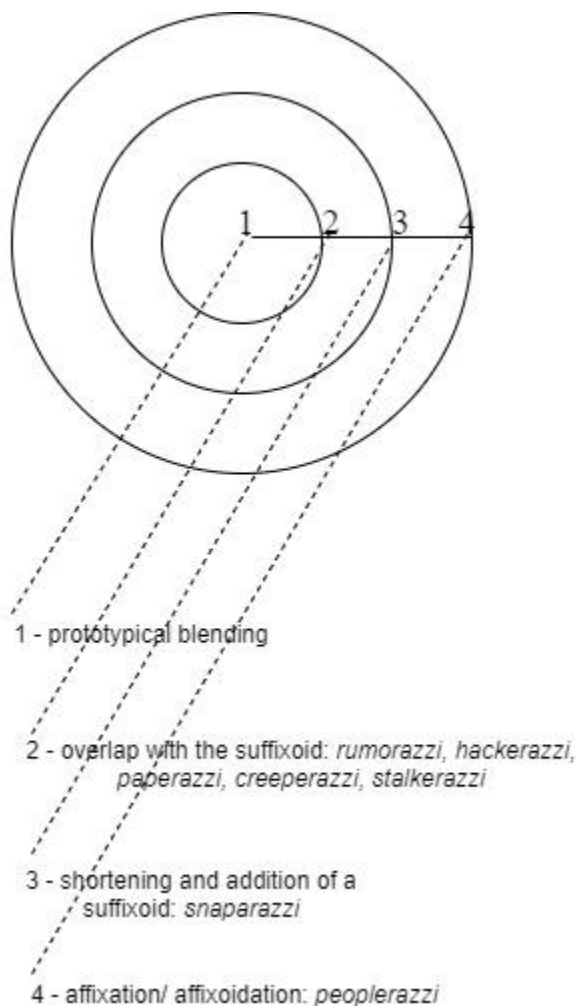


Fig. 5. Placement of the *paparazzi*-derived words on the lexical blending continuum.



Subsections Eight to Ten analyzing English lexical blends for people are interested in the constructions containing prefixes, prepositions, and numerals. The examples here are scarce but as constructions they can be misleading when their semantics is in focus. For instance, prefix-containing constructions are *supposed* to develop their meanings on the basis of simplex networks due to the relational character of the prefix. However, the emergent structure of some words hints at the construction of more complex networks (e.g.: *previvor* < *pre-* + *survivor*; “a person who does not suffer from cancer yet but can develop the disease because he/ she has precancerous cells or gene mutations”).

Bulgarian nouns for people are discussed in four main subsections: noun + noun constructions, adjective + noun constructions, constructions denoting groups of people, and constructions demonstrating group derivation via lexical blending. The meaning of the words from two common nouns is constructed via single-scope or double-scope networks. For instance, a double-scope network is constructed in the case of *смешок* < *смешник* + *мишок* and *властитутка* < *власт* + *проститутка*, the second example giving rise to the pejorative terminal splinter –*тутка*.

There are not many Bulgarian blend words from two proper nouns and they are usually borrowed from English, e.g.: *Бенифър* < *Бен (Афлек)* + *Дженифър (Лонес)*, etc. They construct their meaning on the basis of mirror networks. In reality, both English and Bulgarian anthroponyms from two proper nouns are *pseudo-anthroponyms* (*symbolic anthroponyms*) because they differ from “regular” anthroponyms by denoting people perceived as cultural or political symbols of the modern age.

Most Bulgarian adjective-noun constructions for people can be characterized as clipped compounds with a shortened first component and an intact second source word. The shortened components have a word-formative function and some of them participate in the formation of plenty of new words. In the Bulgarian corpus, the first component of these clipped compounds can be: *мед-* (*медсестра*), *ком-* (*компартиец*), *крими-* (*кримирепортер*), *полит-* (*полит-инвеститор*), *проф-* (*профдеятел*), *ред-* (*редколегия*), etc. The largest group is that of the words with *спец-* (“special, specialized”) as a first component. The blended space of the neologism is usually organized by the frames of PEOPLE BY VOCATION, PEOPLE ALONG THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, PEOPLE BY MILITARY SPECIALTY. In this group of words, the meaning is constructed largely on the basis of simplex networks.

Almost all Bulgarian words for groups of people are clipped compounds as well. The second component of some clipped compounds is a noun in the plural (*спецовойници*, *спецовоенни*, *спецсили*). Other clipped compounds feature a collective noun (*кримиконтингент*, *редколегия*, *спецгрупа*). Some of the clipped compounds testify to the +INSTITUTION FOR PEOPLE+ metonymic transfer via which we name the institution or the place instead of the people working there (*пресцентър*, *спецслужба*). As a result, the meaning of the blend word is constructed with the help of a multiple blend network.

Bulgarian words for people demonstrating group derivation via lexical blending include –*охолик/-охоличка*, *-(о)крат*, *-навт* as a terminal component. These examples show that this derivational element is borrowed from English along with some English words which contain it. In both English and Bulgarian, the suffixoid –*охолик/-охоличка* acquires the meaning “addiction to a *thing*” (*нетохолик*) or “addiction to an *activity*” (*шопохолик*). Bulgarian *-(о)крат* words exist alongside with those whose second component is *-(о)крация*, like their English counterparts. The meaning of *еврократ* < *евро-/европейски* + *бюрократ* and *користократ* < *користен* + *аристократ* is constructed via a simplex network where the second input space (“Bureaucrat”, “Aristocrat”) provides the organizing frame of the integrated space. The splinter –

*навт* probably comes from *астронавт/ astronaut*. With *УФОНавт* and *НЛОнавт*, the meaning is constructed on the basis of a double-scope network where the frame of the second input space (“Astronaut”) turns out to be crucial to the integrated space. In the case of *зорбонавт*, the meaning is constructed with the help of a single-scope network where the second source unit activates a mental space whose organizing frame is inherited by the blended space. In the latter, the attribute \*Instrument\* of the Activity is highlighted together with its specific value.

Section Three of Chapter Two discusses English lexical blends denoting time. Bulgarian examples belonging to this group have not been discovered. This section has two subsections. The first subsection analyzes blend words for seasons, months and days of the week. The second subsection is interested in other types of constructions having to do with the concept of TIME. This first group of examples includes words where both source units denote periods of time. These are noun-noun constructions. The compression of the temporal continuum is most evident here because the emergent structure of the integrated space correlates highly with the compression of the two time periods between which mapping is established. The meaning of these blend words is constructed via mirror networks. All mental spaces taking part in the network are structured by the “Time” frame and the integrated space highlights the attribute \*Duration\* (e.g.: *sprummer* < *spring* + *summer*).

Section Four of Chapter Two is focused on English and Bulgarian lexical blends denoting places. The English examples are subdivided into six main categories. The first category contains toponyms which are usually made up of two nouns. The integrated concept is characterized by a locational profile. With most toponyms, the meaning is constructed on the basis of mirror networks, e.g.: *Amexica* < *America* + *Mexico*. The compression of the integrated space is most evident with respect to the attribute \*Name\* belonging to the periphery of the “Locale by Political/ Administrative Use” frame.

In English, we also encounter words with *suburb(-ia)*, *neighbourhood*, *center* as a second component. Concerning words derived from *suburb(-ia)* and *neighbourhood*, the second input space is structured by the “Locale by Political/ Administrative Use” frame which highlights the attribute \*Constituent Parts\* belonging to the frame periphery. The meaning of these examples is constructed with the help of single-scope networks. The meaning of the words with *center* as a second component is constructed on the basis of simplex networks.

The English constructions denoting places, which demonstrate group derivation via lexical blending, include as a second component *Hollywood*, *hemisphere/ sphere*, *universe*, *landscape/ -scape*. The input space “Hollywood” is culturally grounded and based on metaphorization and metonymization, as a result of which the words containing *Hollywood* as a second component construct their meaning with the help of a multiple blend. The examples based on *hemisphere/ sphere* manifest two interpretations of *-sphere*: *-SPHERE<sub>1</sub>* “place, location” and *-SPHERE<sub>2</sub>* “a group of people with equal or similar interests or activities”. The lexemes coming from *universe* show two interpretations of *-verse*: *-VERSE<sub>1</sub>* “world, universe” and *-VERSE<sub>2</sub>* “a group of people with equal or similar interests or activities”. As regards the huge group of words with *landscape/ -scape* as a second component, the meaning of *-scape* is usually constructed with the help of the “Bounded Region” frame, the first input space specifying the meaning of the new word. As a whole, meaning is constructed on the basis of single-scope networks. The multitude of *-scapes* represents bounded places in which there are focal points determining the topology of the place.

English lexemes denoting residential buildings and various kinds of establishments include nouns for buildings, rooms, eating establishments, and establishments offering services. Most words in this group combine two common nouns. The meaning of some words is constructed on

the basis of the frames “Locale by Use” (*groceraunt* < *grocery store* + *restaurant*), “Building” (*twigloo* < *twig* + *igloo*) and “Building: Subparts” (*classitorium* < *classroom* + *auditorium*). Of greater interest here are the words containing *hotel* as a second component which represent a derivational family centered on a terminal formative appearing as *-(o)tel*, for instance, with *condotel* < *condominium* + *hotel*, or *-(t)el*, for instance, with *motel* < *motor* + *hotel*.

Bulgarian words for places are subdivided into five categories: nouns for continents and parts of countries as administrative units (toponyms), words containing *Холливуд/ Hollywood* as a second component, clipped compounds, residential buildings and various kinds of establishments and other words for places. The nouns for residence and establishments stand out in this group of examples. They usually consist of two nouns or an adjective and a noun and feature loans (*мотел*), calques (*фермостъргач* < *farmscraper*), hybrid borrowings (*клекишон* < *клякам* + *shop*) and Bulgarian coinages (*бараишон* < *барака* + *кашон*).

Section Five of Chapter Two discusses lexical blends denoting animals and plants (phytonyms and zoonyms) in English and Bulgarian. Parallels are easy to establish between the two languages since the meaning of the examples is constructed largely with the help of mirror networks and Bulgarian often borrows from English, e.g.: *rabbage* < *radish* + *cabbage*, *Poogle* < *Poodle* + *Beagle*, *брокофиол* < *броколи* + *карфиол*, *чийгъл* < *чихуахуа* + *бийгъл*, etc. Blend zoonyms in both languages realize the schema [+Male Animal] – [+Female Animal], e.g.: *liger* < *lion* + *tigress*, *косаткофин* < (*мъжка*) *косатка* + *-о-* + (*женски*) *делфин*.

Section Six is dedicated to lexemes denoting material entities. In English, they are classified as follows: words for food and beverages, words for clothing, words for substances and materials, words for devices, words for natural languages and language varieties, and words for digital entities whose second component is *blog* or *bit*. With the first four groups, meaning is constructed mainly via simplex networks and mirror networks. The derivational families around *martini*, *cappuccino*, *bikini* stand out here. The lexemes for substances, materials, and devices usually belong to scientific and specialized discourse, which is why they very often feature a combining form of Greek or Latin origin. The first one, the second one, or both source units of some blend words for devices are deverbal nouns ending in *-er/ -or* and with some examples one of the source units possesses the *-ing* suffix, which presupposes activation of the ACTIVITY/ ACTION concept.

The English words for natural languages and language varieties are 74, quite a large group. In most cases, their meaning is constructed by mirror networks where both input spaces are organized by the “Text” frame. The CIN highlights the attribute \*Medium\* referring to the language of the text or the medium by means of which the text is created (speech or writing).

Some analyzed English constructions contain *blog* or *bit*, usually as a second constituent. It is possible to treat *blog* as a clipped compound formed by a terminal splinter and a whole word: *blog* < *web* + *log*. The *blog* group illustrates the grey areas between composition, abbreviation, and lexical blending. The meaning of these lexemes is constructed via highlighting various attributes, e.g.: \*Characteristic\* (*plog* < *personalized* + *blog*), \*Activity\* (*bleg* < *blog* + *beg*), \*Instrument\* (*moblog* < *mobile (phone)* + *blog*) and so on, usually on the basis of simplex networks. *Bit* words (*bit* < *binary* + *digit*), units of measurement for amount of information, construct their meaning with the help of the “Measures” frame associated with the “Measure” scenario. The “Measures” frame helps in the conceptualization of entities measured in an attribute by quantifying the count of a given unit.

Bulgarian words for material entities also include words for food and beverages, clothing, substances and materials, devices and digital entities with “блог” and “бит” as a second component, most of which are affected by the language contact between English and Bulgarian.

However, the lexemes in this group also embrace clipped compounds for material entities whose first constituent is *спец-* and *ел-*, e.g.: *елкабел*, *елматериали*, *спецкарта*, *спецкаталог*, etc. The meaning of the constructions with *спец-* and *ел-* is constructed via simplex networks highlighting the attribute \*Use\* with its specific values.

Section Seven of Chapter Two analyzes English and Bulgarian constructions for immaterial entities. In English, these constructions denote emotions and psychological states, medical states and socio-political concepts. In the group of words for psychological states, one's attention is attracted by the constructions whose second component is *insanity*, *nostalgia*, *amnesia*, *attitude*, etc. The meanings of these constructions are summarized as follows: "An entity is the object of X", "A person feels X", "An activity is the object of X", "An entity causes X", etc., where X stands for a particular emotion or a psychological state. Within the group of English words for medical states, those with *anorexia* as a second component are of greater interest: the suffixoidal formative *-(o)rexia* is subject to three interpretations with a different degree of specialization. Within the group of English words for socio-political concepts, the derivational family around *economics* is worth considering. Here with half of the examples, the first component is a proper noun functioning as a pseudo-anthroponym in the new word, e.g.: *Clintonomics* < *Clinton* + *economics*. The meaning of these lexemes is constructed with the help of various kinds of conceptual integrated networks.

Bulgarian lexemes for immaterial entities are classified into three subgroups: words for socio-political concepts, clipped compounds and other words for immaterial entities. The first component of clipped compounds can be: *полит-* (*политикономия*), *соц-* (*соцрезил*), *спец-* (*спецстатут*), *физ-* (*физкултура*). The meaning of these clipped compounds is constructed on the basis of simplex networks highlighting the attribute \*Type\* of the immaterial entity. Most of the words in the third group mentioned above are Bulgarian coinages and can be regarded as instances of paronomasia, e.g.: *джинтуиция* < *джин* + *интуиция*, *Еврорезилия* < *Евровизия* + *резил*, *маймунитет* < *маймуна* + *имунитет* and so on.

Section Eight of Chapter Two discusses the constructions for (an act or a product of) an action or an activity. In English, these constructions are formed with the suffixes *-ing*, *-(a)(t)ion*, *-ment* and the suffixoid *-(a)thon*. Since with *-ing*, *-(a)(t)ion* and *-ment* words the second source unit is a deverbal noun, the semantics of these words reflects the concept ACTIVITY (or ACTION), together with some of its typical attributes: \*Agent\*, \*Activity\*, \*Object\* of the Activity, \*Duration\*, \*Manner\*, \*Place\*, \*Time\* and so on. Within the group of *-(a)(t)ion* examples, the focus falls on those whose second source unit is *vacation*, *exploitation*, *inflation*. Here we discover the splinters *-cation*, *-sploitation/ xploitation* and *-flation*. Some new words, whose second source unit ends in *-ment*, form a derivational family around *entertainment*, giving rise to the suffixoidal formative *-tainment*. Three out of the four examples with *advertisement* as a second component contain the formative *-(ver)tisement*. As constructions, the lexemes with *-(a)thon* as a second component usually combine the suffixoid with a monosyllabic verb, e.g.: *begathon*, *hackathon*, *shopathon*. The meaning of *-(a)thon* in all examples in the corpus is a generalization of the meaning of *marathon* and can be described as "a prolonged act of performing an action/ activity".

Bulgarian words for (an act or a product of) an action or an activity encompass clipped compounds, words whose second component is *екшън* and other lexemes for (an act or a product of) an action or an activity. Most clipped compounds contain the element *спец-*. They are discussed in view of the formation of the second component of the new word, e.g.: zero-suffixation, suffix *-(a)ция*, suffix *-ие*, suffix *-ка*, etc. The meaning of part of the constructions presupposes the appearance of an entity which is the object of the activity, the result of the

activity or the instrument of the activity, e.g.: *снейдекларация* (“someone declares something by means of a declaration” (\*Instrument\*), “someone makes a declaration” (\*Object\* of the Activity).

The group of *екшън* words (*кютекшън*, *кючекшън*, *ромекшън*, etc.) can refer to film genres as motion-picture categories but also to an activity in general. In the first case, there is a greater semantic difference between *екшън* as a borrowing and its English counterpart: *екшън* as a film genre and *action* as an activity. In Bulgarian, the meaning of *екшън* shows how loanwords very often enter a recipient language with semantic adaptation.

Section Nine of Chapter Two is devoted to the manifestations of conceptual metaphor and conceptual metonymy in English and Bulgarian. This section comprises four subsections, two of which analyze conceptual metaphor, conceptual metonymy, and metaphor ~ metonymy interactions, the other two subsections summarizing the conclusions. The interaction between conceptual metaphor and conceptual metonymy demonstrates two major tendencies: 1) one source unit contributes to metonymic transfer and the other source unit reflects metaphorization; 2) one source unit or the new construction as a whole testifies to metonymic transfer presupposing the existence of a particular conceptual metaphor. In both English and Bulgarian, metonymy is often aided by paronomasia.

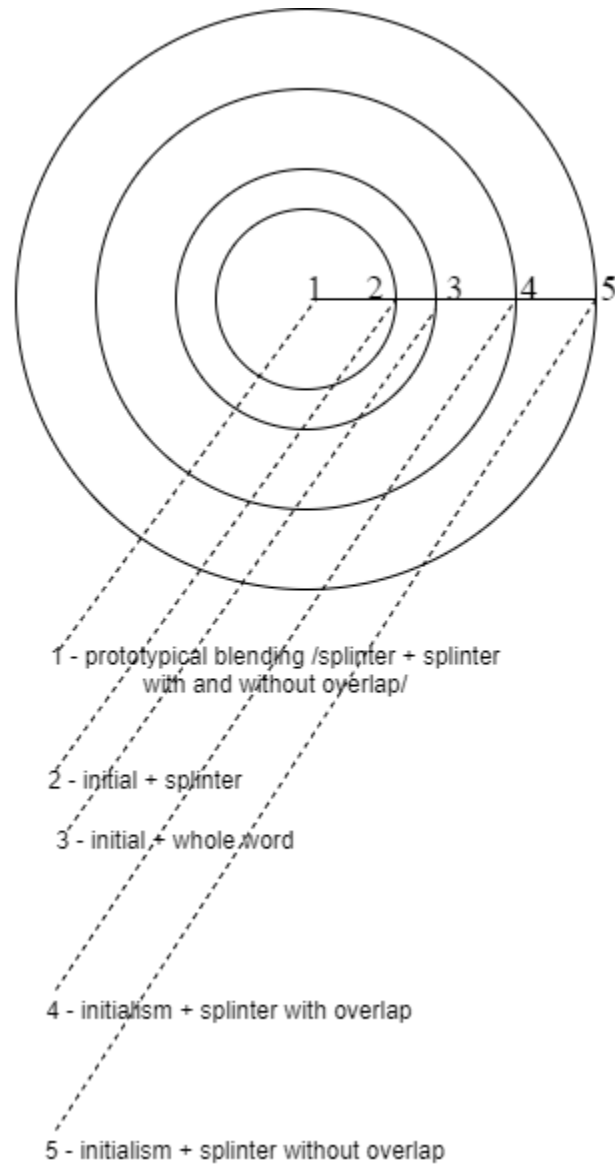
Metaphorization is often multi-level, i.e. several conceptual metaphors function in combination. They may constitute a hierarchical structure or establish conceptual links with each other. On a linguistic level, in both English and Bulgarian, metaphorization is signaled by one of the construction components or via the combination of the two components. In both languages, metaphorization is often aided by paronomasia. In Bulgarian, however, metaphorization is sporadic in comparison to English, which is not surprising since it is made use of largely by “authored” occasionalisms.

## 6. Review of the Concluding Part

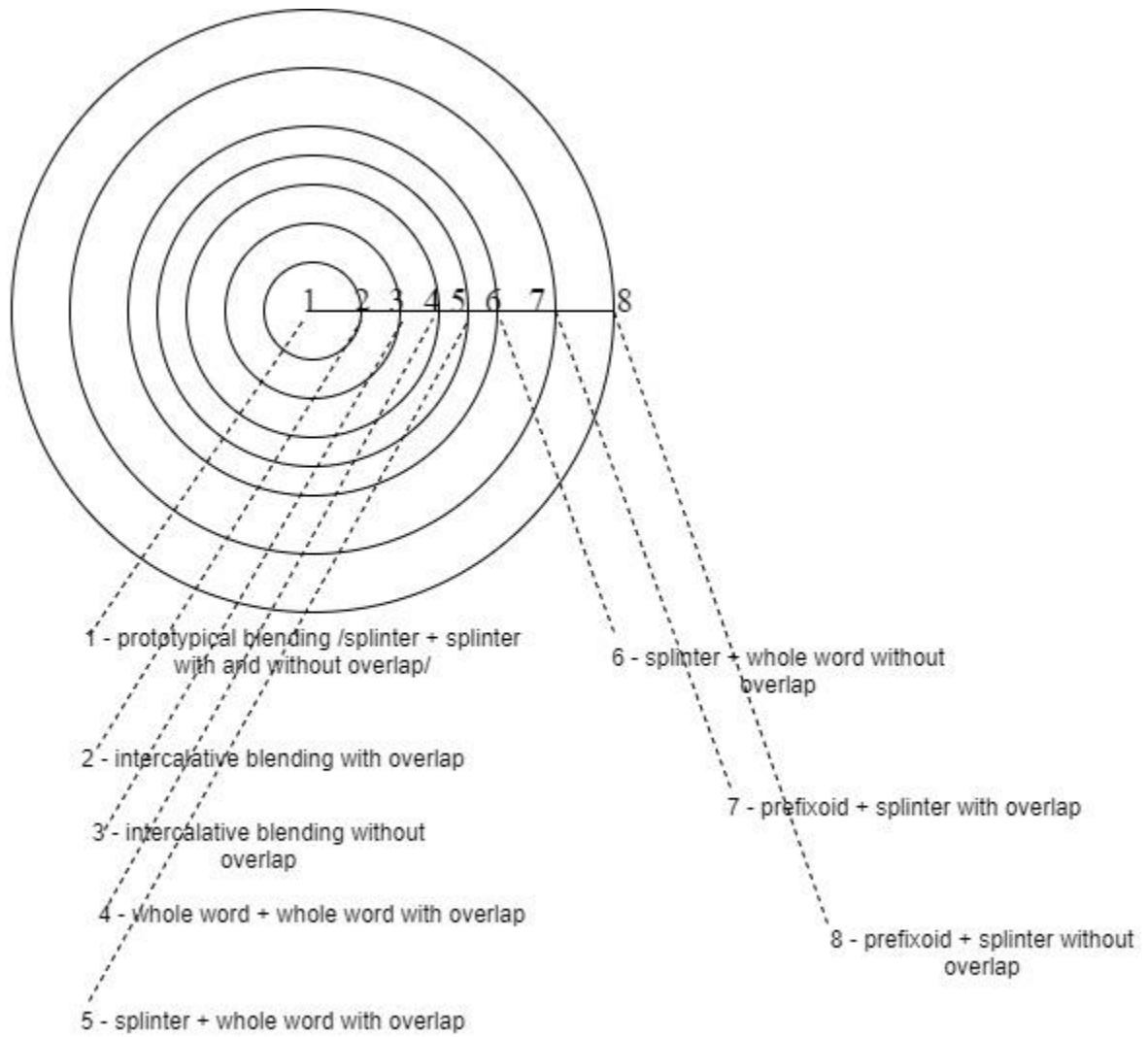
The Concluding Part of the PhD thesis contains seven sections, the first of which is devoted to the foreign language influence on the formation of lexical blends and clipped compounds in Bulgarian while the last section outlines the scientific contribution of the dissertation. The foreign language influence on Bulgarian is manifested by both local coinages and borrowings. Local coinages are affected not only by English but also by Russian and Turkish via the usage of words of Turkish origin (*вестникяр*) and the usage of a structural type typical of Russian which combines a shortened first component with a whole word (Russian *капстрана*). Local words are also coined with the help of borrowed autonomous words entering mainly from English (*булгаверна* < *Bulgarian* + *таверна*). Nevertheless, the influence of English in the formation of local lexical blends is most evident with respect to prototypical lexical blending because the latter is not typical of Bulgarian. This section also outlines the basic language contact tendencies affecting Bulgarian loans. In this respect, the borrowing of terminal fragmentary components is most obvious, e.g.: *-гейт*, *-номика*, *-(а)тон*, *-кини*, *-матика*, *-тека*, etc. Some of them are successfully combined with Bulgarian lexemes (e.g.: *Овчокалписис*, *бръмбаргейт*, etc.).

Section Two of the Concluding Part discusses the structure of the constructions in the English corpus. In English, the largest groups of words are those of lexical blends from two splinters (*brunch*) and blends combining an entire word with a splinter (*chinderwear*). For English, seventeen main structural types have been identified, some of which are characterized by a phonetic overlap of the source units. This section offers diagrams illustrating the grey areas shared by lexical blending, abbreviation, composition, and affixation. When the word (which can be characterized as a lexical blend *to a given extent*) approaches a particular word-formation

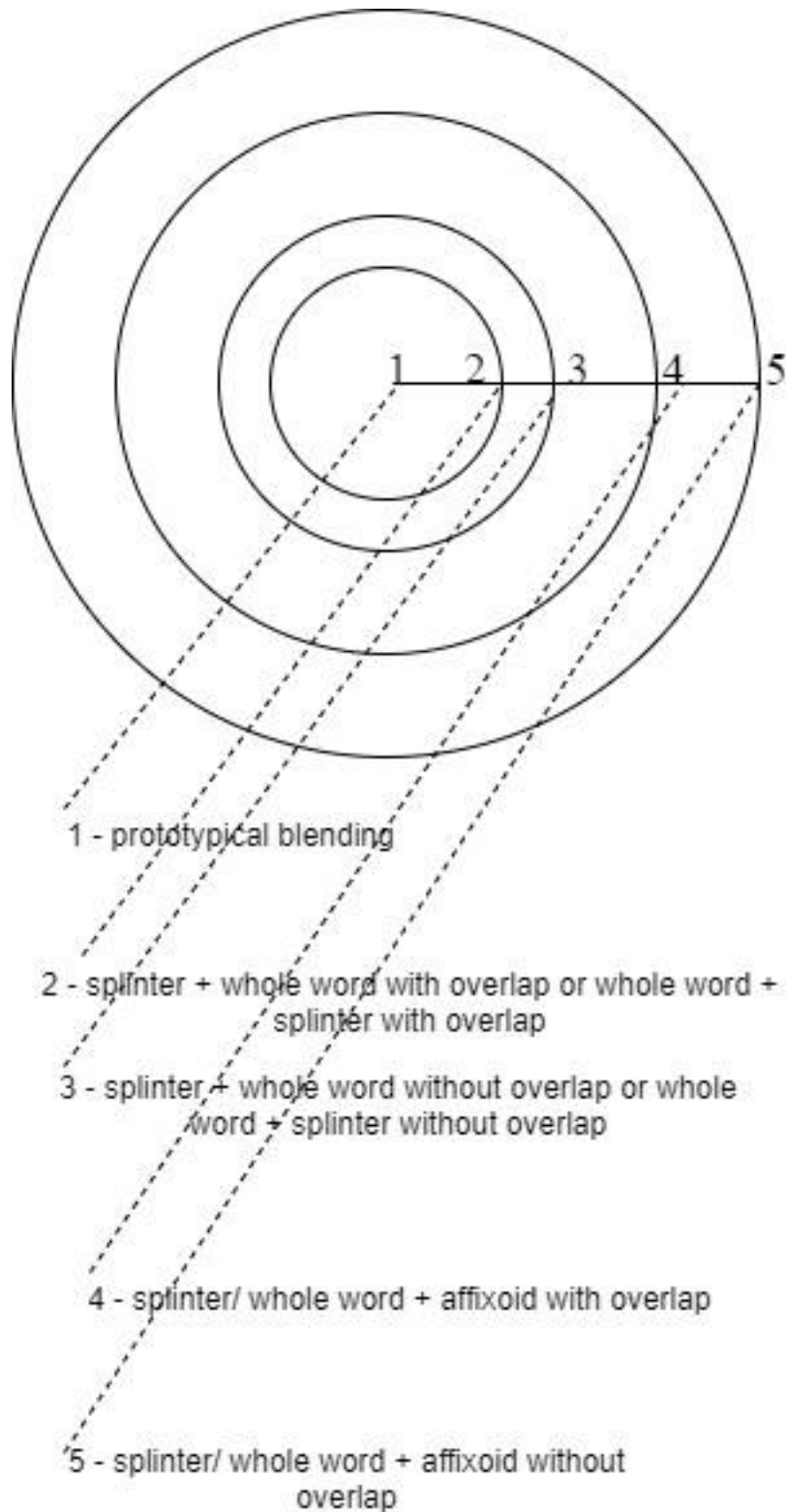
process, it becomes more transparent morphotactically since morphotactic transparency is inversely proportional to lexical blending. In the center of the diagrams, we position prototypical blending (Point 1), the other points showing the gradual approximation of the lexical units to another word-formation process. Within each circle belonging to the graded category, we place all lexical units which follow the condition specified by the numbered point (see Fig. 6, 7, and 8).



*Fig. 6. Prototypicality of the structural types in the English corpus. Overlap of lexical blending and abbreviation.*



*Fig. 7. Prototypicality of the structural types in the English corpus. Overlap of lexical blending and compounding.*



*Fig. 8. Prototypicality of the structural types in the English corpus. Overlap of lexical blending and affixation.*



The third section of the Concluding Part discusses the structure of the lexical units in the Bulgarian corpus. The constructions in the Bulgarian corpus do not boast such a huge structural variety due to the much lower productivity of this word formation process. This section analyzes the structure of local coinages and loanwords in Bulgarian. Local coinages are subdivided into five structural types and borrowings into four structural types since there are no intercalation/inclusion loans in the Bulgarian corpus. For Bulgarian, the word-formative pattern combining an initial splinter and a whole word is most productive. The shortened component may coincide with a morphemic boundary, e.g.: *спец-*, *соц-*, *жил-*, *физ-*, *строй-*, or it may violate the morphemics of the word, e.g.: *мед-*, *ел-*, *рай-*. Like English constructions belonging to this structural type, Bulgarian ones feature a shortened word part which may preserve syllable structure (see *кримиконтингент* - *кри-ми* – two intact syllables) or not (see *профсъюз* - *про-ф* – reduced second syllable).

Sections Four and Five of the Concluding Part summarize the conclusions concerning the semantics of the constructions in the two corpora, i.e. conclusions regarding onomasiological categories and conclusions as to how conceptual integrated networks affect meaning construction. From the point of view of onomasiological categories, the influence of English on Bulgarian is greatest with respect to: words denoting people, phytonyms, zoonyms, and words denoting material entities. With respect to these categories of words, we can discover greatest similarities between the two languages when meaning is constructed on the basis of mirror networks. In the case of Bulgarian and English words for material entities, meaning is constructed largely with the help of simplex CIN and mirror CIN.

The Concluding Part also offers a summary of the most salient attributes in the formation of conceptual integrated networks for every onomasiological category.

- In the conceptualization of PEOPLE – \*Age\*, \*Sex\*, \*Behavior\*, \*Agent\*, \*Activity\*, \*Characteristic\*, \*Instrument\* of the Activity, \*Ethnic Belonging\*, \*Vocation\*, \*Patient\*. The highlighting of the attributes \*Agent\*, \*Activity\*, \*Patient\* and \*Instrument\* of the Activity is due to the interaction between the “Person” frame and the “Activity” frame since these attributes are typical of the “Activity” frame. In this way, the concept of PERSON becomes relational to a certain extent. The lexical blends for people composed of two proper names demonstrate the following language schemata: Name [+Male] – Name [+Male], Name [+Female] – Name [+Male] and Name [+Male] – Name [+Female].

- In the conceptualization of TIME – The \*Duration\* attribute is most salient.

- In the conceptualization of PLACE/ SPACE - \*Name\*, \*Constituent Parts\* (as regards the “Political Locales” frame), \*Population\*, \*Use\*, \*Characteristic\*, \*Formational Cause\*.

- In the conceptualization of PLANTS - \*Name\*.

- In the conceptualization of ANIMALS - \*Name\* and \*Sex\*. We discover the salient schema [+Male Animal] - [+Female Animal]. In the case of this group of words, probably to a greater extent than with words denoting people, the iconic principle of sequential order affects the arrangement of the source units in the new construction. The placement of the male before the female reflects a number of cultural and societal attitudes, even stereotypes, which suggest a particular way of understanding the world around us. In the male/female dichotomy, the primary member of the category is the male being since the position of the male is more prestigious in the so-called linguistic picture of the world. Evaluations of this type form the basis of androcentrism (see Pencheva 2001).

- In the conceptualization of MATERIAL ENTITIES - \*Characteristic\*, \*Constituent Parts\*, \*Use\*, as well as attributes inherited from the “Activity” frame, namely \*Agent\*, \*Activity\*,

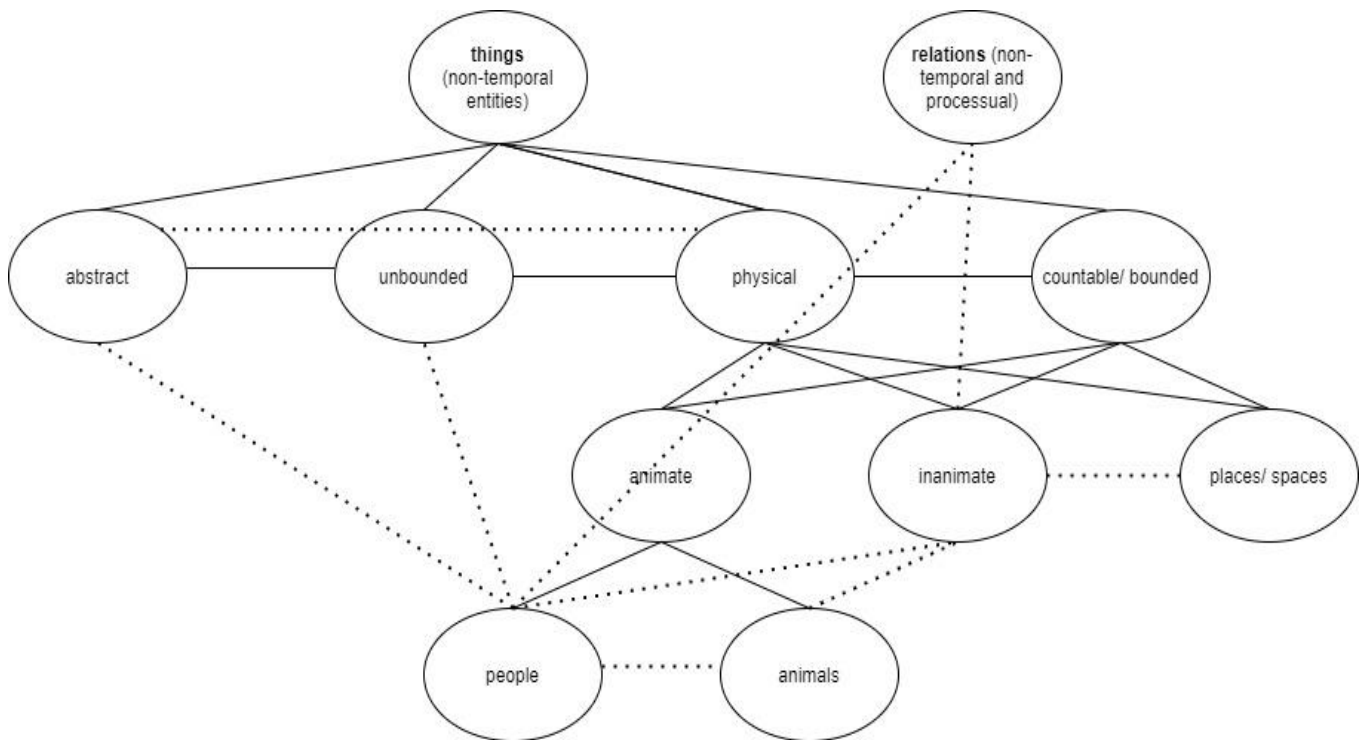
\*Object\* of the Activity, \*Place\* of the Activity, as a result of which the concept becomes relational to some extent.

- In the conceptualization of IMMATERIAL ENTITIES - \*Name\*, \*Type\*, \*Characteristic\*, \*Formational Cause\*, \*Experiencer\*.

- In the conceptualization of (AN ACT OR A PRODUCT OF) ACTIVITY/ ACTION - \*Agent\*, \*Object\* of the Activity, \*Experiencer\*, \*Patient\*, \*Time\* of the Activity, \*Place\* of the Activity, \*Manner\* of the Activity, \*Instrument\* of the Activity, \*Duration\* of the Activity, \*Characteristic\*.

The most significant conclusion holds that the constructions combining an autonomous and a relational concept can be misleading as to the interpretation of the meaning of the construction in its entirety. The hypothesis that the meaning of such constructions rests on simplex networks is invalidated for some examples whose lower degree of compositionality points to the creation of more complex CIN where values belonging to one frame are not directly assigned to attributes belonging to another frame.

Section Six of the Concluding Part goes back to the working definition of lexical blending and corrects it by including paronomasia in it. The corrected definition emphasizes that paronomasia may be used as a linguistic device although it is not an obligatory condition to determine the degree to which constructions are definable as lexical blends. This section also offers a semantic definition of lexical blends in view of their cognitive linguistic analysis. A diagram presents the most salient conceptual links contributing to the meaning construction of lexical blends and their related constructions in English and Bulgarian (Fig. 9, see the dotted lines).



*Fig. 9. Salient conceptual links contributing to the meaning construction and interpretation of blend nouns and related lexical units in Bulgarian and English.*

## **7. Scientific Contribution of the PhD Thesis**

### **• Object of the Study**

Bulgarian linguistics considerably marginalizes lexical blending which is subsumed under the category of abbreviation. Therefore, lexical blending has been chosen as an object of study in order to demonstrate that both English and Bulgarian undergo modifications so that they can adapt to global socio-cultural tendencies with the help of language contact and speakers' lexical inventiveness. As a whole, lexical blending in English and Bulgarian is understudied and this is the most significant scientific contribution of the present research.

### **• Analyzed Corpus**

The analyzed corpus has been compiled on the basis of contemporary sources which, for the most part, contain linguistic material that cannot be found in monolingual or bilingual dictionaries. This is because the linguistic material under study largely embraces nonce-words and neologisms which usually originate from colloquial speech and slang. In this way, the analyzed corpus manifests the dynamic development of English and Bulgarian. Nevertheless, the corpus is sufficiently wide-ranging because it also includes units long established in the system of language, i.e. specialized and scientific language.

### **• Theoretical and Methodological Foundations of the Study**

The present study analyzes the subject and object of the study with the help of the theoretical premises of Cognitive Linguistics in order to offer a novel approach to lexical blending, traditionally analyzed by means of the morpheme-based approach and the conventional semantic approach. In view of the objectives of the structural analysis of the linguistic material in the English corpus, the prototypical approach has been opted for. The application of the prototypical approach has been necessitated due to the existence of grey areas shared by lexical blending and other word formation processes. This approach has helped in the diagrammatic representation of the great variety of structural patterns in the English corpus.

### **• Analytical Model**

The dissertation uses a mixed analytical model combining Conceptual Integration Theory and Frame Semantics in order to show that these two theories can complement each other so that the object of study is subjected to an unconventional scientific approach. Fauconnier and Turner's conceptual integration model has thereby been modified to become more objective without unnecessary and excessive complication.

On the basis of the analysis of the linguistic material, the dissertation makes certain conclusions with respect to meaning construction and interpretation via conceptual integrated networks. The aim has been to show that the applied analytical model is able to illustrate how meaning is continuously negotiated by the participants in the communicative process, which accounts for its fluidity. In this way, the dissertation demonstrates how different meanings are attributable to different types of conceptual integration.

- **Visual Representation of Conclusions**

The mixed analytical model has been visually represented with diagrams in order to reflect the dynamic quality of meaning construction and interpretation as much as possible, despite the disadvantages of the static means of visual representation.

- **Applicability**

The present study offers two definitions of lexical blending which can be taken into account in future research. The first definition has to do with the structure of blend words and is based on the working definition presented in the dissertation. However, since the study is focused on the semantics of lexical blends and related constructions, it also suggests a definition of their meaning from the point of view of Cognitive Linguistics.

The English corpus, assembled for the purposes of this study, can have a practical application in the compilation of a dictionary of contemporary nonce-words and neologisms in English.

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