



Dragana Čarapić¹

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MEANING EXTENSION AND GRAMMATICAL GENDER IN NEAR SYNONYMY ANALYSIS: A CORPUS BASED STUDY

Abstract: *Contrastive analysis of descriptive adjective hrabar-a-o in Montenegrin and descriptive adjective brave as well as their near synonyms in English and Montenegrin will be employed in this paper in order to prove the presence of the descriptive adjectives' prevailing idiomatic meaning in both languages. The results of the analysis indicate that the semantic (and grammatical) aspects of words are reflected onto and within their collocational framework. Furthermore, it is expected that the collocational framework of the adjective hrabar-a-o in Montenegrin will change depending upon the grammatical gender implied (masculine, feminine, neutral), as well as the sequence of its near synonyms. The same changes are not expected to occur in English due to its lack of grammatical gender. The methodology of the research comprises the frequency of the primary and idiomatic meaning analyses of descriptive adjective hrabar-a-o, and its near synonyms based on the framework of the Contemporary Serbian language electronic corpus, (Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, University of Belgrade), and the descriptive adjective brave and its near synonyms analyzed on the British National Corpus data (BNC) and the Words Bank: English database.*

Keywords: *descriptive adjective, near synonyms, idiomatic meaning, grammatical gender, the most frequent collocational framework*

1. Introduction

Early lexical semantic studies investigated the degree to which metaphor could be used to account for meaning extension; similarly the concept of radial categories allowed for new insights into linguistic organization and the related mental representation of polysemy and to a lesser extent of near-synonymy (Divjak – Gries 2006). Recently, there has been a gradual shift in the analyses from intuition-based, corpus-illustrated work to corpus-based analyses (cf. Gibbs – Matlock, 2001; Kishner – Gibbs, 1996 and the papers in Gries & Stefanowitsch, 2006 and Stefanowitsch – Gries, 2006). The analysis is corpus-based as well, analyzing the descriptive adjectives and their near-synonyms within two

¹ PhD, senior lecturer at the University of Montenegro.

electronic corpora. Research on extensions of meaning were undertaken by Dragičević (2010), who noticed transitivity of meaning in the following analyzed lexemes and phrases:

“Presently, the most conspicuous example of meaning transitivity is reflected through the verb *pričati* (Eng. *talk*), which is, in everyday conversation, used in the specific meaning: *govoriti* (eng. *speak*) and *razgovarati* (eng. *communicate*), as illustrated in the following sentences: *Ne pričam više s njim (= govorim)* (eng.= *speak*) eng. *I don't speak with him any more*; *Ona dobro priča španski (= govori)*², eng. *She speaks Spanish well*; *Sve vreme smo pričale (= razgovarale)*. eng. *We talked all the time.* (= *communicate*). Similar to these examples, the verb *polomiti* eng. *crash* is often used in the context implying the meaning *slomiti* and *razbiti*, eng. *break*; e.g. *polomiti nogu / ruku (= slomiti)*, *polomiti nekom nos (= razbiti)*, *polomiti prozor / staklo / vazu (= razbiti)*, obviously under the influence of single definition and understanding of the English verb *break*³ while translating it almost always with the same word and in the same way“ (Dragičević 2010).

The illustrated example of meaning transitivity should be taken into consideration and criticised as such.

According to the stated examples it is noticeable that transitivity of meaning stems from various foundations. Namely, besides the frequency of the use of a certain expression within a specific collocational framework, it has been noticed that loan words from foreign languages can influence extensions of meaning in the source language.

Stockwell and Minkova (2006: 149-161) claim that semantic changes derive from many internal and external factors. Technological progress is considered to be the major external factor affecting semantic changes, whereas the use of lexemes based on the analogy principles and generalization propensity is

² The illustrated example of meaning transitivity should be taken into consideration and criticised as such.

³ “Examples of synonymy suppression are obvious in phrases loaned from a foreign language or phrases greatly influenced by words from the foreign language: *egzil, izgnanstvo; reptil, gmizavac; keš, gotovina; informacija, obavještenje; demantovati, opovrgnuti; kratka priča* (a literal translation of the English phrase *short story*), *pripovetka; ohrabrivati* (an inadequate interpretation of one of the senses of the English verb meaning *encourage*), *podsticati*“ (Dragičević 2010).

considered to be the internal factor influencing these changes. Dragičević (2010: 135) deems that secondary meanings of lexemes evolve, being aligned to several principles (metaphor, metonymy and synecdoch) , but she emphasizes that there are “many cases when meaning can not be predicted as such and it results out of a specific extension of meaning.” Therefore, in the next section of a paper we will give a short overview of major causes of both meaning extension and the narrowing of meaning.

2. Semantic changes (extension⁴ and narrowing of meaning)⁵

The founder of modern semantics, Breal, and his predecessor Reisig carried out a scientific investigation of the laws that influence the course of semantic changes. Until 1930, all the analyses in this field had bifurcated in two directions: the classification of semantic changes and the disclosure of semantic laws (Ullman 1962). However, according to Ullman (1962) in spite of many complexities of these processes, it is possible to outline several major semantic causes of semantic changes:

1. Linguistic causes – Some semantic changes may occur as a result of relations among words. Common collocations may have a long term influence on the meaning of an expression through the meaning transfer of a certain lexeme onto another word, due to their frequent co-occurrence in the same context.⁶

2. Historical causes – Objects, ideas and specific concepts change over time, though their name stays the same, maintaining the tradition and their continuity.⁷

3. Sociological causes – When a word from the standard language becomes a part of a professional language of trade, craft or of any other social group, that word acquires a limited meaning. Contrary to this, words loaned from the language of a

⁴ Radić-Bojanić and Silaški (2012) examined the metaphorical conceptualizations of the lexeme-notion *glava* in Serbian and the notion *head* in English.

⁵ For a detailed insight into the issue of semantic changes see Shindo (2009) and Dirvens – Porings (2006).

⁶The stated linguistic causes of semantic changes (meaning the extension of lexemes) are the main focus of our research.

⁷ For example, the word *pencil* derives from the Latin meaning *feather* or *thin brush*; however, the same word was retained even when people started using wood for making these devices for writing, and therefore we still have word *pencil* in common use.

particular social group, gain a wider meaning when passing into standard language.⁸

4. Psychological causes – Semantic changes often occur as a reflection of the author's state of mind or as a consequence of an enduring trait within his mental framework. A coincidence may draw the speaker's attention or a witty thought may create a certain image, a presentation which, due to its expressive intensity, become commonly used. For example, the idea that a certain image and notion is in a way related to a *horse*, has inspired many graphic and humorous metaphors and idioms: *clothes-horse*, *horse-fish*, *horse-tail*, *horse-play*, *to flog a dead horse*, *to mount the high horse*, *to look a gift horse in the mouth*, and so on.

In semantic research, special attention has been paid to the psychological causes of semantic changes, among which we would highlight the following: emotional factors and taboo.⁹

After reviewing a selection of the causes of extensions of meaning and defining near-synonymy, we will present our methodological approach to the research in which we aim at indicating the dominant idiomatic meaning of the adjective *hrabar,-a,-o* and its near synonyms in relation to their grammatical gender in Montenegrin. The same analysis will be carried out in English, while analysing the descriptive adjective *brave* and its near synonyms.

3. Near synonyms

Cruse (1986: 270) claims that "natural languages abhor absolute synonyms just as nature abhors vacuum," as the meanings of words are constantly changing. Clark (1992)

⁸ Nyota and Mareva (2012) illustrate the influence of street jargon on the standard language while describing a great number of urban dialects, which represent combinations of the standard language of Zimbabwe and English as a second language.

⁹ Quite often, the feeling of awe dedicated to supernatural beings has imposed certain prohibitions related to the utterance of their names. The Jewish people were never allowed to address God directly; we have noticed a similar situation in English in which people use the expression *Lord*, as well as in French, where the word *Seigneur* is used. There are many euphemistic expressions related to *death* and *sickness*, therefore words such as *disease* and *undertaker* show that these changes became closely related to the very forbidden tabooed idea, having lost their euphemistic value and being exposed to immediate replacement in order to mitigate the impression of discomfort they convey (Gareearts 2009).

displays her principle of contrast, stating that “every two forms contrast in meaning”, supporting the previous contention related to the natural elimination of absolute synonymy in languages.

Therefore, words are rather close in meaning, similar but not identical, not completely interchangeable varying in their nuances of denotation, connotation, implication, emphasis or register (DiMarco, Hirst and Stede 1993). These words are called near-synonyms (or plesionyms).¹⁰

Cruse (1986) differentiates cognitive synonyms and plesionyms; cognitive synonyms are words that, when inter-substituted in a sentence, preserve its truth conditions but may change the expressive meaning, style or register of the sentence (e.g., *violin : fiddle; misty : foggy*) (Edmonds and Hirst 2002: 115-116).

However, Edmonds and Hirst (2002) oppose to such coarse-grained definitions of plesionisms and cognitive synonyms, claiming that definitions of near-synonymy that do not take granularity into account are insufficient.¹¹

Murphy states that synonymy and similarity are firstly described from the author's meta-lexical perspective, thus being considered "a relation between our conceptualizations of words, rather than between their lexical entries [in the mental lexicon]" (Murphy 2004:134). She claims a synonym ensemble "includes only word-concepts that have all the same contextually relevant properties, but differ in form" (Murphy, 2004: 134).

Though collocations can often be unexpected, they are of the utmost importance regarding the lexical structure of the language and therefore they tend to be recurrent. Sinclair (1991: 170) defined collocations as “thoccurrence of two or more words within a short space of each other in a text” and suggested a span of four to five words on either side of the node (Sinclair 1968: 105-6).¹²

¹⁰ Cruse 1986.

¹¹ Having taken granularity into account, we can create a much more useful definition of near-synonymy, because we can now characterize the difference between **essential** and **peripheral** aspects of meaning (Edmonds and Hirst 2002: 117).

¹² Sinclair advocated a *statistically oriented approach* in the mid 1960s, as he was the first to regard computer-based corpora as a very useful tool for analysing collocations (Sinclair 1966. 428). He he considered that the "patterns perceived by a trained linguist examining a text are unreliable and usually extremely tentative" (Sinclair 1966: 413).

Consequently, a great number of synonymy analyses are context-dependent, being focused on collecting data on contextual factors that substantially differentiate semantic nuances among words sharing a similar denotation, as well as on objective factors that determine which word within a group is selected for a certain context. This line of scientific research represents a complete reversal of the traditional introspective approach and such concepts as the synonymy span of use (Zgusta 1971).

4. Methodology and goals

The methodological diversity of this approach features the use of the collocational method (Hlebec 2008; Hlebec 2012), followed by a componential analysis of the collocates of the extracted descriptive adjectives' and, then, as the final step of the research, applying contrastive analysis. The very process of contrasting (or analysing) presupposes the comparison of nominal collocates of descriptive adjectives, not the comparison of descriptive adjectives in isolation.

This approach is, though only partially¹³, in accordance with the collocational method originally applied by Hlebec (2011). Hlebec (2011: 122) elaborates the specificity of the collocational approach through the analysis of the descriptive adjective *wild* (Hlebec 2008; Hlebec 2012).

As one of the precursors of the collocational approach to semantic word analysis, Palmer (1976: 76) quotes Firth, who claims: "you shall know the word by the company it keeps"¹⁴ emphasizing the importance of the collocational framework to word analysis.

The aim of our research is to show the dominant presence of the idiomatic meaning of the contrasted descriptive adjectives and their near synonyms in English and Montenegrin. Furthermore, it is expected that the collocational framework of

¹³ We have to emphasize that there are certain differences regarding the collocational method we have devised for the purposes of this paper compared to the collocational method originally presented by Hlebec. Namely, in his collocational method, Hlebec insists on an exhaustive polysemantic account of the lexeme analysed whereas we have focused only on the most frequent collocational framework of the lexeme which, to a certain extent, restricts the number of possible meanings of the lexeme under analysis. However, the range of this analysis was bound to be confined to certain limits as such.

¹⁴ Firth (1957: 11).

the adjective *hrabar*, -a, -o in Montenegrin will change with the grammatical gender implied (masculine, feminine, neutral), as the sequence of its near synonyms will change, too. Consequently, we claim that there are inflectional selectional differences among synonyms in a morphologically rich language such as Montenegrin. On the other hand, our results show that the same changes do not occur within the analysis applied to the English language, due to its lack of grammatical gender.

In the long term, we expect that the results of the analysis will shed light on grammatical gender in Montenegrin as an influential generator of the extensions of meaning.

5. Analysis of descriptive adjective and their near synonyms in Serbian. The descriptive adjective *hrabar*-a,-o

The following four synonyms can be considered to be the near synonyms of the descriptive adjective *hrabar*: *herojski*, *odvažan*, *smion*, *junački*, after having analyzed the first ten synonyms (extracted from the dictionary of synonyms: *Rečnik sinonima*, Pavle Ćosić i saradnici (2008:293)) through their co-occurrences within the most frequent nominal collocations of the node word *hrabar*.

Table 1 Near-synonymy samples of the adjective *hrabar*. The most frequent four collocates of the descriptive adjective *hrabar* analysed on the corpus data of the Contemporary Serbian language of the Faculty of Mathematics in Belgrade.

<i>HRABAR</i>	<i>Potez</i>	<i>Čovjek</i>	<i>Korak</i>	<i>Čin</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Concordance no. of collocates analysed on the corpus data of <i>Google Search</i> (pages from Montenegro)	27300	16200	11600	11000	66100
<i>Near-synonymy samples of the adjective hrabar</i>					
<i>Herojski</i>	934	36	100	39800	40870
<i>Odvažan</i>	10800	3	/	/	10803
<i>Smion</i>	193	9	/	/	202
<i>Junački</i>	2	/	/	/	2

At the second stage of the research, frequency analysis of the four¹⁵ most recurrent collocates of the adjective *hrabar*

¹⁵ Sun, Huang & Liu (2011) in their near synonymy analysis point out that it is enough to extract four collocations in order to avoid all existent collocations'

(~*potez*, ~*čovjek*, ~*korak*, ~*čin*) En. (~*move*, ~*man*, ~*step*, ~*act*)¹⁶ was carried out within the collocational framework of the suggested near synonyms (*herojska*, *odvažna*, *smiona*, *junački*) (see table 1). Having examined the results, we can conclude that the near synonyms of the adjective *hrabar* are: *herojski* (40870), *odvažan* (10803), *smion* (202), *junački* (2) (www.google.com, *pages from Montenegro, taken on December 02, 2015*¹⁷). The semantic component of the seme *hrabar* is *having no fear*. One nominal collocate has a concrete meaning (~*čovjek*) whereas the other three nominal collocates bear an idiomatic meaning (~*potez*, ~*korak*, ~*čin*).

analysis entirely. Consequently, we have decided to restrict the analysis to four most frequent collocations, thus trying to get as valid results as possible.

¹⁶ Piits (2010) confirms the hypothesis that the existence of mutual collocations of the selected node words implies the following semantic relations: synonymy, antonymy, hyperonymy. Using the Estonian language corpus analysis, they collected the 30 most frequent word left and right from the node word by applying the WordSmith Tools programme. Hence, we have analysed collocations right from the node word as we focused on descriptive adjective analysis.

¹⁷ A great number of researchers have used the internet as a corpus of analysis. Inkpen (2004) used the internet as a corpus when devising the statistical model for near synonymy choice. Grefenstette (1999) used the web for machine translation analysis; Kilgariff (2001) analysed different noises by using web data; Mihalcea and Moldovan (1999) as well as Agirre and Martinez (2000) used the web as an additional source for analysing nuances in meaning among different words; Resnik (1999) used the web for bilingual texts' analysis. Keller and Lapata (2003) showed that web data are aligned with other relevant corpus data. For our research we needed to use the web corpus in order to compare the results from the web to the results from the corpus of Contemporary Serbian language, Faculty of Mathematics, University of Belgrade.

Table 2 Near-synonymy samples of the adjective *hrabra*. The most frequent four collocates of the descriptive adjective *hrabra* analysed on the corpus data of the Contemporary Serbian language of the Faculty of Mathematics in Belgrade.

HRABRA	Žena	Odluka	Djevojka	Igra	TOTAL
Concordance no. of collocates analysed on the corpus data of <i>Google Search</i> (pages from Montenegro)	23600	11400	6720	5640	47360
Near-synonymy samples of the adjective <i>hrabra</i>					
Herojska	368	235	1	1420	2024
Odvažna	1600	189	921	9	2719
Smiona	120	272	123	78	593
Junačka	58	118	29	1140	1345

The third stage of the research includes frequency analysis of the four most recurrent collocates of the adjective *hrabra* (~žena, ~odluka, ~djevojka, ~igra); En. ~woman, ~decision, ~girl, ~game) within the collocational framework of the suggested near synonyms (*herojska, odvažna, smiona, junačka*) (see table 2). The results of the analysis suggest that the near synonyms of the adjective *hrabra* are: *odvažna* (2719), *herojska* (2024), *junačka* (1345), *smiona* (593) (www.google.com, pages from Montenegro, taken on December 02, 2015). The mutual semantic content of the seme *hrabra* would be *bold, fearless* (Table 2). Two nominal collocates have a concrete meaning (~woman, ~girl), and the remaining two collocates have an idiomatic meaning (~decision, ~game).

Table 3 Near-synonymy samples of the adjective *hrabro*. The most frequent four collocates of the descriptive adjective *hrabro* analysed on the corpus data of the Contemporary Serbian language of the Faculty of Mathematics in Belgrade.

HRABRO	Srce	Suočavanje	Novinarstvo	Svjedočanstvo	TOTAL
Concordance no. of collocates analysed on the corpus data of <i>Google Search</i> (pages from Montenegro)	18900	746	565	370	190681

<i>Near-synonymy samples of the adjective hrabro</i>					
Herojsko	1610	/	1	334	1945
Odvažno	154	8	21	81	265
Smiono	2680	5	1	/	2687
Junačko	6620	4	4	4	6632

The final stage of the research involves frequency analysis of the four most recurrent collocates of the adjective *hrabro* (~*srce*, ~*suočavanje*, ~*novinarstvo*, ~*svjedočanstvo*); (En.~*heart*, ~*coping*, ~*journalism*, ~*testimony*) within the collocational framework of the suggested near synonyms (*herojsko*, *odvažno*, *smiono*, *junačko*) (see table 3). The results of the analysis suggest that the near synonyms of the adjective *hrabro* are: *junačko* (6632), *smiono* (2687), *herojsko* (1945), *odvažno* (265) (www.google.com, pages from Montenegro, taken on December 02, 2015). The overall semantic content of the seme *hrabro* would be *bold* and *fearless* (table 3). All nominal collocates have an idiomatic meaning.

5.1. Analysis of the descriptive adjective *brave* in English

A frequency analysis of the four most recurrent collocates of the adjective *brave* (~*man*, ~*face*, ~*attempt*, ~*fight*) was carried out within the collocational framework of the suggested near synonyms (*courageous*, *bold*, *fearless*, *dauntless*) (see table 4). The results of the analysis suggest that the near synonyms of the adjective *brave* are: *courageous* (90), *bold* (73) and *fearless* (18), (www.WordBanksOnline:English, taken on December 2, 2015).

Table 4 Near-synonymy samples of the adjective *brave*. The most frequent four collocates of the descriptive adjective *pale* analysed on the corpus data of following website: www.justtheword.com

BRAVE	Man	Face	Attempt	Fight	TOTAL
Concordance no. of collocates analysed on the corpus data of <i>Word Banks online: English</i>	553	523	64	40	1180
<i>Near-synonymy samples of the adjective brave</i>					
Courageous	70	1	9	10	90
Bold	18	17	38	/	73
Fearless	14	1	1	2	18
Dauntless	/	/	/	/	/

5.1. Componential analysis

Further research comprises of the componential analysis of the descriptive adjective *hrabar,-a,-o* and its near synonyms *herojski,-a,-o*, *junački,-a,-o*, *odvažan,-a,-o*, *smion,-a,-o*. Throughout this analysis we intend to distinguish the semantic features of the abovementioned adjective and its near synonyms, which is why we have analyzed them in the selected collocational framework (the most frequent collocates of the adjective *hrabar,-a,-o* are as follows: ~*potez*, ~*čovjek*, ~*korak*, ~*čin*, ~*žena*, ~*odluka*, ~*djevojka*, ~*igra*, ~*srce*, ~*suočavanje*, ~*novinarstvo*, ~*svjedočanstvo*; En. (~*move*, ~*man*, ~*step*, ~*act*, ~*woman*, ~*decision*, ~*girl*, ~*game*, ~*heart*, ~*coping*, ~*journalism*, ~*testimony*)

Componential analysis includes the descriptive adjective *brave*, as well as its near synonyms: *courageous*, *bold*, *fearless*, *dauntless*. The descriptive adjective *brave* and its near synonyms have been analyzed in the collocational framework of the adjective *brave* (~*man*, ~*face*, ~*attempt*, ~*fight*).

5.2. Contrastive analysis

In the process of contrastive analysis application we have undertaken a comparison of the semantic features of the adjective *hrabar,-a,-o* and its near synonyms (*herojski,-a,-o*, *junački,-a,-o*, *odvažan,-a,-o*, *smion,-a,-o*) according to the frequency of their most recurrent collocates: ~*potez*, ~*čovjek*, ~*korak*, ~*čin*, ~*žena*, ~*odluka*, ~*djevojka*, ~*igra*, ~*srce*, ~*suočavanje*, ~*novinarstvo*, ~*svjedočanstvo*.

The most frequent semantic features of the adjective *hrabar,-a,-o* in Montenegrin and the adjective *brave* in English, as well as their near synonyms analyzed in the range of their most frequent collocates, are:

a) the most frequent semantic components of the adjective *hrabar* and its near synonyms (*herojski*, *odvažan*, *smion*, *junački*) analysed in the following collocational framework (~*move*, ~*man*, ~*step*, ~*act*).

[+MALE±ANIMATE±ADULT]
[+KURAŽAN] 7: Eng. [+BOLD] 7
[+NEPOKOLEBLJIV] 4: Eng. [+RESOLUTE] 4
[+VITEŠKI] 4: Eng. [+CHIVALROUS] 4

b) the most frequent semantic components of the adjective *hrabra* and its near synonyms (*herojska*, *odvažna*, *smiona*, *junačka*) analysed within the given collocational framework *~žena*, *~odluka*, *~djevojka*, *~igra*):

[-MALE±ANIMATE±ADULT]
[+SRČANA] 8: Eng. [+STOUT-HEARTED] 8
[+KURAŽNA] 5: Eng. [+BOLD] 5
[+NEUSTRAŠIVA] 5: Eng. [+FEARLESS] 5

c) the most frequent semantic components of the adjective *hrabro* and its near synonyms (*herojsko*, *odvažno*, *smiono*, *junačko*) analysed in the range of the following collocates (*~srce*, *~suočavanje*, *~novinarstvo*, *~svjedočanstvo*):

[±MALE±ANIMATE±ADULT]
[+NEUSTRAŠIVO] 10: Eng. [+FEARLESS] 10
[+NEPOKOLEBLJIVO] 5: Eng. [+RESOLUTE] 5
[+VITEŠKO] 4: Eng. [+CHIVALROUS] 4

d) the most frequent semantic components of the adjective *brave* and its near synonyms (*courageous*, *bold*, *fearless*, *dauntless*) analyzed in the following collocational framework (*~man*, *~face*, *~attempt*, *~fight*):

[-MALE±ANIMATE±ADULT]
[+MUŠKO±ŽIVO±ODRASLO]
[+NEUSTRAŠIV] 8: Eng. [+FEARLESS] 8
[+SRČAN] 6: Eng. [+STOUT-HEARTED] 6
[+NEPOKOLEBLJIVO] 4: Eng. [+RESOLUTE] 4

At the same time, the most frequent semantic components of the adjective *hrabar* *-a*, *-o* in Montenegrin and the adjective *brave* in English are as follows:

[-MALE±ANIMATE±ADULT]
[+FEARLESS]
[+STOUT-HEARTED]
[+RESOLUTE]

Further analysis includes the most frequent collocates of the descriptive adjective *barve* near synonyms collected from the British National Corpus (112,181,015) (table 5). Their common collocates have been written in bolded letters:

Table 5

COURAGEOUS	MAN (11)	DECISION (9)	PEOPLE (6)	EFFORT (5)
BOLD	MOVE (21)	STEP (15)	STATEMENT (16)	ATTEMPT (12)
FEARLESS	PATRIOT (2)	INVENTORY (1)	CREATI- VITY (1)	HUNTER (1)
DAUNTLESS	JAVELOT (4)	CAVALRY- MAN (1)	CONVER- SATION (1)	BOY (1)
BRAVE	MAN (94)	FACE (75)	WORLD (63)	ATTEMPT (29)

The common collocates of the descriptive adjective *brave* near synonyms (table 5) are:

courageous/brave man
bold/brave attempt

Out of the most frequent collocates of the descriptive adjective *pale* and its near synonyms, the following ones have a transferred meaning (table 5):

courageous decision/effort
bold move/step/statement/attempt
fearless inventory/creativity
dauntless conversation
brave face/world/attempt

Similar analysis has been carried out regarding the most frequent collocates of the near synonym *hrabar-a,-o* (*herojski,-a,-o*, *junački,-a,-o odvažan,-a,-o*, *smion,-a,-o*) endorsing the corpus data of the Contemporary Serbian language, Faculty of Mathematics, University of Belgrade (113,000,000) (table 6).

Table 6

HEROJSKI	OTPOR (24)	NAROD (11)	ČIN (9)	PODUHVAT (5)
JUNAČKI	PODVIG (3)	OTPOR (2)	ČIN (2)	POKLIČ (2)
ODVAŽAN	ČOVJEK (3)	PODUHVAT (3)	MOMAK (2)	VOJSKOVOĐA (2)
SMION	/	/	/	/
HRABAR	ČOVJEK (39)	POTEZ (38)	KORAK (13)	ČIN (13)
HEROJSKA	DJELA (9)	BORBA (9)	ODBRANA (8)	POBJEDA (4)
JUNAČKA	DJELA (10)	KRV (3)	SMRT (3)	PJESMA (2)
ODVAŽNA	DAMA (2)	DJEVOJKA (1)	TINEJ- DŽERKA (1)	STARICA (1)
SMJELA	/	/	/	/
HRABRA	ŽENA (21)	ODLUKA (12)	DJEVOJKA (11)	IGRA (5)
HEROJSKO	DJELO (12)	DOBA (10)	VRIJEME (2)	SAMOŽRTVO- VANJE (5)
JUNAČKO	DJELO (12)	DRŽANJE (10)	ZDRAVLJE (7)	SRCE (4)
ODVAŽNO	DJELO (2)	ZAUZIMANJE (1)	SUČELJA- VANJE (1)	SRCE (1)
SMJELO	/	/	/	/
HRABRO	SRCE (30)	SUOČAVANJE (2)	NOVINARSTV O (1)	SVJEDO- ČANSVO (1)

The common collocates of the descriptive adjective *hrabar,-a,-o* near synonyms are (table 6):

*herojski/junački otpor*¹⁸
*herojski/junački čin*¹⁹
*odvažan/hrabar čovjek*²⁰
*herojska/junačka djela*²¹
*odvažna/hrabra djevojka*²²
*herojsko/junačko/odvažno djelo*²³

¹⁸ *heroic/resistance*

¹⁹ *heroic act*

²⁰ *bold/brave man*

²¹ *heroic feats*

²² *bold/brave girl*

²³ *heroic/bold feat*

*odvažno/hrabro srce*²⁴

Among the most frequent collocates, the following ones have transferred meaning: (30) (see table 6):

*herojski otpor/čin/poduhvat*²⁵

*junački otpor/čin/poklič*²⁶

*odvažan poduhvat*²⁷

*hrabar potez/korak/čin*²⁸

*herojska djela/borba/odbrana/pobjeda*²⁹

*hrabra odluka/igra*³⁰

*junačka krv/smrt*³¹

*herojsko djelo/doba/vrijeme/samožrtvovanje*³²

*junačko djelo/držanje/zdravlje/srce*³³

*odvažno djelo/zauzimanje/sučeljavanje/srce*³⁴

*hrabro srce/suočavanje/novinarstvo/svjedočanstvo*³⁵

The stated samples of collocates indicate a metaphorical³⁶ and metonymic meaning extension³⁷ of the adjective *hrabar,-a,-o*

²⁴ *bold/brave heart*

²⁵ *heroic resistance/act/attempt*

²⁶ *heroic resistance/act/cry*

²⁷ *bold attempt*

²⁸ *brave move/step/act*

²⁹ *heroic deeds/battle/defense/victory*

³⁰ *brave decision/game*

³¹ *heroic blood/death*

³² *heroic deed/age/time/self-immolation*

³³ *heroic deed/attitude/health/heart*

³⁴ *bold deed/commitment/confrotation/heart*

³⁵ *brave heart/coping/journalism/testimony*

³⁶ Metaphor and metonymy are significant sources of extension of meaning. (Szathmári 2001).

³⁷ Metaphorical extensions of meaning have been researched by Persson (1989) in his analysis of differences in meaning between the near synonyms *deep* and *profound*. It has been concluded that these adjectives have different meaning when analysed in different collocational frameworks. *Deep* collocates with the words expressing affection, conviction, feelings, sorrow, satisfaction, regrets and the like, whereas *profound* collocates with the words expressing distaste, failure, influence and so on. Bearing in mind their metaphorical meaning, they may imply either position on one hand or depth on the other. Only *deep* contains the metaphor of position, while depth can be expressed by both terms.

and its near synonyms when analysed in the most frequent collocational framework.

6. Conclusions

The interdisciplinary approach to the research presented in this paper incorporates the collocational method (Hlebec 2008; Hlebec 2012), as well as componential analysis of the extracted collocates of the adjectives and the semantic content of their near synonyms in the English and Montenegrin languages.

The first significant result of the method concerns the specific method of selecting near synonyms. The following valid result of the analysis highlights the influence of the grammatical gender (male, female, neutral) on the various most frequent collocates of the analysed descriptive adjective, when seen from the perspective of each gender.

For example:

hrabar: *potez* (27300); *čovjek* (16200); *korak* (11600); *čin* (11000) (table 1)

hrabra: *žena* (23600); *odluka* (11400); *djevojka* (6720); *igra* (5640) (table 2)

hrabro: *srce* (18900); *suočavanje* (746); *novinarstvo* (565); *svjedočanstvo* (370) (table 3)

Besides the influence of most frequent collocational framework of the adjective on the choice of its near synonyms, we found out that this interrelation depends on the adjective's grammatical gender and also on the choice of near synonym, especially regarding the near synonyms proximity-of-meaning order.

Namely, we discovered that this proximity-of-meaning order of near synonyms varies with the gender implied (masculine, feminine, neutral), for example:

- Near synonyms of the adjective *hrabar* are: *herojski* (*herojski* (40870), *odvažan* (10803), *smion* (202), *junački* (2))
- Near synonyms of the adjective *hrabra* are *odvažna* (2719), *herojska* (2024), *junačka* (1345), *smiona* (593)
- Near synonyms of the adjective *hrabro* are: *junačko* (6632), *smjelo* (2687), *herojsko* (1945), *odvažno* (265)

The same interrelation between the word order of near proximity-of-meaning synonyms and grammatical gender is not

noticeably present in the English language, presumably because grammatical gender does not exist in English.

The research results indicate that certain traits featuring human beings are characteristic for certain concrete and abstract words in English as well as in Montenegrin, respectively.³⁸

Bearing in mind the results of the analysis, indicating a multi-layered morphological features of the adjective *hrabar-a,-o* in Montenegrin and the obvious extension of meaning of the samples analyzed we can finally conclude, thus confirming the starting hypothesis, that grammatical gender generates extension of meaning in Montenegrin to a greater extent (12) compared to analysis of its counterpart in English (4), due to the lack of grammatical gender in English.

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³⁸ According to Apresian (1995) one of the most productive ways of creating synonyms comes out of *secondary meanings of lexemes*, i.e. their metaphorical and metonymic meanings. The secondary meaning of a lexeme can be synonymous with a primary or a secondary meaning of another lexeme (lexemes *zlato(gold)* and *anđeo (angel)* can be contextual synonyms if in their secondary meanings they denote and refer to *dete (child)* (Dragičević 2010).

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