



The concept of *VOLUNTEER* in international and national regulatory documents (based on documents from the UN, USA, Ukraine, and Russia)

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Abstract. In the contemporary context, where volunteering constitutes a significant element of social and political dynamics, examining its legal framework provides deeper insights into the mechanisms shaping and advancing civil society. This study aimed to determine the discourseforming role of the concept *VOLUNTEER* in international (UN) and national (Ukraine, USA, Russia) regulatory documents. To achieve this goal, both general scientific methods (analysis, synthesis, generalisation) and linguistic research methods were employed. Discourse analysis was used to identify common and distinctive features in the positioning of the concept *VOLUNTEER* within international and national regulatory documents. Concept analysis facilitated the exploration of the concept's development in both diachronic and synchronic dimensions. The findings revealed that its positioning within national discourses serves as an indicator of a fully developed volunteering discourse, understood as a type of social behaviour based on the interaction between volunteers and beneficiaries. This discourse exhibits both national and international manifestations, is culturally conditioned, and operates within the legitimate norms and regulations governing volunteering activities in the respective countries. It is noted that UN regulatory documents on volunteering establish the strategic pragmatics of the volunteering discourse and position universal conceptual-thematic groups of the lexical verbaliser *volunteer*. A comparison of the conceptual-thematic groups represented in UN regulatory documents and those in the legal frameworks of the countries under study has enabled the identification of alignments between fragments of national conceptual worldviews and the international value system. The study demonstrates that the concept *VOLUNTEER* plays a discourse-forming role in UN resolutions as well as in the legal documents of Ukraine and the USA concerning volunteer

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activities. The militarisation of the concept *VOLUNTEER* in Russian documents reflects the discursive behaviour of the state institutions of an aggressor country, aimed at fostering conflict, war, and the militarisation of society. The findings of this research can be applied in educational contexts, particularly in teaching courses such as Text Linguistics and Strategic Communications, as well as in the development of legal frameworks for volunteering activities

Keywords: discourse-forming role; discourse; discourse analysis; conceptual-thematic groups; lexical verbaliser; linguoculture

Introduction

The volunteer movement has become a crucial component of the social fabric of contemporary society. It plays a pivotal role in stimulating change at various levels, from local to global. Volunteers contribute to addressing pressing social challenges by providing support in areas where state and private institutions may not always be able to offer adequate assistance. In the context of rapid social, economic, and environmental changes, volunteer activities are taking on new forms and becoming a vital tool for fostering social cohesion and mutual aid. Volunteering not only helps to solve specific problems but also encourages active citizenship, shaping new models of social interaction. Therefore, studying this phenomenon is essential for a better understanding of its potential and impact on the development of civic initiatives and social change.

Volunteering, and consequently volunteer discourse, has evolved in various countries during crisis situations and serves as a societal tool for responding to social challenges. Volunteer discourse positions four semantic components: “altruistic activity” (an activity that does not involve personal gain and is either unpaid or compensated below market value), “voluntariness” (volunteers make independent decisions, based on their own beliefs, interests, and capabilities, regarding which activities to participate in), “public value” (volunteers’ activities contribute to strengthening social unity, raising public awareness, and promoting moral values in society), and “social activism” (volunteers

participate in solving social problems, support various vulnerable groups, and contribute to the development of civil society). These semantic components distinguish the concept *VOLUNTEERING* from the concept *PAID WORK*. *VOLUNTEER* is defined as a subconcept of the concept *VOLUNTEERING*. The lexical verbaliser of this subconcept is defined as “a person who directly participates in the implementation of projects to help those in need”. The positioning of the concepts of *VOLUNTEERING* and *VOLUNTEER* in social discourse is a marker of a formed civil society institution based on the principles of integrity, organic solidarity, the combination of the objective and subjective, and includes within its structure: communities of volunteers of various organisational forms and ages. Volunteer discourse, as a type of social behaviour based on the interaction of volunteers and beneficiaries, acquires national and international manifestations; it is culturally conditioned and is realised within the framework of the legitimate norms and rules of volunteer activities in different countries.

Volunteering, as a social and cultural phenomenon, is the subject of scientific interest for both Ukrainian and foreign researchers. The research of O. Pankova & O. Kasperovych (2022) is dedicated to defining the essence of volunteering as a social phenomenon and its importance as a civil society institution, particularly its functioning in crisis-ridden societies. The study of A. Stukas & S. Wilson (2022) focuses on the motivation component of volunteer

activities. The authors identify the most significant motivations for volunteering and propose methods for engaging in volunteer activities considering all types of social motivation. D. Vedenieiev & O. Turchak (2018) studied the development of volunteer initiatives during the Russian-Ukrainian war and its role as a catalyst for societal sentiment. The socio-psychological basis of philanthropy and social responsibility of civil society was examined in the articles of L. Pysarenko *et al.* (2021) and C. Fedinec (2023). The legal and ethical aspects of volunteer work, including the study of the legislative framework and social functions of volunteering as a social institution, as well as its role in crisis situations and its role in forming state resilience, are presented in the study of Y. Matsievskiy (2024). The author studied the semantic and stylistic features of the lexemes *volunteer/participant* in modern Ukrainian opinion journalism, the peculiarities of realising the category of emotionality and informativeness in English-language volunteer discourse, and the study of the specifics of preserving these categories during translation into Ukrainian is represented in the research of D. Emeljanov (2020). In the study of N. Kondratenko & O. Onishchenko (2022), the specifics of the semantic structure of the lexeme “*volunteer*” and its contextual environment were determined, the specifics of the use of the lexeme *volunteer* in the discourse of electronic media and social networks were analysed, and the dynamics of changes in its meaning were studied. The study aimed to determine the discourse-forming role of the concept of *VOLUNTEER* in international and national legal documents.

Materials and Methods

To achieve the research aim, both general scientific (analysis, synthesis, generalisation) and linguistic research methods were employed. The application of general scientific analysis methods allowed for the determination of the theoretical foundations of the study and the

processing of the collected data. Discourse analysis, as the primary method for studying social practices, is an approach to examining the nature of language in conjunction with the central concepts of the social sciences. Through discourse analysis, commonalities and differences in the positioning of the concept *VOLUNTEER* in international and national legal documents were identified. As noted by L. Yudko (2016), discourse analysis combined several qualitative approaches to the processes of signifying social life, aimed at a deeper study of the ambiguous status of meaning, as well as understanding and interpreting social reality as given. Concept analysis allowed for the study of the development of the concept *VOLUNTEER* in diachronic and synchronic dimensions. The study of the essence of verbalised concepts involves the application of the method of etymological analysis, which allows for the study of concepts in a diachronic aspect. The study of the essence of concepts in a synchronic dimension is ensured by the application of the method of component analysis. The linguocultural method is aimed at studying the concept *VOLUNTEER* as an element of national linguoculture and its connections with national characteristics and values, that is, the research is conducted in the direction “from language to culture”.

The research was conducted using materials from UN normative documents (Resolutions of United Nations, 1968) and the normative legal documents of the USA (Domestic Volunteer Service Act, 1973; Law of the USA, 1990; Law of the USA, 1997), Ukraine (Law of Ukraine No. 3236-VI, 2011; Resolution of Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine No. 516, 2015; Decree of the President of Ukraine 487/2021, 2021) and Russia (Law of Russia Federation No. 135-FL, 1995; Law of Russia Federation No. 82-FL, 1995; Law of Russia Federation No. 7-FL, 1996; Decree of Government of Russia Federation No. 1425, 2018; Law of Russia Federation No. 558-FL, 2023) found in open internet sources. UN documents were considered as

a benchmark for the formation of the concept *VOLUNTEER* in international discourse, while the analysis of national documents allowed to identify common and specific features of the concept in the linguocultures under study.

Results and Discussion

An analysis of etymological dictionaries by O. Melnychuk *et al.* (1982) and W. Skeat (1888) has demonstrated that the lexical unit *volunteer* was first recorded in the early 17th century in French. According to W. Skeat (1888), it is noted that the lexeme *voluntaire* (from the Latin adjective *voluntaries* – “of one’s own free will” or the noun *voluntas* – “wish, will”) had the meaning of “a person who offers themselves for military service”. In the first half of the 17th century, this lexical unit was used to denote people who joined the military on their own free will – volunteers or those joining a religious mission. In the study of G. Austin (2023) and Encyclopedia Britannica n.d., it is recorded that the lexeme *volunteer* entered the English language in the second half of the 17th century and had the meaning of a person who voluntarily agrees to perform military service, willing to join the defence of the country. In the 19th century, a discourse of civic initiatives was formed, and its communicative strategies were communities building and helping those who were in need (Filipova, 2014; Gorelov & Kornijevskij, 2015). Within this discourse, the lexeme *volunteer* loses its military semantic component and is interpreted as a person who provides assistance on their own free will and without payment, as noted in the dictionary of W. Skeat (1888). In the Ukrainian language, the borrowing *volunteer* (in forms *валентір/волунтер*), according to the dictionary of O. Melnychuk *et al.* (1982), was first recorded in the 17th-18th centuries and was used to denote individuals who voluntarily joined the military. In the dictionary of V.G. Dubrovskij (1918), it is recorded as a unit denoting civilians who voluntarily performed actions for the benefit of

others in the Ukrainian language, the lexemes *охотник* (helper) and *доброволець* (volunteer) were also used as “volunteer-helper”.

In the Russian language, the lexical unit *participant* (Russian: доброволец) has existed and continues to exist to denote a person who voluntarily joined the military. According to the encyclopaedic dictionary of F. Brokgauz & I. Efron (1892), the use of the foreign lexical unit *volunteer* was recorded at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries, but it did not gain widespread use at that time. Analysis of the Russian language corpus shows that the lexical unit *participant* combines both military and non-military semantic components and is more commonly used than the lexeme *volunteer*. The lexeme *participant* is also recorded in the dictionary of military terms by A. Plehov & S. Shapkyn (1988) and the military-legal encyclopaedic dictionary of A. Balashov & K. Kudashkina (2008), which indicates a tendency to preserve the military semantic component of this word in Russian linguoculture.

The concept *VOLUNTEER* is discourse-forming one for UN normative documents and the normative legal documents of the USA, Ukraine, and Russia that regulate volunteer activities. Since concepts, according to L. Yudko (2016), are intermediaries between words and extralinguistic reality, “the conceptual level is not opposed to the semantic level, but complements it”. For this study, understanding a conceptual-thematic field as a “set of lexical-thematic groups of words united by a common concept in the semantic-functional space of the text” and, as noted by L. Yudko (2016), conceptual-thematic groups, “which encompass the vocabulary of different parts of speech, thematically related to the concept of a given conceptual-thematic field”, are relevant.

The composition of conceptual-thematic groups in the languages under investigation is determined by linguistic, cognitive-pragmatic, and linguocultural factors (Lyakh, 2011; Vainilovich, 2012). Consequently, lexemes that

verbalise concepts convey the features of national worldviews, allowing to identify common and specific features of the concept's representation in individual linguocultures and to determine their correspondence to international standards. UN normative documents on volunteering form the strategic pragmatics of volunteer discourse and position universal conceptual-thematic groups for the lexeme *volunteer*. A comparison of the groups presented in UN normative documents and the normative legal documents of the countries whose languages are being studied will allow to determine the correspondence of fragments of national conceptual worldviews to the international value system (Pohribna, 2015; Matychyk, 2016).

Based on their pragmatic focus, UN resolutions on volunteer activities can be divided into three thematic areas:

1. "Establishment and mandate of UN volunteers" (1970) (13 resolutions). This area is represented in resolutions dedicated to the issues of creating an international volunteer organisation under the UN aegis and the mandate of UN volunteers, as well as determining special dates – symbols of volunteer activities (for example, International Volunteer Day, International Year of Volunteers).

2. "Vectors for the development of volunteerism" (1972) (14 resolutions). These resolutions define the vectors of volunteer development in the world – peace and security, humanitarian activities, and expanding the rights and opportunities of youth.

The following conceptual-thematic groups (CTGs) representing the concept *VOLUNTEER* are pervasive across all thematic directions of the resolutions:

CTG 1 "Subjects of volunteer activity": *volunteer, diversity of volunteers, corps of volunteers, youth volunteers, older person volunteer, people with disabilities volunteering*;

CTG 2 "Components of volunteer activity": *volunteer work, volunteer activity, volunteer fund,*

volunteer practices, volunteer initiative, volunteer mandate, expertise of volunteering, volunteer participation, volunteer experience, volunteer network, programme, on a voluntary basis, barriers to volunteering, contribution of volunteering, volunteer service;

CTG 3 "Value foundations of volunteer activity": *volunteer aim, value of volunteering, volunteer mandate, volunteer values, volunteer expertise, voluntary, voluntarism*;

CTG 4 "Regulation of volunteer activity": *volunteer check, well-being of volunteer, safety and security of volunteer, environment for volunteering, field of volunteering, willingness to volunteer, volunteer policy, volunteer mandate*;

CTG 5 "Forms of volunteer activity": *individual volunteering, community volunteering, domestic volunteering, informal volunteering, peer-to-peer volunteering international volunteering, online volunteering, national volunteering, United Nations volunteering, innovative forms of volunteering, trends in volunteering*;

CTG 6 "Types of volunteer associations": *volunteer organisation, volunteer centre, volunteer-involving organisation, local volunteer centre, national volunteer centre, volunteer committee, volunteer group, volunteer web*;

CTG 7 "Involvement in volunteer activity": *to recruit, to select, to accredit, to involve, to volunteer, to engage, to support*;

CTG 8 "Development of effective volunteering": *to serve as a volunteer, to incorporate, to integrate, to utilise, to invest, to facilitate; opportunities for volunteers, contribution of volunteers, impact of volunteers, effect of volunteers, infrastructure of volunteers, involvement of volunteers, development of volunteering, management of volunteering*.

Therefore, discourse analysis of UN documents proves the discourse-forming role of the concept *VOLUNTEER* and its systematic implementation into international communication, which corresponds to the principles of UN discourse as a type of international

behaviour – humanity (*volunteer values, willingness to volunteer, volunteer policy, volunteer mandate, local volunteer centre, national volunteer centre*), impartiality (*diversity of volunteers, people with disability volunteering, youth volunteers, older person volunteer*), and independence (*volunteer organisation, volunteer centre, volunteer-involving organisation, local volunteer centre, national volunteer centre, volunteer committee, volunteer group, volunteer web, volunteer mandate, expertise of volunteering, volunteer participation, volunteer experience, volunteer network*).

The main normative legal documents in the USA that establish the legal status of volunteers, the main areas of work, and regulate volunteer activities and programs are the Domestic Volunteer Services Act (1973), the Volunteer Protection Act (1997), and the National And Community Service Act (1990). The CTGs presented in these documents that form the concept *VOLUNTEER* are as follows:

CTG 1 “Subjects of volunteer activity”: *volunteer, volunteer tutor, volunteer leads, volunteer trainer*;

CTG 2 “Forms of volunteer activity”: *youth volunteers, senior volunteer, retired volunteer, domestic volunteer, full-time volunteer, bilingual volunteer, adult volunteer, national volunteer*;

CTG 3 “Types of volunteer associations”: *volunteer organisation, volunteer centre, volunteer, volunteer group*;

CTG 4 “Regulation of volunteer activity”: *environment for volunteering, protection of volunteers, volunteer policy, assignment of volunteers*;

CTG 5 “Components of volunteer activity”: *volunteer work, volunteer activity, volunteer hours, volunteer programme, volunteer service, volunteer assistance, volunteer liability, volunteer participation, to manage, to utilise, to coordinate, volunteer assignment*;

CTG 6 “Involvement in volunteer activity”: *to recruit, to select, to enrol, to train, to involve, to volunteer, to engage, to support, to approve as ...*;

CTG 7 “Development of effective volunteering”: *to serve as a volunteer, to integrate, to*

facilitate, to coordinate volunteers, contribution of volunteers, to train volunteers, volunteer enrolment, development of volunteering, management of volunteering.

Discourse analysis has shown that most of the CTGs positioning the concept *VOLUNTEER* in UN resolutions are replicated in US legal acts. The coincidence in conceptual-thematic groups is seven CTGs out of eight CTGs presented in the UN documents. Common thematic groups being identified are:

- subjects of volunteer activity;
- components of volunteer activity;
- regulation of volunteer activity;
- forms of volunteer activity;
- types of volunteer associations;
- involvement in volunteer activity;
- development of effective volunteering.

The CTG “Value foundations of volunteer activity” is not represented in the legal acts, which is due to the pragmatic orientation of these documents are to establish the legal status of volunteers, the main areas of work, and to regulate volunteer activities and programs.

The main normative legal documents in Ukraine that establish the legal status of volunteers and regulate their activities are the Law of Ukraine No. 3236-VI (2011), the Resolution of Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine No. 516 (2015), and the Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 487/2021 (2021). The basic terms “volunteer”, “volunteer activity”, and “volunteer organisation” are defined in the Law of Ukraine No. 3236-VI (2011), which is important for understanding the legal nature of these subjects of humanitarian work. The normative legal acts also define the rights and obligations of volunteers, social security, and instruments of state support. The CTGs that represent the concept *VOLUNTEER* in the Ukrainian linguistic and cultural environment, as presented in these documents, are as follows:

CTG 1 “Subjects of volunteer activity”: *volunteer*;

CTG 2 “Components of volunteer activity”: *volunteer assistance, volunteer activity, the sphere of volunteer activity, opportunities for volunteering, the desire of a volunteer;*

CTG 3 “Types of volunteer associations”: *volunteer organisations;*

CTG 4 “Regulation of volunteer activity”: *volunteer’s obligations, opportunities for a volunteer, forms of volunteer assistance, development of a volunteer, sphere of activity of a volunteer, description of volunteer activity;*

CTG 5 “Value foundations of volunteer activity”: *volunteers’ reputation, volunteers’ freedom, volunteering culture, volunteers’ willingness;*

CTG 6 “Development of effective volunteering”: *to develop, to spread volunteering, to support volunteering, to provide volunteer assistance, to promote the development of volunteering, to introduce volunteer activity, to form a culture of volunteer activity, cooperation in volunteering;*

CTG 7 “Involvement in volunteer activity”: *to involve, to stimulate, to spread, to encourage volunteer activity, to join volunteer activity, to prepare volunteers, to popularise volunteering.*

In Ukrainian normative legal documents, the concept *VOLUNTEER* reflects international approaches to understanding this social phenomenon. There are seven common CTGs that represent the concept of *VOLUNTEER* both in Ukrainian documents and UN documents:

- subjects of volunteer activity;
- components of volunteer activity;
- regulation of volunteer activity;
- types of volunteer associations;
- the value basis of volunteering
- involvement in volunteer activity;
- development of effective volunteering.

Discourse analysis has shown that the content of CTGs in national documents may not coincide with those presented in UN normative documents. For instance, in the CTGs “Subjects of volunteer activity” and “Types of volunteer associations”, the diversity of volunteer subjects and types of volunteer associations presented in UN normative documents is not

reflected; instead, these CTGs are represented by only one generalised word or phrase.

A national specific CTG is “Legal status and social guarantees for volunteers”: *volunteer ID, issuing volunteer ID, legal status of volunteers, volunteer disability, death of a volunteer, volunteer mission, reimbursement for volunteers, life insurance for volunteers, legal interests of volunteers, abuse in the volunteering sector, volunteer legislation, ensuring volunteers’ rights.* The existence of this CTG is due to the involvement of volunteers in activities during crisis situations, including wars.

Normative legal documents on voluntary (volunteer) activities in Russia are aimed to form a legal basis for supporting and developing this movement in the country (Kurushina, 2015). They define the status of participants (volunteers), their rights and obligations, directions of participating/volunteer activities, types and status of organisations or formations involved in the volunteer movement, interaction between state structures and participating/volunteer organisations, financing, state support for participating/volunteer organisations, and measures for integration into various spheres of public life, including military. The CTGs that represent the concept *PARTICIPANT/VOLUNTEER* in these Russian documents are as follows:

CTG 1 “Subjects of volunteer activity”: *participant/volunteer, volunteer organisers, participant in volunteer activity, foreign volunteers/participants, Rosgvardia participant;*

CTG 2 “Forms of volunteer activity”: *volunteer-rescuer, inclusive volunteering/participation, volunteering/participation of senior citizens, family volunteering/participation, corporate participation, international volunteering, full-time volunteering/participation, part-time volunteering/participation;*

CTG 3 “Types of volunteer associations”: *participant/volunteer organisations, volunteer centres, associations of participant/volunteer organisations, volunteer centre, participant unit;*

CTG 4 “Involvement in volunteer activity”: *to involve, to train, to encourage, to spread, to promote;*

CTG 5 “Development of effective participation/volunteering”: *to train volunteers/participants, to involve volunteers/participants, to support, to interact with volunteers/participants, to expand the activities of volunteers/participants, to strengthen ties between volunteers/participants, to support, to encourage volunteers/participants, to award volunteers/participants, contribution of volunteers/participants, recognition of volunteer/participant activities.*

Discourse analysis has shown that only five CTGs in Russian normative legal documents coincide with the CTGs of UN resolutions. The term *volunteer* is more commonly used and is actively used as a synonym for the word *participant*. The common CTGs identified are:

- subjects of volunteer activity;
- types of volunteer associations;
- forms of volunteer/participant activity/volunteering;
- involvement in volunteer activity;
- development of effective participation/volunteering.

The following are nationally specific CTGs:

CTG 1 “Legal protection and social guarantees for volunteers”: *medical insurance for a participant/volunteer, compensation to a volunteer/participant, insurance for a volunteer/participant, rehabilitation of a participant/volunteer, injury of a volunteer/participant, threat to the life of a volunteer/participant, threat to the health of a volunteer/participant, rights and obligations of volunteers/participants, death of a participant;*

CTG 2 “State support for volunteer/participant organisations”: *image of a volunteer/participant, popularising participant activities, support for a volunteer/participant, subsidies for a volunteer/participant, tax rate for volunteer organisations, donations to volunteers, property support for volunteer/participant organisations, support for volunteers/participants, facilitating volunteer activities;*

CTG 3 “Accounting of participants/volunteers”: *personal record book of a volunteer/participant, statistics of volunteer/participant activity, accounting for participant activity, selection of volunteers/participants, informing the volunteer/participant staff.*

These groups demonstrate the key role of the state in the formation, development, coordination, and management of the volunteer/participant movement and the process of transforming volunteer associations from grassroots initiatives into structural state units. Russian normative legal documents present a hybrid of the concept *PARTICIPANT/VOLUNTEER*, formed at the intersection of military and humanitarian discourses. The pragmatics of this hybridisation are to create the illusion of forming a civil society, the possibility of rights and freedom of choice; blurring the meaning of the lexical verbaliser *participant/volunteer*: the semantic component of “a person who voluntarily helps those in need” is replaced by a hybrid – “a person who joined the military, voluntarily signed a contract with Rosgvardia”.

Conclusions

It has been proven that the concept *VOLUNTEER* plays a discourse-forming role in both UN normative documents on volunteer activities and in national legal documents of the USA, Ukraine, and Russia. In the Ukrainian and US linguistic and cultural contexts, this concept does not have military connotations, which aligns with the pragmatics of UN documents and reflects the international approaches, as enshrined in UN resolutions, to understanding this social phenomenon. The lexical verbaliser *volunteer* allows to identify both common and specific features of the representation of the concept *VOLUNTEER* in the studied linguistic cultures. Common CTGs found in the national legal documents of the USA and Ukraine include: “Subjects of volunteer activity”, “Components of volunteer activity”, “Regulation of volunteer activity”, “Types of volunteer

associations”, “Involvement in volunteer activity”, “Value foundations of volunteer activity”, and “Development of effective volunteering”. For the Ukrainian linguistic culture, a nationally specific CTG, “Legal status and social guarantees for volunteers”, has been identified, which is due to the involvement of volunteers in activities during crisis situations.

In Russian normative legal documents, there is a hybridisation of the concept *VOLUNTEER* due to the blurring of the meanings of lexical verbaliser, creating the illusion of forming a civil society, the possibility of rights and freedom of choice. The identified nationally specific CTGs, “Accounting for participants/volunteers” and “State support for volunteer/

participant organisations”, demonstrate the key role of the state in the formation, development, coordination, and management of the participant/volunteer movement. These features are evidence of the discursive behaviour of the state bodies of the aggressor country, aimed at conflict, war, and society militarisation. Future research perspectives include the study of gender identification of the concept in the linguistic cultures of Ukraine, the USA, and Russia.

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Conflict of Interest

None.

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Концепт ВОЛОНТЕР(КА) в міжнародних та національних нормативно-правових документах (на матеріалі документів ООН, США, України, РФ)

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Анотація. У сучасних умовах, коли волонтерство є важливим елементом соціальної та політичної динаміки, вивчення його правового закріплення дозволяє глибше зрозуміти механізми впливу й розвитку громадянського суспільства. Метою дослідження було визначити дискурсоутворювальну роль концепту *ВОЛОНТЕР(КА)* в міжнародних (ООН) та національних (України, США, РФ) нормативно-правових документах. Для досягнення мети застосовано як загальнонаукові (аналізу, синтезу, узагальнення), так і лінгвістичні методи дослідження. За допомогою дискурс-аналізу визначались спільні та відмінні особливості позиціювання концепту *ВОЛОНТЕР(КА)* в міжнародних і національних нормативно-правових документах. Концепт-аналіз дозволив дослідити становлення концепту в діахронному і синхронному вимірах. Встановлено, що позиціювання в національних дискурсах цього концепту є маркером сформованого волонтерського дискурсу як типу соціальної поведінки, що базується на взаємодії волонтерів і бенефіціарів, набуває національних та інтернаціональних проявів; є культурно обумовленим і реалізується в межах легітимних норм і правил волонтерської діяльності країн. Зазначено, що нормативні документи ООН з волонтерства формують стратегічну прагматику волонтерського дискурсу й позиціонують універсальні концептуально-тематичні групи лексеми-вербалізатора *волонтер(ка)*. Порівняння концептуально-тематичних груп, представлених у нормотворчих документах ООН й нормативно-правових документах країн, мова яких досліджується, дозволила визначити відповідність фрагментів національних концептуальних картин світу міжнародній ціннісній системі. Доведено, що концепт *ВОЛОНТЕР(КА)* виконує дискурсоутворювальну роль в резолюціях ООН та нормативно-правових документах України та США щодо волонтерської діяльності. Мілітаризація концепту *ВОЛОНТЕР(КА)* в документах РФ є свідченням дискурсивної поведінки державних органів країни-агресорки, спрямованої на конфлікт, війну та мілітаризацію суспільства. Результати роботи можуть бути використані в освітньому процесі, під час викладання дисциплін «Лінгвістика тексту», «Стратегічні комунікації», а також при розробленні нормативно-правових документів щодо волонтерської діяльності

Ключові слова: дискурсоутворювальна роль; дискурс; дискурс-аналіз; концептуально-тематичні групи; лексема-вербалізатор; лінгвокультура