

Linguistic Subject and Verbal Meanings of an Utterance

Igor A. Nagorny, Svetlana A. Kosharnaya, Larisa I. Plotnikova and Svetlana J. Nagornaya
The National Research University «Belgorod State University»/«BelSU»,
Pobeda Street, 85, 308015 Belgorod, Russia

Abstract: Investigation of the issue of sense is not possible without referring to the core issues of linguistics including the term 'subject' that is the key one directly related to the sphere of anthropocentrism. An important role in this process belongs to the attitudes of subjectivity of opinion, presence of probabilistic provisions that is implemented at the discourse level by means of a wide range of linguistic units and constructs. The objective of the present study is further research into the issue of the linguistic subject with respect to the senses generated in the speech act and a text. Analysis of the anthropocentrism factor is associated with the terms 'subject', 'sense', 'self' and 'non-self', 'thought', 'opinion', 'memory'. In order to solve the task set and consequent reasoning of the hypothesis suggested the two methodological approaches were used: linguo-culturological and discursive ones. As the result, it was found out that one of manifestations of the subjective factor in the language is representation in a statement (utterance) of the set of researcher's personal notions. An important role in this process belongs to attitudes of suggested subjective opinion, presence of probabilistic provisions that is implemented at the discourse level by means of a wide range of linguistic units and constructs. Thus, analysis of the subjective anthropocentric component in a language and text is directly relating to the issues of correlation of the global concepts 'subject' and 'sense', 'self' and 'non-sel', 'sentence' and 'utterance (statement)', 'though', 'opinion'.

Key words: Subject, meaning, text, point of view, particles, speaker, addressee, human factor

INTRODUCTION

Investigation of the issue of sense is not possible without referring to the core issues of linguistics including the term 'subject' that is the key one directly related to the sphere of anthropocentrism. In this regard, the process of perception of self as a subject of the universe and implementation of the concept of subjectivity in the language and text are of interest.

It seems to us that this process is imprinted already in the initial syncretic semantics of the stem *man, *mon, *men, representing the development of the world-view within the anthropocentrism context which expressed itself in the Slavic (and not only Slavic) nomination of a human (man) (Trubachyov, 1959). To this end nomination is the 'result and consequence of predicative processes and the basis for reproduction thereof' and 'etymology of any nominative unit is reconstruction of the preceding predicative process' (Kurdyumov, 1999).

Since, the process of cognition suggests ambiguity of reasoning the attitudes of subjectivity of opinion, presence of probabilistic provisions that is implemented

at the discourse level by means of a wide range of linguistic units and constructs play the key role in this process.

RESEARCH METHODS

For consequent reasoning of the hypothesis suggested the two methodological approaches were used: linguo-culturological and discursive ones. The first one allows identifying the mental attitudes relating to the concept of the cognizing/conscious subject in the language and the second one identifying the peculiarities of implementation of this concept at the functional and communicative levels.

MAIN PART

Memory of a subject appears as 'information repository' (cf.: keep in memory; memorandum: 'code of norms, regulations and rules or a book containing the code of such rules') and the 'collective mind' of the ethnic group, hence of a particular individual, subject as a representative of an ethnic community.

Already in the mythological view of the world memory was conceptualized as the envelope of mind as evidence by the word-forming structure of the lexeme incorporating the mentioned stem and the prefix *pass* meaning 'above' (cf. *flood: high water, flood*). Thus, a human becomes a personality, subject, *Homo sapiens* during the process of socialization and remembering, i.e., during the process of absorption and further use of the relevant information.

One of the communicative-pragmatic indicators (Lakoff, 1972) revealing the factor of a personality at the linguistic level is representation in an utterance of the subjective researcher's probabilistic-personal senses assumption, doubt, lack of confidence, simulacrum and others actualizing the 'point of view', the speaker's position as to reliability of the message. These senses are the productive instruments of representation of the human factor in the language and speech. The specified issue becomes especially topical with regard to the auxiliary parts of speech particles as the latter combine such parameters as structural optionality but semantic significance in terms of the process of the speech impact on the addressee (Nagornyy, 2000).

The modal particles hardly, unlikely as if (as though), certainly, definitely, likely, perhaps, really, like, they say are the demanded word class in the communicative process. Being grammatically auxiliary, the specified articles are quite productive in the everyday speech by the frequency of use. The latter is preconditioned, in particular, by the fact that the modal particles are the elements revealing the image of the speaking subject whether in terms of extension or localization of the subjective perspective by explication of position of the subject's modus. Actualization of the modus zone appears to be peculiar to sentences containing particles. The fact of inclusion in the structure of the sentence of the modal particle verbalizer of the researcher's 'opinion' is indicative of the presence of the presence of the modus subject, the subject qualifying an event, stating his own opinion of the event: you kind of have already told me about that (V. Shishkov); suddenly from the inquiries of the nurse that shook her head he realized that he will hardly escape the trouble and stay alive II (Pasternak); Why not?... Oh really? (V. Shukshin).

The possibility of presence in any speech formation of the speaker's zone, the modus subject is preconditioned by the fact that the communication relations incorporating a sentence are always established by the speaker, the author of the message. At that the subject of the speaker's zone lays beyond other subjects representing the autonomous modus core: but I've seen Frosya today! the telegraph clerk said. Did she get sick indeed? (A. Platonov); Do you mean him? the old man started talking.

O-o-oh! He knows the thing! (G. Uspensky); she must have already prepared the fiancé (A. Averchenko). Thus, the modal particles in the semantic structure of a sentence shall be characterized as means of explication of the position and, therefore, the 'fact of the speaker's presence'. A modal particle is means of expression of the researcher's 'ego'. This is the implicit expression of the researcher's position 'I think that', stating of the modus subject and indicator of the subjective connotation of a sentence. On the one hand, modal particles are agents of actualization of the modus qualifying connotations, formal indicators of the researcher's opinion with respect to qualified event, the elements revealing the speaker's position and pointing at the authorship of the modal qualification performed by the subject. On the other hand, the particles are the indicators of non-categoricity of the speaker's opinion, veiled researcher's 'ego'. These speech tools with the use of which a speaker expresses his own opinion while granting to the companion the right to make his own decision, to agree or disagree with the researcher's view of the event: There is hardly anything worthier than striving for improving the own spirit (O. Gonchar); everything must have proceeded in a novel way, not in the way it has been (A. Chekhov); there you go, Dick said, I must have taped you up quite fairly (K. Bulychev).

The authorship of the event qualification proposed to the addressee serves as the basis for the modal particles to always refer to the ego of the modus subject. They cannot refer to you of the conversation partner or to him of a detached person except for reference to someone else's opinion. Any attempt to introduce a modal particle in the semantic space of the mentioned persons in one way or other matches these notional essences to the subjective modus sphere of the speakers. This is determined by the fact that the latter fulfills the epistemic obligations to the addressee, bears his apportionment of liability for the truth/falsity of the information material.

Modal particles are the frame elements of a statement. The I-modus frame introduced in a sentence through a modal particle is a reduced modus frame (cf.: I doubt I will go there it is unlikely that I will go there). The presence of this very form of revealing by the speaker of the own position towards the object of the modal qualification is quite explainable. Collapsing of a modus frame is primarily determined by the sphere of operation of the sentences under consideration. In most cases, this is the sphere of the spoken colloquial speech, active dialogue, where a collapsed frame acts as the compact medium of learning the speaker's position: having kept silent for a while the man asked: Well, let it be, ok? (V. Sleptsov); it must be

cold in a single caftan? Kuzma asked loudly (I. Bunin). Secondly (and this is also the process that is peculiar to sentences with modal particles), collapsing of the modus frame works for dialogization of a monologue which ensures the polyphony of a text. One of the key tasks of introduction by the speaker of the collapsed I-modus frame consists in removing at the subjective level of the definite opposition between dictum and modus that takes place within an extended frame. By doing that a speaker changes the ratio of the dictum to modus layers of sense in favor of the modus, researcher's, qualifying meaning. In sentences with modal particles dictum shifts towards modus, starts serving the modus needs: I don't know how I should judge by your words: does it mean you are a help-mate or seducer yourself? (A. Griboyedov); to tell the truth, it is unlikely that anyone will stop over there (N. Gogol); I dare to say he will not come here anymore, the neighbor was in agony of doubt (Y. Tupitsin).

CONCLUSION

Since, the process of cognition suggests ambiguity of reasoning the attitudes of subjectivity of opinion, presence of probabilistic provisions that is implemented at the discourse level by means of a wide range of linguistic units and constructs.

In this regard, modal particles may be recognized to be the means of development of the subjective perspective of a sentence. Being the signs pointing at the fact of presence of the sphere of the modus subject in the sentence the speaker they promote to removal of the definite opposition in expressing the dictum and modus layers of the sentence meaning.

Like other auxiliary signs, modal particles are not the pattern elements of a sentence. However, the structural optionality of a particle does not constitute the obstacle for its fully-functioning as a communication oriented sign. In this regard modal particles may be characterized as functional elements with the use of which a speaker matches his statement to the communicative situation within the coordinates of the present. Not being the elements forming the sentence proposition, these particles actively participate in specifying, servicing the semantic structure of a sentence as the result of which they quite significantly transform the general semantic field of the sentence through modus characteristics while

acting as the functionally obligatory and communicative-pragmatically-oriented elements. In sentences containing modal particles the presupposition is always actualized (Cooper, 1974; Kiefer, 1977; Katz, 1979), the objective-dictum and subjective-modus layers of meaning are approximated to each other, represent synthesis of two unities. By means of a particle dictum is 'attracted' to modus is used for the modus needs as the result of which the subjective meanings are integrated in dictum making its semantic structure more complicated. Particles as elements of modus transform the semantic fields of the proposition-relevant elements predicate, actants, circumstances.

Therefore, analysis of the subjective anthropocentric component in a language and text is directly relating to the issues of correlation of the global concepts 'subject' and 'sense', 'self' and 'non-self', 'sentence' and 'utterance (statement)', 'thought', 'opinion'.

At that one of the ways of manifestation of the subjective factor in a language is representation in an utterance of the subjective-researcher's probabilistic personal senses assumption, doubt, lack of confidence, simulacrum and others actualizing the 'point of view', the speaker's position as to reliability of the message. These senses are the productive instruments of representation of the human factor in the language and speech.

REFERENCES

- Cooper, D., 1974. Presupposition. Mouton, The Hague-Paris, France, Pages: 230.
- Katz, J.J., 1979. A solution to the projection problem for presupposition. *Syntax Semant.*, 1: 91-154.
- Kiefer, F., 1977. Two recent studies on presupposition. *Lingua*, 43: 247-271.
- Kurdyumov, V.A., 1999. Predication and the Nature of Communication. Nauka, Moscow, Russia, Pages: 9.
- Lakoff, G., 1972. The pragmatics of modality. *CLS.*, 8: 229-246.
- Nagorny, I.A., 2000. Predicative Function of Modal Particle Persuasiveness. Izdatelstvo BGPU, Barnaul, Russia, Pages: 314.
- Trubachyov, O.N., 1959. Terms of Consanguinity: The History of the Slavic Terms and Some of the Oldest Terminals of the Social System. Izdatelstvo AN SSSR, Moscow, Russia, Pages: 190.