Perfect Future in Russian as Means of Expressing Posteriority

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Abstract. The article is devoted to consider Perfect Future as a tense expressing the category of posteriority. The research is proved to be actual because posteriority meaning is considered to be a systematic meaning of Perfect Future however it is used to represent different types of posteriority in complex sentences. The purpose of the article is to prove that Perfect Future tense realizes different kinds of time posteriority in Russian. During the research, the methods of component, mental-logical analysis and descriptive method were used. The source for the collection and systematization of linguistic material was the «National Corpus of the Russian Language» (http://ruscorpora.ru). The research is carried out in line with those linguistic works where the idea of time reference is developed. The analysis shows that posteriority category is expressed by Perfect Future. As a result of the research, it is proved that Perfect Future without the participation of non-verbal indicators and with the participation of non-verbal indicators expresses the nunc / tunc posteriority values after nunc / tunc reference points, mutual posteriority / anteriority value, tunc posteriority after auxiliary reference point in future or after last moment of the closed interval. Expressing posteriority depends on different contextual conditions. The situation acquires reference status in future when its realization takes place in time. Potential referential status or prospective time reference is inherent to future tenses. A situation conserves its non-referential status until it is realized at a particular moment in future. Potential prospective time reference in future is due to non-verbal concretization. This paper involves the study of expression means of posteriority on morphological level.

Key words: posteriority, aspect, aspect semantics of verbs, future tense, temporal reference.

1. Introduction. Current research of functioning Perfect Future aims to identify peculiarities of its systematic meaning of posteriority. There is an auxiliary reference point relevant to which is determined: nunc posteriority after nunc reference point or speech moment and tunc posteriority after. Time reference and temporality are analyzed in recent studies (see, for example: [Bondarko 2002; Zeldovich 2012; Plungyan 2001; de Velasco, Judith Josefina Hernández G., et al. 2018]). J.L.Bybee,1985 examined aspectual indicators and temporal indicators which may be combined with future tenses [Bybee 1985]. However there are many problems that need further development. The main target of this article is to demonstrate that Perfect Future tense is able to express posteriority. In order to meet this objective the authors have put and revised some problems: to analyze functioning Perfect Future in combination with non-verbal temporal indicators and without of non-verbal temporal indicators, to explain the functioning of Perfect Future in different contexts; to investigate poly and mono predicates complexes including Perfect Future. (Alves, F. R. V. 2018).

R.Declerck distinguishes T-posterior “showing the relation of T-posteriority. Given time A is T-posterior to another time B if the speaker uses a tense to represents A as following B, i. e. as predicted or predictable (but not yet a fact) at time B” and T-posteriority (futurity) “expressed by a tense. T-posteriority represents the situation time as following the situation time of his speaking” [Declerck 2006: 45]. R. Declerck distinguishes five types of time reference: 1) t₀ – zero speech moment, 2) time of the situation, 3) uncertain time of orientation (determined from the context), 4) time of orientation of temporal circumstances, 5) implicit time of orientation, implied by the structure of temporary unions [Declerck 2006: 45]. A.V. Bondarko introduces the concept of a temporary deictic center that relates action time with speech moment or some other point of reference [Bondarko 2002: 478]. V.G. Plungyan insists on distinguishing between prospective category and future time. «Prototypical prospection is an aspectual meaning combined with the indicators of the present and past time» [Plungyan 2011: 386].

2. Materials and methods. The main objective of the article is to determine Perfect Future tense as able to realize posteriority category in Russian. During the research, the methods of component, mental-logical analysis and descriptive method were used. «National Corpus of the Russian Language» (http://ruscorpora.ru/) was used to collect and systematize linguistic material. Total corpus of analyzed examples is six hundred examples.

The reference meaning of posteriority of verbal predicates is determined in relevance to tunc reference point (some moment in future) or nunc reference point (moment now or speech moment). Traditionally, Future tenses have nunc posteriority temporal meaning after speech moment determined as a nunc point but in some contextual conditions Future tenses express tuns posteriority after certain future tuns point.

3. Results. Perfect Future (FP) combines two types of meanings: temporal and aspectual. Nunc posteriority is a basic meaning, a tunc posteriority is a syntagmatic meaning realized in contextual conditions. The quantitative temporal-aspectual value of duration is limited on the time axis by: 1) nunc point (speech moment) is a retrospective limitation; 2) a tunc point is a prospective limitation. According to G.M. Zeldovich, every situation is unique: there is
only one interval, which is mentioned in the situation [Zeldovich 2012: 45]. The qualitative-temporal value of the PF localizes the situation in future. Aspectsual value is determined by perfect aspect. Perfect aspect implies an interval of a situation due to its «integrity» value. According to temporal meaning a situation is localized on the time axis after speech moment or some moment in future.

To investigate posteriority meaning the following algorithm of temporal context analyses was used: 1) to reconstitute the logical chain of events due to extra linguistic information; 2) to pay attention to limit and unlimited semantics of verbs in order to characterize situations as completed or uncompleted during time interval; 3) to find non-verbal means of secondary temporal localization; 4) to compare used tenses values as a means of primary temporal localization, to reconstruct their locations on the time axis; [Lutfullina 2011: 36].

Analysis of the referential potential of Perfect Future in Russian is carried out in two stages:

1. Perfect Future is able to express posteriority in combination with non-verbal time indicators

1.1. Nunc posteriority

(1) – Сейчас я открою вам страшную тайну / Now I will reveal you a terrible secret [D.Shalnov. 10 errors of seduction];

(2) «Сейчас куплю луку... сварю фасолевый суп...» / «I'll buy onions now ... I'll cook the bean soup ...»

(L.Gurchenko. Applause).

(3) – сейчас посплю, соберу вещи и я тебя бросаю?! / Now I will sleep, I will collect things and I will throw you ?! (Woman + man. Psychology of love (forum)).

Verbs of limited semantics открою / will open [(1)], куплю / will buy [(2)] and unlimited semantics посплю / will sleep [(3)] in combination with time indicator now actualizing present moment express nunc posteriority.

1.2. Tunc posteriority

Tunc posteriority after future reference point

(1) Пойдем после завтрака на крокет... / We will go after breakfast to croquet ... (A.Gnedin. Letters);

(2) –Пойдем после ужина / We will go after supper (N.E.Heinze. Daughter of Great Peter);

(3) В лагеря мы пойдем после 1-го мая / We will go to the camps after May 1 ... (A.Gnedin. Letters);

The preposition после / after as a part of time circumstances expresses a certain reference moment in future. The reference moment is represented by meal time после ужина / after supper, после завтрака / after breakfast [(1)], [(2)], by the date после 1-го мая / after May 1 ... [(3)]. Due to non-verbal time indicators predicates in PF tense express tunc posteriority.

Tunc posteriority after limited interval

(1) …уже через 10 суток кожа станет более эластичной! / ... after 10 days your skin will become more elastic! («Dasha», 2004);

(2) 225 млрд долларов составит экономический ущерб от «арабской весны» за период с 2011 по 2015 год... / economic damage will be $ 225 billion from the «Arab Spring» for the period from 2011 to 2015 ... («Ogonek», 2013).

(3) Через неделю вернусь... / I'll be back in a week ... (E.Grishkovets. At the same time);

(4) Через 15 лет Китай, скорее всего, высадит человека на Луну / After 15 years China will land a man on the moon (E.Grishkovets. At the same time);

Perfect aspect implies situations’ intervals. PF tense localizes situations in Future and expresses tunc posteriority after the last moment of a closed interval. Unlimited semantics are neutralized by combination with objects станет эластичной / become elastic [(1)], составит 225 млрд долларов / will be $ 225 billion [(2)]. The combination with posteriority time circumstances is typical for PF tense: 1) the prepositions через / after, in express the reference moment; 2) nouns of quantitative temporal semantics specify an interval неделя / a week, 15 лет / 15 years. The predicate realizes tunc posteriority value. The circumstances of closed interval are represented in examples [(1) – (4)] за период с 2011 по 2015 год / for the period from 2011 to 2015 [(2)], через неделю / in a week [(3)], через 15 лет / after 15 years [(4)], Verbs of limited semantics вернусь / will be back [(3)], высадим / will land [(4)] imply the internal limit achievement.

2. Perfect Future is able to function without non-verbal time indicators

2.1. Nunc posteriority as a basic meaning

(1) Здесь мы заработаем деньги благодаря национальному техническому гению / Here we will earn money due to the national technical genius. (M.Chulaki. Why do not the plates fly?)
The absence of non-verbal temporal means often leads to modal interpretations as promises [1]. «National Corpus of the Russian Language» provides all the examples analyzed in this article [National Corpus of the Russian Language]. In dialogs and direct speech, the PF expresses a suddenly adopted decision [(3), (2)]. PF functions as an absolute tense, expressing the nunc posteriority after speech moment.

2.2. Tunc mutual anteriority / posteriority as a contextually realized meaning

From a pragmatic point of view, it is understandable that we talk about events when we are interested in their result [Erofeeva, Galeev 2017]. In future it is pragmatically natural to presume a correlative situation with expected result at a certain moment. G.M. Zeldovich writes if some reference point is assumed in future, then a perfect meaning occurs [Zeldovich 2012: 52]. In Russian it is possible to omit a personal pronoun I implied by personal ending of Future tense [Klimchak, Faktudinova 2015]. We use PF if there is some situation that will be realized at certain moment when its result will be achieved. Naturally, preference will be given to a resulted situation. Most perfect verbs due to their own semantics indicate a very definite result: Иван сварит суп – это наличные супа (Ivan will cook soup – this is an availability of soup).

(1) Он за ней зайдет, и они пойдут на каток Профинтерна / He will come to her, and they will go to the rink Profintern (L.R.Kabo. October);
(2) – Давайте побелку сделаю и обои переклею / I will make a whitewash and I’ll repaste the wallpaper (D.Dontsova. Mixture against strabismus);
(3) – Миллион долларов сделало – и свалю с судна / I’ll make a million dollars – and I’ll go out from the ship (V.Kuin. Kysya);
(4) Когда Иван придет домой, тут же зайдет / When Ivan comes home, immediately he will lie down (V.Kuin. Kysya).

PF expresses a “chain” value when some correlative situation is directly represented in the context and verbally expressed. The limited semantics of the verb зайдет / will come [(1)] combines with the integrity value of perfect aspect, a situation is expressed as limited by internal limit and by time interval. The unlimited verbs acquire the value of boundedness by an internal limit due to object [(2) – (3)]: сделал / will make [(2) – (3)]; побелю / whitewash [(2)], миллион долларов / million dollars [(4)].

The limited verbs don’t modify second situation semantics. In examples (1) – (3), the second situation пойдут / will go [(1)], переклею / will repaste [(2)], свалю / will go out [(3)] in relation to the first situation зайдет / will come [(1)], сделал / will make [(2) – (3)] acts as a correlative situation. The two situations are connected by the relationship of mutual posteriority and anteriority [Lutfullina 2011: 123] – он зайдет, и они пойдут / he will come and they will go [(1)], сделал и переклею / I will make and will repaste [(2)], сделал и свалю / I will make and will go out [(3)]. The first predicates of perfect aspect зайдет / will come, сделал / will make express tunc anteriority. The first situation will end at the moment when the second situation starts, i.e. its result will not be saved. Explicit correlative situations are represented by predicates пойдут / will go, переклею / will repaste, свалю / will go out expressing tunc posteriority. According to G.M. Zeldovich’s, perfect tense is good where the idea of posteriorty suggests a stereotype [Zeldovich 2012:52]. In any temporal period, the interconnection of two situations presupposes their mutual posteriority and anteriority, i.e. the «chain» value is realized according to the terminology of G.M. Zeldovich. The indispensability index improves the phrases [(4)]. Stereotypes can be of a general nature or of speaker’s personal experience, hence the so-called «observer effect» is associated with «visual-approximate meaning» of perfect aspect. The identical temporal tenses allow the arbitrary choice of one of predicates as an auxiliary reference point relative to which the values anteriority / posteriority are determined.

4. Discussion. Categories of posteriority and time reference. The category of temporality presupposes information about the referential status of the verbal syntagma. The situation acquires reference status in future, when its identification and realization takes place in time. The situation conserves its non-referential status until tunc reference point in future is achieved. In this case the situation obtains a referential status. This is a potential or prospective referential status – a prospective time reference that will be realized at a particular moment in future. Auxiliary reference point in future is interpretative due to decisive role of non-verbal temporal localizers, which provide a time reference of the statement. Potential prospective time reference (realization of the situation) in future is due to concretization by non-verbal means. 5. Conclusions. Thus, a comprehensive study of Perfect Future allows us to make the following conclusions. Perfect Future without the participation of non-verbal time indicators expresses nunc / tunc posteriority reference values, mutual posteriority / anteriority value. Perfect aspect of this tense implies a situation’s interval. Limited verbs imply the internal limit availability. With the participation of non-verbal time indicators, Perfect Future expresses nunc / tunc posteriority values, tunc posteriority value after auxiliary reference point in future or after last moment of the closed interval. Unlimited verbs in combination with exact time indicators rarely function in Perfect future. Tunc posteriority after first moment of the open interval is not expressed.
The category of time reference presupposes information about the referential status of the verbal syntagma. Only the context of Future tenses can ensure the referential status of a situation. The situation acquires the time reference in future, when its identification and realization takes place in time. The situation conserves its non-referential status until tunc reference point in the future is achieved. In this case a referential status of the situation is obtained. Potential or prospective referential status – a prospective time reference that will be implemented at a particular moment in future. The posteriority category realized by Perfect future is characterized by: 1) future plan; 2) potential reference; 3) objective progressivity in relation to other situation; 4) subjective progressivity from speaker’s view point. Perfect Future has a systematic meaning of posteriority. There are two types of posteriority: nunc posteriority after reference point or speech moment and tunc posteriority after auxiliary reference point in future.

6. Acknowledgements. The work is performed according to the Russian Government Program of Competitive Growth of Kazan Federal University.

References