Typological Properties of the Categories of Aspect and Time of the Predicate as an Indicator of Implicit Coherence of Sentences in a Monologic Text

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ABSTRACT
The article deals with the interaction and functioning of predicates of various aspectual-temporal forms in a complex syntactic whole from the standpoint of logical-semantic relations. This approach accounts for the mechanisms and principles of one of the forms of the structural organization of a monologic text in the modern Russian language and leads to understanding the implicit combination of sentences into a modus-dictum unity. The issue of coherence of a monologic text is considered in the aspect of the real existence of a particular aspectual-temporal complex, in which the variable ratio of the forms of verbal predicates conveys the sequence and set of actions or events. The formation of the structural linearity of the utterance by changing the grammatical forms of the word provides the communicative and pragmatic integrity of the text. The results of this research will be effective in the field of linguistics and especially English language teaching.

Keywords: Syntactic links, predicativity, aspectual-temporal relations, complex syntactic whole, coherence, denotatum, English language.

1. Introduction
In a text, syntactic links are manifested as a concentrated expression of logical-semantic and communicative relations between independently formed sentences. The semantic structure of a text is a system that unites different structural units based on a common denotatum. The semantic block of sentences has an aggregate set of structural properties, the main of which is the linear nature of the sequence of sentences [1, p.128]. The integrity and coherence of sentences in a monologic text is manifested taking into account the logical component of communication based on a generalized concept as a general text category that integrates individual sentences into a single whole.

2. Methods and Materials of Research
The study of the material is carried out taking into account the method of cognitive-discourse analysis, the use of which makes it possible to reveal the nature of the interaction of structural units in a coherent monologue text, which allows it to determine the features of the implicitly and explicitly presented types of communication and coherence. The material for the research was the texts of Russian classical prose of the 19th-21st centuries.

3. The Main Part
Independently formed sentences in a complex syntactic whole (CSW) as the main unit of a text are subordinated to a common communicative task. Their role is manifested only during unfolding of the text, and the intensity of their interconnection can reach varying degrees; the very connection of sentences can be of a different implicit or explicit character.
According to W.O. Hendrix, the components of CSW, which depend on the previous sentences, in some way are able to convey information about these sentences [2, p.175].

The structural order of sentences that reflects their logical sequence is one of the important indicators of the connection of sentences, because "without repeating the elements of form and meaning, the text as a linguistic unit is impossible" [3, p.189].

In the grammar works of the late twentieth century, linguists shifted the focus of their interest to the study of the logical principles of text organization and the natural language means for their implementation.

From this point of view, it is interesting to study the text-forming role of the species-temporal functions of predicates in juxtaposed sentences of CSW. Any predicate in the structure of a sentence can compositionally "cement" the entire CSW. The in-depth mechanisms of text coherence and integrity can not only be based on the establishment of interphrasal connections using lexical and grammatical "links" and repetitions, but also use implicit text-forming means, such as the temporal forms of predicate verbs. In this case, the modus-dictum unity of a text "is a productive universal feature" [4, p.144].

Modus manifests itself as a property of the grammatical structure of a text and from the point of view of the compositional and organizing role.

In a prose text, the unity of dictum is manifested in the event line of a narrative, which is realized primarily in an aspectual-temporal predicative set. A narrative as a type of communication is based primarily on a particular aspectual-temporal complex, in which the ratio of the forms of verbal predicates conveys a sequence of actions or events.

The grammatical forms of words participating in the expression of the connection between the individual components of dictum and modus characteristics of CSW also have a super-segmental role: they provide the unity of dictum and modus, form the structure of linearity providing the semantic and aesthetic integrity of the text [5, p.38]. Alongside this syntagmatic unity, they also form a paradigmatic unity that is manifested in the generality of the principles of using linguistic means and in the communicative-pragmatic expediency of the methods of their combination. Thus, the syntagmatics of linked predicative centers becomes paradigmatic.

The CSW paradigm based on the aspectual-temporal relations of the components is a type of syntactic paradigm built through the predicative local functions of the connecting components. It is built directly on the nuclear maxim of the basis and is an integral part of all its possible modifications, both predicative and constructive that taking into account the subsequent development of the logical-semantic action.

The study of the paradigmatic properties of sentences combined into a single functional and semantic whole makes it possible to determine two main functions that have different syntactic content.

The first function is constructive, which is associated with the unfolding of sentences into a significant syntagmatic text unit that implements the subject sequential or parallel connection of sentences [6, p.18].

The second function is associated with the implementation of predicative and local links proper in CSW, which are conditioned by the reflection in each specific sentence of the objective, modal, temporal particular situation of reality.

The display of a categorical set of predicative meanings is mandatory for any CSW sentence, regardless of the degree of its complexity and other structural properties. This is due to the very communicative nature of CSW components, which should express a mandatory predicative assessment of the reflected reality.

At the level of functioning in the structure of the text, the categorical meanings of the grammatical forms of predicates have a special concentration forming a single structure due to the influence of the context and aspectual-temporal localization.

In CSW, independently formed sentences can formally be auto-semantic in structural-syntactic links.

This is a parallel connection with a particular order of CSW components. Taking into account the logical-semantic relations, it is possible to talk about the unifying role of structurally important correlative predicate verbs, which determine the aspectual-temporal relationship between adjacent sentences. The aspectual-temporal verbal correlation determines the local dependence of the aspectual-temporal meaning of each subsequent verb on the previous one. Such a correlation creates the unity of the modal-temporal plan in the structure of CSW. It also expresses the temporal relations of the sequence or simultaneity of the flow of a text event.

The dynamics or static nature of movement in CSW depends primarily on the choice of the form of predicate verbs. From the point of view of means of communication, verbs formally connect sentences into a single whole, since they designate one time and combine events into a common time plan. Sequence verbs capture this in specific grammatical forms. They denote the logical sequence of CSW components one after another. Thus, a more distant perspective is determined, uniting sentences through event factors.

Imperfective verbs, as a rule, denote actions that occur at the same time with one person or several persons. For instance:
On the sofa, under the clock, lay the motionless figure of Alexei Turbin wearing someone else’s black coat with a torn lining and trousers. His face had a bluish palor (M. Bulgakov).

Nikolka dropped the blue letter; he was sitting in the dining room. Elena was fussing around him, her dressing-gown untied and showing her black stockings and lace-trimmed underwear (M. Bulgakov).

The simultaneity of events can be recorded with imperfect verbs when describing static actions associated not with a person, but with some object or phenomenon:

_Dawn shone in the east, and the golden rows of clouds seemed to await the sun, as courtiers await a sovereign_ (A.S. Pushkin).

_It rained all day and night. Drops incessantly knocked on the roof, and water gushed under the window flowing down the gutter into a tub_ (M. Bulgakov).

The event in these examples seems to be frozen and predetermined by the given moment of what is happening. The use of past tense verbs in such structures indicates that events are separated from the present moment.

The group of action verbs of movement, which are associated with the subject, possesses special properties; these verbs are replaced in the descriptive text by locative verbs with the meaning of perception. In this case, the appearance or disappearance of objects in the subject’s field of vision is noted, and alongside other verbs of action, they serve as a means of promoting information and lexicogrammatical connection of sentences in CSW [7, p.40].

Movement verbs can indicate that the action is static, it seems to have frozen at a certain point in time. In this case, such verbs have a combination of the following features:

1) Single- and multi-focused action;
2) Multiplicity and non-multiplicity;
3) Certainty and uncertainty.

We consider movement verbs as verbs denoting the movement of the denotatum in space in a specific and indefinite direction that form a single logical chain with an expanded designation of a specific temporal situation [8, p.38]:

_A rather dense fog enveloped everything below the summit. In the east, from where the sun was supposed to appear and cleanse everyone from sins, a dense cloud slowly moved in_ (L. Ulitskaya).

Imperfective verbs of present tenses connect sentences on the basis of a single logical aspectual-temporal narrative line – “here and now” which actualizes event information in one form or another in each specific case

_There is a ringing silence on the street. Dull stars faintly twinkle in the dark sky, and the young moon sparkles among them like a sickle_ (L. Bunin).

_As we stare at the sign, the music stops. People leave the establishment, and we enter. We sit down in the vacated seats, order a local drink and sit quietly enjoying_ (L. Ulitskaya).

_And Pelageya Ivanovna is already shaking the baby and patting him. Aksinya rattles with buckets, pouring water into the basins. The baby is immersed in cold or hot water. He is silent, and his head is lifeless, as if on a thread, dangling from side to side_ (M. Bulgakov).

The forms of the imperfective predicates of present tenses can denote not the time of an individual action, but the time of some indefinite present. The categorical meaning of this form is indefinite, non-rigid, and vague.

_On holidays I go outside and see crowds of dressed-up people. Red headaddresses flicker, lively girls in sundresses crowd. Guys come in their beautiful and rough, savage costumes_ (L. Bunin).

The typology of the coherence of sentences in this case is manifested in the fact that information is promoted not by events following each other, but by states of objects that smoothly flow into one another. The intersection of imperfective predicates of present tenses with different semantics indicates the expansion of the axis of simultaneity with a distraction from a specific process or state. This gives each predicate the meaning of timelessness, leads away from the present actual through the usual into a timeless state.

The implicit connection of sentences, correlated by the aspectual-temporal forms of predicate verbs, can be based on a generalizing concept – denotatum. In this case, subject-content connection arises between the components of CSW with a detailed designation of the situation. The first auto-semantic sentence of CSW fulfills the generalizing function as a kind of concept that implies the further advancement of information, which will complete the formation of the semantic field of the entire context. The meaning of the textual expectation is contained in the predicate verb of such a sentence:

_The sun is rising. Everything suddenly flares up, lights up with the yellow candle flame of the pine. Everything sparkles with festive light, glitters, and such beauty begins which can be found only in childhood or in a dream_ (L. Ulitskaya).

Predicativity is a multidimensional category that is correlated in various functional aspects: significative, logical, dictum and modus. Aspectual-temporal forms of predicate verbs are means of expanding the modus perspective of the utterance. Actualization categories of modus express the relationship of the message to reality from the point of view of modality, temporal and spatial localization. Grammatically speaking, predicativity
predetermines the relationship between reality and the content of the abstract model of CSW. The logical and grammatical aspects of predicativity are based on the unity of denotative and significative meanings, correlating the statement with reality.

The aspectual-temporal characteristics of predicativity are associated with the system of events presented in the text in terms of the speed of their course, the ways of their perception.

The order of linear sequence of sentences in the structure of the text can be perceived as a dynamic change from one event to another. In this case, the predicates are expressed in the forms of perfective past tenses verbs. The unity of space and time is characterized by the dynamics of movement, and therefore the spatial parameters can be transferred to the time sphere through the idea of movement [9, p.77]. In the Russian language, it is the verbs with the semantics of motion that switch from spatial to temporal code. For instance:

Turbin was marking time. Malyshov took out a cigarette case and offered a cigarette: Turbin struck a match in response. Two red stars lit up. It immediately became clear that it had darkened significantly (M. Bulgakov).

Footsteps were heard in the yard. Sounds came from the side of the billiard room. Then they subsided. The old man’s heart stopped for a second, then started beating rapidly alternating with the steps (M. Bulgakov).

In a linearly arranged sentences of CSW, we observe a rapid change of events, which is caused by the perfective predicates, and the sequence of actions-events develops only progressively. The dynamics in the development of events is associated with the completeness of one event in relation to another: the sentences in CSW are situationally and temporally dependent. For instance:

She arrived at an old apartment. Dusya opened the door. Then a little white boy looked out, completely unlike the women of this unfortunate family. Dusin’s husband, Sasha, a big, bearded man with a clear smile, looked out from the small room (L. Ulitskaya).

As soon as Vladimir left the outskirts for the field, the wind rose and there was such a blizzard that he could not see anything. The snow covered the road within a minute. The surroundings disappeared into a muddy and yellowish haze through which white flakes of snow flew. The sky merged with the earth (A.S. Pushkin).

The typological properties of the aspectual-temporal forms of predicate verbs as implicit means of communication between the components of CSW are determined by their structural location on the temporal axis of the text and are associated with dictum and modus semantics ensuring the unity of time. Past tenses verb forms are able to unfold without the narrator. This is transformed into an event scheme, when in the first sentence of CSW the predicate is expressed through imperfective past tenses forms, and the joined sentences contain perfective past tenses verb forms. In this case, a space-time perspective is created in the narrative: a static situation turns into a dynamic one [10, p.171]. Taxis temporal links direct judgment to the prospective comprehension of true information by the subject, which is interpreted as permissible, since now the action is not real, as it goes beyond the framework of the “here and now” scheme.

If, in all constructions, predicate verbs are expressed in perfective past tenses forms, then the action can be focused at one point, denoting the simultaneity of events or states [11].

Dusk filled the room. Elena’s head lit up in it. In response, a whitish spot appeared on the pillow—Turbin’s face and neck. The wire from the plug slid like a snake to the chair (M. Bulgakov).

4. Summary

In the investigated constructions, moving forward is not traced; predicates as explicators of modus fix the linear extent being a motivational base for it. The time of events is focused on this particular moment.

5. Conclusion

Thus, we can state that the aspectual-temporal system of the Russian verb is to a large extent subordinated to the regularities of the linear arrangement of predicate forms in CSW components and the “axial” correlation of chronological, perceptual and eventual time. The peculiarities of the time plan for modern Russian grammar include, first of all, the ratio of conditions, the essence of the actual and the usual, the significative and the interpretive, which are due to the linear aspects of the organization of text time.

Conflict of Interest

The authors confirm that the data do not contain any conflict of interest.
References


