

UDC 004.2

THE LINGUOCULTURAL CONCEPT “BODY” IN THE DETECTIVE DISCOURSE OF TESS GERRITSEN’S NOVELS

Savinova A.Y.*Master’s Student**University of Customs and Finance,**Dnipro, Volodymyra Vernadskoho str., 2/4, 49000*

Abstract. *This paper examines the linguocultural concept “BODY” in the detective discourse of Tess Gerritsen’s novels “The Surgeon”, “Body Double”, and “The Mephisto Club” from cognitive and discursive perspectives. The concept “BODY” is analyzed as a multidimensional phenomenon integrating physical, psychological, social, and symbolic aspects. The study focuses on lexical-semantic markers, somatic vocabulary, gender and sociocultural projections, as well as the motif of the double as a narrative and conceptual tool. The analysis demonstrates that in Gerritsen’s detective fiction the body functions not only as an object of crime and investigation but also as a marker of identity, moral evaluation, and narrative tension, shaping readers’ interpretation of corporeality within contemporary detective discourse.*

Key words: *linguocultural concept, body, detective discourse, corporeality, somatic vocabulary, motif of the double, gender representation, sociocultural context, Tess Gerritsen.*

Introduction

Contemporary detective fiction reflects dominant cultural attitudes toward the body, identity, violence, and morality, positioning corporeality at the center of narrative tension and ethical evaluation. Within linguocultural studies, the body is regarded not merely as a biological entity but as a culturally marked and discursively constructed phenomenon that integrates physical, psychological, social, and symbolic dimensions (Goloborodko, 2002; Selivanova, 2012). In detective discourse, corporeality acquires particular significance as the body becomes a site of crime, investigation, trauma, and meaning-making. Tess Gerritsen’s novels “*The Surgeon*” (2001), “*Body Double*” (2004), and “*The Mephisto Club*” (2006) represent a distinctive type of contemporary detective fiction that combines medical discourse with psychological and ethical problematics. As noted by Knight (2010), modern crime fiction increasingly foregrounds the body as a narrative and symbolic object, reflecting societal anxieties related to violence, vulnerability, and control. This study focuses on the linguocultural concept “BODY” as a key organizing element of Gerritsen’s detective discourse, aiming to reveal how linguistic representation of

corporeality shapes readers' interpretation of identity, gender, and moral transgression.

Main Text

Linguocultural and Cognitive Aspects of the Concept "BODY"

In modern linguistics, a concept is understood as a multidimensional cognitive formation that integrates linguistic meaning, cultural experience, and social knowledge (Goloborodko, 2002; Selivanova, 2006). Within detective discourse, the linguocultural concept "BODY" functions as a central cognitive node through which themes of crime, investigation, and power relations are structured. In Gerritsen's novels, the body is conceptualized through medical terminology, anatomical precision, and somatic vocabulary, which activate culturally shared cognitive schemas related to vulnerability, control, and violation. This corresponds with observations by Kalyuzhna (2017), who emphasizes the role of key concepts in structuring English-language detective discourse. The detailed depiction of bodily states and injuries in "*The Surgeon*" and "*The Mephisto Club*" frames the body as both an object of scientific analysis and a symbolic space of moral conflict (Gerritsen, 2001; Gerritsen, 2006).

Corporeality and the Motif of the Double in Detective Discourse

A significant narrative feature of Gerritsen's discourse is the representation of corporeality through the motif of the double, most explicitly realized in "*Body Double*". This motif reflects the fragmentation of identity and the instability of bodily boundaries, reinforcing the body's role as a marker of selfhood and otherness (Gerritsen, 2004). Within linguocultural analysis, such representations illustrate how the body functions as a semiotic construct shaped by discourse and cultural expectations. The discursive construction of the body in these novels aligns with Butler's (1993) view of corporeality as a product of discursive practices rather than a purely natural entity. Gerritsen's use of forensic and medical language transforms the body into a text to be read and interpreted, allowing readers to decode social, psychological, and ethical meanings embedded in corporeal descriptions.

Gender Representation and Sociocultural Projections of “BODY”

Gendered representation constitutes an essential component of the linguocultural concept “BODY” in Gerritsen’s detective discourse. Female bodies are frequently depicted as vulnerable and endangered, yet simultaneously associated with resilience and agency. This duality reflects broader tendencies within forensic detective fiction, where corporeality is closely linked to gender roles and power relations (Knight, 2010; Palmer, 2001). Through linguistic choices and narrative focus, Gerritsen constructs the body as a site of sociocultural conflict, where medical authority, violence, and morality intersect. Such representation supports Selivanova’s (2012) view that linguistic embodiment of cultural meanings plays a decisive role in shaping readers’ interpretation of social norms and ethical judgments.

Summary and Conclusions

The analysis demonstrates that the linguocultural concept “BODY” in Tess Gerritsen’s novels “*The Surgeon*”, “*Body Double*”, and “*The Mephisto Club*” functions as a complex cognitive and discursive formation integrating physical, psychological, and sociocultural dimensions. Through somatic vocabulary, medical discourse, gendered representation, and the motif of the double, the body emerges as a key element of narrative tension and moral evaluation. The study confirms that in Gerritsen’s detective discourse the body is not merely an object of crime and investigation but a culturally significant construct that reflects contemporary concerns related to identity, vulnerability, and control. This approach highlights the relevance of linguocultural analysis for understanding cognitive and discursive mechanisms underlying modern detective fiction.

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Scientific adviser: Candidate of Philology, Associate Professor, Diana

BIRIUKOVA

sent: 23.12.2025

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UDC 004.2

THE PROBLEM OF IDENTIFYING AND DETERMINING THE REAL NUMBER OF UKRAINIAN CHILDREN WHO WERE DEPORTED FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF UKRAINE

Ostapenko O.G.*PhD in Law, Associate Professor**ORCID: 0000-0001-5795-4276**Simon Kuznets Kharkiv National University of Economics,
Ukraine, Kharkiv, Nauky avenue, 9A, 61166***Sushch O. P.***PhD in Law, Associate Professor**ORCID: 0000-0002-8619-8964**Visiting Researcher at the University of Lapland (Rovaniemi, Finland)
Visiting Researcher at the University of Helsinki (Helsinki, Finland)***Rohova O.G.***PhD in Law, Associate Professor**ORCID: 0000-0003-4482-0847**Kharkiv National Medical University,
Ukraine, Kharkiv, Nauky avenue, 4, 61022*

Abstract. *The article explores the problem of identifying and establishing the real number of Ukrainian children who were deported from the occupied territories of Ukraine. The main problem is the inability to determine their actual number (data range from tens to hundreds of thousands). Orphans and children deprived of parental care suffered the most. The article uses data from a study by the Yale Human Rights Laboratory (Yale HRL), which found that the forced removal of children was carried out under the leadership of the Russian President and the Ombudsman and developed a special program of forced adoption and guardianship in Russia. Since it was children of vulnerable categories, including those who were in boarding schools in the occupied territories, that were forcibly removed, the program provided for their placement among Russian citizens and/or institutions with a change in their personal data in databases or information about their alleged birth in the Russian Federation. The goal is to prevent further identification of such children and their return to Ukraine at its request, in accordance with international law. It was established that such forcibly deported children were subjected to intensive propaganda and re-education, placed in camps, which is a silent violation of their rights. Among the methods were renaming children, changing citizenship, and transferring them to permanent adoption or guardianship to Russian families. In addition, Russian psychologists and medical workers were used in the process of systemic violation of the rights of Ukrainian children.*

Key words: *deportation, children, forced displacement, best interests of the child.*

Introduction.

The full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine, the occupation of the regions of Ukraine, created many challenges for the citizens of Ukraine and caused the violation of their rights. One of the complex problems that needs to be solved is the deportation of children of Ukrainian citizens from the