



Abstract

TERM “MOTHER” IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES

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This thesis is devoted to the comparative linguistic analysis of the term “**mother**” in English and “**мать**” in Russian. The study examines the lexical, semantic, etymological, morphological, stylistic, phraseological, and cultural features of these terms. The term *mother* belongs to the basic layer of kinship vocabulary and represents one of the most universal concepts in human language. However, despite its universal biological meaning, the concept of motherhood is expressed differently in English and Russian due to cultural, historical, emotional, and linguistic factors.

The research shows that English *mother* and Russian **мать** have a common Indo-European origin and share the basic meaning of “female parent.” At the same time, they differ in stylistic usage, emotional connotations, word-formation possibilities, and metaphorical associations. In English, *mother* is often connected with the ideas of origin, source, creation, and care, while in Russian **мать** is strongly associated with emotional warmth, sacrifice, homeland, nature, and moral strength.

Key words: mother, мать, kinship terms, comparative linguistics, semantics, etymology, metaphor, English, Russian, linguistic culture.

The concept of **mother** is one of the most important and universal concepts in human society. Every culture has a word for a mother, and this word usually belongs to the most ancient and emotionally significant part of vocabulary. In both English and Russian, the word denoting a mother is not only a kinship term, but also a cultural symbol connected with love, care, birth, protection, sacrifice, origin, and national identity.

The English word **mother** and the Russian word **мать** have the same basic meaning: a woman in relation to her child or children. However, language never reflects reality in a completely neutral way. Words carry additional meanings, emotional shades, cultural associations, and stylistic differences. Therefore, the comparative analysis of the term *mother* in English and Russian makes it possible to understand how two languages represent one of the most central human relationships.

Kinship terms are words that name family relations. They include such words as **mother, father, sister, brother, son, daughter, grandmother, grandfather**, and others. In Russian, these words include **мать, отец, сестра, брат, сын, дочь, бабушка, дедушка**. Kinship terminology is considered one of the most ancient and stable parts of vocabulary because family relations have always played a central role in human society.

Kinship terms are important for linguistics because they reflect not only biological relations, but also social structure, cultural traditions, emotional attitudes, and value systems. For example, the word **mother** does not simply name a biological role. It also expresses ideas of care, love, responsibility, protection, and emotional attachment.

In many languages, the words for mother and father are among the first words learned by children. This is connected with the early development of speech and the emotional closeness between a child and parents. Words such as **mama**, **mommy**, **мама**, **мамочка** are usually associated with childhood, warmth, and affection.

Thus, kinship terms have a double nature. On the one hand, they are lexical units with clear meanings. On the other hand, they are cultural signs that express deep social and emotional meanings.

The concept of **mother** is universal, but its linguistic expression differs from culture to culture. In most cultures, the image of the mother is connected with birth, life, care, tenderness, patience, and sacrifice. At the same time, each language develops its own system of words, associations, idioms, and metaphors connected with motherhood.

In English linguistic culture, the term **mother** is often associated with the idea of origin or source. For example, the expression **mother tongue** means a person's native language. The phrase **necessity is the mother of invention** means that need or difficulty leads to creativity. The expression **Mother Nature** personifies nature as a life-giving and protecting female figure.

In Russian linguistic culture, the term **мать** is also deeply symbolic. It is often connected with homeland, land, moral strength, and spiritual roots. For example, **Мать-Родина** means Motherland, and **мать-земля** refers to the earth as a living and sacred source of life. Russian also has many affectionate forms, such as **мама**, **мамочка**, **мамуля**, **матушка**, which show emotional closeness and warmth.

Therefore, the term **mother** / **мать** can be analyzed not only as a kinship term, but also as a cultural concept.

The English word **mother** is widely used metaphorically. Its metaphorical meanings are usually connected with source, origin, creation, and protection.

Examples:

1.Mother tongue — native language.

Example: *English is his mother tongue.*

2.Motherland — native country.

Example: *He returned to his motherland after many years abroad.*

3.Mother Nature — nature personified as a mother.

Example: *Mother Nature provides everything necessary for life.*

4.Necessity is the mother of invention — difficult situations create new ideas.

Example: *When people face problems, they invent solutions; necessity is the mother of invention.*

5.The mother of all battles/problems — something very large or serious.

Example: *This is the mother of all problems.*

These examples show that in English the concept of mother is often connected with the idea of producing, creating, or giving origin to something.

Russian has a rich system of words connected with the concept of mother. These words differ in emotional coloring, style, and communicative function.

In English, **mother** is a neutral or formal word. It can be used in everyday speech, but many speakers prefer **mom** or **mum** in informal communication. In Russian, **мать** is more serious and formal than **мама**. The word **мама** is the most common everyday form.

Another difference is emotional expressiveness. Russian has more affectionate forms than English. For example, **мамочка, мамуля, маменька, матушка** express different emotional shades. English has fewer such forms: **mom, mommy, mummy, мама**.

There is also a difference in metaphorical associations. In English, **mother** is often associated with origin, source, and creation. In Russian, **мать** is more strongly connected with homeland, sacrifice, earth, nature, and spiritual belonging.

For example, the English expression **necessity is the mother of invention** emphasizes productivity and creation. The Russian expression **Мать-Родина** emphasizes patriotism, emotional attachment, and national identity.

At the same time, the analysis revealed several differences. In English, **mother** is a neutral or formal term, while informal variants such as **mom** and **mum** are more typical of everyday communication. In Russian, **мать** sounds more formal and serious, while **мама** is the most common and emotionally warm everyday form.

Russian has a richer system of affectionate and diminutive forms, such as **мамочка, мамуля, маменька, матушка**. These forms allow speakers to express different emotional attitudes. English also has affectionate forms, such as **mommy** and **mummy**, but the system is less morphologically developed.

The metaphorical usage of the two terms also differs. In English, **mother** is often associated with origin, source, and creation, as in **mother tongue, Mother Nature, and necessity is the mother of invention**. In Russian, **мать** is more strongly connected with homeland, earth, sacrifice, emotional warmth, and spiritual values, as in **Мать-Родина, мать-земля, and Волга-матушка**.

Thus, the term **mother / мать** is not only a kinship term, but also a cultural concept. It reflects universal human values and, at the same time, reveals national and linguistic specificity. The comparison of English and Russian shows that language preserves not only meanings, but also cultural memory, emotional experience, and social values.

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