Analysis of the Basic Properties of Linguistic Temporality

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Abstract: This study is devoted to revealing the nature of linguistic temporality. The interest in the subject of research is due to the ambiguity of the language phenomenon and the need to identify common characteristics of linguistic temporality as many researchers consider the temporality not as a complete system but as individual lexical, morphological, syntactic indicators. The identified properties of linguistic temporality (the orderliness of time, simultaneity/time difference, one-dimensionality/multi-dimensionality, duration) can serve as a basis for further research, both in lexical and grammatical planes.

Key words: Temporality, orderliness, simultaneity, multi-dimensionality, one-dimensionality, the duration

INTRODUCTION

Linguistics with its vast experience of studying language development and linguistic time has been joining in the general scientific interest in current issues of temporality. This is partly due to the fact that the linguist is "immersed" in the linguistic temporality. The problem of the sequence of tenses is a question of present interest in the grammar of many languages. In recent years, there has increased the interest of linguists to the problems of temporary differences and similarities of form, adverbial modifiers of kindred and unrelated languages, specific ways of reflection and expression of astronomical time in different languages are extensively investigated.

There is every reason to acknowledge the existence of the physical aspects of time within which issues of the objectivity of time, its direction, nature, relations of time and motion, time and existence, time and matter, etc. are observed.

Linguistic time can be defined as a set of modes of expression of philosophical and physical aspects of the category by means of language. Temporality includes lexical, grammatical and contextual time, presenting a combination of ways of expressing the essence of physical and philosophical aspects of the category by means of lexical, grammatical and contextual resources, respectively.

Temporality is viewed in cognitive linguistics (Botne and Kershner, 2008), computational linguistics (Steedman, 2012), comparative linguistics (Khairutdinova, 2006; Magomedova, 2008), discourse. Some researchers take interest in the structure of time (Evans, 2005), the syntax of tense (Giorgi, 2008), deixis (Levinson, 1983, 2004), the interpretation of tense (Smith, 2007), encoding temporality (Uccelli, 2009), the field of taxis (Barentsen and Poupynin, 2006), diachronic research of tenses (Zholobov, 2014), etc. The category of time is morphological and syntactical by nature and it doesn't coincide with the logical-semantic category of temporality in terms of content and expression. The category of temporality includes both grammatical and lexical means of expressing temporal relations and therefore, it is much broader than the category of time.

Comprehensive analysis of linguistic time led to the identification of temporality as a complex semantic category "reflecting the perception and understanding of time of certain events and their elements in relation to the moment of speech" (Bondarko, 1990).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Basic properties of linguistic temporality: The analysis of the relationship between different aspects of time enables us to deal with a variety of linguistic questions of temporality using knowledge of the fields that gave been investigating issues of time.

One of the important issues is the question of the correlation between objective and grammatical time. The traditional view of the correlation of the grammatical category of time and objective time lies in the fact that the speaker determines the temporal relation of speech to the moment of speech. All actions, facts occurring before the moment of speech are expressed by grammatical past tense; all that coincides with the speech in a wide or narrow sense refers to grammatical present tense, everything that happens after the moment of speech is expressed by future tense.

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It should be noted that the subjectivity of the moment of speech consists in the following: it is inconceivable beyond individual acts of communication, that is, each time the speaker determines it in accordance with the reality.

Another matter of concern of linguists is dimensionality of time. One-dimensionality is one of the most obvious characteristics of the physical time: "Real-time in the macrocosm is characterized by two fundamental physical properties: one-dimensionality (linearity) and unidirectionality (irreversibility)" (Yurchenko, 1994), etc.

In linguistics, the majority of scholars are of opposite opinions. According to Turaeva (1979) "grammatical time corresponds to multidimensional conceptual space-time" as we need a few coordinates to characterize grammatical categories expressing the position of the action in time exhaustingly. It is multidimensionality of linguistic time that is able to create a special rhythm supposing acceleration or retardation of events.

The terms one- and multi-dimensionality are closely related to the notions reversibility/irreversibility. Real time is characterized by unidirectionality that is in the objective world time moves from the past to the future.

We support the view of Reichenbach (1962) that time is a more complex element. It can be explained partly by the close relationship of language and human consciousness. In the conception of Reichenbach (1962), there are distinguished three points on the time axis:

- "The moment of speech" (point of Speech (S))
- "The time of the event" (point of Event (E))
- "The relative moment", "point of reference" (point of Reference (R))

Considering the artistic time Turaeva (1979) notes that grammatical time is characterized by reversibility, "the destruction of the time series, mixing the sequence of events described in this case are a usual method of the structural organization of the plot".

The property of reversibility in its turn is closely related to the time orderliness. Analyzing grammatical phenomena, especially associated with the action, scientists deal with this property. The orderliness of time denotes the arrangement of events in a certain linear order which enables to establish relations of priority and posteriority of events to one another. If the processes are reversible, time orderliness is identical to determining its direction.

Within issues of time orderliness linguists take great interest in the questions of simultaneity and diversity.

Simultaneity and diversity (including priority and posteriority) are opposed to each other and here in simultaneity expresses parallelism of actions, diversity shows multi-ordinal actions. Analyzing this issue we deal with the term "deixis".

Different linguists studying the issue present the definition of the phenomenon differently. Time deixis is reference to time relative to a temporal reference point. Typically, this point is the moment of utterance (Levinson, 1983). According to the scientist, the basis for systems of reckoning and measuring time in most languages seem to be the natural and prominent cycles of day and night, lunar months, season and years.

Hurford also states that a deictic word is one which takes some element of its meaning from the situation of the utterance in which it is used (Hurford and Heasly, 1984).

Renkema (1993) stated that time deixis is a reference to time relative to a temporal reference point and it is typically the moment of utterance. Some researchers while speaking of time deixis mention tense system: "almost every sentence makes reference to an event time", "this event time can only be determined in relation to the time of the utterance the choice of verb tense" (Yule, 1996).

According to Huang (2007), time deixis is concerned with the determination of temporal points and periods relative to the time at which utterance is made a speech event.

Deixis is one of the ways of reference by means of which the events are localized with regard to a certain extralinguistic centre of temporal orientation. This centre is referred to as a 'deictic centre' which can shift in a real-life communicative situation implying the absence of unity of the moment of speech and the moment of perception. According to a review of linguistic views on temporality, temporality is a vector category, characterized by a certain direction. The vectorial character of temporality as an actualizing category of orientation type reflects the specific character of temporal deixis (Bondarko, 1990). Temporal deixis is beyond grammatical meaning and is expressed in a grammatical reference point which is contained in verbal tense forms and syntactical constructions with a temporal meaning.

The issue of temporal relations implies mentioning certain types based on features of various aspects. Those which are determined by the nature of temporal deixis hold a higher position in the hierarchy of features. One of the features is absolute/relative temporal orientation.

The difference between the features depends on a temporal deictic center: if it is a moment of speech we speak of absolute time if it is any other moment the time is relative (Bondarko, 1990). Thus, the values of absolute

and relative time are connected with different centers of temporal deixis. One of them (absolute temporal orientation) is the time of the speech of the speaker who delivers the utterance. Another center is a moment expressed by the language means that indicate the initial time schedule in relation to which the action time is determined.

Another important feature is the relevance of orientation at the moment of the speech. Contextually, relevant speech is characterized by a close connection of the content of the utterance with the speech situation. Contextually relevant speech is typical for face-to-face communication. Speech correlation of different time schedules can serve as a means of temporal deixis actualization. Speech is considered to be contextually irrelevant if there is no direct relation of the content of the utterance to the speech situation. The example of contextually relevant speech can be the use of present and past tense forms in narration and present tense forms to state objective laws in scientific works, textbooks.

Temporal relation can also be characterized by definitely or indefinitely fixed features. If a temporal specifier denotes time exactly and precisely the character of temporal orientation is definitely fixed, e.g., I started my course in spring. Otherwise, indefinitely fixed temporal orientation is encountered.

Duration as a property of linguistic time has also been interpreted differently by linguists. Some researchers interpret duration as the quantity of its existence. For instance, Migirin (1973) notes that there don't exist purely temporal concepts and all the words with a temporal value are events that are used as measuring values; thus, time is an order calculation and the measure of processes. The calculation of actions takes the form of disposability, reusability, uncertain repetition and other forms. The measure of the action appears in the form of short duration, duration, etc. Turaeva (1979) states that grammatical forms of time are neutral to expressing qualitative duration of the action being capable of expressing only duration as such; the qualitative aspect of the action is expressed by the lexical system of expressing temporal relations.

Duration can be of different kinds: limited or unlimited (depending on the quantity of time given to the action), extended, close or duration of result preservation (depending on semantics of the limit), discrete or continuous (depending on aspectual differences), etc.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Thus, the analysis of temporality brings us to the following inferences: The criticism against considering time as an external factor in relation to language and the necessity to reveal the nature of linguistic time as an internal factor resulted in defining linguistic time as temporality a complex and multilevel category.

From the point of view of correlation of the grammatical category of time and objective time a speaker determines the temporal relation of the utterance to the moment of speech. Accordingly, the moment of speech is the main reference point as it is always objective, since it reflects reality. The subjectivity of the moment of speech lies in the fact that it is impossible beyond individual acts of communication.

Deixis is the usage of language expressions and other signs that can be interpreted only in relation to physical coordinates of the communicative act its participants, its place and time. In linguistics deixis has traditionally been understood as a function, relating an utterance to the space-time coordinates of the act of the utterance. Deixis is a universal means of language but the types and ways of expressing it in different languages vary greatly.

Linguistic time is complex and multidimensional. The understanding of time as a system is based on three types of relation of the action to the reference point: precedence, simultaneity and posteriority. Linguistic time possesses the property of duration, expressing extension of the action.

CONCLUSION

Based on data analysis, we come to the conclusion that the issues of temporality arouse growing interest. This is due to the expansion of the perspectives of conscious creativity of people with growing opportunities for vigorous activity, participation in the historical process based on knowledge of objective laws of existence.

Temporality is a stream of events in time, a temporal characteristic which enables us to distinguish temporal periods and rhythms. This category promotes the comprehension of the mechanisms of existence of nature and human life, human relationships with the environment.

In modern linguistics, temporality is interpreted in different ways. Firstly, it is an objective-subjective category correlated both with objective and conceptual time. Secondly, temporality is a functional semantic field comprising grammatical, lexical and combined language means used to express the semantic category in question.

Temporality is a variable as depending on the length of the period of time and action intension the speed of the stream of events can accelerate or slow down. Thus,

temporality has units of measurement which are determined by the number of events in specific time intervals.

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