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**THE DISCOURSE OF WAR AS ONE OF THE TYPES OF DISCOURSE: MODERN STUDY**

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**ДИСКУРС ВІЙНИ ЯК ОДИН З ТИПІВ ДИСКУРСУ: СУЧАСНІ ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ**

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*The scientific article examines and defines the concept of "discourse". The existing approaches to the classification of discourse types are considered and some of them are singled out. It is indicated what types of discourse exist according to G. Pocheptsov and T. van Dijk. We revealed and analyzed the concept of "discourse of war" as one of the types of discourse. We have determined that the discourse of war can be defined as a type of discourse that is based on human activity, social groups, and places as a whole. We characterized the concept of "military discourse" and compared it with the concept of "discourse of war". We determined what key functions and lexical concepts are inherent in the discourse of war and military discourse. Comparing the concepts of "military discourse" and "discourse of war", we determined that discourse of war is a broader concept than military discourse, because it covers not only military rhetoric and military concepts, for example, such as equipment and ranks, but as well as all areas of human activity, as war has affected all areas of our lives, including education, politics, news, daily affairs, and worldview in general. As a result, we concluded that the "discourse of war" is closely related to other types of discourse, such as: political discourse, media discourse, pedagogical discourse and social discourse. In the practical part, we analyzed articles from modern mass media, such as: BBC, «The Washington Post», CNN and «The Guardian», and determined how the media portray the current conflict in Ukraine. During the analysis, special emphasis was directed to the means of communication used by mass media to express the meaning of "war". It is determined how each of the terms used in the mass media interprets the concept of "war", thanks to which it is possible to understand how readers and authors of articles perceive and reflect the war in Ukraine.*

**Key words:** *discourse, discourse of war; military discourse; war rhetoric; war.*

*У науковій статті розглянуто та визначено поняття «дискурс». Розглянуто, які існують підходи до класифікації типів дискурсу та виокремлено деякі із них. Зазначено,*

які існують типи дискурсу за Г. Почепцовим та Т. ван Дейком. Ми розкрили та проаналізували поняття «дискурс війни», як одного із видів дискурсу. Ми визначили, що дискурс війни можна визначити як тип дискурсу, який базується на людській діяльності, соціальних групах та місцевостях в цілому. Ми охарактеризували поняття «військовий дискурс», та порівняли його із поняттям «дискурс війни». Визначили, які ключові функції та лексичні поняття притаманні дискурсу війни та військовому дискурсу. Порівнявши поняття «військовий дискурс» та «дискурс війни», ми визначили, що дискурс війни є ширшим поняттям ніж військовий дискурс, адже воно охоплює не лише військову риторичу та військові поняття, наприклад, такі як техніка та звання, а також і всі галузі людської діяльності, оскільки війна має вплив на усі сфери нашого життя, включаючи освіту, політику, новини, повсякденні справи та світогляд в цілому. В результаті ми дійшли висновку, що дискурс війни тісно пов'язаний з іншими типами дискурсу, такими як: політичний дискурс, медіа дискурс, педагогічний дискурс та соціальний дискурс. У практичній частині, ми проаналізували статті із сучасних засобів масової інформації, таких як: BBC, «The Washington Post», CNN та «The Guardian», та визначили, як ЗМІ зображують поточний конфлікт в Україні. Під час аналізу особливий акцент був спрямований на мовленнєві засоби, які використовують засоби масової інформації для вираження значення «війна». Визначено, як кожен із термінів, який вжитий у засобах масової інформації інтерпретує поняття «війна», завдяки чому можна зрозуміти як читачі та автори статей сприймають та відображають війну в Україні.

**Ключові слова:** дискурс, дискурс війни, військовий дискурс, воєнна риторика, війна.

## **Introduction**

Today, the war is one of the most discussed topics in society, particularly in the mass media. The study of the influence of speech images and rhetoric on the public perception of war is one of the urgent problems in the humanities of today. The concept of "discourse of war" is becoming increasingly significant in the study of ways of constructing speech images about military conflicts and their consequences. This research direction reveals important issues of the relationship between speech influence and the perception of important events in the modern world. Therefore, there is a need for a comprehensive study of the discourse of war with its subsequent identification structure-forming characteristics.

**Topicality.** Nowadays war affects all spheres of human activity, furthermore, the way in which war is represented in modern media has a great impact on people mind and shapes public opinion about the conflict. As a result, the relevance of the study is determined by the need to investigate the

concept of "discourse of war" and analyze the use of rhetoric and language which is used in mass media to cover the concept of war.

**The objective of the study** is to analyze the modern studies of the notion "discourse of war" and define the definition of it; to analyze the ways in which the media portrays the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, with a particular focus on the language, narratives, and synonyms used by various media outlets to describe the war.

**Literature overview.** The concept of discourse was first mentioned by Zellig Harris in 1952, and since then it has been a broad concept that each scientist interprets in his own way. According to Fairclough, the term discourse can be used to make a connection between language and the wider society (12). Discourse refers to any spoken, written or visual language (12). The French philosopher Michel Foucault notes: "<...>that discourse is distinctly material in effect, producing what he calls 'practices that systematically form the objects of which they speak'. Discourse is, thus, a way of organizing knowledge that structures the constitution of social (and progressively global) relations through the collective understanding of the discursive logic and the acceptance of the discourse as social fact" (Adams, 2017). We can also confirm that everything that was told or something we thought about is a discourse.

In modern linguistics, there are many approaches to the classification of discourse. They are based on different properties and features. Ukrainian linguist G. Pocheptsov defines newspaper, theater, television and radio discourses, film discourse, discourse in the field of public relations (PR), advertising, political, religious discourses (Batsevych, 2004, p.138).

One of the leaders and shapers of the critical approach to discourse analysis Teun van Dijk considers the following types of discourse from the standpoint of critical discursive analysis: media discourse, political discourse, courtroom discourse, medical discourse, discourse of education and science, corporate text and talk (Kalishchuk, 2007). We are interested in the discourse of war that can be identified as a type of discourse which is based on activities, social group and places.

The discourse of war can be identified as a type of discourse which is based on activities, social group and places. Discourse of war refers to the use of language and social interaction as a mediating element in the outbreak, conduct, and disputation of armed political conflict (Hodges, 2015).

In the work «War Discourse» which is based on the selected works of Adam Hodges, is mentioned that: «The study of war discourse involves many intersecting fields that share an interest in language and social interaction, including linguistics, rhetoric, and communication studies» (Hodges, 2015). Analyzing the discourse of war we can highlight the following key elements of this type of discourse:

1. call to arms rhetoric;
2. the discursive construction of social identities;

3. the use of legitimating devices in language (Hodges, 2015).

We also paid attention to the modern studies of war in Ukraine. According to the article of Tetiana Korolova, Rostyslav Sorich and Olga Aleksandrova the following lexical features which are related to the military discourse can be determined: accumulation of military terms is inherent in military discourse texts and the use of abbreviations (Korolova, 2021). Referring to this article, “military discourse” – is military cognitive-communicative system, which is a system of concepts that reflect ideas about real and imaginary objects, phenomena and their interaction in the sphere of military confrontation, their rational and emotional evaluation, and means of expression that ensure the communication of members of the military communities among themselves and with the outside world in various situations of interaction and opposition (Korolova, 2021) But according to the article of Khar, the purpose of the discourse of war is to reflect not only the life of the army, but also of the military events and everyday realities, objects and phenomena (Khar, p. 161).

We can suggest that the discourse of war can be identified as a broader notion than military discourse as it includes not only the military terms, the language of soldiers and military units but also the discourse of war is a language or system of words which are used to describe military phenomena, the concept of war, the events that take place during the war. Moreover it combines other types of discourse such as ‘political discourse’, ‘social discourse’, ‘pedagogical discourse’ and ‘media discourse’.

**Results and Discussions.** The purpose of the article is the analyses of the ways in which the media portrays the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, with a particular focus on the language used by various media outlets to describe the war.

**The material of the study** was articles from modern mass media, such as BBC, The Washington Post, CNN and The Guardian. The methods applied in this research are as follows:

- linguistic analysis was utilized to select the lexical units which are used in modern media to cover the notion of “war”;
- by the method of continuous sampling the lexical units used to depict the notion of "war" were selected from the modern media;
- discourse analysis was applied to interpret the lexical units used to depict the notion of "war".

We have analyzed the articles from “The Washington Post”, “The Guardians”, BBC and CNN and defined how the “war” is named in them. According to our research mostly there are used such terms:

From “The Washington Post”: “Since the outbreak of *full-scale war* between Russia and Ukraine, Russian Orthodox priests in Ukraine and around the world have faced accusations of spying and otherwise working to advance Russia’s political interests. <...>” (David I. Klein, 2023). The lexical unit “*full-scale war*” is used to highlight that it goes about the war that has started in 2022.

From “The Guardian”: “*Russia-Ukraine war* at a glance: what we know on day 606 of the invasion”. In the headline from “The Guardian” the expression “Russia-Ukraine war” is another term how the notion of “war” is depicted. The following lexical unit separate the war between these two countries because there are also other wars in the world also it can be interpreted as this war concerns only these two countries without the intervention of others (The Guardian, 2023).

Having analyzed the articles from the following section in “The Guardian”, we can find another lexical unit that interprets the notion of war: “Turkey will take part in peace talks next week to discuss ways to end *the Ukraine conflict*, Zelenskiy said” (The Guardian, 2023).

From BBC: “*Russia's invasion* began with dozens of missile strikes on cities all over Ukraine before dawn on 24 February 2022” (20). In the following phrase from the article we can define “*Russia's invasion*” as a synonym to the notion “war”. It is interpreted in the following way: Russia is the country, that is an invader and it is a terrorist state.

On the article from BBC we find the following expression to identify the “war”: “Ukraine says more than 360 educational facilities have been destroyed and over 3,000 damaged since the start of *Russia's full-scale invasion* in 2022” (Jaroslav Lukiv, 2023); the same one we find in another article from BBC: “Most people have fled. There's been fighting here since 2014, but since the start of *Russia's full-scale invasion* of last February, the population has shrunk from more than 30,000 to just over 1,000” (Jenny Hill, 2023).

“Such army units are commonly known as Storm-Z, the letter Z being one of the symbols of Vladimir Putin's so-called “*special military operation*” against Ukraine” (Vitaly Shevchenko, from BBC). The same expression we can find in the article from “The Guardian”: “<...> Russia’s defence ministry reported the interception in one of its regular updates on the war in Ukraine, something Moscow still calls “*a special military operation*” <...>” (14). The term “special military operation” is used in the article to depict the notion of “war” from the side of terrorists. It highlights the propaganda in this country by showing how they hide the real fact of war under such an expression.

We can also find the expression “the war against Ukraine” in this article: “Reports from Russia suggest that the defence ministry has taken over from Wagner as a recruiter of inmates for *the war against Ukraine*” (Vitaly Shevchenko, from BBC). It highlights the fact that the war was started by Russia without any reasons against Ukraine.

Analyzing the article “UK prime minister vows to highlight “devastating impact” of Russia's invasion of Ukraine at the G20” from CNN, we see, that the expression “Russia's invasion of Ukraine” is used again as a synonym to the word “war” in this context: “British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Friday said he will highlight the “devastating impact” of *Russia's invasion of Ukraine* at the upcoming G20 Summit in the Indian capital New Delhi this weekend” (19).

In the same article from CNN we find other synonyms to the word “war”: “Speaking to Indian news agency ANI on Friday, Sunak said, “When it comes to Ukraine and Russia and their *conflict*, one thing I will be doing is highlighting the devastating impact that *Russia’s illegal invasion* is having on millions of people around the world, particularly on food prices and Russia has recently pulled out of the grain deal that we are shipping grains to many poor countries around the world and now you see food prices go up, that is causing suffering to millions of people and that’s not right <...> (19); “A statement issued by the Prime Minister’s Office at the time read, Modi had “noted that the *conflict in Ukraine* has had a significant impact on the whole world,” reiterating India’s “clear support for dialogue and diplomacy to find a way forward”” (19). The first one is the “*conflict*”, that can be understood as underestimation of the horrors of war. But another example is “*Russia’s illegal invasion*” which once again emphasizes that it was Russia that attacked Ukraine for no reason.

During the articles analysis, we may see the tendency of using the word “conflict” to change the word “war”. The same is used in the article from BBC: “While aerial drones have been used to great effect during *the conflict*, this new form of seaborne technology has been gaining momentum - and it may change the future of naval warfare” (15). When we talk about the major number of readers, the word “*conflict*” seems just like a synonym of the word “war”. But when we observe this term from the Ukrainian point of view, this notion may evoke negative interpretation. For Ukrainians the word “*conflict*” has rather daily and not so critical meaning. And it cannot be compared with the “war” that has more important and at the same time cruel denotation.

Having analyzed the article from “The Washington Post” we defined other examples for describing the war: “Is there a specifically Russian way of war? The manner in which the Russian army has systematically flouted the Geneva Conventions in its *brutal, unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine* inevitably prompts the question” (Petraeus, D., & Roberts, A., 2023); “KYIV – on a day when a horrific Russian missile strike killed more than 50 people in a grocery store and cafe in eastern Ukraine, a visitor asks a top official in her sandbagged office here how her nation can survive this *brutal, exhausting war*” (Ignatius David, 2023). There are more examples that emphasize that fact, that the war in Ukraine is horrible and that Russia has its own absurd motives which are not connected with the rules of war. As for the expression “*exhausting war*” it refers to the time, supplies and nation spirit. The expression can be interpreted as the war takes much time for purpose to devastate supplies and to destroy the spirit of the nation.

Analyzing the article “What happened in the Russia-Ukraine war this week? Catch up with the must-read news and analysis” from “The Guardian” we can identify such phrase: “Putin preparing for *forever war*”; Ukrainian parents hiding their children in basements; Finland clears final hurdle to NATO membership”. This expression “*forever war*” is likely referring to this man's intention not to

stop the war. It shows the readers that this country has a lot of military supplies to war and even more they create or search a new weapon (21).

Except for these repeated notions, we have found another one in the article from “The Washington Post”: “The August 2022 attack is part of a raging *shadow war* in which Ukraine’s spy services have also twice bombed the bridge connecting Russia to occupied Crimea, piloted drones into the roof of the Kremlin and blown holes in the hulls of Russian naval vessels in the Black Sea” (Greg Miller and Isabelle Khurshudyan, 2023). Interpreting this expression as “*shadow war*”, we understand military actions, actions to achieve victory and peace, which are carried out secretly without the knowledge of the enemy. Such an interpretation of the word “war” may well cause readers to understand that military intelligence officers work well and for victory.

Having analyzed the same article, we face another expression that covers the notion of “war”: “<...> and shared intelligence on a scale that would have been unimaginable before Russia illegally annexed Crimea and fomented *a separatist war* in eastern Ukraine” (Greg Miller and Isabelle Khurshudyan, 2023). “*A separatist war*” is another expression that emphasizes that the invasion in Ukraine was illegal. This expression gives the interpretation that Russia is a terrorist state whose soldiers are separatists and invaders.

After analyzing the articles, we observe that the war in the mass media is mostly described by the words: *full-scale war; conflict; the war against Ukraine; Russia's invasion; Russia-Ukraine war*. In some cases, the war is covered by modern media according to the description of warfare: *a separatist war; shadow war; brutal, exhausting war; brutal, unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine*. And rarely, the modern media cover the concept of “war” from the point of invaders: *a special military operation*.

**Conclusions and perspectives.** Discourse of war refers to the language of military terms, the professional military jargon and military units. It is closely connected with such types of discourse as “political discourse”, “social discourse”, “pedagogical discourse” and “media discourse” and it also refers to the language or system of words which are used to describe military phenomena, the concept of war, the events that take place during the war, the political speeches on the topic of war. To the discourse of war we can also relate neologisms, phraseological units, linguistic play that appeared during the war and are used within the one nation which understands the meaning of them.

During the research we defined such synonyms which are used in modern media to describe the notion of “war”: *full-scale war; conflict; the war against Ukraine; Russia's invasion; Russia-Ukraine war; a separatist war; shadow war; brutal, exhausting war; brutal, unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine; a special military operation*. Each of these terms interprets the war in the own way. According to our research we defined that mostly the war is depicted as the cruel and illegal invasion of Russia, mostly describes the period from 2022. In some cases, the horrors of war are

underestimated by the using word “conflict”. Some other examples give the understanding of the war process and describe it.

We are sure that the investigation of how the war is depicted in mass media is extremely important. It helps us to understand how people percept the war and interpret it. We also see a perspective in the further study of the rhetoric of war, lexical units, and neologisms in the context of the discourse of wars.

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