Conference Research Paper

Expressive Syntactic Constructions in the Space of Detective Genre (Based on B. Akunin's Novels)

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Abstract

Throughout all stages of linguistics evolution, including the modern one, the problem of correlation of content and form, symmetry/asymmetry of denotation and connotation is an ongoing problem. The relevance of the current research is, on the one hand, defined by the focus on the unresolved problem of syntactic phraseological models' semantic-functional status, and, on the other hand, driven by the focused attention to the representation of intension in the information structure of phrasemes, which differ by correlation of qualitative-quantitative and relational meanings. Phraseomodels, which are analyzed in the aspect of inter-model correlation, are correlated with those phrase models that include the *slishkom..., chtoby* part, which shows the redundancy in the quality or in the condition, and with those that include the *ne tak/ne nastol'ko/ne stol'..., chtoby* part, in which the quality of the subject, on the contrary, does not exceed the bare minimum for something to happen.

Keywords: Writing Style; Syntactic Phraseomodel; Relational Semantics; Syncretism; Expressivity.

1. Introduction

Perhaps the lack of methods for modeling language as a complex variable framework is one of the most profound methodological problems in modern linguistics (Matthewson, 2019; Nursulton, 2020). In classic linguistic paradigms, language appears like a static system without the capacity to evolve. Two key methodological paradigms can be found if we look at the methodological growth of modern linguistics. The basic linguistic theories that emerged in the second half of the 20th Century, despite the serious variations between them. Beyond man as a sociocultural object, consider language as a structured framework. In logic and theoretical theory, these ideas use methods focused on formal language analysis (A Bashkirova & I Galeeva, 2019; Amini, Pishghadam, & Saboori, 2019; Vyacheslavovich Bodrov, Vasilovich Zakirov, & Ibragimovich Sharifzhanov, 2019). They view a natural language as an incomplete formal language, and a lot of their basic concepts and statements are taken from logic. In general, these studies are related to the 17-18th century tradition of Western rationalism and, ultimately, to the theories of Plato and Aristotle (Anthony, 2006; Euben, 1997, 1999; MacIntyre & Macintyre, 1988; Voegelin & Germino, 1999).

The view of language as a static system without the potential to evolve is the key weak point of this approach. Beyond time, a formal language remains, but the meaning of ordinary words and phrases varies in time and this shift is their basic trait, not a deficiency. A person in the structure of a language theory is the other approach that emerged in the 80-90s of the last century, but that person is not a socio-cultural individual, they have no variable socio-cultural characteristics. This person's principal characteristics are as universal as the characteristics of the transcendental subject of Kant (Allison, 2004; Apel, 1974; Grier, 2001; Henrich, 1969; Kitcher, 1990; Pereboom, 2006). The theory of cognitive metaphors based on the shared experience of the human body is an obvious example of this approach (Fernandez-Duque & Johnson, 1999; M. Freeman, 2000; Gibbs Jr & Steen, 1999; Steen, 2011; Wilson, 2011). We also have little ability for

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the complex viewpoint of language to shift in this direction. Aristotle, who is one of the first thinkers to outline the paradigm of the complex system. The definition of possibility is based on this paradigm. Changes are defined in this case as the passage from possibility to actuality. This paradigm became the precise principle of science of the 20th century. I'm referring to quantum mechanics.

Nowadays, linguistic science is focused on the relevance of anthropocentric approach to the research of language systems and speech activities, informative and connotative possibilities of the language (Dilnosa, 2019; Gordienko, 2020; Slabouz & Nikitina, 2020; Tadzhibova, 2019; Usmonova, 2019). One of the newest and rapidly evolving directions in contemporary linguistics is cognitive linguistics, which aims to research the dynamics of human mental activity, in particular the specificity of information acquisition, processing, storage and transition processes. Cognitive linguistics approaches language from a different perspective, examines it from different interpretations and connections with man, human thought and intelligence.

At present, this science is almost entirely focused on the human aspect, the anthropocentric method, on the transfer of the interests of researchers from the object to the topic of cognition, i.e., on the examination of the language theory of man (Casey & Scott, 2006; Rauch, Linder, & Dallasega, 2020; Rodrigues et al., 2017; Tan, Tong, Wu, & Li, 2019; Zamfirescu, Pirvu, Schlick, & Zuehlke, 2013). Today, from the theoretical analysis of language elements by their inventory and classification to the study of language phenomena from the point of view of anthropocentrism, the change is evident. Anthropocentrism implies putting man at the core of the world map as a perceiving matter, and the latter is verbalized by various kinds of lexis and texts. The science-technical domain is defined by the existence of a special scientific world map that represents unique artifacts, processes and phenomena nominated by man using scientific-technical terminology. Terminology is an indicator of the evolution, origin and growth of the related scientific knowledge of a certain area of knowledge. A contemporary degree of scientific understanding and technological progress may be illustrated by scientific technical terms systematized in the form of terminological systems. Nanotechnology is one of these scientific and technological areas. It is a rapidly evolving science, a technical branch that addresses nanoscale dimensions, especially the manipulation of individual atoms and molecules.

Problems of studying the subjective side of speech, modality, expressiveness on the either spoken or written level, become dominant. On all stages of linguistics evolution, including the modern one, the problem of correlation of content and form, symmetry/asymmetry of denotation and connotation is an ongoing problem. A sociobiological approach to the study of language is evolutionary linguistics or Darwinian linguistics (Knight, Studdert-Kennedy, & Hurford, 2000; McMahon & McMahon, 2012; Richards, 2002). Linguistics is regarded by evolutionary linguists as a subfield of evolutionary biology and evolutionary psychology. Evolutionary anthropology, cognitive linguistics and biolinguistics are also closely aligned with the approach. It is interested in the biological origin and creation of languages through researching languages as products of nature. Evolutionary linguistics, especially structural linguistics, is compared to humanistic approaches. The lack of empirical evidence is a primary challenge in this study: there are no archaeological signs of early human language. Computational biological modeling and artificial language clinical studies have been used to fill gaps in expertise. There is no direct connection between biology and particular human language constructs or linguistic universals, while biology is known to form the brain that processes language.

There have been several debates over what kind of natural phenomenon language might be, due to the lack of a breakthrough in the field. Evolutionary linguistics is also divided into functionalism and formalism, terms that in the humanistic sense should not be confused with functionalism and formalism (Croft, 2006). Languages are known as adaptations to the human mind in functional evolutionary linguistics. They are viewed as crystallised or non-adaptational by the formalist view. Various frameworks of cognitive and evolutionary linguistics support the adaptational interpretation of language, with the terms functionalism and cognitive linguistics frequently being equated. It is proposed that human beings are equipped with a system of abstract reasoning by the evolution of the animal brain, which is a metaphorical variant of image-based reasoning. Language is not considered to be a separate cognitive field, but to correlate with general cognitive skills, such as perception, attention, motor skills, spatial and visual processing. It is claimed that it works according to the same standards as these. The brain is believed to connect action schemes to form meaning pairs that are called constructions. Cognitive and construction grammar are called cognitive linguistic approaches to syntax (Boers & Lindstromberg, 2006; M. H. Freeman, 2009; Selway, Grossmann, Mayer, & Stumptner, 2015). They may also study the natural or social selection and adaptation of linguistic units, derived from memetics and other cultural

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replicator theories. Adaptational models oppose a hierarchical formal view of language and accept language as a linguistic unit population. In linguistics, advocates of systematic evolutionary explanation contend that linguistic systems are crystallised. Schleicher argued, influenced by developments in crystallography in the 19th century, that various kinds of languages are like plants, animals and crystals. In tagmemics, an approach to linguistics with the intention of uncovering divine symmetries underlying all languages, as if induced by the Development, the concept of linguistic structures as frozen drops was revived. The X-bar tree is argued in modern biolinguistics to be like natural structures, such as ferromagnetic droplets and botanical forms. Similar to snowflakes, generative grammar considers syntactic structures. It is hypothesized that a mutation in humans is causing such trends. It is not appropriate to confuse the formal-structural evolutionary component of linguistics with structural linguistics.

The linguistics' focus on semantic researches in the late XX – early XXI centuries allows language reality to be shown not only in its canonical, usual aspects, but also in non-canonical, syncretic, transitional peripheral and the ones that stimulate differences between the forms and contexts of either lexico-phraseological or syntactic units (Bondéelle, 2011; Cowie, 1998; Langlotz, 2006; Naciscione, 2001; Safina, Varlamova, & Tulusina, 2015; Strokova & Flynn, 2015).

In the relational foundation of Russian language, category of conditionality is unique in the context of hypotaxis due to being one of the categories that are pragmatically and semantically rich and related to the thinking, according to Yu.S. Stepanov's research, throughout history, there were approximately ten definitions of cause-effect relation (Stepanov, 1995). There are a lot of works dedicated to the coverage of cause-effect relation in its broad meaning in Russian studies (works of V.A. Bogoroditskiy, A.M. Peshkovskoy, V.A. Beloshapkova, N.A. Andramonova, R.M. Teremova etc.). However, some parts of this issue related to the problems of qualifications of syncretic sentences-utterances are ignored by syntacticians, including the micro field of finality with its invariant-variant structure, which contributes to the search of new definitions and interpretations for the unclear linguistic structures. Because of this, the research of phrase models that express intensive-consecutive relations through works of B. Akunin seems quite relevant and significant.

1.1. Research Objective

The paper is devoted to the study of syntactic units of the structure of idiomacy that convey intensive-consecutive relationships, categorized as "expressive syntactic constructions," characterized by semantic diversity, the fusion of informative and connotative meanings, combination of real and surreal contents, and combination of variable and non-variable components.

2. Material and Methods

In the process of research, we drew on the previous experience of researches of semantic-functional features of linguistic units in the spaces of literacy and publicistic texts (A Chupryakova, S Safonova, & A Votyakova, 2019; Mel'nikov, 2006; Safin, Kolosova, & Gimranova, 2017). The research of expressive possibilities of the artistic word in its broad meaning is stimulated by the writer's writing style, their world view and creativity (Nurullina & Usmanova, 2016; Usmanova & Nurullina, 2017). The juvenile plotline that combines witty paradoxicality and brilliant knowledge of realities, rich cultural layer and magnificent stylistic manner, high-quality verbalization and strong emotions – these are the qualities of B. Akunin's detective fictions. A catalog, consisting of more than 500 entities, which were chosen randomly from novels out of "Fandorin's arc", was used as an empirical base for this research. The relevance of the current research is, on one hand, defined by the focus on the unresolved problem of syntactic phraseomodels' semantic-functional status, and, on the other hand, driven by the focused attention to the representation of intension in the information structure of phrasemes, which differ by correlation of qualitative-quantitative and relational meanings. The issue presented earlier in this article is solved in line with fundamental theoretical problems of references, nomination and communication, and also as an integral coverage of lexical and syntactic semantics. Such methods as linguistic description, observation, transformation and elements of both component and distributive analysis were used to solve theoretical and practical tasks.

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3. Results and Discussion

Problems are dominant when examining the subjective side of voice, modality, and expressiveness at either the spoken or written level. The topic of content-form similarity, symmetry/asymmetry of denotation and connotation is an ongoing issue at all stages of linguistic evolution, including the current one. The emphasis of linguistics on semantic study in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries makes it possible to demonstrate language truth not only in its canonical, normal aspects, but also in non-canonical, syncretic, transitional peripheral and those that stimulate discrepancies between the forms and contexts of lexico-phraseological or syntactic units.

B. Akunin, masterfully combining and synthesizing real and surreal, truth and fiction, reaches the top of the detective genre. If the novels' language specifics were to be analyzed in the aspects of syntax, then the phrase models that differ from each other by semantic diversity, the fusion of informative and connotative meanings, combination and intersection of both real and potential plans could be pinpointed. Statements that have the *tak/takoy/nastol'ko/do togo…chto; ne tak/ne takoy…chtoby, slishkom…chtoby* structure and are based on constant components, which allow free lexical filling, are an example of such phraseomodels: *Poseredine, popiraya nogami rasstelennuyu tigrovuyu shkuru, stoyala hozyayka, naryazhennaya ispankoy, v alom plat'e s korsazhem i s puncovoy kameliey v volosah.* **Horosha byla tak, chto** *u Erasta Petrovicha* **perekhvatilo duh** [10: 46]. At the same time, the area of relational means of phraseological schemes becomes more complex and sometimes is even replaced by expressive meanings, including semantic intensity.

In the language of novels from "Fandorin's arc", the most frequent phrase model in statements with intensive-consecutive relation is the one that focuses on expressing the meaning of high-level of the feature, which reveals differences in it. Depending on the lexico-semantic origin of the "backbone" component and how functionally loaded its pro-form is, we can highlight two variations. In the first one, the semantic intensity is sent through pro-form that points out the high-level degree of quality or action, while the reference word is concentrated on showing the static or dynamic feature without mentioning its quantity parameters: *Litso na portrete bylo* **nastol'ko primechatel'nym, chto** *Erast Petrovich i o byuvare zabyl: vpoloborota smotrela na nego pyshnovolosaya Kleopatra s ogromnymi matovo-chernymi glazami, gordym izgibom vysokoy shei i chut' prorisovannoy zhestochinkoy v svoenravnoy linii rta* [10: 21]. In the second one, semantic intensity is sent through the whole phrase that consists of reference lexeme that has the intensity indicator in its meaning and correlate that reinforces this meaning: *Nakonets on ostanovilsya, obernulsya k svoemu sputniku i prishel v istinnoe neistovstvo – zamahal rukami,* **a raskrichalsya tak, chto** *dazhe mne cherez steklo bylo slyshno. Nikogda ran'she ne vidyval, chtoby angliyskie lordy veli sebya podobnym obrazom* [10: 110]. The paradoxical situation in this phraseomodel arises as a result of an action from its maker, who was not expected to do so. The absurdity of the event, which came as a result of the high-level degree of feature, can be created through contact and reversal of the components' meaning, which means that a positive situation is considered a negative phenomenon by the speaker: *Vzglyad ego golubyh glaz byl* **tak bezmyatezhen, chto** *ya zapodozril izdevku* [10: 109].

The context of currently analyzed phrase models is organised by qualitative-quantitative semantic, which is marked as a phrase and plays the dominant role, and relational means, which are stimulated by the correlation between the contexts of phrase models parts and marked as subordinating conjunctions *chto/chtoby/budto*: *I tut rastyazhenie vremeni zakonchilos', vremya szhalos' pruzhinoy i, raspryamivshis', obzhigayusche udarilo Erasta Petrovicha v pravyy bok,* **da tak sil'no, chto** *on upal navznich' i bol'no udarilsya zatylkom o kray krylechnogo parapeta* [10: 63]. Semantic intensity is often amplified in the currently researched phraseomodels due to the metaphorization and embodiment *(vremya szhalos' pruzhinoy… i udarilo),* inversion, segregation of the pro-form or phrase as a whole, and inclusion of informal speech and even jargon: *Budochnik* **garknul tak, chto** *s potolka posypalas' pyl'* [10: 63]. At the same time, the postpositive part can express emotional and expressive reactions of the speakers to the high-level degree of feature and basically does not have event-to-effect relations: *Dyad'ka Zot Larionych pryamo s poroga tak zvezdanul,* **chto iskry iz glaz***…* [10: 13]. This phenomenon is related to the aspects of phraseologisation of the studied syntactic units, one of which considers including phraseological units (hereinafter referred to as PU) to both main and subordinate parts of the sentence. On the one hand, PU is able to amplify the semantic intensity and the negative assessment to the current events: *Hotel ya im uzhe ustroit' yavlenie Hrista narodu, razognat' vsyu ehtu shatiyu-bratiyu, potrebovat' Amaliyu k otvetu, no vdrug dvertsa karety raspahnulas', i ya uvidel* **takoe, chto ne privedi Sozdatel'** [10: 150]. On the other hand, if the semantic intensity is implied in the main part of the sentence, it could be explicated, granted that PU take place in the subordinate part: *… slovo "vsyo" oboznachalo* **stol' mnogoe, chto duh zahvatyvalo** [10: 279].

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However, the highest level of expression in the language of B. Akunin's detective fictions is found in phrase models with the *hot'* element in the postpositive part of the sentence (*hot' pomiray, hot' sobakoy voy* etc.). In those phrase models, the action described in the consequent plays the role of the metaphorical image of the highest level of degree and is painted as a "border point" of such condition: *Ot ehtogo pohoronnogo boya, gulko razdavavshegosya v pustoy kvartire, u Skorika perekhvatilo dyhanie i stalo **tak strashno, tak bespriyutno, chto hot' sobakoy voy*** [10: 258]. A. Wierzbicka notices the similarities between superlative forms and sentences with gradation-to-effect relations (e.g. "nastol'ko hudoy…, chto odezhda boltaetsya na nem kak na veshalke"/"so thin..., that the clothes fit him as if he was a hanger") and points out that "they seem similar to the linguistic factors which usually relate to the hyperbole" (A. Wierzbicka, 1990; Anna Wierzbicka, 1997). Hyperbolicity is also realised through the lexical filling of the postpositive part, when the result is shown as unreal, fantastic or absurd: *Ona (Amaliya) **tak vopila i na slug rugalas', chto steny drozhali*** [10: 149]; and through the conjunctions of uncertain comparison *budto, slovno etc.*, when the imaginary paradoxical situation is described in the consequent: *–...Kogda ya, uzhe noch'yu, pylaya zhazhdoy mscheniya, vnov' zayavilsya k Diane, ona **ustavilas'** na menya **tak, budto ya vosstal iz ada*** [10: 232]. Semantic intensity in the B. Akunin's novels can be seen in the phraseologicl models, in which main parts static and dynamic features do not have relevant valency parameters.

In the aspect of inter-model correlation, currently researched phrase models, first of all, could be correlated with phrase models that have the *slishkom... chtoby* conjunction, in which semantic utterance, redundancy, conditionality or processing block the action from postpositive part and stimulate the exact opposite: *Kolombina – suschestvo **slishkom legkomyslennoe i besshabashnoe, chtoby** chego-to pugat'sya* [10: 24]. Secondly, it could be correlated with phraseomodels that have *ne tak/ne nastol'ko/ne stol'...chtoby* conjunctions, in which the subject's quality does not exceed the bare minimum for the action described in the consequent to happen: *Ya **ne nastol'ko samouveren, chtoby** voobrazit', budto ona vlyubilas' v menya s pervogo vzglyada* [10: 231]. In the space of B. Akunin's detective fictions, with its clean and masterful usage of Russian language and high usage of emotional expressions, these phrase models are used to deny the cause itself.

Such stylistic modifications as complication or simplification of phrase model enhance the emotional perception of novels from "Fandorin's arc". One of these methods is parcellation, which creates the effect of naturalness of the speech process: *Igla skazala neozhidannoe. **Takoe, chto** Grin vzdrognul* [10: 225]. At the same time B. Akunin, combined with parcellation, uses lexico-syntactic repeat to create a strong effect of amplification and graduation. Functional-stylistic modifications are less of an expressive move to "fixate the attention" of recipient and more of a method of emphasizing on semantic of quantity, which implies the graduation of the saying, up to the exaggeration or hyperbolization. Subjective hyperbolization that differs from the standart, traditional one, integration of real and surreal, oxymorons etc. create the ironic effect or paradoxical situation.

4. Summary and Conclusion

The article is dedicated to the study of idiomacy structure syntactic units that communicate intensive-consecutive relationships, defined as descriptive syntactic constructions, distinguished by semantic diversity, the fusion of meanings that are informative and connotative, the combination of true and surreal contents, and the combination of components that are variable and non-variable. In conclusion, the analyzed phrase models differ from each other by semantic diversity, the fusion of informative and connotative meanings, combination and intersection of both real and potential plans (Bolt & Szerszunowicz, 2016; Laykova, Safonova, Chupryakova, & Votyakova, 2018). First of all, phrase model that concentrates on the verbalisation of intensity, which behaves differently depending on the lexico-semantic origin of the "backbone" component and how functionally loaded its pro-form is, is the most common one in the language of novels from "Fandorin's arc".

Secondly, the semantic intensity is often amplified in the currently researched phrase models due to the metaphorization and embodiment, inversion, segregation of the pro-form or phrase as a whole, and inclusion of informal speech and even jargon.

Furthermore, phrase models which show intensive-consecutive relations are correlated with phrase models with *slishkom…, chtoby* and *ne tak/ne nastol'ko/ne stol'..., chtoby* conjunctions in aspects of both intra- and inter-model correlation.

And finally, such stylistic modifications of the currently studied phrase models as parcellation, lexico-syntactic repetition and ellipsis enhance the emotional perception of B. Akunin's novels.

In order to create a tense, dynamic and emotional plotline for the detective fictions of "Fandorin's arc", B. Akunin uses complex expressive syntactic units that are transmitted through the integration of lexico-phraseological and grammatical means of language. In the B. Akunin's artistic discourse, syntactic phrase models are made unique by the reproducibility of structure, on the one hand, and on the other hand - by its artistic beginning on the level of the lexical filling. All of this, due to the phrase models being present in both digressions and dialogues, becomes one of the main methods of showcasing both author's and characters' values.

4.1. Contribution

Stylistic modifications such as parcellation, lexico-syntactic repetition and ellipsis of the currently studied phrase model improve the expressive and emotional experience of the detective fictions of Akunin.

Acknowledgements

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