

## ABSTRACTS

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### THEMATIC FIELD IN THE SEMANTIC SPACE OF A FICTION TEXT (BASED ON THE NOVELS BY JOHN MAXWELL COETZEE)

In this article a thematic field is regarded as a constituent unit in the overall lexical structure of the semantic space of a fiction text. A thematic field stands for the ties among lexical units that are determined by their reference to extralinguistic reality; thus, it seems to linguistically anchor an area of this reality by means of words. In this light, a thematic field represents the fundamental principle of systemic organization of the lexicon, which presupposes words being interconnected on the ground of their semantic affinity, compatibility or equality. In the semantic space of a fiction text a thematic field is set up according to this principle. However, in a literary text a thematic field serves to sketch an area of reality which is subjectively constructed by its author. Based on his experience in world cognition, the author uses the language in his own way, selecting the most relevant lexical units to verbalize his literary vision. A thematic field that is linguistically shaped in the semantic space demonstrates a structure with a core, medial zone and periphery. Location of its constituents is determined with the help of lexicographic sources by searching for a dominant seme in the semantic structure of their meanings. The findings of the research show that the semantic space of novels by J.M. Coetzee is dominated by a thematic field «**huMAN BoDY**» which is divided into two subfields, i.e. «*parts of body*» and «*movements of body*». Lexical units that compose the lexical structure of this thematic field function in two major ways, i.e. to create a clear denotative link and ensure literary sense expressiveness within the contextual setting. Further research will focus on semantic and associative fields as two other parameters of lexical structural organization of the semantic space of the novels by J.M. Coetzee.