

ENGLISH/RUSSIAN NOMINAL SENTENCES—EXPRESSIVES: CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS

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Expressives as a type of speech acts in Searle's classification include only thanks, congratulations and several other types. Many linguists, however, are of the opinion that this notion is much wider and includes all speech acts expressing the speaker's emotional attitude towards some situation, fact or person.

The definition of structural and semantic characteristics of speech acts belonging to this class presents some difficulty: practically any type of structural-semantic patterns can be used in the pragmatic function of an expressive, the extra-linguistic situation being the factor entirely determining the speaker's intention. And still there are certain syntactic patterns typical of expressing emotional attitude. Among those patterns nominal sentences (NS) occupy a special place. Both in English and Russian a NS is a unit perfectly suitable for the above mentioned purpose of communication under specific speech conditions.

As is known an illocutionary act of a speaker is, as a rule, followed by an allocutionary act which means "the selection by the speaker of those linguistic devices which he thinks optimally serve the purpose of eliciting from the hearer a positive reaction" (Haverkate 1984:11). Thus, the successfulness of a speech act depends mostly on the allocutionary act.

When speaking about expressives we can say that the standard syntactic pattern "It is a fine day" may fail to perform this pragmatic function as it lacks emotion, while the sentence "What a fine day!" would be more suitable for this purpose. A NS, of course, is only one of the patterns used for expressing emotions.

The aim of this analysis is to compare the structural-semantic characteristics of NS-expressives in English and in Russian. Another important problem to be solved is to find out in which of the two languages a speaker performing an allocutionary act chooses a NS as a means of expressing his intention more often.

First, it should be mentioned that the structural pattern of an exclamatory sentence is the most common in both languages. But both in English and in Russian one can also find NS-expressives having the structural pattern of a question:

"What have I got to learn about you, Miss Jordache?

"Me?" a forced little laugh was surprised out of her (Shaw).

"Ты? Какими судьбами к нам?"

and a vocative:

"So, did you murder her?"

"Mr. Poirot!" he cried out indignantly (Christie).

– Вы как раз так и бурите. Наставляете звено за звеном и последовательно бурите. А мы ...

– Диалектически? Скачкообразно?

– Натан Михайлович! Запрещенный прием! (Дудинцев).

Among exclamatory NS-expressives both in English and in Russian the most typical patterns are: (Adj) N!, What (Adj)N!, N of N!:

"Been ashore?" she asked.

"Yes, a lovely night. A real honeymoon night" (Christie).

"What a dreadful day!" (Maugham).

"That would be like the Queen in your Alice in Wonderland, "Off with her head." "Of course. *The divine right of monarchy!*" (Christie).

"Какая мрачная комната!" (Беляев).

"Вот тебе все и объяснилось" ... "Вот так история!" (Булгаков).

"Необыкновенная тишина этой ночи!" (Фадеев).

But though similar, these structures are not identical in English and in Russian. The Russian NS of the type are more varied. They can include particles, interjections, affixes of subjective appraisal, other means expressing different shades of emotions, while English NS usually have none. Compare:

Вот так день (денек, денечек)!

Ну и день (денек, денечек)!

What a day! – Что за день (денек, денечек)!

Какой день (денек, денечек)!

День (денек, денечек)-то!

On the other hand, a number of English NS-Expressives are of idiomatic patterns, with reinterpreted pronouns and conjunctions and can hardly have any analogous patterns in Russian. Here belong such patterns as *Some N!*, *This (that, these, those, the) N!*, *You and your N!* When devoid of demonstrative meaning pronouns *this*, *that*, *these*, *those* and the definite article in English have a certain negative connotation. The same is true of the pattern *You and your N!*, while the pattern *Some N!* can express both positive and negative emotions:

"Oh man, that noise!" (Hailey).

"You and your uppish Mr. Grant!" (Christie).

"Satisfied with your pupil?" "Some pupil!" he said smiling (Shaw).

Such NS in translation are rendered by patterns of other structural types – verbal sentences that may include idiomatic structures etc. Compare:

"You and your legs!" (Maugham).

"Идите вы с вашими ногами!" (Мюллер).

So, while the Russian language possesses a varied choice of means modifying the character of emotions expressed by a NS, English has a wider range of structural-semantic patterns of NS-expressives.

The study of a speaker's allocutionary act gives sufficient grounds to suggest that the number of English NS-expressives is much greater. The results of the quantitative analysis are given below:

English	The number of NS-expressives per 100 pages			
	28	23	19	20
Russian	21	18	14	17

Each portion of 100 pages has been taken from a book of modern English writers – A. Christie, W.S. Maugham, I. Shaw, D. Fransis and respective translation into Russian.

This can be accounted for by the fact that the Russian language possesses a wider choice of expressive patterns besides NS. Also, the case system of Russian which is more complicated than that of English limits the number of NS. The two languages belonging to different types, their systems have different arsenals of expressivity.

The contrastive study of NS in English and in Russian leads us to the conclusion that a NS performing the pragmatic function of an expressive is used in English more often than in Russian. In both language a NS is one of the typical means of expressing emotional attitude. The English language has a larger number of structural-semantic patterns of NS, while the Russian language has a number of different variants of the few structural-semantic patterns of NS it possesses.

All this should be taken into account in language teaching as well as in the course of theory and practice of translation.

REFERENCES

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