



Section 5. Languages of the word

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SYNSEMANTICS OF COMPLEX SENTENCE COMPONENTS

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Abstract

The article examines the semantic relations between the main and subordinate clause components of subordinate complex sentences. The author shows that the parts of a subordinate complex sentence do not carry independent meaning; they create a unified content in an interconnected manner. This feature is called synsematicity in linguistics. Synsemantic units can fully express their meaning only in connection with other units. The main idea of the article is that the main and subordinate parts of a subordinate complex sentence are semantically dependent on each other; each of them acquires a complete meaning with the participation of the other, and this interdependence is characterized as synsematicity.

Keywords: *subordinate clause, main clause, subordinate clause, definite clause, relative pronouns*

Introduction

The issue of the subordinate complex sentence has been sufficiently studied both in German and Azerbaijani linguistics, and a large number of scientific works have been written in this field. The subordinate complex sentence in the languages being compared has undergone an interesting development.

L. R. Zinder and T. V. Stroyeva-Sokolskaya note that in the grammatical literature the classification of subordinate clauses is based on various principles (Zinder L. R., 1941, p. 242). A number of authors (for example, the Heyse-Lyon grammar) note that the subordinate clause plays in the subordinate complex

sentence to the basis of the classification, and in this way distinguish subjective, objective, predicative, attributive and adverbial sentences. Other authors (e.g. Paul's grammar) classify sentences based on the formal feature, the word that forms the sentence, and distinguish between relative clauses formed with relative pronouns and adverbs and conjunction clauses, i.e. daß-clauses, weil-clauses, da-clauses, and asyndetic clauses, i.e. sentences without external subordination (Zinder L. R., 1941, p. 242).

Discussion

L. R. Zinder and T. V. Stroyeva-Sokolskaya believe that neither this nor the other

classification says anything about the content expressed by the subordinate clause (Zinder L. R., 1941, p. 243). Meanwhile, the latter is more important, since when constructing a sentence, the speaker must first take into account whether he wants to give information or ask something. Thus, the subordinate clauses /Es ist klar, daß er recht hat// and /Sage mir, ob ich Recht habe// differ not in being subjective or objective, but in being narrative and interrogative.

The relationship and dependence between two clauses of a compound sentence can be expressed by various extralinguistic means. L. R. Zinder and T. V. Stroyeva-Sokolskaya include here: 1) word order in words and also in sentences; 2) verb form in a subordinate clause; and 3) conjunctions in a subordinate clause and correlates in the main clause (Zinder L. R., 1941, p. 243).

E. V. Gulga and M. D. Natanson note that the subordinate complex sentence as a complete unit has significant features. These signs include the following closely related subordination relations: 1) conjunctions and relative words; 2) word order in the branch sentence; 3) movement of branch sentences; 4) correlates in the main sentence; 5) word order in the main sentence; 6) special lexical-grammatical indices in the main sentence; 7) intonation; 8) mode category; 9) includes means of expression such as the use of time forms (110, p. 99).

L. R. Zinder and T. V. Stroyeva-Sokolskaya write that the main feature of a subordinate complex sentence is that the verb stands at the end. For example: /Sein Diener bemerkte, als Werther nach Hause kam, daß seinem Herrn der Hut fehlte// (Goethe. J.W.).

In cases where the verb form is complex, the part of the verb that changes according to the person comes last.

However, in some cases this rule is violated and the verb in the branch sentence is not used at the end of the sentence. The last place in the sentence is used either by a complement or a verb noun. This case is mainly found in colloquial language, and sometimes in literary language (Zinder L. R., 1941, p. 244). For example:

/... wenn sie nun daliegt in dem erbärmlichsten Ermatten//.

This case is often found in sentences where a later complement is used, which is

attached to any member of the sentence. In this case, for the sake of clarity, the verb is moved a little forward, otherwise it would be used in the branch sentence in an even more lost way. For example:

/Ich habe ihm mein Leben lang getroffen in allem, was in meinen Kräften stand//.

L. R. Zinder and T. V. Stroyeva-Sokolskaya note that these deviations can also be found in cases where the infinitive part of the verb is used after the infinitive part (Zinder L. R., 1941, p. 244). In a number of cases, especially when there is an infinitive, the infinitive part comes last, and the infinitive part comes before it. This situation is found in constructions using modal verbs, in constructions with infinitive and active cases. For example:

/Wir wissen, daß er hat kommen wollen. Er sagte, daß er sie hat singen hören. – ... damit wir es können färben und die Exemplare drücken und malen lassen//.

According to L. R. Zinder and T. V. Stroyeva-Sokolskaya, the verb in a subordinate clause can also be in first place. Such a position is mainly found in conditional and concessional subordinate clauses used without a conjunction.

For example:

/Hätte er das gewußt, so würde er anders gehandelt haben//.

The verb is always in the second position in non-conjunctive clauses and clauses of completeness. For example:

/Es ist besser, man lerne in der Jugend. – Es ware kein Wunder, ich verliere alle Geduld//.

In branch sentences, the conjunction always comes first. However, in complex conjunctions such as *wie auch*, the second part of the conjunction is in the middle of the sentence (Zinder L. R., 1941, p. 245). For example:

/Er kam nicht, wie man ihn auch bat//.

A clause that is not directly dependent on the main clause, but on another branch clause, is either inside the latter or comes after it. For example,

/Ich bin convinced, daß er, bevor er die Ergebnisse sener Versuche unterworfen hatte, sie einer genauen Prüfung unterworfen// – /Ich bin convinced, daß er die Ergebnisse seiner Versuche einer genauen Prüfung unterworfen hatte, bevor er sie publichtende//.

According to the authors, sometimes in a subordinate complex sentence there is a phenomenon that H. Paul called “Satzverschlingung” (sentence interlacing), when one member of the subordinate clause stands at the beginning of the main clause, and the other part is used after the main clause (Zinder L. R., 1941, p. 246). For example:

/An einem eigentümlichen Talenten zum epischen Gedichte, glaub ich nicht, daß es mir fehlt// (Goethe J. W.).

The verb form that expresses dependence between two sentences is the subjunctive. L. R. Zinder and T. V. Stroyeva-Sokolskaya note that if the meaning of the subjunctive previously corresponded to the meaning in the independent clause, in modern language it acts as a means of expressing the relationship of subordination (Zinder L. R., 1941, p. 247). In modern language, time differences have also lost their semantics and mainly carry a purely formal function.

L. R. Zinder and T. V. Stroyeva-Sokolskaya state that a widespread, distinctive system of conjunctions that made it possible to convey complex shades of thought arose in the later history of language development. The rapid development of subordinating conjunctions coincides with the period of early German. In the later period of language development, the semantics of subordinating conjunctions is characterized by their diverse meanings. A number of conjunctions, the abstract meaning of which arose from old concrete conjunctions, combine these functions in themselves. A partial conjunction serves to express many different relations. Thus, the conjunction *weil*, which arose from the temporal conjunction *weil*, connected with the noun *die Weile* /Man muß das Eisen schmieden, weil es warm ist// – /They hammer the iron hot-hot//, was used for a certain period in the sense of expressing both time and reason. With the development of the national written language, these relations were reconstructed. With the increase and development of new conjunctions that

are clearly differentiating and limiting in their meaning, the old polysemantic conjunctions have reduced their range of use. Thus, the conjunction *weil* has come to express only causality (Zinder L. R., 1941, p. 248).

The meaning of synsemantics is conditioned by certain groups of words included in the main clause – synsemantic units. E. V. Gulyga includes the following in these synsemantic units: 1) mainly active verbs and nouns formed from them; 2) linking verbs; 3) modal-evaluative indicators: modal words, as well as nouns and adjectives expressing the attitude of the thought to reality or the evaluation of the thought from the speaker’s point of view; 4) words of the sign field: pronouns, pronoun adverbs, demonstrative adverbs; 5) Nouns used in combination with words of the sign field; 6) Some common nouns of the type *Mensch* – human, *Sache* – thing, *Tatsache* fact (Gulyga E. V., 1971, p. 19).

The meaning of synsemantics is also determined by the absence of one of the main members, which does not create incompleteness of the sentence. Sentences with signs of meaning synsemantics, especially main sentences, are called synsemantic or synsemantic sentences. Main sentences consisting only of formal elements are called asemantic sentences (Moskalskaya O., 1983, p. 19).

Conclusion

The autosemantics of components (elementary sentences) are reduced by their inclusion in the structure of a subordinate complex sentence, and this is reflected in intonation. Structural synsemantics is created with the help of word order, auxiliary words in the subordinate clause, and correlates in the main clause. Synsemantics of meaning is determined by a certain lexical group of words in the main clause – active verbs of speech, nouns formed from them, coordinating verbs, modals-valuative indicators, words of the sign field, and nouns with an indefinite substantive meaning.

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