

The Reference Status Determination By The Person And Event Names Alternation (based on Russian and English languages material)

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Abstract: *The article is dedicated to the analysis of the person names referential status in cases of their alternation with events names. The empirical bases of the research are statements from the linguistic corpuses of English and Russian languages. The analysis object are English and Russian statements which contain the person name demonstrating the alternation phenomenon with their event nomination function. It is found out that the referential status of studied lexemes is of interpretative nature. Self-sustaining functioning of person names involves specific-referential status, their alternation with the event names and logical value verbs in subject function consigns them to the abstract process situation designation and person names lose the referential status. Similar process can be pointed out for causation statements where person names act in the object function. Adjectives enduing person names with temporary feature promote their concretization and realization of specific-referential potential. The English and Russian languages are isomorphic in the sense of the presence in both languages of the person and event alternation phenomenon but with low alternation frequency in English language.*

Keywords: *person names, referential status, event nomination status, logic value verbs, causation statements, specific-referential potential.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Person names have long been the subject of close attention of researchers in various fields of the language science. It is very interesting to consider person names in the framework of functional syntax, where “a person is perceived at the same time both as an “objective” (physical, substantial) and as an “active” entity, appearing either in a static or in a dynamic aspect. The inseparability of events from the people who participate in them and who create them, and, on the contrary, the people inseparability from their activities, leads in the first case to the penetration of anthroponyms in the actant positions attached to inter-event predicates, and in the second case to the penetration of abstract (event) vocabulary into the actant positions by intersubjective verbs” (1). In light of this, the issue of person names and events alternation within a statement is of particular interest.

The purpose of this article is to determine the reference status of person names in case of alternation with the names of event in the statements of English and Russian languages. The subject of the analysis are statements from the corps of English and Russian languages, demonstrating peculiarities of the person names referential potential in case of their secondary function of event nomination. The task is to consider the features of the referential status of person names: 1) in the function of the subject by a nominal predicate; 2) in the

function of the object by verbs of causation; 3) in the function of the subject by verbs of logical meaning.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This article analyzes the referential potential of person names, or anthroponyms, in cases of their alternation with the names of events. The empirical basis of the study was the national linguistic corps of English and Russian languages. The research material was provided by examples from the linguistic corps of English and Russian languages. The general corpus amounted to 45 statements. The article used methods of continuous sampling and component analysis. The scientific novelty of the article lies in the fact that for the first time the reference potential of person names is considered in the conditions of their alternation with the names of events. The practical significance of the study involves the possibility of applying its results in the practice of teaching theoretical grammars of English and Russian languages.

Main body: Traditionally, semantic agreement is understood as a kind of subordinate connection between components. Thus, according to Sh. Bally, “the subordinate connection is the closest interpenetration”, possible “both between the subject and the predicate, and between any determinant and determining one” (3). V. G. Gack speaks of an agreement as “semantic mutual conditioning” (5). At the lexical-semantic level, S. D. Katsnelson distinguishes between individual and type (semantic) valency as the ability of a categorical word to come into compatibility with other categorical words (6).

In this article, after N. D. Arutyunova, we consider three types of the sentence elements semantic agreement, transposing them into the sphere of person names functioning (1). In accordance with the rules of semantic agreement, person names require correlation: 1) with spatial relations as specific significant creatures and with relations of a logical-temporal type by event connotations; 2) with the designations of physical actions, and as abstract concepts with the names of mental acts. Semantic agreement requires person names to act as a subject by predicates of particular meaning, while abstract concepts should be characterized by predicates of abstract meaning.

The semantic agreement of person name and its syntactic function are based on the “distinction of spatial and temporal parameters. The semantic agreement of the verb and its animate actants is based on the distinction of material and ideal, physical and spiritual planes, and the semantic agreement of the subject and predicate on the distinction of logical orders” (1).

In our interpretation, we get the following logical chain: a series of concepts ‘*person - spatial orientation - physical action - physical features of a person*’ is opposed to the series ‘*event - time - mental act - property of the event and judgment about the event*’.

There is a semantic agreement between subject and proposition predicate. Person names can be combined with predicates of a specific action, as well as with abstract predicates. Reference status determining requires deciphering the meaning of the sentence and deploying it into a proposition. Let’s consider the reference status of person names depending on the function performed.

Person names in the subject position with nominal predicates having an adjective in their composition

- *It is rare for students to have a free tutor (= a tutor is rarely free for studying with students)* (the author’s example - E.I.)

A compound nominal predicate ‘*rare*’, where the nominal part is presented by an adjective with a temporal meaning (rare in time: with large periods of time, occasionally occurring) does not express a constant, but a temporary quality ‘*to be free*’ repeating

periodically. The combination 'a *free tutor* is a reduced predication or proposition. An attribute is equivalent to a predicate and is a part of a compound nominal predicate represented in a sentence. Semantic emphasis is placed on the concept of unemployment; this definition does not characterize the subject - *the tutor*.

In English, by continuous sampling of 100 examples, only one example of suitable semantics and one example with the expression '*not often free*' were found:

- ... *in effect that the woman so long as she's free and open sexually then she can have whatever she wants* (Hinton James. "Protests and visions") [British National Corpus] (hereinafter - BNC).

- *She works ordinary hours so Anne's not often free to go out with her now* (Murphy Elizabeth. "An nest of singing birds" [BNC].)

The adjective '*free*' can express both the ongoing quality of the freedom status from duties and a temporary sign of the employment lack. The first sentence contains general reasoning, the noun '*woman*' has a non-referential generic meaning. In the next sentence, the proper noun as the identifier of a particular person is characterized by an adjective in the temporary meaning '*not free*', as a result of which we can assume the state of employment for a certain time interval.

In combination with the attributes of temporal semantics, person names do not lose the value of a particular reference.

Person names with predicates in the object position in statements of causation

Person names in the function of situation representing are semantically less informative. They carry a meaning that is occasionally assigned to them in this statement (13).

For example:

- ...*i nichego ne vyshlo iz-za Mashi!* (Prazdnyj razgovor // Iz materialov Ul'yanovskogo universiteta, 2006) [National Corps of the Russian Language] (hereinafter - NKRYa).

The proper noun in this case does not appear in its primary meaning, but reflects the situation as a whole. Its meaning can only be deciphered by referring to extralinguistic reality, and in each specific situation of communication this meaning needs to be specified. There can be many reasons for failure. The proper noun replaces the whole subordinate clause. According to N.D. Arutyunova, "to put instead of the subordinate clause only the name of a concrete meaning is tantamount to reducing the whole statement to its topic, keeping silent about the rheme" (2).

The known is placed at the beginning of the sentence, and the message is reduced into one name of a person, implicitly representing an event that, from the syntactical point of view can be considered as a rheme, but from the position of semantic analysis of deep structure, it denies the novelty of the message and presents the information as reminded. The reduced predication in this example comes down to the person name who "is characterized by informative incompleteness, as he only names the participant in the situation, and not the whole situation" (2).

In the English language corpus, 20 collocations '*failed because of*' were found, but in combination only with event vocabulary, there are no combinations with person names there:

- *Previous attempts to start the project before nineteen ninety had failed because of poor maintenance to the bikes, and accidents* (Save The Children: meeting) [BNC].

- ...*their bid failed because of the clash with the baseball season -- but it is huge and comfortable* (Daily Telegraph, elect. edn. of 19920417. Leisure material) [BNC].

However, 35 expressions were found containing the prepositional combination '*because of him*', where the cause is an event involving the person indicated by the pronoun '*him*':

- *Because of him being a rescued dog I can't ever give him a slap* (46 convs rec. by `Ginny' (PS0CG) between 28 Nov and 6 Dec 1991) [BNC].
- *... and it had been because of him that Harriet had first decided to come to London'* (Tanner Janet. «Folly's child») [BNC].
- *Five kids died because of him...* (The Daily Mirror. 13356 s-units.) [BNC].
- *I mean it's a shame somebody's getting sacked because of him* (7 convs rec. by `Katriane' on 31 Jan 1992) [BNC].

The third person singular pronoun in the object case replaces the person name. Like replaced person name it reflects the event. According to N.D. Arutyunova the use of person name allows you to convert the logical meaning of causality into the value of the assessment. The name of the person may mean any event. A positive assessment is mentioned in the first two sentences, which deal with the situation of rescuing the dog and about the right decision. A negative assessment of the situation involving a person is presented in the following two, where actions led to the death of children or a sense of shame.

However, the emphasis on the personality of the event participant underlines his personal responsibility, for example, indicating his guilt (failure). Sentences in which person names with event connotations function as a logical **circumstance** (логическое обстоятельство) are perceived as complete messages. The lack of information is compensated for by thinking over the situation, the participant of which is explicitly represented.

By the continuous sampling method, 70 examples with the construction 'because of my' were analyzed (out of 1350 total available in the case) of which only 2 examples contained the person name after the possessive pronoun:

- *I'm doing this deb thing because of my mother, really,' she said, fiddling apologetically with the buttons* (Daily Telegraph, elect. edn. of 19920409. Leisure material) [BNC].
- *But the reason I started performing was because of my boyfriend at the time - he writes Coronation Street now so he's* (Aspel Michael. «In good company») [BNC].

Person names are characterized by the semantic duality. "Person is always associated with actions, deeds, behavior, etc., are often used in positions intended for event vocabulary" (10). Possessing a dual semantic status, such words reveal a dual interpretation of their reference status. The possessive pronoun 'my' indicates the specificity of the reference status of person names 'mother', 'boyfriend'. However, in these examples they do not express a person, but represent the situation as a whole, therefore, it is impossible to speak clearly about the specificity of their reference status.

Under certain conditions, the use of the person names in the corresponding syntactic functions does not leave the addressee with a feeling of informative shortage. This happens, as E.V. Ovchinnikova observes, if a person name is semantically dual and can be interpreted both in the specific and in the eventual sense: a proper noun can have individual event connotations "(Chaliapin = Chaliapin's singing) (10). In most cases, a missing predicate can be explicated in the pretext or be obvious from the situation.

Person names in the subject function with verbs of logical meaning

Alternation of event names and person names is possible by verbs of logical (inter-event), qualitative-logical and intersubjective (interpersonal) meaning (1).

For example:

- *Menya do sih por razdrazhayut amerikancy* (Aleksandr Kupriyanov. Larisa Gershtejn, vice-mer Ierusalima: «Vlast' ne dolzhna zavorazhivat'» (2002) // «Izvestiya», 2002.02.21) [NKRYa].
- *Do chego utomili uzhe eti indijskie deti s bol'shimi glazami i hudymi ladoshkami!* (Stas Kulesh – 10 sovetov fotografam (2011) [NKRYa].

E. Paducheva considers this phenomenon as a metonymic shift, where “the situation is as an actant on the semantic level and a person on the syntactic level”, that is, “the person name metonymically replaces the situation with his participation” - children’s cries, noise or behavior of guests, etc. (11).

In English, a construction with the verb to ‘irritate’ is common, but after the preposition ‘by’ according to the QWIFI list, person names do not follow.

For example:

- *If I analyze the bosses I've worked for, the ones who irritated me the most were the ones who were indecisive and who constantly asked for more* (David and Ezra Derek. «Advice from the top». Oates, Devon: David & Charles Pubs plc, 198) [BNC]. - *George III irritated American colonists by summoning them to meetings in places* (Alan Sutton, Thomas Cook. «Travel. Seddon, Sue») [BNC].

The person names in the subject function of the by verbs of logical meaning indicate the relationship between two events. Person names can replace both valencies of these verbs, representing events. Their alternation with event vocabulary reflects the fluctuation in the semantics of the verb: verbs denoting the relationship between personal events begin either to come closer to the verbs expressing the relationship between people or to emphasize the person’s role in relation to another event.

This phenomenon finds an explanation in the mechanisms of the human psyche. “When making a judgment about the relationship between events, a person often switches them into a personal plan, indicating the interaction of people who create events” (7). When evaluating the connection between facts, we often tend to replace it with a mention of the event participant.. A person, who through his evil or good will, intentionally or involuntarily causes a situation, is already perceived as the cause of another, objective or subjective (mental) event.

The sentence structure at the level of syntactic compatibility of values reflects the separation of the concepts of causality and guilt: a reason separated from the defendant is transformed into an instrumental addition:

- *Mihail meshal mne pechatat' svoimi rassprosami* (example of an author - E.I.)

- *Meshal mne i Fonarin, kotoryj vsyo vremya gnusno hihikal i potiral ruki.* (I. Grekova. «V vagone», 1983) [NKRYa].

- *Leva meshal mne uhazhivat' za Natashej* (Vasilij Katanyan. «Prikosnovenie k idolam», 1998) [NKRYa].

In the first example, it were precisely the questions that were the obstacle in the work, and not *Mikhail* as a substantial and psychic entity, but it was he who was guilty of the fact that the speaker could not print. It is necessary to recall here that “filling an instrumental position with an event name or a subordinate clause usually occurs in cases where a predicate denotes a conscious purposeful action” (12). In the following example, the subordinate clause explicates how the mentioned person interfered. In the last sentence, we can only turn to the context to establish the machinations of the character, who had the goal to interfere.

In the Russian language, statements containing the expression ‘to become successful’ are quite frequent, where there is an addendum that indicates a way to achieve the goal:

- *On dobilsya uspekha upornym trudom (tem, chto uporno trudilsya)* [NKRYa].

In English, the expression ‘to become successful’ revealed in only 7 sentences of the national British corps, does not contain an addition:

- ... *he was sometimes terribly handicapped for money, but as they became successful, I think things eased for him* (Devonald Rosemary. «Basil Rocke: artist and teacher») [BNC].

- *But when non-performing songwriters , became successful with their songs being recorded by major artists, and used in films or* (Wisden Cricket Monthly. Surrey: Wisden Cricket Magazines, 1992) [BNC].

In the first sentence, the name of the person replaces the third person pronoun, his status can be assumed to be specifically referential. In the following example, the person name in plural denotes the entire group of people (songwriters) and has a non-referential status. In English statements an instrumental object indicating the method used by an agent to achieve the goal is missing.

Favorable or unfavorable relations between events in which people participate are easily interpreted as the corresponding relations of the event participants to each other.

For example:

- *Ih rekomendacii pomogli mne dostich' uspekha* (inter-event meaning).

- *Ih rekomendacii pomogli mne* (inter-event meaning, emphasizing effectiveness of a subject event).

- *Oni pomogli mne dostich' uspekha* (transitional value, emphasizing the role of the person in relation to the object event) (8).

As can be seen from the examples, in verbs of logical meaning the alternation of event and personality nominations can occur in both verb positions. 18 collocations of 'he helped me' were found in the English corpus - and 11 expressions with the base 'mother helped me', but everyone shows interpersonal meaning only.

For example:

- *May, wake up, it's raining!' Otley said as he helped me to my feet.' Oh, my head!' I moaned* (Howell Bette. «Dandelion days») [BNC].

- *... considered himself to be a simple man. " I was in misery and he helped me". His eyes came to rest on the tear-stained face of Mrs. Bennett* (Farrell, J G. «The siege of Krishnapur». London: Fontana Paperbacks, 1988, pp. 205-313.) [BNC].

- *His mother helped him up onto the seat beside Mr. McDoodle.' I've a present for* (McDonald Stuart. «The adventures of Endill Swift») [BNC].

These statements are about the interaction of people as mental entities. The relations between events are replaced by the relations between their subjects. The functioning of pronouns as substitutes for a person name implies a specific reference status.

Summary: In most of the examples under consideration, the referential status of the studied lexical units in both languages is interpretative, due to the syntactic function performed by person names in the sentence. An analysis of the language material showed that the Russian and English languages are isomorphic in the sense of the presence in both languages of the person and event alternation phenomenon, however, the English language reveals similar processes with a much lower frequency.

3. CONCLUSIONS

1. The reference status of person names is interpretative. The isolated functioning of person names implies a specific reference status. Alternation with the names of events by the verbs of logical meaning in the function of the subject equates them to process abstract nomination of situations and deprives them of the reference status.

2. A similar situation is noted in the statements of causation, in which person names act as the object. Adjectives ascribing to a person the sign of a time parameter contribute to its concretization and realization of a specific referential potential.

3. The isomorphism of the Russian and English languages consists in the presence of alternation processes; allomorphy is associated with the low frequency of these phenomena in English language.

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