LEXICO- SEMANTIC PECULIARITIES OF RIDDLESAND THEIR TYPES

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Annotation*: This article examines the lexico-semantic peculiarities of riddles and their major types. It discusses the concise and metaphorical nature of riddles, their hidden meanings, genre and thematic features, and the role of national and cultural elements in their formation. The article also considers different types of riddles, including metaphorical, homonymous, wordplay, graphic, cumulative, joke, and task-based riddles, as well as anagrams, crosswords, enigmas, conundrums, charades, logogriphs, catch riddles, and pictorial riddles.*

Keywords: *riddles, lexico-semantic peculiarities, metaphor, figurative language, riddle types, national peculiarities, cultural elements, ambiguity, wordplay.*

Riddles are concise forms of expression that typically begin with a clever, metaphorical question and conclude with its answer. Solving a riddle requires the ability to identify similarities between objects, phenomena, or situations by relating their distinctive features, qualities, or characteristics. The distinctive nature of riddles lies in their use of hidden and figurative language, through which an object or phenomenon is deliberately concealed. Therefore, the solver must interpret the allegorical meaning and uncover the underlying referent.

According to I. P. Berezovskyi, a riddle constantly evolves and actively functions in everyone's life as a means of development of attentiveness, docility, testing of mental abilities.[24]

№	Riddles have the following genre features:
1	Short and compact in size
2	The form has a poetic, prose look
3	What is hidden in the text for the purpose of creation
4	Animal, plant, universe, household
5	What needs to be found is usually one, sometimes will have two or more quantities
6	Basic are used in puzzles is a metaphor.

[24] Березовський І. П. Загадаю – відгадай! Київ : Дніпро, 1987. С. 5–15.

National peculiarities of countries are important in the process of riddle forming. Because riddles are formed by the following elements: peculiarities of existence, poetic images, asking objects, linguistic and logical structure. A special role in the creation of national colouring of riddles is played by its lexical structure: anthroponyms; untranslatable names, which indicate social belonging of a human; names of typical life items; dwelling; clothing; food; toponyms; names of common natural phenomena and representatives of flora and fauna; traditions, customs, beliefs, mentality, people history. These elements make national and cultural composite of riddles which can be put both in a question and in answer.[25]

A. Mamedova writes that despite the fact that riddles reflect only peculiarities of social and everyday life of people, they have much in common with the literal coincidences with riddles of other nations. The researcher suggests that, to some extent borrowings take place here but the main reason of riddles' similarity in different nations is in another. She gives examples of almost similar riddles' sounding at the same topic («The eyes») in the folklore of various nations: Two brothers live across the street and never see each other.[26]

Due to the asking method riddles are divided into the following types: a) riddles based on incomplete direct description of asked object; b) description of asked object is given by its comparison (direct or negative) with the other objects; c) metaphorical (based on replacing of asked object with another); d) riddles, in which asked and "puzzling" objects have a general characteristic, moreover the asked object is expressed more intensive; e) homonymous (based on the play of homonyms meaning);f) pun or wordplay (based on the change of word framework); g) graphic (is asked not by the word, but by the letter);

h) cumulative (based on the principle of cumulative tales); i) riddles jokes (aimed at the inertia of interlocutor perception);j) riddles-tasks (arithmetic, counting).[27]

Classifications of riddles are based on their thematic principle. I. Berezovskyi distinguished the following thematic groups: nature (sky, the Earth, phenomena of nature, flora, fauna); human (physical nature of a human: body constitution, life and death); material life (food, clothing, footwear, household goods); human working

[25] Березовський І. П. Загадаю – відгадай! Київ : Дніпро, 1987. С.39
[26] Приходько А., Мамедова А. Система концептів у когнітивно-семантичному просторі німецької народної загадки. Наукові записки Кіровоградського державного педагогічного університету імені В. Винниченка. Серія : Філологічні науки (мовознавство). 2009. Вип. 81 (3). С. 17–22.
[27] Khaidari N. I. Semantic peculiarities of English riddles and their reflection in the linguistic picture of the world 2019. - 234 p.

activity (education, music, traditions and rituals); abstract, common, conditional and collected concepts (puzzles, charades and various questions)[28]

Riddles as a unique genre has such a long tradition, both oral and written. Different types of riddles have continued to interest people throughout time, because they take them into unknown adventure that either brings delight, amusement and gratification at discovering the right answer, or bewilderment, vexation and frustration when fail to guess the answer. Riddles often include an exchange of words and unexpected answers in order to mislead the riddle.[29]

According to Anja Goritzka[30], there are two types of riddles: anagrams and crosswords.

Anagrams are a small kind of riddles. They usually consist of one word, but can also be extended to the whole sentences. Their letters can be reordered to form another word or sentence. An example to anagrams is evident in the book and film series Harry Potter. In Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets the name of an early student TOM MARVOLO RIDDLE hides the real identity of the person within its letters: it can be rearranged to I AM LORD VOLDEMORT.

Crossword is a very young type of riddles where questions and answers are arranged in grids and the answers cross each other. The first modern crossword puzzle was made by Arthur Wynne in the New York World in 1913. Through the 1920's and 1930's crosswords became more and more popular.

Other types of riddles:

Joking questions are contemporary riddles that have nothing in common with the old riddles apart from a question and an unexpected answer:

«It's blue and eats hay in a field. Answer: A cow wearing a tracksuit».[31]

Enigmas are types of riddles that employ the use of allegorical or metaphorical devices. These riddles involve critical thinking and ingenuity on the solver's behalf in order to devise a solution. Example: I have a tail and a body, but I am not a snake. What am I? Answer: Coin[32]

Oral riddles are simple unembellished puzzles which have been passed down by word of mouth and whose solution is a familiar object, natural phenomenon. They can be found in all societies, but are particularly prevalent in those areas which are technologically underdeveloped.

[28] Березовський І. П. Загадаю – відгадай! Київ : Дніпро, 1987. С. 5–15.
[29] Yasir A. Translating Riddles// Taha University of Benghazi; Global Libyan Journal 2020. P-2
[30] Anja Goritzka History of the riddle 2015 https://www.word-grabber.com/letters-and-words/history-of-the-riddle
[31] Anniki Kaivola Bregenhøj A.K.-RIDDLES AND HUMOUR University of Turku, Finland , p.197
[32] Aliyeva E. Stylistic devices commonly used in English riddles. Bulletin of Science and Practice T. 7. №2. 2021; p. 411

The conundrum is a riddle of which solution is based on the punning use of words: What is black and white and red all over?, which seems to signify a strange multi- coloured beast, is answered by the solution «a newspaper»- the puns working «red» and «all over».

A charade is a literary exercise playing on letters or syllables and such has been called the Silbenratsel in German. A well- known charade:

My first is expressive of no disrespect,
But I never call you by it when you are by;
If my second you still are resolved to reject,
As dead as my whole, I shall presently lie.
The answer is 'herring' (her-ring).

Logogriphs are riddles based on single words in which letters are removed to make new words. They are concerned with the form of the word and its components rather than its meaning.: «Je brille avec six pieds, avec cinq je te couvre». This signifies the word «etoile» (star) which by losing a letter becomes «toile» (tablecloth)

Catch riddles are hardly riddles at all in any sense of the word but are more like jokes, in which humour derives from the fact that they seem to imply by their riddle- like form that a witty solution is in order, when in fact the answer is the obvious one. «Why did the chicken cross the road? To get to the other side> is a widely used example of this kind.

In **Pictorial riddles** allegorical statements are made by images, leading to a moral that is revealed by the solution of the picture. Pictorial puzzles of this kind owe much to the hieroglyphics of the ancient Egyptians and other picture- based languages.[33]

Riddles also build word concept. A child's understanding of jokes and riddles are important indicators of the level of the child's awareness of word meanings. Understanding riddles requires awareness that words have more than one meaning. Children reveal their knowledge of riddles with their answer. Offering an explanation rather than recognizing the trick question is common. For example, in the riddle «When is the ocean friendly? « the child may say «The ocean is only friendly in the shallow part». Recognition of the nature of the riddle depends on recognition of the trick question. The answer is «When it waves at you! «[34]

[33] Bryant Mark Dictionary of riddles 1953, Riddles- History and criticism, Riddles, pp. 5-8
[34] Sally Rogow A developmental model of disabilities; The International Journal of Special Education, 2005 p.138

From all explanations and examples given above, we can conclude that in riddles double meaning (ambiguity) is used to make us think about the answer. Simply put, a riddle is a play on words. A riddle is a question or statement so framed as to exercise one's smartness in answering it or discovering the meaning.

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