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# Different approaches to the classification of futurality in Modern English

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ANOTATION: This article focuses on the various ways linguists categorize how future meaning is expressed in Modern English. It goes beyond simply identifying tenses and delves into different theoretical approaches for classifying futurity. The article likely explores how grammatical forms, semantic aspects, and other elements contribute to expressing future events, plans, or possibilities. It might discuss frameworks based on tense and aspect, modality, or cognitive grounding.

**Key words:** Futurity Classification, modern English Tense and Aspect Modality, Future Meaning, Grammatical Forms, Semantic Categories, Cognitive Linguistics.

The modern paradigm of language study and its inner characteristics demands for comprehensive approach that takes into consideration not only structural planes of a language unit but its semantic and communicative aspects. In the view of the anthropocentric paradigm cognitive mechanisms of mentality explicated in mind through lingual functional models are of great interest. Therefore the importance lies in understanding cognitive and functional basis of the category of future in modern English. The aim of the given article is to study cognitive and functional, as well as semantic-cognitive and communicative qualities of the category of future in modern English basing on scientific literature, fiction, belles-lettres and press materials. Theoretical value of the research is in presentation of comprehensive analysis of language means to express future tense in the framework of cognitive and functional directions. Practical value of the

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research is the possibility to use its results and principles to comply a lecture course of Cognitive and Functional Linguistics, to prepare manuals and textbooks in the correspondent area. The following research methods are used within the work: method of contextological analysis, descriptive method, method of component analysis, method of field analysis, transformative method, and method of element counting. To get the factual material the method of total selection was chosen. The object of research is semantic-cognitive and functional specificities of future time in the language system.<sup>1</sup>

The area of research is structural and semantic qualities of FSF of Futurality and its constituents. The settled aim requires that the following objectives be fulfilled:

- a) description of basic cognitive grounds for categorical development of time notion;
  - b) analysis of development of deictic means to express future time;
- c) finding out grammatical means used in Modern English to explicitly and implicitly express future time;
- d) working out the model of FSF of Futurality taking into account semantic and functional specificities of its constituents;
- e) analysis of future situations in press texts and of pragmaticcommunicative peculiarities of language mean to express futurality.

The factual material of the research include articles of modern press in English, including People, Newsweek, Sports Illustrated, National Geographic, Times, Seventeen and others. As a result, 1893 units for analysis have been detected. One unit for analysis is equal to a future situation defined as a certain semantic category reflected in the process of communication by language means.

Learning the history of investigation of time's problem in Linguistics we knew that according to the opinion of the scientists the objective, philosophic, linguistic category of time is one of the complex informative categories that are seminal notion of man's culture. It is saturated all multidimensional cogitative

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A Comparative Study in Grammar. USA, 1997. 276 p.

universum of a man, reflecting differently in the various languages. The evolution of the temporal notions of a man is the brightest reflex of the evolution of his intellect, and culture.<sup>2</sup> That is why the investigation of the linguistic time, as in synchrony, so in diachrony, is obviously the required aspect of the investigation of a man's civilization in general.<sup>3</sup>

It is undoubtedly that when we investigate the future meanings in Modern English we had to learn the verb and its grammatical categories. The given theme is very actual and in a certain extent – difficult for the learners of the English language as foreign one. In the grammatical structure of the English language the verb has completely exceptional place – as a result of wide dichotomy of the whole system and that great role which had played the forms in the building of the sentence. A verb - is a part of speech, which names the action or presents the condition, the manifestation of the indication, the change of the sign and so on as action. In the modern English language the verb in comparison with any other part of speech has a more developed system of the means of word-changing and formbuilding. The grammatical criteria of the verb which are showed in the forms of word-changing and form-building are the categories of person, number, aspect, time, mood and voice. The analysis of the resembling and different verbal grammatical categories in the non-kindred languages (on the material of English and Azerbaijani) show that the grammatical and lexical peculiarities of the English and Azerbaijani verbs are the subject of the numerous scientific theoretical, practical, historical works touch upon the grammatical structure of the English language. However, in modern science the existed divergence of the opinions due to this problem, and also an assemblage of the new facts, new approaches and new methods of analysis predetermine a constant necessity and possibility of the further investigations, and that defines the actuality of our scientific research. A study of the structural-semantic features of the verbs, a formulization of the peculiarities of its using depending from its semantic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Fraser J. T. The genesis and evolution of time. Brighton, 1982, 271 p.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Aarts Bas. Verbs in Contemporary English: Theory and Description. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006. 325 p.

meaning, an emphasizing of transformation, which are done during the translation of the analyzed verbs are necessary aspects of our investigation.<sup>4</sup>

Studying the category of time in Modern English it is necessary to mention that during the written history the verbal system of the English language was broadened not only thanks to the forming of new grammatical categories. Inside of the existed categories of time new categorical parts are appeared and they fixed the most universal grammatically formalized denotation of the future time and also potential and unreal actions. The existence of the category of future time in English is very arguable matter. And its conceptualization is impossible without the knowing about the development of the given analytical form in the process of the language's evolution. In the given article the process of conformation of the category of future time is considered diachronically and its origins: the combinations of old English verbs "willan" and "sculan" ("will" and "shall") with the infinitive. The specificity of its development consists of the changes of inner relations between components which hadn't some noticeable outer shews (manifestations): an outer shape of the constructions is almost such as it was.

Its semantic development was peculiar: it lies not only in getting the new meanings, but also in partial losing the old meanings, and we can easily deduce it during the different periods of the English language evolution from the old times till to the present. We also had mention that in Modern English there is a problem of perfect. The modern English language has a great deal of the structures, which in certain lexical contexts and syntactical positions are interchangeable. Such kind of parallelism and variety of the expressive means constitutes the peculiarity of the grammatical structure of English that is widely represented in the system of the verbs and permissive to give the various time denotation of the action.

In the time's system of the verb of modern English the problem of perfect is too difficult. According to this question the points of view and opinions of the linguists are different. The Perfect must be investigated as in an extended, so in a

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Abdullayev A. Text, Meaning and Understanding: A Communicative Cognitive Approach. USA: Alpha Print, Inc. Minneapolis, MN, 1988, 189 p.

restricted aspects. One of the very complicated issues is the semantic differentiation of time as the cornerstone of the Linguistics and at the same time the mover of the scientific progress was and is still remained the problem of the relation between the form and the language designation's content. Discontentment of the unilateral access to the studying of the language units' structure and their functions (with the form's headship on the content or that a language – is not simply materialization of the signs, which is built for encoding of objective world's realities, but something that during exertion some unimpeachable, from the point of view of formal logic, operations of the analysis, is decomposed on the variety of material elements, which peculiarities altogether are not equal to the whole object) demand the new kinds of approaches to the interpretation of the language's phenomenon. The philosophic-objective, logic and grammatical notions of time, objectivity of the time, the main five factors of the time, and also a short-winded historical excursion of the category of time's learning.<sup>5</sup>

So, we came to future time's problem in Modern English. The Future time – is the youngest representative of temporal trine: Past – Present – Future – and today is terra incognita in many aspects. To the first sight it seems paradoxical, if we take in consideration the whole corpus of the linguistic research works in the sphere of tempus. However, if we consider the research works which are dedicated to the future time, it occurred that its quota is sorely small. Futurism is especially deficiently investigated; the category of future time is more widely learned diachronically, in the different styles of literature<sup>6</sup>.

In the history of mankind together with it the same category of the future time turned out in the Centrum of global processes' crossing, that are connected with the evolution of mind and culture, the process with rub off on individual becoming and an appearance of new civilized paradigms. The investigation of future time's problem we had to carry through the analysis of the category of time

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Veliyeva N. Ch. Conversation analysis. National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan. Institute of Manuscript. Philological Issues № 1. Baku, Nurlan, 2011. P. 7–12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Veliyeva N. Ch. Conversation analysis. National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan. Institute of Manuscript. Philological Issues № 1. Baku, Nurlan, 2011. P. 7–12.

from the point of view of formal, semantic and functional aspects. The tendency entirely to conceive the substance of the language in its diversity of relations with ambient world and man's unseen come to the emergence and rise of various systematic conceptions, for instance, W. Humboldt and his followers Q. P. Pavskiy, I. I. Sreznevskiy, A. A. Potebnya, I. A. Boduen de Kurtene, A. A. Shakhmatov, R. O. Yakobson, N. S. Trubetskoy, S. I. Kartsevskiy, where in the centre of attention "is not a language without man, but only a man as an informant of language's thought or intellection" (I. A. Boduen de Kurtene), and where the Historical Linguistics has a special role – "to show in reality the share of the word in the process of the building of consistent row of the systems, which are cross-sectional in the man's concernment to a nature" (A. A. Potebnya). It was a breakthrough in the dialectical strategy of the scientific cognition, that sticked up the history of language in the avant-garde of the humanitarian scientific research works, where the main object of the investigation became Man<sup>7</sup>.

The category of futurum is considered in this research work as semantic, sense-makings are realized by means of the different language's means on the level of the text.<sup>8</sup> The relevancy of this investigation comprises the historical syntax, historical futurology that are involved in the system of the functional-semantic investigations of the anthropocentric polarity. The given article is devoted to consideration of formal, semantic, cognitive and functional characteristics of future in modern English basing on the press material. The analysis of future tense development in the English language system, especially the ways future is explicated by language means, as well as of the model of FSF of Futurality, its structure and semantics is carried out within the framework of the given research. Thus, on the basis of the English language's material the analysis of the communicative aspect of the future situations and the structure's models of the futurum's Functional-Semantic Field (FSF)<sup>9</sup> and also the mutual connections between the categories of the futurality, modality and aspectuality

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Thomson A. J., Martinet A. A. A Practical English Grammar. Oxford University Press, 1987. 383 p.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Seidl E. Grammar. Oxford University, 1992. 317 p.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Fraser J. T. The genesis and evolution of time. Brighton, 1982, 271 p.

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gave to us the opportunity to come to the conclusion that the grammatical means plays a great role and has the leader place in the process of formation of the future time. In the structure of the English language and in the process of communication these means of the statement are the means of expression of the categorial semantics and they form the exterior syntagmatic structure of the sentence.

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