

## TYPOLOGY AND CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS

VLASTA STRAKOVÁ

*Academy of Sciences, Prague*

1. The terms "contrast" and "analogy" (identity and difference) refer to concepts that have a distinctly *relative* character. At the pragmatic level, their referential content is determined by the actual object of comparison (confrontation, contrast), by the type of levels, structures, units and, ultimately, languages subjected to analysis (related languages, closely related languages, etc.), and by the envisaged aim of analysis (general characterization, detailed characterization). In the case of typologically distant (i.e. substantially different) languages, comparison reveals major, more striking, more appreciable contrasts. It should also be borne in mind that in closely related languages (e.g. Slavonic languages) the line of demarcation may not always be distinct enough. In other words, there is no sharp contrast between identity and difference, but rather a continuous progression (Straková 1978).

2. The fact that linguistic confrontation (contrastive analysis) involves in the first place the study of *sub-systems* (Fisiak 1980) is consistent with the systemic character of language. The principles upon which contrastive analysis is based are, on the one hand, the same for all levels of language. On the other hand, they specifically apply to a particular linguistic level.

In our view, an adequate conception and representation of two language systems presupposes compliance with the following requirements:

- (1) the two contrasted languages are subjected to the same analysis;
- (2) the analysis duly considers the specific character of the linguistic units under examination;
- (3) semantic identity constitutes the principle of linguistic confrontation.

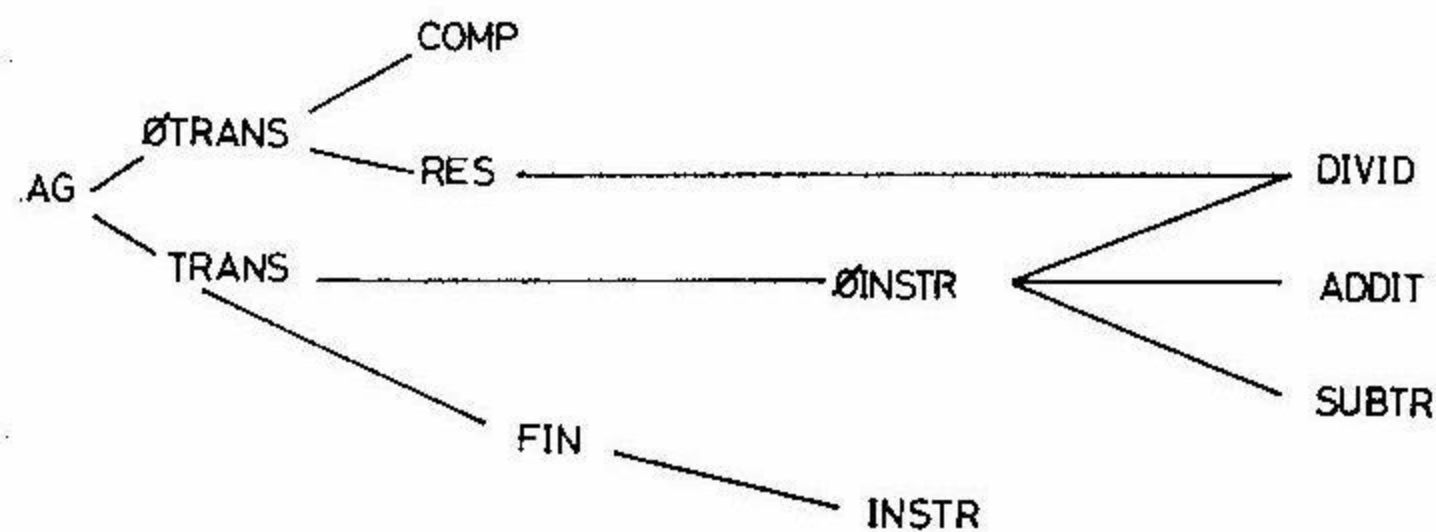
3. The identification of *systemic features* is of fundamental significance for a typological characterization (which constitutes the comprehensive aim of

contrastive analysis). Correspondingly, major relevance is assigned to *systemic relations*. At the same time, the analyst must be aware of the fact that systemic features can only be sought in typically patterned areas of the language system. With regard to word-formation typology this means that only serial formations (paradigmatic formations) are relevant. Individual formations are excluded from the scope of systemic analysis.

4. The semantic analysis of derivation units (derivatives) can be presented as *componential analysis*. This type of analysis proceeds from the assumption that semantic markers (semes) can be evaluated as an organizational factor of the semantic system. Semes can be either formally marked (explicit) or formally unmarked (implicit).

The formal *explicitness* of the semantic components of Slavonic lexemes can be evidenced (though not always in the same fashion in different languages) in several respects. The most clear-cut features of the Slavonic languages include the explicitness of the parts-of-speech characterization and, in the case of verbs, the transitivity characteristic.

5. In each derivation complex (in our study — noun-derived verbs) the semantic markers are *hierarchized*. Schematically they can be represented as follows:



#### Explanations:

The dominating feature of the hierarchy of semes in noun-derived (de-substantivized) verbs is the parts-of-speech marker — Agency (AG); the parts-of-speech marker also dominates other parts-of-speech categories: concreteness in nouns, quality in adjectives. Then follows Transitivity — TRANS (syntagmatic marker).

Comparativeness — COMP (identification marker) may occur in all parts of speech.

The two markers Resultativeness — RES and Finality — FIN are pragmatic in character; they are conditioned by the verbal character of the derivation unit (in the case in point, by the verbal character of the derivation base).

The semes DIVID, ADDIT, SUBTR are concrete lexical exponents (effectors) of the derivation structure.

#### Notes:

- for classification purposes the following distinctions could be drawn:
  - limit-semes (the largely concrete, largely lexical type of semes),
  - connective semes;
- certain connective semes may have a positive as well as negative (zero) realization: TRANS::ØTRANS  
INSTR::ØINSTR

6. As is obvious from the data examined, analysis identified semantic markers (semes) that are relevant for derivation semantics (in our case, for the derivation complex of noun-derived verbs). The semes were subsequently plotted into specific *configurations*, i.e. models of certain semantic structures that can be assigned corresponding morphemic structures. Furthermore, the specific derivation means through which individual semantic classes can be realized were identified.

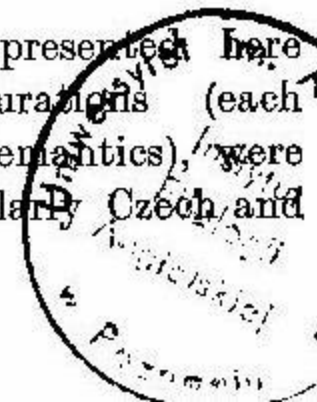
#### Configurations of the semantic markers of deS-V (deS-V semantic classes):

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| (1) AG+ØTRANS              | Type: funkcionirovat' (to function) shpionit' (to spy) |
| (2) AG+ØTRANS+COMP         | popugaynichat' (to parrot)                             |
| (3) AG+ØTRANS+RES          | kristalizovat' sya (to crystallize)                    |
| (4) AG+ TRANS+RES          | programmirovat' (to program)                           |
| (5) AG+ TRANS+RES+DIVID    | atomizirovat' (to atomize)                             |
| (6) AG+ØTRANS+ØINSTR+AD    | ionizirovat' sya (to ionize <sub>1</sub> )             |
| (7) AG+ TRANS+ØINSTR+AD    | ionizirovat' (to ionize <sub>2</sub> )                 |
| (8) AG+ØTRANS+ØINSTR+SUBTR | obezvolet' (to lose one's will)                        |
| (9) AG+ TRANS+ØINSTR+SUBTR | obezvolit' (to deprive one of one's will)              |
| (10) AG+ TRANS+INSTR       | utyuzhit' (to iron)                                    |

#### 7. Morphemic structures

(=morphemic realizations of individual configurations — for further details see Straková, forthcoming).

To sum up: the above-described semantic markers, presented here within the structural framework of individual configurations (each of the ten configurations represents a specific type of verb-semantics), were identified in data deriving from Slavonic languages (particularly Czech and



Russian). The semantic verb-types, however, are not restricted to the two languages under examination, but have a more general, universal range of incidence; they may also occur in other Slavonic and non-Slavonic languages. The most "universal" semes include the Resultative seme, the Instrumentative seme and the Comparative seme.

A detailed contrastive analysis of the derivation system of two (or more) languages (with the semantic components constituting the criterial basis of analysis) yields essential data for an exact derivation typology and, ultimately, for a comprehensive linguistic typology.

#### REFERENCES

- Buzássyová, K. 1982. "Zdroje sémantických příznaků slovo tvorně motivovaných slov". *Jazykovedné štúdie* 16. 151 - 60.
- Coseriu, E. and Geckeler, H. 1981. *Trends in structural semantics*. Tübingen: Gunter Narr Verlag.
- Fisiak, J. (ed.). 1980. *Theoretical issues in contrastive linguistics*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Fodor, J. — Katz, J. 1964. *The structure of language. Readings in the philosophy of language*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc. Engelwood Cliffs.
- Greimas, A. J. 1966. *Sémantique structurale. Recherche de méthode*. Paris: Larousse.
- Hjelmslev, L. 1958. "Dans quelle mesure les significations des mots peuvent-elles être considérées comme formant une structure?". In: *Proceedings of the Eighth International Congress of Linguists, Oslo 1958*, 636-54.
- Kubrjakova, J. 1977. *Typy jazykových značení prozvodného slova*. Moskva: Nauka.
- Straková, V. 1978. "Ke kontrastivní morfosémantické analýze". *Studie ze slovanské jazykovědy* 1. 151 - 226. Praha: Kabinet cizích jazyků.
- Straková, V. 1980. "Slovo tvorný význam a sémantické rysy". *Slovo a slovesnost* 41. 130 - 32.
- Straková, V. *Strukturace sémantických rysů*. Manuscript of a monograph to be published in Prague.
- Uluxanov, I. 1977. *Slovoobrazovatel' uaja semantika v russkom jazyke*. Moskva: Nauka.