

Artículo de investigación

Specific verbal representation of the time category

Специфика Вербальной Репрезентации Категории «Время»

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Abstract

The article aims to describe the verbal representation of the time category as exemplified by languages with different structures. The authors consider semantic features of temporal vocabulary, namely, the semantics and functioning of temporal verbs, adjectives and adverbs in English, French and Russian from the viewpoint of cognitive linguistics. The article presents the possible themed classification of these lexical units. The authors conduct their comparative analysis, highlight issues of their semantization and metaphorization, as well as analyze their roles and functions in the formation of the speaker's worldview. While considering methods of verbalizing universal categories of human life, the authors outline prospects for determining the dominant national parameters of communication.

Keywords: Time, space, categorization, specialization, temporal representatives, cognitive semantics, national and cultural specifics.

Аннотация

Цель статьи – описать вербальные репрезентации категории «время» на материале разноструктурных языков. В сопоставительном плане рассматриваются семантические особенности темпоральной лексики, а именно, семантика и функционирование темпоральных глаголов, прилагательных и наречий с позиций когнитивной лингвистики в английском, французском и русском языках. Представлена их возможная тематическая классификация. Содержится сравнительный анализ представленных лексических единиц, освещаются проблемы их семантизации и метафоризации в языке, их роль и функция в формировании мироощущения говорящего. Намечаются перспективы выявления доминантных признаков национальных параметров коммуникации в рамках анализа способов вербализации универсальных категорий человеческого бытия.

Ключевые слова: время, пространство, категоризация, специализация, темпоральные репрезентанты, когнитивная семантика, национально-культурная специфика.

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Introduction

While exploring the surrounding world, people continuously opt for categorization, which is a cognitive process of assigning objects and phenomena to a certain class (primary categorization) and combining words denoting these objects and phenomena into a semantic group (secondary categorization) (Kalinina, 2009, 12). Categorization takes into account typical features of objects, i.e. obvious and objective features inherent in most objects of this class. G. Lakoff wrote, "An understanding of how we categorize is central to any understanding of how we think and how we function, and therefore central to an understanding of what makes us human" (Lakoff, 2004, 20).

Time is a universal category of human life and has existential significance for individuals, as well as linguistic and cultural communities (Ivanishcheva, 2018). The interest of modern linguistics to the conceptualization of time in general and its reflection in the minds of different culture-bearers in particular is explained by the significant role of this category in the person's value system. J. Michon and J. Jackson pointed out that "all human behavior is governed by time" (Michon, 1985, 4). Thus, D. Navon claimed that time is among the most important dimensions in the world conceptualization and the dominant feature of human cognition (Navon, 1978, 226). The time category is anthropocentric since it develops through complex mental processes, including abstraction, correlation of objective time with internal processing and comprehension, as well as the transformation of the information received from outside. According to N.F. Alefirenko, time is a cultural invariable of ethnolinguistic consciousness, i.e. an invariable concept of a particular culture (its distinctive core) (Alefirenko, 2010, 102).

The interinfluence of language and time, in particular, the realization of temporal relations (temporality) in the language system is an indisputable fact that is widely described in linguistics. Scientific interest in the concept of time is steadily increasing. With the current development of linguistics, scholars use the cognitive approach and consider the relevance of the anthropocentric paradigm. The expansion of cognitive science into the field of linguistics allows us to consider the concept of time from a new angle and focus on determining its role in the formation of language. Being the basic ontological category of being, time is transcendental in relation to people. Furthermore,

people are capable of verbalizing temporal relations of the surrounding world, where language plays a key role.

Methods

It is relevant and promising to study the language model of time from the viewpoint of cognitive science. The cognitive approach ensures the flexible and in-depth analysis of any language material going beyond the limits of language knowledge. It analyzes the relationship between linguistic meaning and conceptual content conveyed by the same word in the language system and speech. Scientific interest in the mental side of human activity highlights the conceptualization of the world, which gives an idea about peculiar worldviews of certain peoples.

The information people receive from outside, including in a linguistic form, should be structured to become part of their consciousness. In other words, the human cognitive system should be able to process the incoming data in a certain way (in accordance with the systemic structure). Unstructured consciousness cannot successfully digest the incoming information because it cannot properly process it and give it the necessary structure (Boldyrev, 2016, 33).

Space and time are the basic concepts of the world. The idea of movement connects these fundamental categories. At the linguistic level, this link is expressed by temporal verbs, adjectives and adverbs that have the spatial orientation and are used with the temporal meaning. Although the process of spatialization embraces all time periods, it can be expressed unevenly at different categorization levels (Ukhnaeva, 2017, 67).

All levels of the linguistic time category (superordinate, basic and subordinate) undergo the process of spatialization. The chronology of events and a sense of time are described through images borrowed from space as "the main given consciousness". Thus, a person "projects time into space and therefore expresses duration in terms of length, while sequences reveal themselves in the form of a continuous line or chain, whose constituent elements are in contact but do not penetrate each other" (Bergson, 1992, 89-92). Consequently, the linguistic model of time is based on a spatial pattern. The semantic duality of many spatial expressions proves this fact.

Each of the languages we studied has lexical units with dual features. In English, the space lexeme can indicate some period of time or the exact duration: in the space of fortnight; within a short space of time. The about adverb conveys the meaning of spatial and temporal approximation, as well as indicates the speaker's uncertainty: about 5 miles/about 5 minutes.

The French lexeme *espace* (space) can be used literally and in expressions with temporal meanings: *l'espace d'un matin* 'in the space of one morning'.

In colloquial Russian, spatial and temporal approximation is expressed by indefinite adverbs *где-то/около* (*где-то около семи часов, где-то около парка*).

The Russian scholars M.V. Vsevolodova, F.I. Pankov and E.S. Yakovleva claimed that lexical time is a set of methods revealing the essence of physical, philosophical and psychological aspects of the time category expressed with the help of special temporal vocabulary: nouns (century, year, time), verbs (to be late, to get dark, etc.), adverbs (yesterday, soon, now, long, soon, late, in advance, etc.), adjectives (present, perpetual, momentary, etc.) (Vsevolodova, 1975; Pankov, 2005; Yakovleva, 1994).

George Lakoff and Mark Johnson noted that it is almost impossible to refer to time and not to use the terms of space and movement (Lakoff, 2004, 122). The lexicalization of time through the idea of movement is exemplified by verbs that are used in syntactic structures describing the passage of time. As a rule, these structures include temporal or process nouns: second, minute, hour, day, week, month, year, event, memorable date, secular or religious holiday (several minutes passed, an hour flew by, days crawled along, holidays flew by, etc.).

No doubt, verbs of movement are the core of the system of linguistic means denoting spatial relations and are among the most significant lexical units of natural languages (Lakoff, 2004, 100). At the same time, verbs of movement are ambiguous, characterized by broad semantics, contain national-mental characteristics of movement and have their own usage in the languages under study. The types of verbal actions are marked by certain differences. The human mind identifies time with other material objects of reality. Time moves in the same way with other objects having a physical form and essence (a river flows, a car comes around, a train passes). According to N.D. Arutyunova, time is

"invisible, inaudible and intangible. It has no smell or taste. People do not have a special organ to perceive time but they can sense it" (Arutyunova, 1999, 687). Consequently, time is the result of a person's mental activity that does not have any ontological reference.

The specifics of temporal verbs of movement are determined by their semantic features. With due regard to the type of movement on the axis of a linear temporal orientation, it is possible to determine reciprocating movement, i.e. in a straight line or rotational motion. The English language comprises the following verbs of reciprocating or unidirectional movement: to pass, to go, to run, to fly, to arrive, etc. (a long time passed).

French utilizes such verbs of reciprocating movement as: *marcher, courir, couler, arriver, passer, venir, voler*, etc. The verb *passer* is the most common of them for describing the march of time. Its various shades of meaning are expressed through the corresponding context or accompanying definitions: *Comme le temps passe vite, sur terre* (Sartre J-P., Huis Clos).

Speaking of time in the Russian language, we use the following verbs of reciprocating movement: *идти, приходить, проходить, бежать, наступать, приближаться, лететь, шагать*, etc. In addition, this list comprises Russian verbs with prefixes. Due to a specific structure of the Russian language, there is a quantitative difference between its verbs of movement and those of other languages. For instance, *пролететь, пробежать*. Verbs with the suffix *-ну* (*шагнуть*) can also be included in this list. *Неслышно скользя по поэме, Холодным мерцанием глаз, Вы – знаю я – меряли время, Шагнущее через нас* (Yevtushenko, E., *Wolves' passport*).

The semantics of the above-mentioned verbs does not focus on the real reflection of time but rather on its assessment or interpretation by speakers. Regardless of external indicators (clock values, sun position, etc.) the course of subjective time or the time experienced by a person depends on their emotional perception of the current events. This perception may differ from reality depending on a positive or negative assessment of the said events (Shaikenov, 2018). The assessment of time is greatly influenced by the psychological factor, i.e. the subjective and experienced time affected by human emotions. S.A. Moiseeva mentioned that "the results of perception contain information about the world ontology selected with the help of cognitive

mechanisms of consciousness" (Moiseeva, 2006, 132).

We should note that the above-mentioned verbs define the duration of time but do not determine the position of clock hands. At first glance, their complementarity is doubtful from the viewpoint of common usage. They are widely used in speech and do not need any additional explanation. However, we face a linguistic paradox when considering these phrases at the linguistic-cognitive level. Therefore, we can conclude that the time category does not include any special terms for its linguistic expression. This phenomenon is not singular but rather universal. It is typical of languages with different structures. Based on the foregoing, the semantic compatibility of lexical units with temporal and timeless meanings helps not only conceptualize different characteristics of time at the language level but also convey the necessary meaning in the most adequate form.

The concept of time is built over the principle of metaphorical transfer. Semantic groups containing verbs of movement often include meanings of direction and attributes of movement. While speaking of time in the English language, people use verbs that realize the "direction of movement" lexeme: The summer has come. The New Year arrives. The night fell on the city. Such postpositions as on, off, away, back and forward in combination with the English phrasal verbs express the syncretic meaning, where the aspectual meaning is primary and the temporal meaning of following is secondary. As a result, a sentence acquires the prospective orientation, modifies or completely transforms the initial meaning of the chosen verb (Rakhmatullina, 2016, 85-89). In French: La nuit tombe sur la ville. L'été est venue. Le Nouvel An approche. It is typical of the Russian language to express the sense of movement through prefixes: Ночь опустилась на город. Лето пришло. Приближается Новый Год.

Discussion

According to the method of action, we can highlight the verbs of rotation among other verbs of movement. The formation of the temporal meaning in verbs of rotation is uneven and is based on metaphorical transfer.

In its turn, metaphorical transfer is based on the association of circular motion with rectilinear motion which is characterized by directionality and purposefulness, i.e. the end of each movement. A completed turnover in space is

equated to a time limit or time period adjacent to the end of an action. Temporal metaphorical meanings are formed through the association of rotating material objects with the course of time in conformity with the cyclic concept of time. The development of temporal meanings which represent the linear concept of time is associated with the beginning/end of movement in space and time.

Temporal adjectives in the studied languages are a universal and communicatively significant class of nominative units. They have a complex semantic structure and are characterized by a high degree of metaphorization but their specific lexical compatibility indicates different ways of rethinking temporal relationships. A comparative analysis of temporal adjectives allows us to establish how temporal features develop and modify, as well as to reveal the nationally specific perception of time by the studied ethnic groups.

Temporal adjectives that realize the semantics of the present, future and past tenses can be divided thematically. Thus, temporal features are revealed in language through such subgroups as:

- 1) Reference to a certain time period of the day:

English morning; day, daily, diurnal, journal; evening, night; night, nocturnal; after dinner (after-dinner); French matinal, diurne (fleur diurne), de jour; en soirée (о спектакле, концерте), nocturne, de nuit; après-dîner; Russian утренний, дневной, вечерний, ночной, послеобеденный;

- 2) Reference to a specific day:

English today's; yesterday, yesterday's; tomorrow, tomorrow's; French du jour; d'hier; demain (le monde de demain – the world of tomorrow, n'est pas pour demain – to remain a long way off); Russian сегодняшний, вчерашний, завтрашний;

- 3) Reference to a particular season:

English summer; autumnal, fall, autumn; brumal, hibernal, winter, winterly, wintry; spring, vernal, printanier; French estival, d'été; autumnal, d'automne; hibernal, hiémal, hivernal, d'hiver; printanier, vernal; Russian летний; осенний; зимний; весенний.

The identity of the related bases of temporal adjectives in the above-mentioned languages

does not guarantee the identity of their semantic structures. Thus, the languages under consideration comprise nominative units that do not have structural-semantic correspondences. There are forms of the possessive case in the English language: today's; yesterday, yesterday's. French utilizes *de + N* constructions: *d'hier, d'été, d'automne, d'hiver*. The lexical compatibility of words is crucial as it helps us comprehend the syntagmatic connections of language nominees and reveal the asymmetrical structural-semantic organization of vocabulary.

In addition, one semantic field in English, French and Russian can be represented by a different number of lexical units. Some temporal adjectives of English and French coincide, for example: English *summer; autumnal, fall, autumn; brumal, hibernal, winter, winterly, wintry; spring, vernal, printanier*; French *estival, d'été; autumnal, d'automne; hibernal, hiémal, hivernal, d'hiver; printanier, vernal*. M.A. Krongauz called words indicating time displacement temporal modifiers (Krongauz, 2003, 278). Being adjectives, they can serve as reference points: English *present, this, actual, today's*; French *actuel*; Russian *нынешний*. They can also indicate a cutback with due regard to reference points: English *former, late*; French *ancien, ci-devant*; Russian *бывший* (Sedykh, 2018).

Temporal adjectives also characterize different aspects of the time category:

- 1) Time periods of a certain duration (day, week, month);
- 2) Time periods of an indefinite duration (moment, blink, twinkling, eternity);
- 3) The linear character of time;
- 4) The cyclical nature of time;
- 5) Anthropocentric features in the language model of time.

Adjectives characterizing certain time periods are as follows: English *hourly, eight hour; daily; weekly; hebdomadal; monthly, bimestrial, five-month annual; yearly; secular, age-old*. In English, a certain duration is specified by a quantifier that forms an attribute group if combined with a noun.

In French, only certain nouns can form adjectives: *heure – horaire; jour – journalier; an – annuel*. Some of them have correlated forms derived from suppletive bases or containing roots with historical alternation: *semaine – hebdomadaire; mois – mensuel; siècle – séculaire*. The nouns *seconde* and *minute* cannot

form adjectives. Complex adjectives are formed from nouns (units of time) and quantitative numerals: *bimensuel* (two-month), *un plan quinquennal* (a five-year plan). These adjectives, phrases containing numerals (for instance, *deux heures* 'two hours', *six jours* 'six days', *cinq ans* 'five years') and phrases with simple adjectives (*tâche mensuelle* 'one-month task') reflect a certain period of time.

In Russian, nouns as units of time convey the lexical meaning of a certain set. In French, they cannot convey any meaning without a numeral placed in front of them. To convey the meaning "born a day (week, month) ago", speakers should use the following quantitative-nominative phrases "preposition *de* or *d'* + quantitative numeral + noun-unit of time". Let us compare: *une grossesse de 3 semaines* (to be three weeks pregnant), *bébé d'un mois* (a monthling). In English, a similar concept is expressed by the following noun: *monthling*.

In Russian, the analyzed group is represented by the following units: *двухсекундный, трехминутный, пятичасовой, суточный, недельный, трехнедельный, месячный, пятимесячный, трёхгодичный*. We should note that the key role in statements of this type is played by numerals that ensure the accuracy of the information provided.

Adjectives characterizing indefinite time periods are as follows: English *eternal, everlasting, intermittent, synchronous, frequent, temporary, intermittent*; French *éternel, intermittent, fréquent, temporaire, simultané, éphémère*; Russian *бесконечный, периодический, частый, временный, одновременный, недолговечный*.

Here are adjectives marking the linear character of time: English *nearest, last, previous, next, future*; French *immédiat; prochain; proche*; Russian *ближайший, прошлый, последний, дальнейший, бывший, очередной, тогдашний, будущий, etc.*

The temporal markers denoting the cyclical nature of time can be divided into two groups: words denoting natural phenomena (*полуденный, суточный, вечерний*) and words denoting events of human life (*страстная, пасхальный, ежегодный*). There is a number of exceptions among English adjectives that characterize time periods and can simultaneously act as adverbs and adjectives: *daily; weekly; monthly, yearly*. In French, this group is represented by the following lexical units:

diurne; journalier; quotidien, hebdomadaire, mensuel, annuel.

Anthropocentric time markers are represented by the following adjectives: English infant, young, elder, school, senior class; French enfantin; jeune; aîné; ancien, scolaire, terminal; Russian детский, юный, старший, школьный, выпускной (класс), etc. (Ukhnaleva, 2019, 115-116).

Adverbs and adverbial combinations with temporal semes are among common means of verbalizing the concept of time. They convey the detailed semantics of verb tenses. Despite the peripheral position of temporal adverbs in the structure of utterances, they are an important component of the text content.

The system of temporal adverbs in each of the compared languages has a clearly defined structure, which reflects:

- 1) The proper time of events: English now, today, tomorrow, yesterday, in a day, last week;
- 2) The duration of these events: brief, long, for several hours, extended;
- 3) The rapidness of events: fast, prompt, quick, slow;
- 4) The frequency of events: often, always, rare, seldom, every month (Potaenko, 1997, 115-116).

The first deictic type focuses on the moment of speech; therefore, it is anthropocentric and can be divided into the following subgroups: the exact moment (at 2 o'clock, now) or a larger time period (5 years ago, in 1930); precedence (before, recently); following (then, after); the simultaneity of actions within a single time period (while, for now).

It should be noted that there are two types of temporal orientations in the semantics of adverbs: definite (English at five minutes past ten, French à deux heures, Russian в пять часов) and indefinite (English in spring, French en mai, Russian к утру, скоро). The definite temporal orientation gives a certain action the exact temporal locality due to a quantifier in its structure. The indefinite temporal orientation defines only an approximate time period and is expressed only by a temporal noun.

The groups listed above can be arranged in accordance with gradation (hierarchical) scales of duration, rapidness and event recurrence.

In Russian, adverbs are often used not only in the temporal but also in spatial meaning: Russian Они встречаются слишком часто (temporal meaning). Деревья растут часто (spatial meaning); English They meet too often. The trees grow too close to one another; French Ils se rencontrent très souvent. Les arbres poussent tout près les uns des autres.

Different shades of meaning are conveyed through different contexts in Russian, while English and French use separate phrases containing synonymous lexical units: English 'close', French 'près'.

According to V.G. Gak, only context and some specific situation help determine what one is dealing with. This approach realizes temporal and spatial relations, or syncretism when both relations are equally expressed. Here are some examples with the потом adverb: Теперь идёт сенокос, потом бабы рожь жать начнут (МАС). This sentence comprises a temporal relationship. Мы обошли кругом сада (...). Сначала идут деревья (...), потом кусты (МАС) – the quote expresses simultaneously spatial and temporal relations. The phrase Вот Воздвиженка, потом идет Новый Арбат, потом Кутузовский проспект contains only spatial relations. Time and space complement each other. "If the subject is immobile but there are some changes in space, this sentence is syncretic; if the subject does not move and there are no changes in space, then only spatial relations are revealed" (Gak, 1997, 123).

Most temporal adverbs have one component in their structure but there are also multi-component prepositional-nominative units. The group of adverbs answering the questions for how long? and how long? comprises units that indicate a period of time without clear boundaries and do not have a quantifier in their structure. In English and French, they can be expressed by a multi-component prepositional-nominative unit consisting of a quantitative-temporal noun with a quantitative phrase (or without quantitative phrase) and a preposition: for a long time (for a long period of time)/il y a longtemps/долго (долгое время). In Russian, they are represented by parametric adverbs: долго – недолго (коротко), много ли – мало ли, ни много – ни мало.

Adverbs classified in accordance with their frequency indicate the number of actions. They can express the primacy or repeatability of a particular action. In English and French, the analyzed group is represented by combinations

of a quantitative numeral + noun: English once, one time, twice, three times, four times, five times; French une fois, deux fois, trois fois, quatre fois, cinq fois. There are no temporal adverbs derived from numerals (except for the English twice), as well as correlates to the Russian adverbs indicating the primacy of action (впервые, вновь). The above-mentioned group comprises the following adverbs in the Russian language: впервые, однократно, неоднократно, дважды, трижды, многократно. The English adverbs again, anew, once again, once more; repeatedly, many times; over and over again; French de nouveau, à plusieurs reprises, maintes fois correspond to the Russian повторно, вторично, снова, сызнова, неоднократно, многократно, опять, вновь, вдругорядь, заново, наново.

Adverbs of time determine the temporal locality of events, phenomena and objects. They realize the semantics of the present, future and past tenses. Thus, the series of temporal features is implemented in language through the following subgroups: precedence, present and following.

Adverbs referring to the past tense describe events that occurred before the moment of speech and determine the order of actions: English (at) first, firstly, formerly, before, previous; French d'abord, en premier lieu, jadis, auparavant, autre fois, avant; Russian сперва, наперво, перво-наперво, поначалу, сначала, вначале, первоначально, прежде, раньше, испокон, заново.

The present tense can be designated in the following ways: English now, at the moment, at present, presently, straight away (colloquial); French en ce moment; en cet instant; maintenant, actuellement, à présent, aujourd'hui; Russian сейчас, тотчас, нынче, теперь, сразу же, тут же, мгновенно, вот-вот, скоро.

In addition, there are expressions in which temporal prepositional-nominative structures have the meaning of following regardless of noncal or toncal reference points. The adverbs of succession or sequence describe the future intentions and what happened after the previous events. This group includes the following units: English afterward(s), later (on), then, next, henceforth, henceforward, from now on, in future, for the future; in the future, from this time; French ensuite, puis; plus tard, à l'avenir, désormais, dorénavant; Russian потом, после, затем, вперёд, впрёд, на будущее.

The synonymous variability of adverbs allows one to avoid repetition and more accurately reflects different shades of meaning. U. Weinreich noted that the number of temporal adverbs in language correlates with the number of tenses: "It is possibly a universal that adverbs are as much differentiated as the corresponding system of verb tenses (in other words, a verb cannot have more tenses than there are differences between such types as yesterday, ... ago)" (Weinreich, 1970, 179).

In many cases, adverbs in the analyzed languages have similar semantics and stylistic properties but differ in their lexical compatibility. In other cases, they differ in shades of meaning and stylistic properties, frequency and other significant parameters. Adverbs as an independent part of speech have rich and yet insufficiently studied semantic, syntactic, communicative and text potential.

The temporal adverbs under consideration are characterized by a branched hierarchical structure, with each of them having their specific functioning and holding a special place in a certain semantic system. The choice of a particular adverb in a specific context depends on not only lexical but also grammatical, text, pragmatic and communicative factors. A comparative analysis of the semantic and grammatical "behavior" of the above-mentioned adverbs has identified the main parameters relevant for analyzing adverbial units in general.

Conclusion

The description of temporal adverbs lets us compile their lexicographic portraits. As a result, we have determined both similarities and discrepancies in the adverbial systems of the languages under study. It is revealing that common patterns can be distinguished within one language and structurally different languages. Specific features are often found at the level of individual adverbs, while general patterns manifest themselves at the level of large groups and subgroups distinguished at different stages of their classification.

Time is versatile and diverse. The comprehension of its various aspects is reflected in language, in particular, in the variety of lexical temporal markers expressed by different parts of speech.

Thus, English, French and Russian can use different conative features and words from different semantic spheres to denote the same concepts, which indicates differences in their

word-formation semantics and the functioning of word-formation categories. The same semantic field can be expressed by a different number of temporal representatives, while certain semantic fields are specific, i.e. typical of one language only. The structural and semantic imbalance of vocabulary proves the unevenness and different motivation of processes in the English, French and Russian languages, which reflects their ethnocultural features and enables to reconstruct fragments of the linguistic world image through temporal relations. As a result, human consciousness can further determine the ethnocultural specifics of perception and categorization of the surrounding world.

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