

Cognitive-pragmatic problems of the text

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Abstract:

The article deals with cognitive-pragmatic problems of the text. Namely, it considers the facts of evaluation the information acquired from the text by the listener, investigating it from the semantic viewpoint, as well as pragmatic features of the text and pragmatic features of the author. Moreover, pragmatic condition in forming of the paragraph as well as speech acts have also been discussed.

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Introduction

It is known, that the questions of text linguistics are becoming vital ones. It is closely connected with the problem of shifting units from the language system to the speech, and real usage in the practice. It should also be noted, that there are some aspects of pragmatic signs of the text, which have not been completely and fully revealed yet. Precisely, we can witness that there is not mutual understanding in terms of the notion “pragmatics”. However, all the ideas root to one basis. Namely, pragmatics is such an aspect of language study that uncovers and investigates the relations of delivering, receiving, understanding of language units by people. It is directly connected with the evaluation of information acquired from the text and investigating it from the semantic viewpoint¹. In other words, pragmatics being a new theoretical and practical branch of linguistics is a speech process which integrates social activity of human beings, and studies a wide range of issues connected with communicative aim appearing with the influence peculiar to speech participants².

¹ Govorova V.F. Pragmatische funktsiya nauchnogo teksta (Pragmatical function of scientific text) //Actual problems of pragmalinguistics in the context of intercultural communication: Materials of General Russian scientific conference, December 7-8, 2006. Tolyatti: TSU

² Khakimov M.Kh. O'zbek tilida matnning pragmatik talqini (Pragmatic interpretation of the text in Uzbek) // Abstract of doctoral dissertation. – Tashkent, 2001, P.9



The majority of linguists considers pragmatics above the linguistic level. According to them, if the language is a whole system, then pragmatics studies the realization of this system. Semantic meanings are investigated here from the viewpoint of certain speech condition³.

It is necessary to know about the pragmatic indicators in identifying the process of text formation. Here it should be underlined, that first of all, pragmatic features of the text should be distinguished from the pragmatic features of the author. The text possesses its own formative regularities as a speech unit based on a particular aim. It is formed under the influence of condition directed on particular aim together with the imagination of the author.

First one appears in the text itself, i.e. in its type, genre, in the problems that it tackles. The second is fully connected with the author's beliefs. Since any kind of message does not include just information, but the attitude of the author to this information as well. Because the next one is connected with the interpretational side of the text, it is essential in creating pragmatic conditions.

We noted above that the pragmatic condition of text is formed by the text itself, its type, genre, etc. For instance, the author starting to write a course book knows in

³ Aleksandrova O.V. Yedinstvo pragmatiki i lingvopoetiki v izuchenii teksta xudozhestvennoy literatury (Integration (unity) of pragmatics and linguapoetics in studies fiction texts) // Issues of semantics and pragmatics: collection of scientific works / Kalilingrad University. Kaliningrad, 1996. P. 3-7



advance about the volume of the book, about the tasks and problems to be solved, and finally about the content of the text as well as the methodological ways for the conveyance of the materials. Therefore, any text possesses its pragmatic characteristics. These features express the form of the text, its style and so on. However, the author being a definite subject introduces his own personal alterations based on the general rules of text formation. By this, he/she creates his/her own personal that is author's pragmatic imagination.

Both these characteristics can harmonize by conditioning each other, but on some reasons can appear separately and can even oppose each other. Besides, the author can choose the genre of the text as he/she wishes according to his/her personal interests. For instance, while Oybek prefers works of huge volume, big novels, A. Qahhor presents himself primarily as a story writer. After having chosen particular genre, the author works on the basis of its laws. However, the writer can violate these rules according to his own feelings while describing the text content.

The above mentioned condition of course appears in literary texts. In scientific literature, in the texts of official style we do not come across such pragmatic situations. In general, the more standard the text is, the more it follows certain rules; at such times the author's personal pragmatic indicators appear at the low level. And on the contrary,



the higher the artistry in the text, the higher will be the pragmatic attributes of the writer.

It should be noted, that these two types of pragmatic characteristics can be observed in the formation of paragraph, which considers to be the constituent part of the macrotexts such as a piece of work, a chapter or a section. For instance, paragraph, being a part of the text, which is completed and expresses certain topic, is semantically and structurally whole speech unit⁴. However, according to the author's desire, his emotional-emphatic condition one paragraph can be divided into several parts, and vice versa due to the same reasons the writer can combine several sentences into one paragraph. So, the paragraph is a subjective division of the text depending on the pragmatic imagination of the speaker⁵. Thus, in covering one topic a text strictly follows compositional sequence, while the author ignoring them tries to increase the impressiveness of the text based on his own vision.

Hence, in the result of the influence above noted two types of pragmatic characteristics on each other, two kinds of division appears in the text: objective division (here it deals with the structurally correct formation of the text) and subjective

⁴ See: Referovskaya Ye. A. Kommunikativnaya struktura teksta (Communicative structure of the text). – L., 1989. – P. 50-52

⁵ See: Levkovskaya N.A. V chem razlicheye mezhdru sverhfrazovym yedinstvom i abzatsem? (What is the difference between the superphrasing unit and paragraph?)/ Philological sciences, 1980, No1. – P. 75



division, which deforms this structure in a particular way increasing logical structure of the text in order to create expressive and stylistic colouring⁶. In the second case pragmatic formation of the text and the author's vision falls apart as the writer utilizes this style intentionally in order to increase the effect on the reader. This condition of course has its consequences on the division of the paragraphs in the text, as the division of the text into paragraphs solely depends on the author's vision.

When we speak about the pragmatics, first of all it should be reflected about the speech acts. Speech acts are realized by linguistic and extralinguistic means. Most scholars claim that speech acts are formed by three stage locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts.

A locutionary act means sending any information by the speaker and receiving this information by the listener.

An il locutionary act expresses communicative aim of the speaker.

A perlocutionary act ensures the result of speech process. It can be seen, that these acts can be as active in the oral speech (between the speaker and listener), so they can be active in written speech (between the author and the reader).

⁶ See: Levkovskaya N.A. O pragmaticheskoy ustanovke teksta i avtora teksta (On pragmatic (arrangement, setting) of the text and its author) / V chem razlichiye mezhdru sverkhfrazovym yedinstvom i abzatsem? (What is the difference between the superphrasing unit and paragraph?)/ Philological sciences, 1980, No1



It should be pointed out that studying pragmatic signs of the text plays an important role in textual study, as the information presumed by the author can not always be in the verbal form. Listener should notice from the content of the text its inner aim, which is not plainly revealed by the speaker. It makes responsible both sides as the speaker, so the listener (in written speech the author and the reader).

At the same time with above mentioned ideas, it should be noted that the reader or the listener should be aware of the peculiarities of the language in order to understand those subtle features. In other words, this process is also connected with mentality. For instance, if the author uses the expression “*Borakallo*” (Well done) in the text, the Uzbek people may easily understand that this word belongs to an elderly male. Nevertheless, people of other nations may not easily notice this subtle meaning⁷.

It should be mentioned, that pragmalinguistics is closely connected with cognitive linguistic, whose linguistic investigations focus on the human image. The focus of spotlight of both of them are the communicative situations with human participation. In such circumstances a human being is represented as a subject of real speech, object

⁷ Khakimov M.Kh. O'zbek tilida matnning pragmatik talqini (Pragmatic interpretation of the text in Uzbek) // Abstract of doctoral dissertation. – Tashkent, 2001, P.31



of inner speech or the character of literary text. In other words, the subject of cognitive linguapragmatic studies is closely connected with the human activity.

Nowadays the second decade of Saussure dichotomy is being investigated by the world scholars from the actions viewpoint that he created. This action means the relationship between the sender and receiver of the information. This relation creates illocution by itself. This viewpoint belongs to J. Ostin, whose bases form speech acts - speech quants united on the basis of one general aim. According to him, the minimal unit of discursive activity is formed by actions, such certain acts as apology, congratulation, interrogation, order, description, thanking not by sentences or any other units. Thus, the investigating object of speech acts can be connected with one whole text. As we mentioned above, J. Ostin understands “Illocutive aim” as ideas conveyed through the language by the author of the text. And the essence of the communication process forms the correct understanding of the aim of information sender. It should also be noted, that linguists introduced the notion of “successful illocutionary act” in order to define the degree of understanding of conveyed information. By this notion a reader can understand the meaning outside the verbal content of the text. In this case linguacognitivity comes into existence at such times. Because such implicit ideas are formed in inner, root structures and can be observed



in neither language signs or speech signs. We can see evidence supporting our ideas in following example:

When Oftoboyim heard the news about returning, she wanted first see her daughter, as she knew that her daughter had more power to decide than her husband. After hearing that news from Khasanali she directly entered Kumush's chamber:

- Kumush, - she said with a slight smile on her lips, - we're returning, as your father says.

Kumush was sewing something in her hands and without taking her eyes off her work she replied:

- If you're returning, good-bye then (A. Qodiriy, O'tkan kunlar (Days gone))

In the given example it is obvious that in Kumush's speech we can not evidently see the content "I'll stay, you may go". We understand this idea from the content of the text itself.

According to N. Chomsky, grammar basically is formed in the speech activity of the speaker. The listener becomes passive in this process⁸.

⁸ See: Chomskiy N. Sintaksicheskiye struktury (Syntactical structures), - M., 1976. – P. 455.



Opinions of A. G'ulomov and M. Asqarova also supplement to Chomsky's ideas. They state that the sentence is a formative and expressive object, which depends on the speaker in the first place⁹.

We reckon that the opinion about the passive state of the listener requires clarification, as any text is considered to be grammatically and semantically correct and if it supplements each other it becomes harmonious¹⁰. Nevertheless, this harmony is not enough on certain degree to convey the idea of the author. Since to understand the true purpose of the author, that is what he is intended to say, according to T.A. Bushuy, the general knowledge of the reader should pragmatically coincide with the author's one. Otherwise "successful illocutionary act" which was mentioned above will not take place.

M. Abdurazzoqov has similar opinion. The scholar states that the speaker utilizes syntactic constructions used in his speech according to illocutionary plan and this illocutionary plan influences the listener¹¹. At the same time illocutionary plan depends on the speaker's purpose, and the perlocutionary plan depends on the influence

⁹ See: G'ulomov A., Asqarova M. Hozirgi o'zbek adabiy tili (Contemporary Uzbek literary language). – Tashkent, 1987. – P. 28.

¹⁰ See: Bushuy T.A. Yazyk v istorii razvitiya chelovecheskoy mysli (Language in the history of the human thought(ideas) development). – Tashkent, 2011. – P. 194-195.

¹¹ See: Abdurazzoqov M.A. Semanticheskaya struktura vyskazyvaniya (semanticheskiye tipy sub'yektiv i predikatov) /Semantic structure of the utterance (semantic types of the subjects and predicates) / Abstract of doctoral dissertation. – M., 1985.- P.24



observed in the listener. But in all cases the influence of the speech situation is important.

According to N.K.Turniyazov, cognitive-pragmatic features of the text are closely connected with its derivational peculiarities. The scholar's opinion is relevant here. As any derivational operation occurs on the situational level, so the human factor plays significant role in such situations, as he is considered to be the active participant of speech act (discourse). Therefore, introduction of particular derivative in the usage always happens with the desire of the speaker. But we can not say that the speaker uses ready-made syntactical constructions. Because there are no ready-made syntactical constructions in speech. Speaker himself creates syntactical constructions in the speech process. These constructions can be in the form of derivatives.

Speech act plays an essential role in the formation of derivative constructions and speech act itself as was mentioned above is connected with speech situation. The speaker chooses derivatives in the process of usage, which formed or can be formed in the connection with the situation. Not only syntactic, but semantic factors are also taken into consideration while choosing derivative. Of course, it has its own reasons, as the derivative is composed of words. And the words at the same time have both content value and as form value.



According to L. Tesnière, we can theoretically consider about sizable differences in structural-syntactic and semantic plans. In practice, however, they mingle with each other¹². Practical appliance of syntactic structures is connected with logical factors from one side, and psychological factors from the other side. Both of these factors occur first of all in the result of human factor influence. Therefore, human factor is considered to be one of the main components of derivational process. It is considered to be (main) pragmatic factor after the derivational operator in the formation of the sentence or the text. Human beings convey their attitude to each of the language combinations connected with each other in the structure of the derivative. And this relation assumes the most important pragmatic operation.

“In order to turn the notion into the part of the sentence, first of all it should acquire an actual condition. It means to equal it to the speaker’s real vision. Because the notion being the product of the thought, it exists in an abstract way”, wrote Ch. Bally¹³. It can be seen, that real fragments of syntactical derivation theory can be observed both in L. Tesnière and in Ch. Bally, although they did not use the term “derivation”. For instance, we can see that L. Tesnière gave precious information about the formation of

¹² See: Tesnière L. *Osnovy strukturnogo sintaksisa (Elements of structural syntax)*. – M., 1988. - P. 58-59

¹³ Bally Ch. *Obschaya lingvistika i voprosy frantsuzskogo yazyka (General linguistics and French language)*. – M., 1955. – P. 335



simple sentence patterns. In his opinion, widening of the simple sentence can be explained by junction and formation of compound sentence by transmission¹⁴.

As we can witness, it is paid great attention to the interpretational problems of text derivation by cognitive-pragmatic theories. It has its own reasons, of course. If human factor has a pragmatic significance, then knowledge in his mind has cognitive importance.

We have seen that the analysis of the language material is closely connected with the concept **situation** both from the cognitive viewpoint and from pragmatic viewpoint, as in syntactic researches under any condition the problem of expression of situation in this or that way plays an important role and it becomes the basic material for our research¹⁵.

For instance, no doubt that language materials are put in order in certain syntactic constructions, which occur in the frame of propositional structure. It is natural that where propositional structure is there is a nonlinguistic situation.

In conclusion we can say, that main component of proposition from predicate and its arguments requires certain lexical-morphological elements. It shows in its turn, that

¹⁴ See: Book mentioned above, P. 335

¹⁵ See: Safonova S.S. K probleme nominatsii v sovremennoy lingvistike (na materiale mestoimyonno-soyuznyh predlozheniy) (To the problem of nomination in contemporary linguistics (on the material of pronoun-conjunction clauses)) // Russian contrastive philology. Research of young scholars of Kazan State University, 2004



in text derivation lexical-morphological means are considered to be the basic materials. These means can also be used repeatedly in the text derivation, as the macrotext consists of derivational relation of two or more clauses. In general, in the process of derivation it is worthwhile to pay attention to the relations not only of the clauses, but of each language unit towards each other¹⁶. It is very essential as the text is the product of connected speech.

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¹⁶ See: Makrousova O.Yu. Nominativnoye predlozheniye kak yedinitsa teksta (Nominal clause as the text unit). Rostov University, 2012. – P. 1. www/science-education/ru/707-77-67



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