
THEORY OF FUTURALITY AND ITS CLASSIFICATIONS IN MODERN ENGLISH

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Abstract:

This article is devoted to the theory of futurity in Modern linguistics. It discusses general notions of futurity and different approaches to the classifications of futural meaning in Modern English.

Keywords

Futurity, tense, aspect, grammar, approach, classification.

Introduction

English is said to have only two tenses: present and past. This classification is based on the notion that a tense can only be marked by bound morphemes. A typical example would be the straightforward morphological use of ‘-bo’ or ‘-e-’ as future markers in Latin verb forms such as ‘cantabo’ or ‘audiet’. But since the ancient Romans a lot has changed and morphological future markers lose ground in favour of periphrastic constructions. As Comrie notes, “[i]n European languages, in particular, the future tense seems to be weak or non-existent as a grammatical category” [1].

This paper is concerned with the question whether English has such a thing as a future tense and if this is the case, how it is formed. As a fact, “it is not uncommon for a language to have more than one gram which has future as a use”. As we shall see, the English language possesses a wide range of future markers which in general only contribute to the variety of a language: “The continued viability of multiple forms in a given language is insured by differences in the range of uses to which each may be put” (ibid.). In this context I shall give an overview of the tense/time debate which has heated up amongst scholars and try to differentiate between the main forms of English future markers.

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

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 [2].

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 permissiveto 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 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 [3].

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.

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 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 stucked up the history of language in the avant-garde of the humanitarian scientific research works, where the main object of the investigation became Man [4].

In Modern English the various categories and constructions are graded to the grammatical means of futurity's expression. Represented to your attention in this article there are different patterns of the futurum's FSF (Functional-Semantic Field). We can show it as the following models: The first futural-modal level of the FSF (functional semantic field) of futurity separated from nucleous and for its qualities, also expressed different means that it includes, consists of several periphery fields. On this level such language means are taken in consideration that the expression of the futurity's notion in the text is the main or one of the main function for them. It means that owing to these means the expression of the meaning of future tense had happened in the explicit way.

Lexical and lexico-grammatical means, adverbs and adverbial constructions of the time, adverbial clauses are related to the periphery field of the above-mentioned level. They, in its turn, have an additional or qualifier function. On the second modal-futural level of the FSF (functional semantic field) of futurity as a result of its modal meaning, combinate the language's means that express the futurity, i.e. by means of these means the

expression of the future tense's meaning had happened in the implicit way. Differentiated for its modal characteristics the represented level is divided into several sections. These sections for their semantic characteristic features in a certain degree intersect the first level because the language's means of the first level have a modal character in the text. The main diversity comprises that the means of the first level realise an expression of the future tense's meaning in an implicit way or as the second meaning [5].

In conclusion, we have discussed tense, aspect and theory of the verb in Modern English. We have found different theories of futurity in Modern linguistics. We hope that we have investigate the classifications of futurity in Modern English in our future research.

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