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Семантическое поле девиации в цикле произведений «Зов Ктулху» Г. Лавкрафта

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Аннотация. Цель исследования - определить особенности языкового выражения составляющих семантического поля девиации в цикле произведений «Зов Ктулху» Г. Лавкрафта в английском языке. Научная новизна работы заключается в выявлении средств английского языка, определяющих разнообразные стороны ментальных и физиологических девиаций на примере данного цикла. Полученные результаты показали, что ментальный и физиологический компоненты девиации представлены полисемантической структурой, разнообразными формами и средствами их выражения; такая структура асимметрична и может варьироваться в зависимости от цели исследователя. Количественным методом определены специфические структурные характеристики категории: сеть языковых единиц в ядре семантического поля компонентов на основе частотного списка, данные интерпретационного поля.

EN

The Semantic Field of Deviation in the Cycle “The Call of Cthulhu” by H. Lovecraft

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Abstract. The aim of the study is to determine the features of the linguistic expression of the semantic field of deviation in the cycle “The Call of Cthulhu” by H. Lovecraft in English. The scientific novelty of the paper lies in the identification of the English language means which determine the various aspects of mental and physiological deviations by the example of the cycle. The results showed that the mental and physiological components of deviations are represented by a polysemantic structure, various forms and means of their expression; such a structure is asymmetric and can vary in accordance with the purpose of the research. The quantitative method defined the specific structural characteristics of the category: the co-occurrence network of linguistic units in the core of the semantic field of the components based on the frequency list, data of the interpretative field.

Introduction

Due to changing cultural realities, interaction between various social groups, and some global processes, the problem of mental and physiological deviations has become more evident. The relevance of the study is the necessity to consider the variability in approaches to mental and physiological deviations, which are observed among the representatives of various social groups. It is also connected with the rising interest of the scholars towards evaluative categorization and its reflection of the author’s linguistic worldview in literary works. It is relevant to study mental units: categories and concepts of evaluative nature, because their complexity is based on various types of knowledge and principles of their formation (Boldyrev, 2021, p. 177). Moreover, the category of deviation in the literary work “The Call of Cthulhu” by Howard Lovecraft is being considered in the light of quantitative analysis within computational linguistics.

In accordance with the aim of the work, the following tasks are defined: a) to reveal the components of deviation; b) to consider the semantic fields representing mental and physiological deviations and describe interconnections between them; c) to analyze means of expressing mental and physiological deviations in “The Call of Cthulhu” by H. Lovecraft using conceptual and quantitative methods.

The methods of conceptual and quantitative analyses of components of the mental and physiological deviations semantic fields within the conceptual analysis in the literary work “The Call of Cthulhu” by H. Lovecraft helped to consider the structure, forms, and means of its expression. Both methods are necessary in this work to define the borders of the category, its main components, and linguistic units and consider category asymmetry in the text “The Call of Cthulhu” by H. Lovecraft.

The theoretical background of the study is represented by the works of leading scholars. Analyzing the terms *semantic field*, *category*, we followed the ideas of A. Bondarko (1991), V. Evans, S. Pourcel (2009), and P. G. Meyer (2005).

Considering the position of lexis in the semantic structure of the category, the insights of M. Wang (2020) were used. The theoretical evidence by E. Piechurska-Kuciel and her colleagues (Piechurska-Kuciel, Szymańska-Czaplak, Szyszka, 2017), A. Simon-Vandenberg and K. Aijmer (2008) about peripheries within the semantic fields and their interpretative part were taken into account in this work.

Practical value of this work implies that forms and means of expressing the category of deviation, its methods of analysis will be a good resource of compiling and correcting special explanatory combinatorial dictionaries, reconstructing semantic fields of other concepts of language and culture, forming corpora. The data received in the study can be essential for specialists in the sphere of lexicography, cognitive linguistics, computational linguistics. Means of expressing the category of deviation in this literary work were considered from the position of cognitive and computational linguistics for the first time. The research results can be used in lecture courses on cognitive linguistics, lexicology, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, stylistics.

Results and Discussion

The category of deviation is a multi-level system, which includes various components; their status varies depending on cultural phenomena when a certain element becomes more important in the framework of certain events in the society.

Such formation presupposes the semantic fields, defining the mental unit at the levels of lexeme, collocation, phraseological unit, sentence, and the whole text (Wang, 2020). The semantic analysis of lexical units that are associated with the semantic field of deviation lets us reveal the lexemes of broad semantics.

Considering the structure of this mental unit, we followed the ideas developed in the theory of semantic fields (Meyer, 2005). The semantic field of deviation is organized in the hierarchical taxonomic structure. It presupposes the existence of the core, near and distant peripheries in its semantic fields (Ptashkin, 2021). The central part of the semantic field implies the most frequently used lexical units of neutral-bookish style. These are the linguistic units which are closely related to the primary lexeme of the category and its derivatives.

The near and distant peripheries include the linguistic units of narrower scope (Simon-Vandenberg, Aijmer, 2008). These are the linguistic units marked as informal ones (slang of various types, vulgarisms, etc.) in thesauri, other dictionaries, and in a certain contextual environment. The distant periphery implies euphemisms.

V. Evans and S. Pourcel (2009) distinguished the interpretative field in the structure of the category. It implies the informational content of the category (Piechurska-Kuciel, Szymańska-Czaplak, Szyszka, 2017). The interpretative field defines the category at the level of utterance and the whole text.

The semantic fields of deviation overlap, considering the most abstract lexical units, which can indicate both mental and physiological anomalies: *lack, disease, illness, symptom*, etc.; they usually occupy the core of the mental unit semantic fields.

The procedure of describing the semantic fields was clearly offered by A. Bondarko (1991), distinguishing a general analysis of the semantic field or a description of the categorial situation referring to this semantic field.

The conceptual analysis method is limited to the stages aimed at considering linguistic units in the contextual environment, lexical entries, forming the inner structure of the category. The conceptual analysis observes categories expressed by linguistic units of various abstractions.

The following stages of conceptual analysis were distinguished in accordance with the tasks of revealing the structural characteristics of the mental unit, the means, and forms of its expression in the natural language: a) any conceptual analysis starts with defining the key lexeme, which characterizes the category in general. It can be distinguished by means of the analysis of lexical entries, WordNet (<https://wordnet.princeton.edu/>), etc. The data about the frequency of using lexical units in this work is supported with the software KH Coder 3 (<http://khcoder.net/>), which helps to mine the text; b) defining the linguistic units that actualize the meanings referring to the semantic fields of deviation in the text "The Call of Cthulhu". The contextual analysis of this text allowed us to reveal lexemes, collocations and phrases of various degree of abstraction, characterizing the core-periphery semantic space of the category. The analysis of lexical entries supported the idea of the linguistic units belonging to the same style; c) distinguishing the structural components of the category under study in the literary work "The Call of Cthulhu". The components of the category based on the meanings of the linguistic units taken in the contextual analysis are considered. These data are merged with the information received in the quantitative analysis with the help of KH Coder 3. The main goal of the quantitative analysis here is to show the position of the linguistic units in the co-occurrence network in the semantic fields and detail the hierarchy of the concepts that are in taxonomic relations with the main category.

The semantic space of the category of deviation in the story "The Call of Cthulhu" is represented by lexical units which are further analyzed in special contextual environment: *outré mental illness, outbreaks, group folly, mania, odd dreams, genius, eccentricity, queer, psychically hypersensitive, subsidence into lethargy, whole condition, fever, mental disorder, trace, malady, delirium, affect, abnormal, go insane, seizure, expire, incessant screamings, panic, low, mentally aberrant, creatures, degraded, committed to institutions, go mad, lapse into delirium, abysses of shrieking, immemorial lunacy, rave with fever, deliriously, laughing maniac, gathering of clouds about consciousness, mad*. Thus, the **mental deviation** semantic field includes not only lexemes but also collocations and phrases. All these units characterize the core part of the semantic field of lexical units of neutral-bookish style, denoting mental illness. The **physiological deviation** semantic field is represented in this text, denoting accompanying anomalies.

The analysis of linguistic units under study showed that these means characterizing the mental component of this category are not polysemantic ones. The following meanings within the context of the narration of the work "The Call of Cthulhu" were distinguished: 1) mental illness; 2) mental aberration accompanied by physiological pathology; 3) strange and unconventional behavior. These meanings are marked by a specific contextual environment. For instance, the mental component in the literary work "The Call of Cthulhu" is expressed by means denoting newspaper notes of strange cases of going mad in some groups of people in 1925: "...*outré mental illness... outbreaks of group folly or mania*" (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 142) The collocation "*outré mental illness*" represents the meaning "a medical condition of a person marked by a strong disorganization of mind" (Law J., Martin E. Concise Medical Dictionary. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020. P. 353). The lexeme "*outbreak*" in the collocation "*outbreaks of group folly or mania*" actualizes the meaning "a sudden increase in the number of people affected by the disease" (Porta M. Dictionary of Public Health. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018. P. 176). The semantics of the collocation "*group folly*" refers to the form of the mental deviation of the basic level – strange behavior. The lexeme "*mania*" actualizes its direct meaning "an affective disorder" and refers to the basic level of categorization – to the core of the **mental deviation** semantic field (Law, Martin, 2020, p. 342).

Henry Anthony Wilcox, a sculptor, fallen into a delirious dream, created a bas-relief sculpture of Cthulhu. Suffering from nightmares, he was inclined to explain these stories: "...*odd dreams he was in the habit of relating*" (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 142). People considered him a strange genius: "...*a precocious youth of known genius...*", "...*great eccentricity*", but they dismissed a talented sculptor, calling him "*queer*". He also evaluated himself as "*psychically hypersensitive*" (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 142). The lexeme "*genius*" in the context of this example represents a positive deviation – "a talented sculptor, whose skills were evaluated by the society". His behavior was not accepted by neighbors. The lexeme "*eccentricity*" actualizes the meaning "strange and unconventional behavior" (Stevenson A. Oxford English Dictionary. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. P. 1393). The part of the sentence "*odd dreams he was in the habit of relating*" characterizes the interpretative field **mental deviation**, indicating the disease the character suffered from. The lexeme "*queer*" is represented by its direct meaning "deviating from the usual" (WordNet). It refers to the core of the **mental deviation** semantic field. The collocation "*psychically hypersensitive*" actualizes the author's specific meaning "affected with emotional disorder".

This person had an inclination for being beside himself when someone asked him about the mysterious creatures: "...*subsidence into lethargy*" (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 144). The collocation "*subsidence into lethargy*" actualizes the meaning "losing consciousness". The collocation "*whole condition*" in the context of considering odd temperature of Wilcox refers to the physiological deviation (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 144). It belongs to the neutral-bookish style and stands as the synonym to the lexeme "*fever*" (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 144). The lexical unit "*fever*" also actualizes the meaning "an illness accompanied by a rise in the temperature" (WordNet). It is the representative of the core of both semantic fields of **physiological and mental deviations**. The nature of that fever was not obvious and could have been the result of a bad psychological condition of Wilcox. The collocation "*mental disorder*" is reflected in its direct meaning: "a psychological deviation" (WordNet).

This sculptor, suffering from his disease from February 23 until April 2, felt better: "...*every trace of Wilcox's malady suddenly ceased*" (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 145). The lexeme "*trace*" is included into the semantic space of the mental component, and it refers to an indication that the deviation from the normal mental condition occurred. The lexeme "*malady*" actualizes the meaning "an impairment in the brain functioning" (Stevenson, 2015, p. 2763).

The interpretative field of the mental component is a special context which explains the case when Wilcox recovered and remembered nothing about his disease: "...*astonished to find himself at home*", "...*completely ignorant of what had happened*" (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 145).

The context of the following example shows the nightmares that were observed among people between February 23 and April 2. That was the period when Wilcox saw scattered dreams: "...*the period of young Wilcox's delirium*", "...*sculptor's delirium*" (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 145). The lexeme "*delirium*" actualizes the meaning "mental confusion accompanied by hallucinations" (WordNet).

The lexemes "*affect*" and "*abnormal*" are used to describe the condition of people, who met with the same mental disorder as Wilcox: "*Scientific men were little more affected*", "...*a dread of something abnormal*" (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 146). The lexeme "*affect*" actualizes the meaning "to cause illness in someone", whereas the lexeme "*abnormal*" expresses its direct meaning "not conforming to a norm" (WordNet).

A well-known architect lost his sanity on the night of Wilcox's disease: "...*went violently insane...*", "*Wilcox's seizure...*" (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 146). The architect was constantly screaming; he wanted to escape from a certain creature in his hallucinations. Finally, he died. The lexemes "*expire*", "*seizure*", the collocation "*incessant screamings*", and the phraseological unit "*go insane*" refer to the core of the **mental deviation** semantic field, indicating symptoms of the disease, abnormal condition of the brain and the death. The lexeme "*seizure*" actualizes the meaning "abnormal state of being unconscious" (WordNet). The collocation "*incessant screamings*" represents the author's meaning "long continuing piercing cries"; it belongs to related lexical units of the primary lexeme "*delirium*". The phraseological unit of the neutral-bookish style "*go insane*" actualizes the meaning "become mentally ill" (WordNet). The meaning of the lexeme "*expire*" of formal style is "to die" (Stevenson, 2015, p. 1542).

The narrator mentions the following symptoms of diseases, describing the newspaper cuttings that published the cases of extraordinary behavior: "...*cases of panic, mania, and eccentricity*" (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 142, 146). The lexeme "*panic*" refers to the semantic field of lexical units, denoting mental illness; it actualizes the meaning "a state of extreme fear and anxiety" (WordNet). The meaning of the lexeme "*mania*" in this context is "a mood disorder". The lexeme "*eccentricity*" actualizes the meaning "abnormal and unconventional behavior" (WordNet).

The characters in the following example are defined as mentally challenged sailors: “...men of a very low, mentally aberrant type” (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 153). The lexeme “low” actualizes the author’s meaning “a person with nondevelopment of mental abilities”. The collocation “mentally aberrant” indicates “marked deviant from an accepted norm” (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 105, 283). These people are evaluated as “creatures”, who are unrestrained by morality. The lexeme “degraded” preserves its direct meaning. All people who were captured as prisoners demonstrated deviant behavior, and they were sent to the mental hospital: “...were committed to various institutions” (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 154). The lexeme “institution” in the boundaries of the phraseological unit “to commit to the institution” represents its new meaning “psychiatric hospital” in this context.

On March 23 an architect lost his sanity and a sculptor died: “...gone mad...”, “...had lapsed suddenly into delirium” (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 162). This passage is displayed with neutral-bookish lexis – the phraseological units “to go mad” and “to lapse into delirium”. Both of them represent the core of the **mental deviation** semantic field.

The next example shows the appearance of Cthulhu and the reaction of Johansen: “...abysses of shrieking...”, “...immemorial lunacy...” (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 167). The collocation “abysses of shrieking” means “an unfathomable sharp piercing cry”; the meaning is partially represented in thesauri, but it has the author’s implication. It refers to the semantic fields of different concepts, for instance, “fear”, “feelings”, of course, “deviation”, etc. The collocation “immemorial lunacy” actualizes the author’s meaning of “the insanity, which is beyond the limits of memory”; it refers to the core of the **mental deviation** semantic field.

The narrator compares the conditions of the architect and the sculptor in the denouement of the story: “...a great architect went mad...”; “...poor Wilcox raved with fever...” (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 167). The meaning of the phraseological unit “to go mad” coincides with the meaning revealed in the previous examples. The verb “to rave” in the phraseological unit “to rave with fever” has a negative meaning in this context: “to be delirious”. It refers to both semantic fields of **mental and physiological deviations**.

When Briden noticed Cthulhu, he lost his mind; he could not stop laughing until the moment of his death: “...went mad, laughing shrilly... till death found him” (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 168). Johansen was out of his mind: “...was wandering deliriously” (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 168). The contents of the mental component here are expressed directly by means of the lexeme “deliriously” and with the help of the context “laughing shrilly till death”. The author called Briden “a laughing maniac” when this character became hopeless (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 168). The collocation “a laughing maniac” actualizes the meaning “an insane person” and characterizes the core and the near periphery of the **mental deviation** semantic field, because it is marked as a lexeme belonging to neutral and informal styles (Stevenson, 2015, p. 2781).

The narrator defines the mental condition of Johansen at his final stage of the disease: “...a gathering of the clouds about his consciousness” (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 169). This collocation characterizes the core of the **mental deviation** semantic field, actualizing the author’s meaning “a starting phase of losing sanity”.

Finally, the lexical units which are traditionally associated with the semantic field of the mental component of this category do not necessarily mean any deviation of the brain in the literary work under study. For instance, Johansen did not want to say anything about his meeting with the monster Cthulhu: “He could not tell – they would think him mad” (Lovecraft, 1999, p. 169).

The analysis of the contextual semantics of lexemes, collocations, phraseological units helps to define the structure and means of expressing the semantic fields of deviation.

The conceptual analysis is supported with the data of the quantitative method, considering some aspects of the mental activity aimed at forming the semantic fields of various abstractions: the core, the near and distant peripheries, the interpretative field. This work is an attempt not to oppose the classical model of the semantic fields in the category to the network of lexical units in the frame of computational linguistics, but it is rather a way to present the co-occurrence network of linguistic units as further division in the hierarchical structure of the category. We suppose that such a kind of structure can develop into the vertical and horizontal clusters of different levels of abstraction within the semantic space of the category. See Figures 1 and 2.

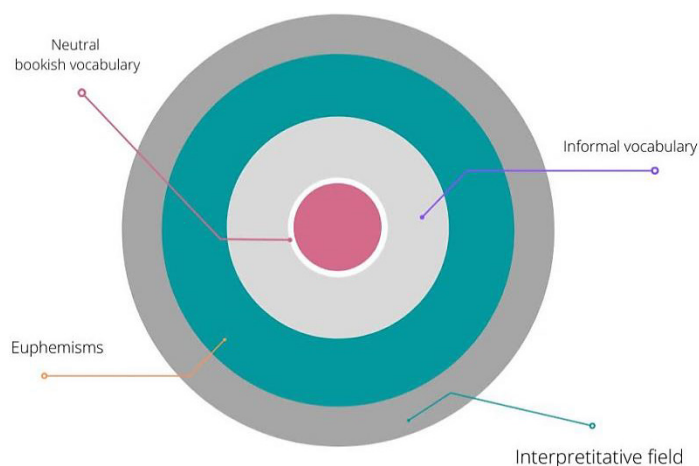


Figure 1. The classical structure of the semantic fields of deviation in cognitive linguistics. The means of expressing the category of deviation in the novel “The Call of Cthulhu” are located only in the core and the interpretative parts of the semantic fields of this mental unit

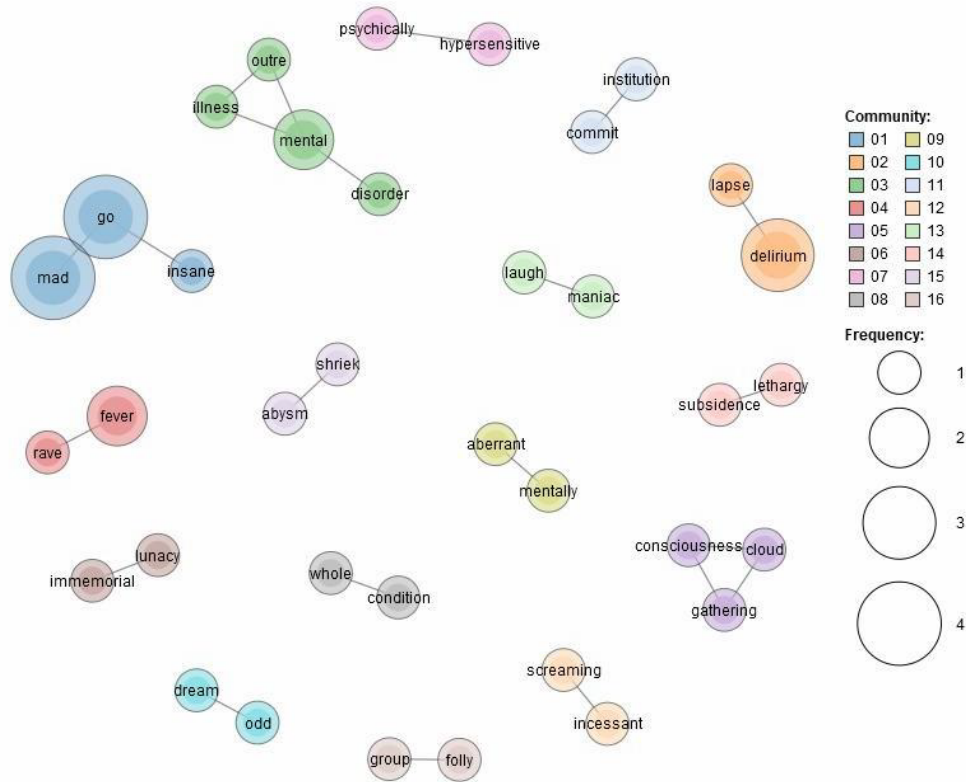


Figure 2. The structure of the core of the semantic fields of deviation in the novel “The Call of Cthulhu” in computational linguistics

The peculiar feature of the structure of the category of deviation in the literary work by H. Lovecraft is that it observes no periphery level because the general style of the story is neutral-bookish one. Thus, only the core of the semantic field is observed here. The lexical units in the framework of contextual and quantitative analyses were considered from the point of their frequency in the text. These linguistic units define the linguistic world-image of the author, his personal experience; these lexical units are also a cultural reflection in the language. As it has been noted before, KH Coder was used for the purpose of revealing the level of frequency of usage of these linguistic units in the text. See Figure 3.

#	Word	POS / Conj.	Frequency	#	Word	POS / Conj.	Frequency
1	go	Verb	4	25	group	Noun	1
2	mad	Adj	4	26	hypersensitive	Adj	1
3	delirium	Noun	3	27	illness	Noun	1
4	eccentricity	Noun	2	28	immemorial	Adj	1
5	fever	Noun	2	29	incessant	Adj	1
6	mania	Noun	2	30	insane	Adj	1
7	mental	Adj	2	31	institution	Noun	1
8	aberrant	Adj	1	32	lapse	Noun	1
9	abnormal	Adj	1	33	laugh	Verb	1
10	abysm	Noun	1	34	lethargy	Noun	1
11	affect	Verb	1	35	low	Adj	1
12	cloud	Noun	1	36	lunacy	Noun	1
13	commit	Verb	1	37	malady	Noun	1
14	condition	Noun	1	38	maniac	Noun	1
15	consciousness	Noun	1	39	mentally	Adv	1
16	creature	Noun	1	40	odd	Adj	1
17	degraded	Adj	1	41	outbreak	Noun	1
18	deliriously	Adv	1	42	outré	Adj	1
19	disorder	Noun	1	43	panic	Noun	1
20	dream	Noun	1	44	psychically	Adv	1
21	expire	Verb	1	45	queer	Noun	1
22	folly	Noun	1	46	rave	Verb	1
23	gathering	Noun	1	47	screaming	Noun	1
24	genius	Noun	1	48	seizure	Noun	1
25	group	Noun	1	49	shriek	Verb	1
26	hypersensitive	Adj	1	50	subsidence	Noun	1
27	illness	Noun	1	51	trace	Verb	1
28	immemorial	Adj	1	52	whole	Adj	1

Figure 3. The frequency list of the lexical units representing the semantic fields of deviation in the novel “The Call of Cthulhu”

The co-occurrence network of lexemes was revealed based on the frequency list of lexemes and the contextual analysis of the text. The results of the revealed clusters under study are presented in Figure 2.

The co-occurrence network considers only the lexical units that are semantically linked. These are collocations and phraseological units expressing the core of the semantic fields of **mental and physiological deviations** based on the literary work by H. Lovecraft. This figure does not include separate lexemes that are included into this semantic space. It is necessary to add the lexemes manually. Thus, the quantitative analysis can be used as a supplementary material for further detailization of the classical model of the semantic fields. This model includes linguistic units with the frequency range from 1. The number of communities in the text under analysis is 16. This number indicates the number of collocations and phraseological units reflecting deviations in the above-mentioned text. The frequency level of linguistic units is demonstrated in the size of the circles; the range is 1-4.

The classical model of the interpretative fields of the category does not allow demonstrating all their peculiar features. The lexical units of the interpretative field **deviation** were revealed in the contextual analysis. The co-occurrence network of these lexical units in the boundaries of computational linguistics is a necessary component of the semantic analysis for the standard model within cognitive linguistics as a way to create a graphic map of the linguistic units. See Figure 4.

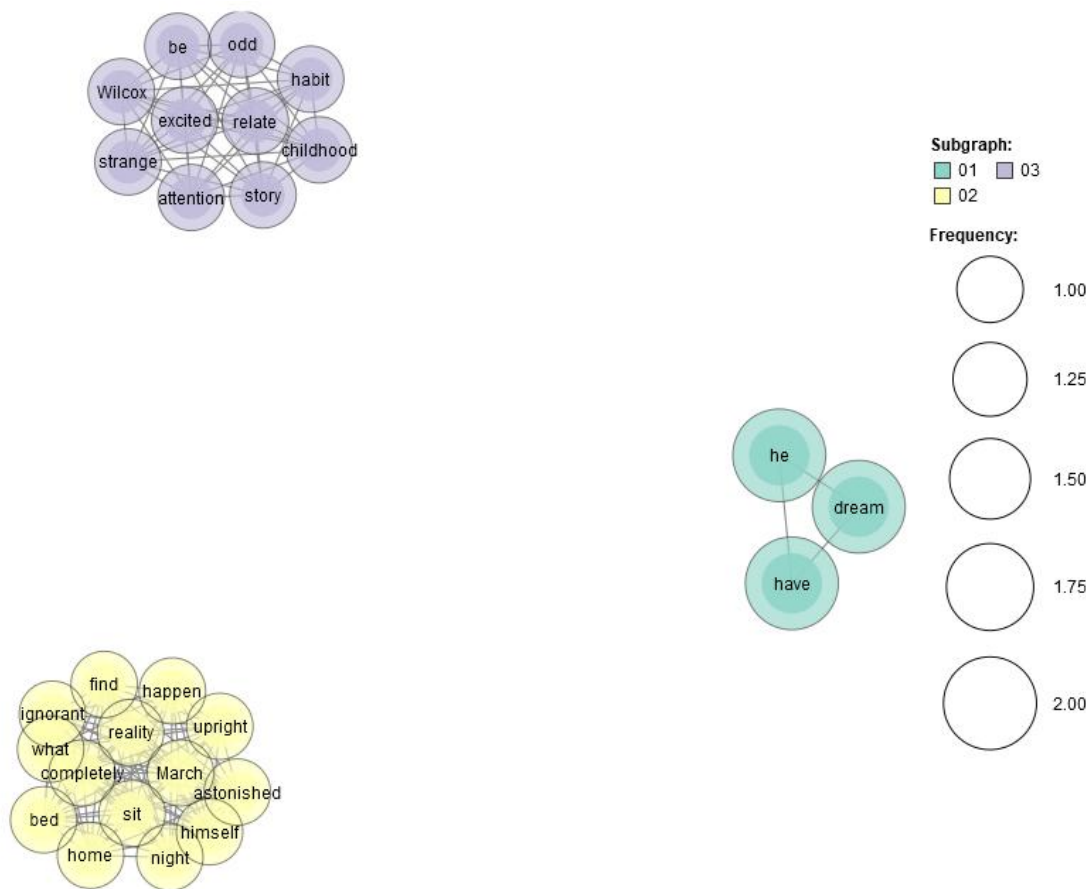


Figure 4. The co-occurrence network of lexical units in the interpretative field of the category of deviation

The structure of the category of deviation, as any other category in language, is not stable. As it has been shown above, some of the linguistic units can characterize the semantic space of **mental and physiological deviations** simultaneously. For instance, the lexemes “*illness*”, “*condition*”, “*abnormal*” refer to mental and physiological disorders based on the context. Such lexemes create the so-called “fuzzy borders” between the semantic fields, because they can migrate to various parts of the semantic space of the category. Being polysemantic linguistic units, they actualize the meanings of all parts of the semantic fields revealed in the category of deviation. Moreover, these lexemes might occupy different positions in the hierarchy of the category, if the scholar chooses the traditional approach of prototype theory. Thus, these lexical units prove the fact that the semantic fields overlap each other within the category of deviation.

Conclusion

Thus, we came to the following conclusions.

We distinguished mental and physiological components of the category of deviation in the literary work “The Call of Cthulhu” by H. P. Lovecraft.

These are polycentric semantic fields with the core and interpretative space. They do not imply near and distant peripheries in Lovecraft's style.

The semantic fields under study are interconnected. In the author's linguistic and cultural worldviews components under study are inseparable. The lexical units representing both semantic fields were observed in one and the same context. Another evidence of the close connections between these two phenomena is the presence of lexis of higher abstraction that characterizes mental and physiological conditions of the characters in general.

Linguistic means of expressing mental and physiological components predetermined the semantic structure of the category of deviation in the literary work "The Call of Cthulhu": lexemes, collocations, phrases of neutral-bookish style. The lexical units of neutral-bookish style formed the core of the semantic fields of mental and physiological components. The interpretative space of these components was represented by lexis of neutral-bookish style, referring to **mental and physiological deviations** contextually. Most of them are evaluative and can express other categories. Thus, the category of deviation is also meant to be an evaluative one.

The structure of the revealed semantic fields is asymmetric and can vary in accordance with the purpose of the scholar. It does not take into account the connection of the revealed concepts with other mental units that co-exist in the above-mentioned text. The contents of the semantic fields of deviation are limited by the author's linguistic worldview.

Other texts by this author with various lexical means of expressing this mental unit semantic fields need further analyzing in the framework of cognitive, computational, quantitative, corpus linguistics. The contrastive analysis is supposed to be perspective, defining the lacunas and correspondences within the semantic fields of this category in the boundaries of this or other literary works by H. Lovecraft. Due to the presence of a large amount of lexical units actualizing the interpretative field of deviation in the works by H. Lovecraft, it is urgent to consider the semantic space of the phenomenon described in the light of dictema.

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