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SYSTEMACITY AND CATEGORISATION IN FUNCTIONING OF VERBS

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ABSTRACT

The article focuses on the issues of systemacity in language, the category of causation, functioning of causatives of the informative-modificative class. In this article, the causation is examined from the perspective of functional approach, suggested by A. Bondarko. A verb of causative semantics is related to a more general class on the basis of its essential properties. In the centre of our attention is a lexical causative of interpersonal semantics which is the core of the functional-semantic field of causation.

Key words: category; causation; cause-and-effect relations; causativity; causative verb; actualisation.

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СИСТЕМАТИЧНОСТЬ И КАТЕГОРИЗАЦИЯ ФУНКЦИОНИРОВАНИЯ ГЛАГОЛОВ

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Аннотация

Статья рассматривает вопросы систематизации в языке, категорию каузации, функционирования каузативных глаголов информативно-определительного класса. Каузация рассматривается с точки зрения функционального подхода, предложенного А. Бондарко. Глагол каузативной семантики связывается с более общим классом на основе существенный признаков. В центре исследования стоит лексический каузативный глагол межличностной семантики, являющийся ядром функционально-семантического поля каузации.

Ключевые слова: категория; каузация; причинно-следственные связи; каузальность; каузативный глагол; актуализация.

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1. Introduction

In contemporary linguistics, language is seen as a system which has a level structure. "Systemacity implies not a simple stratification of levels but their strict hierarchical organization, which is subdominant when performing the whole language system's general function of speech composition [10, p. 5]. D. Nasilov believes that functional grammar emphasizes the differentiation between language as such and mental, extra-language content or language meanings and senses, contents, tasks, aims, i.e. the presence of a dialectical connection between language and thought but not their identity [10, p. 44]. Language, being a sign system, is not directly connected with a communicative situation. Language acts as a tool of thought and speech – as an activity conducted with this tool [2, p. 146]. Within this framework, it is necessary to highlight the fact that interaction of semantics and syntax remains one of the central problems of contemporary linguistics. The emphasis is put on cognitive and semasiological aspects, some basic issues, the correlation between language and speech, a linguistic meaning and an actual sense. Conceptualization of verbalization and understanding processes, according to N. Boldyrev, are connected with a dynamic categorization process: categorization of events (when composing sentences) and categorization of linguistic units (when analysing and understanding them). Categorization in this case means mental relating of an event or, in our situation, a verb of causative semantics, to a more general class based on some particular ideas of its essential properties, of event categories [4, p. 6].

Functional grammar deals with the study of senses, contents, realized in utterances and subsequent analysis of language elements and their properties used for transferring those senses. [15, pp. 13-14]. E. Dal points out that if we imagine language as a multitude of pairs "meaning –form", the best organized language will be the one where each form has only one meaning, and vice versa – the worst-organized language is the one where any form can have any possible meaning... Natural languages are located somewhere in the middle of the spectrum and for their functioning as a means of communication (a system of means) a certain degree of order is necessary. Even if we cannot set a universal measure of how well or badly organized a language is, it might be useful to consider whether the diachronic processes under examination are increasing the order in that system or decreasing it [7, p. 42]. ... An organized system needs active maintaining, otherwise it will go into destruction, in other words, return to disorder [7, p. 43].

Self-organization of language can occur not in spite of the tendency to disorder but as a result of its increase. A non-equilibrium order can exist only in dissipative systems when there is an inflow of energy. In the context of dissipation, which is traditionally thought as a sign of structure disintegration, its variability, order arises. Referring to language, dissipation means an outflow of obsolete elements and structures which are replaced with an inflow of new ones [2, p. 149].

Ch. Bally noted that languages are constantly changing but they can only function when they are not changing [3, p. 29]. Language as a system of signs exists in time and functions to actualize discourse. Changes which take place in a language should be seen as a realization of the potential behind the system. Language is a system of systems (subsystems). One of such subsystems in the field of functional grammar is the functional-grammatical category of causation. Causation is a specific way of objective reality reflection. The subject matter of causation is not the transfer of knowledge, not affirmation or negation of something but stimulation of an action or a change of the object's state.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 explores the lexico-grammatic group of information-modifying verbs. Section 3 outlines the concept of functional potential and presents the main types of information-modifying causatives basing on empirical evidence. Section 4 deals with some functioning peculiarities of information-modifying verbs. In Section 5, we conclude our discussion.

2. Information-modifying verbs as examples of interpersonal causatives

Causation is a fact of interpersonal co-operation and is examined from the perspective of functional approach, suggested by A. Bondarko [see, for example, 6]. The peculiar-

ity of this approach is the use of the principle "from functions to means" as a leading one and "from means to functions" as a supporting one. The research subject of functional grammar is functioning of grammatical units and language means which interact with them in an utterance. What is meant here is a special, in its organization, system which is formed with meanings of grammatical forms, lexis, context, system of regularities and rules of functioning of language means which aim at actualization of an utterance sense.

A grammatical system of a language is not only a systematic-structural entity with signs of a static character, it is also a dynamic entity developing on the basis of functioning of the system elements in a context and communicative situation. According to A. Bondarko, a grammatical structure is characterized by the presence of a centre (where specific attributes, which distinguish grammar from lexis, are concentrated) and periphery (lexico-grammatic classes of different degrees of grammaticalization). Having examined the categoric situation of causation, we have concluded that the core of the functional-semantic field of causation is a lexical causative of interpersonal semantics. The verb choice is not random because the aggregate of its categoric meanings is various; the events, the verb denotes, are heterogeneous.

We focus on information-modifying verbs of the German and English languages combined into a separate subsystem on the basis of their semantic-syntactical properties. The lexico-grammatic group of information-modifying verbs refers to the sphere of interpersonal causatives, a semantic structure of a sentence with such verbs comprises the following components: 1) the causator; 2) the object of causation; 3) the way/means of causation.

A system meaning of a verb has a qualifying, generic meaning, although it is closely connected with the conditions, the verb is functioning in, and can change under the influence of those conditions. A categoric meaning of a verb is a process meaning which is intrinsic to a verb regardless its lexical meaning: actions, states, relations are present in verbs as a process taking place in the course of time. N. Boldyrev stress-

es, that the final version of a categoric meaning, i.e. mental reference of this or that category to an action, property, relation is possible at a functional level [4, p. 9]. That is the essence of the categorization process. A categoric meaning of a verb is not strictly fixed on the system-paradigmatic level, it is notable for its movability, dynamism and not necessarily integrates only something invariable-generic [4, p. 9].

By using the example of functioning of causative verbs of information-modifying class we will demonstrate their peculiarities. The following groups can be distinguished among the verbs of an information-modifying class:

1. causatives of proving: German*: begründen, belegen, beurkunden, beweisen, erweisen, nachweisen, überzeugen, argumentieren, ausreden, beteuern, bezeugen, hinweisen;* English*: to prove, to argue, to found, to base, to persuade, to admonish, to assure, to convince.* German*: Wir werden ihm die Maske von der Fratze reißen und dem Neurer* **beweisen***, wozu das alte Handwerk in der Lage ist* [Süskind]; *Wir werden ihm Fehler* **nachweisen** *und sie ausmerzen und es ihm auf diese Weise unter die Nase reiben: Du bist ein Pfuscher, Pelissier* [Süskind]; English: *He* **proved** *a hugely important thing: what this large group detested was not politics, as it seemed, but the politicians* [Leipzig University Corpus (LUP)]; *Murphy* **persuaded** *city council to pressure the Newfoundland Liquor Corp. to hold a public meeting over the transfer of a licence for the nearby club space* [LUP]; *He* **assured** *the governor that the vehicles would be put into judicious use to realize the purpose for which they are meant* [LUP];

2. causatives of displaying: German*: aufweisen, aufzeigen, demonstrieren, hindeuten, informieren, hinweisen, zeigen, erklären, aufklären, kommentieren;* English: *to display, to point out, to indicate, to show, to enlighten, to explain, to inform.* German: *Madame Arnulfi, nachdem sie lange über die schlechten Zeiten und über ihre prekäre wirtschaftliche Lage geschrieben hatte,* **erklärte***, dass sie sich zwar eigentlich keinen zweiten Gesellen leisten könne* [Süskind]; *Nahmhafte Meeresforscher an Bord* **informieren** *auf der Fahrt*

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zur Tauchstelle über die "Titanic", die Tiefsee und die Tauchtechnik [Zeit]; English: *George had* **explained** *to her that he had always wanted to get married* [Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA)]; *Lucia also* **informed** *us that lactic acid plays a key role in the fermentation of grapes, just as it does in cycling* [COCA];

3. causatives of confirming: German*: bekräftigen, bescheinigen, bestärken, bezeugen, erhärten, behaupten, bejahen, bestätigen, billigen, genehmigen;* English: *to confirm, to testify, to give evidence, to acknowledge, to approve, to avow, to claim, to grant.* German: *Sie* **bestätigt***, dass nicht in den Ereignissen der Wert erzählischer Werke besteht, sondern in den Gestalten, und in diesem kurzen Roman, ..., kommen viele Getsalten herauf* [Spiegel]; English: *In December, he* **confirmed** *news reports that he was separating from Susanne Bartsch, the nightclub promoter and his wife of 15 years* [COCA]; *She* **gives evidence** *here today that the person who committed the murder has said that her son, Jeff, had nothing to do with it, and yet, he may be executed* [COCA]; *Radio rival Edgar Bergen* **acknowledged** *him as "the greatest living comedian"* [COCA]; *The council* **approved** *a $303 million plan to build and improve San Diego libraries over 10 years, including a new main library downtown* [LUC]; *The government, led by Thaksin's allies, consistently* **avows** *its loyalty to the crown* [LUC]; *However, Jacob* **claimed** *he had been at the residence looking for a friend on June 30, his lawyer Deon Geldenhuys told the court* [LUC];

4. causatives of disproving: German: *bestreiten, enkräften, einwenden, entgegnen, widerlegen, widersprechen, aufbegehren;* English*: to disprove, to dispute, to question, to contradict, to object.* German*: Ich will seine gute Absicht gar nicht* **bestreiten***, ...* [Böll]; English: *We* **disproved** *the Paris Hilton hypothesis* [LUC]; *Romney's supporters strongly* **disputed** *the notion that Romney's standing here is weak* [COCA]; *Senior council officials* **objected** *to the deal because the Proton type of vehicle was unknown in Zimbabwe* [LUK].

This class of lexemes represents interpersonal verbs which function as full causatives denoting "canonical" causative relations, i.e. "stimulating a person to act or change state". The class division is based on the characteristics of subject-object relationship and the nature of the subject and object interaction. Generally the meaning of causatives is actualization of transformation of an object's mode of being. Interpersonal verbs are seen in this paper as true causatives and represent a lexico-grammatic class of lexemes because they possess their own lexical meaning, i.e. contain a certain set of integral and differential semantic components and a broad functional potential. The seme of "causation" is seen as a categoric seme.

3. Functional potential of information-modifying verbs

Let us discuss the concept of functional potential of a language unit. A language unit possesses a set of potencies which are realized in its functioning, that is why, according to A. Bondarko, a linguistic unit's function can be studied in two aspects: potential and resultative [6, p. 17]. Functions of linguistic means and their combinations can act, firstly, as existing in a language system potential assignments, purposes; secondly, as processes and results of these potencies realization in speech [6, 13, 14]. Function in a potential aspect is understood as a linguistic unit's ability to fulfill a particular assignment and function correspondingly. A resultative aspect presupposes interaction between this unit and the environment in the process of its functioning, i.e. an assignment which has fulfilled its purpose in speech [6, p. 17].

Thus, following A. Bondarko, we consider functional potential to be a complex of potencies possible for a particular linguistic unit and programming its behavior in speech [5, p. 11]. Functional potential comprises evocative, stylistic, semantic, valency, pragmatic potentials [6, 13, 14]. A. Bondarko points out that a transformation of a potential function into a resultative one is always accompanied by some development [6, p. 18], consequently it is fair to assume that in the process of functioning a linguistic unit can fulfill more assignments than it is anticipated initially. There is an in-

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verse relation: when the number of realizations of a linguistic unit increases, the number of its potencies rises as well, i.e. its functional potential grows. The realisation of linguistic units' potencies is influenced but the environment where they function. Environment is seen as a multitude of linguistic elements acting as surroundings towards the initial system and in the interaction of these elements the system fulfills its function [6, p. 9]. To summarise, to define a functional potential of a linguistic unit it is necessary to study it not in isolation but in its functioning environment [15, pp. 5-6].

In their semantic potential information-modifying verbs have the meaning of "acquiring by a receiver some knowledge about the facts which he was unaware of before". These verbs can be seen as mental predicates because almost all speech acts leave some mental trace in a receiver's mind [8, pp. 82-83]. Predicates of mental impact are those which denote speech acts aiming at causation of a steady mental result towards the object of causation. Achieving the causation aim is predomined by the content (or aim) of influencing the object by the causator. According to the nature of the mental result we can differentiate between the following types of impact aims: 1) causing the object to understand; 2) causing the object to know; 3) causing the object to reckon.

The first type is reflected in the functioning of causatives of displaying and proving: *"to make something that used to be unclear understandable"*. The second type is shown by functioning of causatives of proving: *"to replace the object's opinion with either awareness or unawareness which is closest to awareness"*. The third type is actualized by causatives of disproving, proving and confirming: *"to replace the object's opinion with another one"*.

Causation of understanding refers to the cases when we deal with a lack of understanding of any kind: 1) intellectual: English: ***Explain** why PV is considered an inexhaustible resource* [COCA]; 2) psychological: German: *Ich konnte es ihm nicht **erklären**, und ich habe bis heute keine Erklärung dafür gefunden* [Böll]; English: *Then teachers **explained** how they would respond when students were hav-*

ing a difficult time with self-control, or behaving inappropriately [COCA]. Substitution of *"to explain"* with *"to say"* is impossible in the simplest cases: German: *Ich kann mir das Zischen nur so **erklären**, dass das Hauptwerkzeug des Tieres nicht seine Krallen sind, ...* [18]; English: *to **explain** smb.'s viewpoint* [11].

Causation of knowledge refers to the cases when truth in general is focused on as well as truth in a receiver (the focus is on the change of a causation object's mental state): German: *Es gibt Amerika: Bellow **beweist** es auf eine so eindringliche und einmalige Weise, wie Faulkner, Heminguag, Thomas Wolfe und Cummings es **bewiesen** haben* [Böll]; English: *Several of his former ministers including three who are now running against him use the president's own words to try to **prove** that he is older than he says he is* [COCA]; *Wrongful conviction cases are seldom open-and-shut – usually they depend on DNA or other new evidence that undermines the government's case, but does not always **prove** someone is innocent* [COCA].

Causation of reckoning implies influence on the mental state and is focused on a change of the object's opinion to make him eventually change his intentions and perform a necessary action. In this case it is the mental state that is affected, subsequently there is an impact on particular actions. For example, German: *Und so hatten sich beide bei ihrer kurzen Begegnung gegenseitig von ihrer Arglosigkeit **überzeugt**, zu Unrecht und zu Recht ...* [Süskind]. The causative *überzeugen* in the German language means an impact on the object's mental state and does not fix a delivery in terms of performing of an action: *überzeugen: 1 jmd. ~ jmdn. zu einer anderen Ansicht bekehren* [18].

By contrast, the English equivalent of the German verb *überzeugen* is the verb *to convince*, involves the meaning of an action result, i.e. a change of the object's mental state which can be seen in its semantic potential: *«1 Cause (someone) to believe firmly in the truth of something; 2 Persuade (someone) to do something»* [11], as well as in some examples of its functioning: *We started calling up bands and somehow **convinced** them to come down*

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to perform [LUC]; *But the conference presidents* **convinced** *Tranghese that all 16 squads deserved to converge on the Garden, so next March there will be an extra day* [LUC].

Causative verbs of reckoning comprise "opinion" ("rational evaluation") as one of their attributes and form a special type of a causative situation in which a caused event is a mental act. A rational evaluation may be of three types: 1) alethic (denotes a judgment's degree of correspondence to the facts); 2) deontic (evaluation of an action as appropriate, allowed or prohibited; 3) axiological (characterizes some objects and events as good or bad ones [17, p. 6].

The spread of knowledge and understanding of facts take place for the benefit of the object and the spread of opinions – for the benefit of the causator. Causation of understanding: the object is the speaker's associate (supporter), he wants to understand what the causator is trying to make clear (understandable) for him. The object it trying to replace misunderstanding with understanding. Causation of knowledge: the object appears to be a non-believer and in the causation process the object is an opponent: the person values his opinion and does not want to change it [8].

Causatives of proving and disproving function in the situation of an argument more frequently, for example, German: *"In diesem Fall kann der Botschafter lediglich auf Unterlassung klagen", so der Jurist, "allerdings hat er nur Aussicht auf Erfolg, wenn die Dame die Behauptungen über die privaten Treffen nicht beweisen kann"* [Spiegel]; English: *His wife* **convinced** *him not to* [LUC].

For causatives of proving, the causatives of the "convince" type in particular, – German: *überzeugen;* English: to *admonish, to convince, to persuade* – the arguments are explanation of a reason. For the causatives of the "prove" type – German: *beweisen;* English: to *prove* – the arguments have a mental character. The causatives of the "convince" type can affect not only the object's mind but also his will and emotions. For example,

1) influence on the object's mind: German: *King ist es in einem Fall bereits gelungen, ein argentinisches Gericht mit biologischem Be-*

weismaterial zu **überzeugen** [Kafka]; English: *"But I believe they can be* **persuaded** *that the mission is actually in Europe's own strategic and humanitarian interest."* [LUC];

2) influence on the object's emotions: German: *Wie setzten sie sich nicht, wie fielen sie nicht hin, sondern sahen einen mit Blicken an, die noch mehr, wenn auch nur aus der Ferne,* **überzeugten!** [18]; English: *But his mother, Nancy Blake,* **convinced** *him to give it a try* [LUC];

3) influence on the object's will: German: *Bringen Sie mich hinaus, schnell, bringen Sie mich hinaus – sonst **überzeugt** er mich noch* [Zeit]; English: *On Monday, prosecutors charged that Stryker and Chambers* **persuaded** *another man to lie about who he saw with Goudey around the time she was last seen alive* [LUK].

Influence on the object's will can be accompanied by a reference to a benefit for the object which makes the argument highly-persuasive. "Influence not the mind with arguments, but the will with incentives, then both the opponent and the listeners, provided they have the same interests, will instantly agree with your opinion even if it was borrowed from a lunatic asylum. Indeed, a lot of will mostly weighs more than a centner of speculation and persuasion" [Schopenhauer, cited from 12, p. 114]. When being persuaded, the object is exposed to a comprehensive influence. Causatives of proving and disproving function in the situation, where the characteristic of "veracity" is especially relevant. The group of verbs with the semantics of "to persuade" in the class of causatives of proving displays particular characteristics, however. It is possible to persuade with fallacies.

Causation of knowledge and understanding differs from causation of opinion by the means and manner of presentation. Consistency, logic, persuasiveness, cogency of arguments are especially relevant for causation of knowledge and understanding. For example, German: *Die Konkurrenten BMW und Daimler-Chrysler* **beweisen** *bereits Sportgeist mit ihrem Engagement in der Formel 1. Der bisherige Hauptsponsor Opel war nach Vereinsangaben vor einigen Wochen, vorzeitig aus dem*

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Vertrag ausgestiegen [Spiegel]; English: *We believe, based on the evidence we collected, that we could* **prove** *his guilt to a jury beyond a reasonable doubt* [LUC]. Meanwhile, such aspects as emotionality, stylistic connotations, intonation patterns and presentation tone play a key role for causation of an opinion: German: *Oh, vital sind wir, wir haben es* **bewiesen**, *wir ordneten den Dschungel, kauften uns irgendeine Art von Knigge oder ließen uns von denen ...* [Zeit]; English: *He pointed out how he had tried repeatedly to* **persuade** *Thomas to change his attitude but to no avail, thus separating his good name from his son's bad one* [COCA].

Acting of causatives of proving, which include the group of the German *beweisen* and the English *to prove,* is retrospective; and the group of the German *überzeugen* and the English; to *convince, to persuade* is prospective. Causatives of proving of the German group *überzeugen* and the English to *convince, to persuade* show peculiarities of functioning in comparison to their synonyms: German: *versichern;* English: to *assure.* There are some sense differences among these causatives, i.e. the degree of categoricity actualization. Causatives of the German group *überzeugen* and the English *to convince,* to *persuade* consist of a "stronger", more categorical opinion in their semantic potential than the German verb *versichern* and the English to *assure.* Epistemic states, expressed by these causatives, can be opposed one against another.

4. Functioning peculiarities of information-modifying verbs

In the case of causatives of proving functioning as predicates: German *versichert, überzeugt*; English *convinced, persuaded, assured* the following peculiarities occur:

1. Combination with a negation.

In the German language there are no cases of *versichert, überzeugt* functioning in structures with a negation. In the English language *persuaded, assured* do not occur in structures with a negation either. A negation has been detected in the structures with *convinced: But he's not* **convinced** *the state's law is making a difference* [COCA]; *But the detectives*

are not **convinced** *he's the murderer* [COCA].

2. Occurrence of gradation.

In the English language there are some cases when the degree of categoricity is characterised / graded: *Physicians and nutritionists are* **increasingly convinced** *that the dietary habits adopted by Western society over the past one hundred years make an important etiologic causative contribution to coronary heart diseases angina, hypertension, diabetes, and some types of cancer* [COCA]; *I was* **repeatedly assured**, *by sophisticates and illiterates alike, that the king was (or used to be) on the CIA payroll, proof more of his fiscal savvy than his political corruption* [COCA]; *If big news breaks after the close of trading, late traders are* **virtually assured** *of a quick profit or of avoiding a loss* [COCA]; *As they scour the history of Al Qaeda for clues about its future, American officials say they are* **increasingly persuaded** *that the group gained its new operational abilities and ruthlessness in 1998* [COCA]; *It took them two days, but they* **finally persuaded** *her to give the World 600 a try* [COCA].

In the German language there are no examples of gradation with *versichert.* By contrast, there are quite a lot such examples with *überzeugt,* for example, *... und Bendrix ... ist* **fest überzeugt**, *dass sie einen neuen Liebhaber hat ...* [Böll]; *... ich bin übrigens* **fest überzeugt,** *mein Leben schlecht genutzt zu haben* [Böll]; *Und wenn die Methode auch nicht genügte, Grenouilles Nase* **vollkommen zu überzeugen,** *...* [Süskind].

The German *fest, vollkommen* and the English *finally* are used to express a high degree of the state of conviction. When *repeatedly* is used an indefinite frequency of an action is actualized which testifies that there is not action limit of the verb *assure* in the English language. The absence of an action limit of this verb is also exposed in functioning of *virtually.* The adverbs *repeatedly, virtually, instantly* rather actualize an emotional evaluation.

3. Compatibility with a non-propositional object.

In the English language there are no such constructions with *persuaded* however, there are some rather rare examples with *convinced:*

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We don't take a case on unless we are convinced of the person's innocence [COCA]; *However, Daviss isn't convinced of Rosen's conclusions* [COCA]; *assured: For example, investors who earlier settled with Prudential in class actions for a small fraction of their investment are excluded from sharing in a fund of $371 million set up in October to repay some losses by customers who had been falsely assured about the safety and returns of the partnerships* [COCA]; *If someone is making the same thing over and over, Santiago says you can be assured of the quality* [COCA]; *He said he would send Eddie a text message when they could return, when he was assured of the project's future* [COCA].

In the German language a non-propositional object and *versichert* are not compatible, but they are compatible with *überzeugt,* for example: *Und so hatten sich beide bei ihrer kurzen Begegnung gegenseitig von ihrer Arglosigkeit überzeugt, ...* [Süskind]; *Doch der Detektiv spürt nichts Handgreifliches auf: einige Kirchenbesuche, Zusammenkünfte mit Richard Smith, einem Hydepark –Fanatiker, der durch ein Feuermal im Gesicht entstellt ist, und von dessen Harmlosigkeit sich Bendrix selbst überzeugt* [Zeit].

It is no coincidence that there is the prohibition on the use of combinations of non-propositional objects and the English *persuaded* and the German *versichert*. Possible objects of these predicates can be the objects which are enclosed in thought and thought is an entity of a propositional nature.

4. Type of secondary proposition if any.

There are no examples of secondary proposition for the predicates *versichert* (German) and *assured* (English). There are some rare examples with the English *persuaded*: *Kerstin was admitted to hospital in Amstetten, west of Vienna, in an unconscious state after Elisabeth **persuaded** Fritzl that she needed medical attention* [LUC]; *But I believe they can be **persuaded** that the mission is actually in Europe's own strategic and humanitarian interest* [LUC]. The presence of secondary proposition is typical of the German *überzeugt*;

and the English *convinced:* German: *Ich war überzeugt, dass jede Bewegung und jeder Gedanke gezwungen seien, dass man sich daher vor ihnen hüten solle* [18]; English*: But Craig said he was convinced that the federal investment, which the Treasury may be able to recoup, would bring stability to financial markets* [LUC]; *The professor says he's convinced that people are taking his theory more seriously* [LUC]. In such a case we are talking about verifiable propositions, i.e. prototypical situations.

5. Conclusions

To conclude, a word's meaning is linked with its functional categorisation, i.e. lexical and grammatical categorization simultaneously within one utterance. In this case a sentence is taken as an utterance unit as an independent linguistic component of the functional level. According to N. Boldyrev, functional categorization is based on the principles of actualization (realization of a system (inherent) meaning) re-categorisation (re-thinking of the inherent meaning), poly-categorisation (realization of several meanings simultaneously) and also grammatisation (desemantization and decategorisation (neutralisation) of the inherent meaning [4]. Efficiency of these principles depends on the integrative work of functional categorization factors: lexical meaning of a word, meaning of its grammatical form, general structural meaning of the sentence-utterance, the closest linguistic context in the form of all the elements of the sentence-utterance; (unlike the system-paradigmatic meaning these factors act not a predicting opportunities of verb semantics but as real connections in particular types of structures, particular lexical-grammatical composition. As for the cognitive mechanism of functional word categorization, it is realized via conceptual characteristics of a corresponding category, i.e. its prototypical characteristics [16]. Every language subsystem, the category of causation included, is closely connected with language in its broad meaning being its component and when exploring a language area we also perceive language itself.

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