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SENSE FORMATION

Introduction

The remarkable property of language is that it is able, while combining the forms, to explicate not only fixed values of linguistic units, but also the meanings which the speaker just conceives; the addressee can judge about their nature only indirectly, he/she restores them, based on the linguistic and pragmatic competence, we often complement or transform these meanings in accordance with the momentary state of our individual consciousness.

This important priori assumption underlies the purpose to justify the hypothesis of the dynamic nature of the sense formation of any linguistic expression. The essence of the process of sense formation is the ability of any component of the utterance to continuous change and deployment of sense, which is seen as a multidimensional continuum, which elements (elementary meanings induced by language units) are in constant motion, they change their size and position in the semantic whole, they overlap, replacing each other under the influence of heterogeneous and diverse factors in accordance with the relevant linguistic and extra linguistic context.

The common sense continuum is determined by dominance of the particular elementary sense. Yet it does not mean the elimination or failure of others. All elements of the semantic continuum always "shine" through it, forming a hierarchical set of the multiple whole. Depending on various circumstances, one or another element comes to the fore as a decisive force in the integration of sense at a particular moment, all others move away and peep out only in a more or less long term.

Thus, the multipart essence of the sense-phenomenon is doubtless, the question is, what are the components of the semantic continuum, the very atomic meanings?

Sense components

The analysis let us order an identified set of components, each of which has its own structure and features of realization, which depend on the pragmatic situation.

I list them in a simple and schematic sequence independent on their performance and the order as well as interaction of the components.

The proposition (propositional meaning) formulates a specific situation in a possible world. The various propositional contents are implemented in a variety of syntactic structures and special lexical features, what we mean to be the trivial fact of lexical and grammatical well-formedness of the utterance.

The content of the proposition is regulated by certain linguistic rules, each element being associated with others, but the semantic integrity of the utterance is not reduced to the simple sum of words, moreover it has the system novelty in relation to its constituent tokens.

The intention (intentional meaning): Every act of speech is made to influence the listener in some way. Thus, an essential part of the utterance sense, which complements its propositional content, is a more or less complex set of intentions, including information on all intentional states of speaker's mind, directly or indirectly, explicitly or implicitly encoded in the linguistic structure.

The unity of proposition and intention is the dyad of meanings, which always perform together and form a kind of foundation for the holistic sense of the utterance. On this basis the next component is built, which we call the mental state.

This component, in turn, has a composite character and is divided into estimative, emotive and relational components.

Estimation (estimative meaning) is always present as a component of meaning in every utterance. Bakhtin wrote: "Every word, actually said, doesn't have only the subject and meaning <...>, but also estimation. ... There is no word without the estimative emphasis "[Bakhtin 1993: 114]. Indeed, mastering the world, a person expresses his/her attitude to reality (subjects, objects, qualities, actions), and their value is actualized in the consciousness. As result of that the object of thought receives one or another estimation. Thus, the concept of value concerns not only positive, but also negative, and zero significance [see about it: Ivin 1970].

Emotions (emotional meaning): The expression of estimation, especially of the individual subjective estimation is emotional as a rule, because a person is a psycho-social being. The senders and recipients of the utterances, acting as "character of the illocutionary game" are primarily carriers of emotions which arise, if the estimation concerns their interests: "In real activity ... "cold" attempts of explanation and

understanding seem to be less important than the "hot" acts of estimation and personal experiences. The more these interests are affected, the more efficient the estimation is and the more a speech act affects the emotional state of the recipient" [Etkind 1981: 107]. The emotional attitude to the denoted real objects relates primarily to the feelings-attitudes such as "contempt", "defiance", "censure" or "delight", "admiration", etc. The set of expressed feelings is limited by initial basic emotions, varying between the poles of approval / disapproval. Emotions are the inherent essence of a human being who has will and desire. They represent the implicitness in the sense, i.e. the non-demonstrated, hidden components of the sense, the listener can only make some assumptions on them, based on stereotypical idea about how people feel or behave in certain circumstances.

One of these components is the hidden emotive attitude of the speaker to the addressee - **the relational component** of the sense which is necessarily present in every utterance.

It is not neutral since in all speech acts the speaker is guided by the presence or absence of reverence and respect to the recipient, by some warm, intimate relationship to him or by full or partial rejection of the partner: the speaker shows what position he/she takes in relation to them and how he intends to talk to them.

The propositional-intentional and emotive blocks of the holistic sense "sandwiches" the **modal sense** that, on the one hand, modifies the logical content of the utterance (situational and objective modality), and on the other hand, is a part of the "superstructural" emotive block of the sense model (subjective modality).

Speaking about the multidimensionality of sense, we should not forget such aspect of it, as the situational, occasional meaning, created by certain elements of the utterance, which join unique semantic components in discourse.

They are called **connotative meanings** - they take place in the expression of the subject's attitude to the subject of speech; or **non-intentional meanings**, because they occur against the will of the speaker in the process of the utterance perception.

All components of the holistic sense of the utterance (proposition, intention, estimation, emotions, attitude of the speaker to the addressee, occasional meaning) are framed by the **pragmatic competence**, which determines the choice of linguistic forms, corresponding to the case of communication. It is characterized by the speaker's awareness of the situation in general - of the participants and their roles in the denoted event, of listener's

presumptive knowledge, his/her social role, etc. Due to the pragmatic competence of the speaker (the ability to determine the relevance/irrelevance of the sign under certain conditions of communication), he/she manages to avoid pragmatic failures, namely, the correct estimation of the situation leads him/her to the correct choice of the speech act strategy, which can cause an adequate (expected) response of the partner.

Such is the composition of utterance sense components in the schematic representation.

Now a logical question arises: how can the utterance sense be explicated, as long as it is non-identical to the sentence?

Language means for sense formation

For this purpose, the language has developed a certain system of funds, which are the operators of the sense creation and modification; they are the elements of the language system, which actualize either component of the utterance sense. The knowledge of these "code keys" opens the addressee the way to understanding speaker's intentions and the adequate interpretation of all elementary meanings actualized in the speech act.

We classify all variety of sense markers based on the criterion of the functional dominance of the operator in the formation of a certain sense layer, according to which the following groups are distinguished:

- Operators of propositional meaning's generation (semantic consistency, lexical compatibility and syntactic government)
- Operators of intentional meaning's generation (performative verbs and performative formula, communicative types of sentences, speech strategy of indirect expression of intention) and operators of its modal modification (modal verbs, particles and words)
- Operators of emotive meaning's generation (emotional-estimative lexis, interjections, addresses, special syntactic structures and emphatic word order).

All language markers to express atomic meanings vary in intensity of expressed emotions and qualifications, they always act in aggregate; their separate capabilities to generate elementary senses are limited. Only simultaneous functioning of the operators' "beam" is able to create the necessary configuration of sense components.

Model of sense formation

All theory is grey, said the great Goethe. So I must show you how this sense model functions. To show it I choose expressive speech acts as the empirical basis because of

their particular social importance in the interpersonal communication. They express the inner state of a certain type, more specifically, emotions, will and opinion in the broadest sense of the word.

They (expressives) can be divided in two groups depending on their illocutionary purpose:

- sociative, or etiquette, ritual speech acts with the illocutionary purpose of providing a ceremonial reverence to the interlocutor (apology, thanks, condolence, positive wish, greetings etc.),

- influctives, or speech acts of emotive attitude and emotional impact on the partner (compliments, praise, censure, insult, curse, negative wish etc).

These speech acts are carried out for different purposes, in different circumstances and rely on a variety of cases. Yet identifying a common universal model of sense generation on their bases shows the possibility of its extrapolation to other classes of speech acts.

The analysis showed that in **etiquette** speech acts the dominant sense elements are their intentional and relational meanings.

The first of them is always verbalized and extremely important, because it is the explicit performative expression of intention that signals the readiness of the speaker to maintain the contact, his/her belonging to the socialized members of the community.

The attitude of the speaker to the partner, which is the most respectful, is the second dominant element. It differs sociatives from all other speech acts. In the absence of respect, any apology, thanks, wishes, greetings are just not pronounced. In this case there is a violation of etiquette, which indicates either deliberately going beyond the social norms (a new facet of the sense is created), or a lack of pragmatic competence of the speaker.

The explication of the propositional meaning does not play any significant role in ritual utterances, as their essence lies in providing respect to the interlocutor. For this, the fact of committing verbal "strokes" is important, rather than an excuse.

The estimating meaning is hidden in the deep layers and not displayed in the verbalized part, though it is always clearly assumed by the speaker and recognized by the addressee. Expression of the emotional meaning in sociatives is constrained by the framework of ritual, as its open expression makes a verbal action exceed the bounds of conventions, i.e.

of "as is common", and positions it within the scope of enthusiastic greetings, joyful wishes and sincere repentance.

The sense mosaic of speech acts of emotional impact appears to be different.

Their propositional meaning is always explicated: it includes expression of the estimation that is the aim and essence of influctives. But in spite of the explicitness, the propositional meaning doesn't dominate, but plays a secondary role as a material for the expression of the emotive meaning. Only in utterances of censure the proposition is an effective and important element in the global sense because it states the case, which is far from expectations.

The intentional meaning in influctives is almost always expressed implicitly, due to various reasons, e.g., in compliments because the conventions of interpersonal communication condemn too straightforward positive assessment, which is regarded as an undesirable imposition of intimacy. In insults it is because the aggressive intention is not accepted to be declared, it has to be hidden for the addressee, etc.

But the implicitness of the intentional component does not necessarily mean that it is not essential. In speech acts of praise and censure and in insults the intentional meaning takes the dominant position, the "transparency" of the communicative intent, its identification by the interlocutor and the emotional reaction of the latter are important for the speaker. Only in compliments the intentional meaning is suppressed by the emotive meaning and goes to the secondary position.

In influctives, the estimative meaning unequivocally dominates; the estimation is used in them as a subtle tool or a powerful weapon to provide emotional impacts.

The emotional meaning is a part of the determinants in influctives in constituting the common sense and includes a variety of different emotional states starting from the highest positive estimation in compliments through to the emotional catharsis in insults.

In praise and censure however the emotional meaning is strictly dosed, because the strong splash of emotions threatens with danger of transforming these speech acts into an insincere compliment or invective.

Finally, the last, relational elementary meaning is also among the dominants in influctives. When uttering an influctive speech act, the speaker expresses respect to the

recipient, admiration and adoration of him/her or indicates the evidence of disrespect to the partner, his/her contempt and even hate (in insults).

The position of the occasional meanings is impossible to identify and to calculate due to their unique character, accidentalness dependent on diverse possibilities by constellation of their operators.

The determination of the position and role of elementary meanings in the utterance is not intended to limit and regulate their roles in the constituting of the sense as a whole.

Based on all above we can come to conclusion that no matter how insignificant, casual and "external" language elements may seem in the utterance, their interaction with the others in this particular utterance can have significant consequences, which make us recognize in each element one of the (numerous) "true heroes "(due to of R. Jakobson) of the meaningful action playing out in our minds.