

LEXICAL-SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF THE CONCEPT “TEENS”

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ANNOTATION

This study focuses on the semantic analysis of the concept “*teens*” and its related words and collocations. The term “*teens*” is defined as the age range between 13 and 19, encompassing a critical period of physical, emotional, and social development. Key semantic features and associated lexical items are explored, such as *teenager*, *youth*, and *adolescent*, along with their contextual collocations.

Key words: Teens, adolescence, teenager, semantic analysis, youth, language and identity, social development, lexical-semantic relations

INTRODUCTION

The concept of “age” is a prominent linguistic category studied extensively by researchers, evidenced by the significant body of work dedicated to its exploration. However, scholarly interest in this concept has emerged relatively recently. Conducting an analysis of existing research is crucial within this dissertation to highlight achievements in this field and identify areas that remain underexplored. K.A. Vlasova's research is dedicated to the multifaceted study of word-formation nests in modern Russian related to *young* — *old*. This analysis encompasses derivational, morphological, lexical-grammatical, semantic, conceptual, and comparative aspects. The nests are examined in both literary language and regional dialects, with their English equivalents *young* — *old* compared in general terms.

The study investigates all lexical-semantic variants comprising the meanings of these words, with particular emphasis on the lexical-semantic variant representing *age*. This specific variant was identified as a distinct concept. The researcher attempted to provide a comprehensive structural-semantic description of word-formation nests, focusing on their typology, composition, structure, semantic continuity, and the peculiarities of derivatives within each nest (Vlasova, 2002). This research aims to conduct a lexical-semantic analysis of the “*teens*” concept, addressing the gaps in existing studies and offering new linguistic insights into this concept.

THE MAIN PART

The concept of “*teens*” encompasses the life stage between childhood and adulthood, generally defined as the age range from 13 to 19 years. The semantics of this concept are rich and multidimensional, reflecting biological, psychological, social, and cultural attributes. Words and collocations associated with “*teens*” often highlight these aspects, focusing on identity formation, emotional development, and societal roles. *Keywords Associated with “Teens”*. Teenager: Denotes an individual aged 13–19, primarily emphasizing the numerical suffix *-teen*. Semantic traits: youthful, energetic, rebellious, growing. Adolescent: A formal term used to describe individuals undergoing puberty and emotional development. Semantic traits: transitional, developmental, hormonal. Youth: A broader term that sometimes includes teenagers but may extend to early adulthood. Semantic traits: vibrant, hopeful, immature. Pubescent: A biological term highlighting physical and hormonal changes. Semantic traits:

*growing, hormonal, developing*¹. Collocations provide insight into common contexts where the concept of “teens” is discussed. Some examples include:

1. Teen Behavior: *Rebellious teens, moody teens, responsible teens*. Reflects emotional and social aspects of adolescence.
2. Teen Identity: *Teen culture, teen trends, teen style*. Focuses on self-expression, peer influence, and social belonging.
3. Teen Challenges: *Teen anxiety, teen depression, teen struggles*. Highlights the psychological difficulties faced during this life stage.
4. Teen Life: *Teen activities, teen friendships, teen relationships*. Emphasizes daily interactions, lifestyle, and social dynamics.
5. Teen Milestones: *Teen achievements, teen growth, teen dreams*. Associated with aspirations and accomplishments typical of the age group.

The semantics of “teens” can be grouped into distinct fields based on recurring themes: Development: Includes words like *growth, maturity, learning*. Emotions: Includes collocations like *emotional teens, moody teens, expressive teens*. Social Dynamics: Includes phrases such as *peer pressure, teen friendships, group identity*. Challenges: Highlighted by terms like *teen addiction, teen violence, teen rebellion*².

CONCLUSION

The semantic analysis of the “teens” concept reveals a dynamic and layered representation in language, reflecting the multifaceted nature of adolescence. Words and collocations tied to this concept not only describe the physical and emotional aspects of this stage but also capture its social and cultural significance. Understanding these associations enriches the study of language, identity, and societal perceptions of youth.

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¹ Wierzbicka A. Semantics: primes and universals - Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 1996, P.78.

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