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FUNCTIONAL ROLE OF AGENTIVE SYNTAXEMES IN SENTENCE SEMANTICS

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Abstract: This article analyzes the functional role of agentive syntaxemes within sentence semantics. In the course of the study, the role of agent units in the formation of predicative content, the features of expressing the performer of an action, and their communicative-pragmatic functions were studied based on materials from the English and Uzbek languages. Also, the use of agentive syntaxemes in active and passive constructions, stylistic and semantic possibilities were scientifically analyzed through examples.

Keywords: Agentive syntaxeme, sentence semantics, semantic syntax, predicate, agentiveness.

Introduction

In modern linguistics, studying the semantic and functional characteristics of syntactic units is considered one of the important scientific directions. In particular, the role of syntaxemes in the structure of the sentence in the formation of content, their communicative function and their role in expressing semantic relations is of particular importance in today's linguistic research. From this point of view, the issue of agentive syntaxemes is one of the most relevant topics both theoretically and practically. The agentive syntaxeme manifests as a syntactic-semantic unit representing the subject performing the action in a sentence and performs an important functional function in the formation of predicative content.

Although the category of agentiveness in linguistics has been extensively studied within the framework of semantic syntax, functional grammar, and communicative linguistics, the functional role of agentive syntaxemes in sentence semantics still requires in-depth scientific analysis. This is because agent units influence the formation of sentence content not only as a grammatical subject but also as the initiator, executor, and controller of an action. In particular, the semantic relationship of agentive syntaxemes with the predicate, their role in forming the communicative center of the sentence, and their pragmatic load are among the important research objects of modern syntactic semantics.

Today, as a result of the development of anthropocentric linguistics, the human factor and its activity in speech have become a central issue. Therefore, the study of agentive syntaxemes expressing the subject of action is important in determining the functional capabilities of the language. Through agentive units, the subject's active or passive state, attitude towards action, communicative intention, and position towards reality are expressed in speech. This makes it possible to interpret agent syntaxemes as a complex unit not only grammatically, but also semantically and pragmatically.

Literature Review

The issue of agentive syntaxemes has been studied by many linguists within the framework of semantic syntax and functional grammar. The first theoretical views in this direction are found in the theory of valence developed by L. Tesnière. The scholar interprets the verb as the center of the sentence and evaluates the agent as the primary actor performing the action. This approach later became the basis for the development of syntactic-semantic research. In Case Grammar theory, Ch. Fillmore explains agency as a semantic role, defining the agent as the conscious performer of an action. According to the scientist, semantic roles

play an important role in the formation of sentence content. This theory made it possible to study agentive syntaxemes not only as a grammatical subject, but also as a semantic-functional unit.

N. Chomsky analyzes the role of the subject in the structure and content of the sentence within the framework of transformational-generative grammar. His views on syntactic derivation are important in explaining the functional features of agent units in active and passive constructions. Russian linguist G. A. Zolotova describes the syntaxeme as a minimal semantic-syntactic unit, emphasizing the role of agentive syntaxemes in the formation of predicative content. The scientist evaluates agent units as a means of expressing a communicatively active subject.

In Uzbek linguistics, A. Nurmonov and N. Mahmudov's research on syntactic semantics analyzed the relationship between subject and predicate in the semantic structure of the sentence. Their scientific views serve as an important theoretical basis for studying the functional features of agentive syntaxemes.

Methodology

In this study, descriptive, semantic-syntactic, distributive, and comparative analysis methods were used to determine the functional role of agent syntaxemes in sentence semantics. In the course of the study, the semantic relationship of agent units with the predicate, their role in forming sentence content, and their communicative function were analyzed based on examples taken from literary, journalistic, and scientific texts in English and Uzbek. Also, the semantic features of agentive syntaxemes were determined through the method of component analysis, and their possibilities of expression in different syntactic constructions were studied in a comparative aspect.

Results And Discussion

Agentive syntaxemes are considered one of the central functional units in the formation of sentence semantics. They represent the performer, initiator, or controller of the action and act as the main component of the predicative content. In semantic syntax, agentiveness is typically characterized by the subject's association with an active action. Ch. Fillmore interprets the agent as a "semantic role that consciously performs an action". This approach shows that agentive syntaxemes are not only a grammatical but also a semantic-functional unit.

In English, agentive syntaxemes are often expressed by a noun or pronoun in the function of the subject: The scientist discovered a new formula. In this sentence, the unit "the scientist" is an agentive syntaxeme, as it denotes a subject who is consciously performing an action. In connection with the predicate, the agentive syntaxeme forms the semantic center of the sentence. A similar situation is observed in the Uzbek language: The scientist discovered a new formula. Here, the scientist component is the main carrier of the predicative content as a unit carrying an agentive meaning. In both languages, the agentive syntaxeme ensures the semantic integrity of the sentence by indicating the source of the action. In the theory of valency, L. Tesnière characterizes agentive units as the primary actant of the verb. According to the scientist, any predicate requires certain actants, and the agent is the most important of them. For example, in the sentence "The teacher explained the rule", the agent actant "teacher" complements the semantic valency of the predicate. If the agent unit is omitted, the communicative completeness of the sentence is disrupted. In this regard, agentive syntaxemes are considered one of the mandatory components of sentence semantics.

The functional role of agentive syntaxemes is particularly evident in active and passive constructions. In an active construction, the agent usually occupies the position of the subject: The company launched a new product. In a passive construction, the agent moves to a

secondary syntactic position: A new product was launched by the company. In this case, although the grammatical status of the agentive syntaxeme changes, its semantic function remains intact. A similar phenomenon is observed in the Uzbek language: “Talabalar loyiha tayyorladi” va “Loyiha talabalar tomonidan tayyorndi”. In both sentences, the agent unit denotes the performer of the action, but the syntactic position is expressed differently. N. Chomsky pays special attention to the role of the subject in the deep structure within the framework of transformational grammar. According to the scientist, in the process of passive transformations, the agent may change in the superficial structure, but semantically it remains the main performer of the action. This view is important in explaining the stable function of agentive syntaxemes in sentence semantics.

Agentive syntaxemes also perform an important pragmatic function. Indicating in speech exactly who performed the action clarifies the communicative goal. For example, in the sentence “The government approved the reform”, the agent unit distinguishes the political subject. If the sentence is given in the form The reform was approved, the performer of the action becomes unclear. Thus, the presence of an agentive syntaxeme ensures communicative accuracy. G. A. Zolotova characterizes the syntaxeme as a minimal semantic-syntactic unit and evaluates agentive syntaxemes as a means of expressing a communicatively active subject. According to the scientist, agent units also play an important role in the thematic-rhematic structure of the sentence. For example, in the sentence “The researcher analyzed the data carefully”, the agentive syntaxeme used as the theme forms the semantic basis of the subsequent information.

Agentive syntaxemes can express not only a person, but sometimes an animated object or abstract concepts. For example, in the sentence “Technology changed modern education”, “technology” performs a grammatical agent function. From a semantic point of view, metaphorical agency is observed here. In the Uzbek language, abstract concepts acquire an agentive meaning in sentences such as “Time changes everything”. This phenomenon shows that the category of agency has wide semantic possibilities.

Also, agentive syntaxemes actively participate in the formation of emotional-expressive meaning. For example, in literary texts, the enhanced expression of the agent increases imagery: The angry storm destroyed the village. Here, although the storm is a natural phenomenon, it is personified as an agent unit. As a result, the stylistic impact of the sentence increases. In Uzbek literary texts, examples such as “Shamol derazalarni qattiq urardi” show the stylistic function of agency. Analysis shows that agentive syntaxemes play a crucial role in shaping the semantic, communicative, and pragmatic structure of a sentence. They perform tasks such as expressing the source of the action, filling the valence possibilities of the predicate, organizing thematic-rhematic relations, and ensuring the communicative accuracy of speech. Examples in the English and Uzbek languages show that agent syntaxemes have universal semantic features, but their syntactic expression differs depending on the language system.

Conclusion

The research results demonstrated that agentive syntaxemes are considered one of the important functional units in the formation of sentence semantics. They ensure the accuracy and integrity of the predicative content by expressing the performer, initiator, and semantic source of the action. Analysis of English and Uzbek language materials showed that agent syntaxemes are used in different syntactic positions in active and passive constructions, but their semantic function is preserved. It was also found that agent units play an important role in creating communicative clarity, enhancing pragmatic impact, and creating stylistic imagery in literary texts. During the study, it was confirmed that the semantic and functional

possibilities of agentive syntaxemes are extensive, and their in-depth study within the framework of syntactic semantics is one of the urgent scientific issues for modern linguistics.

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