

STRUCTURAL PECULIARITIES OF RUSSIAN, ENGLISH AND TATAR VERBS DENOTING HUMAN BEHAVIOUR

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Abstract. Verbs occupy a central place among the wide range of language units representing human behaviour. This article presents the results of analysis of the structural features of behavioural verbs in three languages (Russian, Tatar and English). The study of the semantics of behavioural verbs is impossible without resorting to their structural organization.

In this study the author analyzed 608 behavioural verbs of in the Russian language, 358 verbs in the Tatar language, 420 verbs in the English language. During the research the following methods were used: the component analysis method, the context analysis method, the descriptive method and the comparative-contrastive method.

The author concludes that verbs of behaviour in the Russian, Tatar and English languages are not uniform: they include both simple and compound verbal units in the presence of a general invariant seme 'to behave'. Such a study is necessary to understand the similarities and differences in the formation of behavioural semantics in these languages, as well as to identify the interlingual equivalents of behavioural verbs in the structurally different languages.

Keywords: verb of behaviour, verb structure, verb semantics, derivational meaning of suffixes, synthetic verb, analytic verb, auxiliary verb, phrasal verb.

1 Introduction

Among the different units that can nominate human behaviour a special place in linguistic research is given to verbal units [Aydarova, Aminova 2016, 2017, Luo et al., 2018]. In this paper under behavioural we understand the in the semantic structure of which there are invariant semes 'to behave somehow' or 'behave in some way towards someone'. The study of semantic peculiarities and identification of interlanguage equivalents of such verbs in different unrelated languages is not possible without resorting to their structural organization.

2 Methods

In this study we analyzed 608 behavioural verbs of in the Russian language, 420 verbs in the English language and 358 verbs in the Tatar language. In the course of our research we used the following methods: 1) the component analysis method for classifications of behavioral verbs in three unrelated languages; 2) the context analysis method for identification of different tints of the meanings of the behavioral verbs; 3) the descriptive method for explaining and systematizing the research material; 4) the comparative and contrastive method for revealing the differences and similarities of the semantic features of behavioral verbs of three languages as well as their interlanguage equivalents.

3 Results And Discussion

The main corpus of behavioural verbs of the Russian language is represented by derived lexemes formed from substantive and adjectival roots. Analyzed verbs are formed by a wide variety of derivational means, namely, suffixation, prefixation, postfixation, and also their various combinations.

In the formation of verbs of behaviour the most commonly used suffixes are *-it'*, *-it'sya*, *-stvovat' / -ovat'*, *-nichat' / -ichat'*, as well as postfix *-sya*, less often used suffixes are *-vat'*, *-irovat'*, *-izovat'*, *-ovat' / -yevat'*, *-izirovat'*, *-yet'*, *-at'*. Suffixes actively participate in the transformation of the root for the creation of a new nomination correlated with the complex phenomenon of extralinguistic reality and actualizing this phenomenon in the language.

It is noteworthy that the overwhelming number of behavioural verbs are motivated by the names of persons (Rus. *kholopstvovat'* 'to be servile', Rus. *bezdel'nichat'* 'to idle' etc.), in some cases the verbs are motivated by the names of animals (Rus. *obez'yannichat'* – 'to ape, to mimic', Rus. *petushit'sya* – 'to ride the high horse'):

Rus. *Ya davno tebya iskal, khotel s toboy poznakomit'sya, no ty vse petushilsya* – 'I've been looking for you for a long time, I wanted to make friends with you, but you've been riding the high horse' [NCRL].

According to I. Ulukhanov names-motivators of verbs bear a negative-characterizing meaning which is transmitted to the verb [López, Daniel A., Oscar Espinoza, and Silvia J. Sarzoza. 2018].

The most productive suffixes for the formation of behavioural verbs of are *-nichat' / -ichat'* (used in 17% of the total number of behavioural verbs of the Russian language), *-stvovat' / -ovat'* (in 10% of the total number of the studied verbs). The listed wordformation units are regular and form verbs with the following meanings (according to Efremova 2005):

1) 'to perform an action peculiar to a person and an animal, which is given in the motivating word', 'to act in the way that is characteristic of a person given by the motivating word': Rus. *lentyaynichat'* – 'to be lazy', Rus. *lakeystvovat'* – 'to lackey';

2) 'to exhibit a property that is given by the motivating word', 'to display a feature given in the motivating word': Rus. *malodushnichat'* – 'to be coward', Rus. *mudrstvovat'* – 'to be too wise'. It can be seen from examples that in the suffixes contain the "behavioural" meaning.

Approximately 33% of the studied verbal lexemes denoting human behaviour in the Russian language are verbs with the finale *-sya* (Rus. *risovat'sya* – 'to show off', Rus. *khvastat'sya* – 'to boast', Rus. *konspirivat'sya* – 'to conspire'). These verbs are characterized by an emphatic closure of the action in the sphere of the subject and his interests.

In the Russian language we singled out verbs of behaviour which are derived from verbal roots. A.A. Aminova [Aminova 1995] and V.G. Fatkhutdinova [Fatkhutdinova 2016] in their works emphasize the connection of derived words with the concepts of value and socio-cultural norms of personality. Researchers point out that the derived verb emphasize the typical, most significant feature for a given linguistic community, and the new verb of behaviour that arises as a result of derivation serves as a designation for a known behavioural stereotype [Fatkhutdinova 2016, p. 136]. E.g., to describe immoral behaviour, insobriety in particular, the verbs with the confix *na- ...-sya* are used (Rus. *nabrat'sya, napit'sya, nazhrat'sya, nakachat'sya, nakhlestat'sya* – ‘to get drunk’). According to Efremova [Efremova 2016, p. 276] they denote an action performed sufficiently, a state of satisfaction or satiety as a result of a prolonged and intensive performing this action:

Rus. *Ilyushka von tak nabralsya, chto na tretiy etazh yeshche raz vzobrat'sya ne mozhet, menya poprosil peredat'* – ‘Ilyushka got drunk so much that he cannot climb the third floor, he asked me to say it to you’ [NCRL].

In the Tatar language, the structure of verbal lexemes representing human behaviour is heterogeneous: there are both synthetical and analytical verbs of behaviour.

Simple verbs of behaviour are formed from producing roots of Tatar origin (Tat. *ätächlänü* – ‘to ride the high horse’, Tat. *ertkychlanu* – ‘to commit atrocities’) and borrowings (Tat. *lovelashlanu* – ‘to run after woman’, Tat. *popugaylanu* – ‘to parrot’, Tat. *phariseilanu* – ‘to play the hypocrite’):

Tat. *Yazuchynyn soavtory blylyrk rässamnar bötenläy diyarlek yuk. Kayberäülär: “Ätächlän äle, ätächlän!” – dip utyralardyr, mögaen* [TNC] – ‘There are hardly any artist among those who could become a co-author of the writer. Someone might think: “Don’t ride the high horse!”’.

In formation of behavioural verbs of the Tatar language the suffixes *-lan / län, -la / lä* are most productive. When it comes to the material under investigation these suffixes most often form verbs from substantive and adjectival roots (Tat. *tökelänü* – ‘to flatter’, Tat. *shamakaylany* ‘to play the fool’, Tat. *yalkaulanu* – ‘to be lazy’).

Approximately 13% of our material in the Tatar language is made up of analytical verbs that are common in all Turkic languages. Such analytical constructions have been studied long ago the Tatar language [Ganiev 1982, Protus, W. S. (2016.)] and on the material of other Turkic languages. Analytical verbs are actually complex (Tat. *khyyanät itü* – ‘to be unfaithful’), complex-suffixal (Tat. *min-minlänü* – ‘to swagger’), paired (Tat. *borgalanu-syrgalanu* – ‘to flirt’) and compound (Tat. *aptyrap kalu* – ‘to be confused’) verbs. When it comes to our material, we will consider the features of complex and compound analytical verbs.

Complex verbs of behaviour are formed from names, onomatopoeic and image-like words by means of word-forming auxiliary verbs, e.g. Tat. *itü* – ‘to act, do’, *bulu* – ‘to be’, *kylü* – ‘to act, do’, *kilü* – ‘to become’, *yasau* – ‘to act, do’: Tat. *bashbashtaklyk itü* – ‘to act wilfully’, Tat. *zina kylü* – ‘to be unfaithful’, Tat. *gönah kylü* – ‘to commit a sin’, Tat. *zallimlek kylü* – ‘to tyrannize’, Tat. *israf kylü* – ‘to spend, waste’, etc.

Composite verbs of behaviour are bi-component constructions. The second component of such constructions are the word-building modifying verbs that specify, supply the meaning of the main verb. Thus, e.g., the word-building modifying verb Tat. *kitü* expresses the acquisition of some quality or feature, or the acquisition of some quality to a greater degree (Tat. *usallanyp kitü* – ‘to get angry’, *batyrlanyp / gayratlänep kitü* – ‘to become brave’). The modifying verb Tat. *kalu* denotes an action that completely embraces a person (Tat. *aptyrap kalu* – ‘be at a loss’, Tat. *kurkyp kalu* – ‘to get scared’), e.g.:

Tat. *Kötelmägän soraudan Göliya aptyrap kaldy* [TNC] – ‘Gulia was at a loss when she heard an unexpected question’.

The same meaning is expressed by Tatar verb *töshü* (Tat. *kaushap töshü* – ‘to be confused’).

In English, the majority of behavioural verbs is represented by simple verbs, e.g.: Eng. *grudge, flaunt, loaf, pretend*, etc. In our work verbs of behaviour are found among verbs of the English language combined with the reflexive pronoun *oneself*, without which these verbs do not contain “behavioural” meaning. These verbs correspond to the Russian verbs with postfix *-sya*, e.g.: Eng. *congratulate oneself, forget oneself, inflict oneself*, e.g.:

Eng. *A teacher should never forget herself and shout at the class* [FD].

Eng. *She was very obvious in her effort to ingratiate herself with the boss* [FD].

Approximately a quarter (26%) of the range of English behavioural are represented by phrasal verbs, e.g.: *chicken out, get around, show off*. It should be noted that the level membership and language status of such combinations have not been finally determined among foreign linguists. There is no unity in the nomination of such verbs. The most common term is ‘particle verb’ [Thim 2012].

The second component of phrasal verbs in English behavioural verbs are particles of adverbial (*away, back*), prepositional (*into*) and prepositional-adverbial nature (*about, around, down, in, off, on, over, out, round, through, up*). The most productive among them are particles *around, about, round, up*. The direct meanings of postpositive elements in the composition of phrasal verbs affect and determine the use of derived phrasal verbs within the framework of specific semantic groups. For instance, postpositions *around, about* are used in phrasal verbs belonging to the group of verbs of irresponsible behaviour: Eng. *hang around / about, loaf around / about, sit around / about, fiddle around / about, bum around / about*, etc.; the group of verbs of immoral behaviour: Eng. *fool around / about, screw around, sleep around*; group of verbs of unbalanced behaviour: Eng. *run around / round, rush around / about / round*, e.g.:

Eng. *He has earned the right to loaf around a bit if he likes* [EOLD].

Eng. *I’ve been rushing around shopping all day* [MD].

4 Summary

Thus, the behavioural verbs of the Russian and Tatar languages show common features in terms of their derivational peculiarities. Both in the Russian and Tatar languages the most productive way of formation of analyzed verbs is affixation (suffixation). The most productive suffixes *-nichat' /'ichat'*, *-stvovat' /'ovat'*, *-it'*, *-it'sya* in the Russian, *-lan / län*, *-la / lä* in the Tatar language contain a potential behavioural meaning. The Russian language is characterized by a developed system of intraverbal derivation. When forming derivative verbs of behaviour sufficiently productive are prefixation and confixing. In this case, interlanguage correlations in Russian and Tatar form prefix and bi-component verbs respectively. From the point of view of the structure we revealed the common features of the behavioural verbs of the Tatar and English languages. In the Tatar language there are biverbal formations, verbs with the structure "noun + verb", in English – verbs with the structure "verb + particle" are common. The second elements of such analytic formations complement the meaning of the first element, in some cases modify and completely reinterpret it. In general, we note that Russian verbs of behaviour have a wide range of word-formation elements which allow them to give a more detailed subdivision of the semantic space; Tatar and English verbs achieve the same result due to their combinatorial capabilities.

5 Conclusions

The results of the study allow us to conclude that from the point of view of structure verbs of behaviour in the Russian, Tatar and English languages are not uniform: in their structure both simple and compound verbal units are distinguished with the presence of a general invariant seme 'to behave'. This analysis is necessary to understand the similarities and differences in the formation of behavioural semantics in the three languages, as well as to identify the interlingual equivalents of behavioural verbs in the structurally different languages.

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