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TRASITIONAL NATURE OF SYNCRETIC CONSTRUCTIONS WITH THE FUNCTIONAL-SEMANTIC FIELD “CONDITION-OBJECT”

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Abstract. The article considers the problem of functioning syncretic constructions of a transitional nature in the English language. The multifaceted nature of complex sentences is studied within the framework of the structural-semantic classification based on the modified semantic meanings of various syntactic functions. The fact of representation of syncretic structures caused by the nature of the connection between the components of complex construction is taken into consideration that leads to the instability of the typological system of these units. The models of the sentences marked by syncretism are usually considered as those ones that do not fit into a clearly constructed classification or break the idea of the expressiveness of the system in the language. It is concluded that English complex sentences of a transitional nature form oppositions where the examples of the intersection of syntactic planes of various semantics are presented, for example, condition and object.

Key words: complex sentences, syncretic constructions, transitional nature, multifaceted nature, structural-semantic classification, functional-semantic field, relationship of condition and object.

Introduction.

The development of the asymmetric nature of syncretic units of a transitional nature leads to the multifaceted nature of linguistic phenomena indicating the need to study structural and semantic features, differentiation both nuclear structural units, in which there is a coincidence of form and content, and also syntactic units with their interaction and mutual influence, the so-called syncretic structures. The latter do not always clearly fit into the classification framework, violate its unambiguousness but the regular frequency of their development indicates their systemic nature.

It should be noted that the isolation of typical linguistic units and syncretic units of a transitional nature necessitates the use of the oppositional method in the study of syncretic phenomena, within the framework of which typical facts are considered within oppositional pairs. First of all, such analysis involves identifying not only the similarity of the units of opposition, that made it possible to unite them in opposition, but also the unlikeness of the differential features which are weakening.



Studying syncretic units in the language, we observe the fact that the change of the usual syntactic function to the occasional one is the result of the transition of such units at the level of syntax. This is explained by the fact that syntax is the basic center of grammar while the variation of the syntactic function is the main condition for the development of the semantic meaning of a complicated nature. Thus, syncretic constructions of a transitional nature create significant difficulties in the classification of complex sentences in the English language since subordination markers or connecting elements can change their differential features under the influence of the syntactic function in certain conditions.

In view of this, it is appropriate to note that the transitional nature of syncretic constructions arises due to the multifaceted nature of the semantic function of complex sentences. At the same time, syncretic units are able to demonstrate a mixture of the features of different nuclear classes with a full set of differential features. The form of such syncretic constructions is supplemented by a new content that leads to the development of syntactic constructions that are syncretic in semantics causing some violation of the symmetry between the form and the content in them.

According to Yu. Boyko, the functioning of syncretic complex sentences prompts researchers to develop a more detailed structural-semantic classification of complex sentences in the English language taking into account the transitional nature that arises as a result of syncretism and variations in the functional-semantic field [1].

Structural-semantic classification of complex sentences in the English language studies syntactic constructions based on the nature of the relative word. Yu. Yazykova notes that the nature of the relative word determines the range of possible connecting means that connect the main part to the subordinate one [3].

It may be explained by the fact that the units of syncretic nature function both at the level of form and at the level of content in the language. In this regard, they may be prone to the incompatibility of these levels. It is the constructions of a transitional nature that indicate the use of complex units of syncretic nature within a certain level. In our opinion, such constructions of syncretic nature are the constructions of a somewhat defective nature since they arise as a result of an increase in semantic and



functional boundaries.

Yu. Hrybonos suggests considering the semantic approach as it has a significant advantage revealing the sphere of meaning with its complex mechanism more detailed. Thus, the complexity of a clear classification of English complex constructions is determined precisely by the peculiarity of the functioning of syncretic constructions of a transitional nature. At the same time, the researcher states that the factors of the development of syncretic constructions are numerous, but the leading reason is an attempt to convey the elements of informative semantics at the expense of already existing linguistic means [2].

Main part.

One of the vivid manifestations of syncretic constructions of a transitional nature are the examples of complex sentences with the functional-semantic field “condition-object”. The relevance of studying syncretic complex sentences with functional-semantic field “condition-object” is determined by the growing need for semantization of syntactic units that determines the tendency to carefully analyze the content side and structural organization of complex sentences of a transitional nature. It must be noted that there is an intersection of several content plans in the complex constructions of the peripheral zones and it says about the widespread use of syncretic constructions in speech. Both complex sentences of the nuclear zones and complex sentences of the peripheral zone can be represented as follows:

A. *If Godfrey Manning had made an offer, he would surely have told Phyllida so ... [4, c. 47].*

*... it was the most I had had to contend with **in case** I met one lorry and half a dozen donkeys on an average afternoon's excursion ... [4, c. 46].*

*I'd have been bound to hear it **unless** there was [4, c. 22].*

Ab. *With Yanni's death an accident – and I saw no reason to doubt this – it didn't matter especially **if** he had indeed paid a furtive visit to the Castello before going out last night [4, c. 86].*

*It was no doubt **if** such evidence had been there, he would have had to come out with the truth, or part of it [4, c. 87].*



AB. *I'm sorry **if** I was a little abrupt [4, c. 24].*

*It was strange **if** the unexpected effect of cosiness had been enhanced by the smell of cigarettes and coffe and the faint fumes of the paraffine stove [4, c. 124].*

aB. *Would she tell anyone **if** her job depended on it [5, c. 68]?*

*Katherine wondered **if** she had ever worked down here [5, c. 82].*

*After dinner Katherine asked Milly **if** she would come to her room to sort out something [5, c. 115].*

B. *The following day they went to the hospital, only to be told **that** Mr. Trend had been sent to a home by the seaside to help him recover [5, c. 252].*

*Kate didn't know **whether** her sister would want her... [5, c. 240]*

Zones **A** and **B** represent the center (core of the opposition) with a full set of differential features of language units. The units of zones **Ab**, **aB** represent the peripheral zone while the units of zone **AB** make up intermediate constructions. Zones **Ab**, **AB**, **aB** represent the examples of syncretism with its heterogeneous character, the differential features of which indicate the weakening of the connections of these members in the opposition. This scale of transition fixes the moments of fluctuation in the language. Our study shows that English complex sentences in the area **Ab** have differential features of prevailing type **A**, zone **aB** outlines the features of type **B** while the examples of zone **AB** shows a uniform combination of the features.

Thus, the semantics indicated in the subordinate parts of the complex sentences of zone **A** express actually conditional relationships and determine, first of all, a range of phenomena that are oriented towards the delimitation of nuclear complex sentences with conditional semantics from complex sentences with adjacent constructions. The considered material allows us to assert that complex structures with functional-semantic field "condition" include, firstly, the elements with a flexible structure of positional construction (examples of nuclear zone **A**, which occupy preposition, interposition and postposition). Secondly, such semantics of complex sentences is supported by the plan of using a certain range of time frames which determine the nature of the use of temporal-aspectual features of these units.

It should be noted that due to the use of modal and lexical qualifiers in complex



sentences with typical relationships of condition a kind of correlation of objective-modal meanings is determined. For example, *But I was damned especially **if** I would be driven back now* [4, p. 70]; *Only **if** I had been capable of reasoned thought or speech, I should have known this, and spared him* [4, p. 73].

It is also worth mentioning that English complex sentences with functional-semantic field of condition often reveal the modal plan of expression which is used to indicate the regularities of the use of conditions for the realization of situations (... **if** *they were unhurt and could be re-floated fairly soon, they would suffer no ill effects* [4, p. 93]; *And he would have rickets **if** he had the work I have before me every day* [4, p. 15]).

The central element of complex sentences with functional-semantic field of object in the core zone **B** is the supporting word which expresses its functional nature. The examples of such core sentences are the constructions with an adverbial connection and a clear order of the arrangement of the parts. They are used both in the interposition (*I knew from Edwin **that** you were a determined woman who would face up to any challenge* [5, p. 171]) and in the postposition (*She wanted to be independent and tell him **that** she did believe in women's right but didn't have the courage to be truthful about her feelings* [5, p. 257]).

The structural and semantic unity of the complex sentences with the objective semantical part is due to a number of formal features. They are as follows, the presence of connecting elements with objective semantics of a monosemantic nature such as **that, what, whether** (*Suddenly he realised **what** he was saying* [5, p. 167]; *Christ, this lot round here don't know **that** it is to sit at a table ...* [5, p. 61], the use of a certain semantic row of words (*We can find out **where** Charlie is from this lot* [5, p. 133], *I had to write **where** I got the money from* [5, p. 134], *She was afraid to tell him about the restaurant and **that** she knew all about the staff* [5, p. 78], *I want to explain to her **that** it was me who persuaded you* [5, p. 165], *Katherine reflected a conclusion **that** it would be enough of an answer* [5, p. 94]).

The study of English complex sentences of the transitional zone **Ab** indicates the obvious proximity of the presented units to the proper conditional subordinate clauses



and proves that conditional statements determine the complexity of the structural-semantic organization and assume the combination of two semantic components in complex sentences, i.e., conditional and objective. Different ratios of semantic features of syncretic complex sentences indicate the diversity of speech situations. As evidenced by observations of the speech material, a distinctive feature of syncretic complex sentences of the intermediate type **Ab** with the predominance of conditional semantics is the presence in the structural basis of vocabulary with an evaluative component and the possible use of modal or lexical markers (an example of a transitional zone **AB**). The following examples illustrate the mentioned idea, e.g., *It will be a surprise **if** you live under a country's protection* [4, p. 86]; *It would be a nuisance **if** the police found out something discreditable about Spiro* [4, p. 76].

On the other hand, English complex sentences of syncretic semantics “condition-object” of the intermediate zone **AB** are units, the structure of which not only indicates the condition for the performance of the action given in the main clause, but also depicts the relationship between objects and subjects in close connection with the predicative basis of the main clause (*I would be surprised **if** perhaps Yanni wasn't on his way to the Castello last night* [4, p. 80]). Thus, the developing relationship performs a kind of adverbial connection which indicates the explanatory nature of the subordinate part. It is also interesting to note the fact that these relationships are studied as a kind of reaction of the subject/object to a certain fact of linguistic reality and the conditions of the development of these reactions.

Complex sentences of the **AB** zone have an approximately balanced ratio of seven conditions and explanations. The developing syncretic constructions are the general product of the crossing of semantic sides. The presence of a conditional meaning is revealed through the widespread use of the conditional conjunction **if**, and the objective semantics is supported by a complex nominal predicate which includes predicates of the assumed evaluative semantics (*He would be glad **if** somewhere in the shadows a drip of water could fall regularly – some stalactite dripping fresh water into a pocket of rock* [4, p. 143]; *Will it be too convenient **if** I come straight from work on Saturday* [4, p. 140]). The presence of predicates in the main clause and the complete coincidence



of their use with the temporal-aspectual characteristics of the complex sentences with the functional-semantic field of the condition indicates the equality of these semes.

The main clause of the syncretic complex sentences of the transitional zone **AB** have the deverbatives which in combination with the conditional conjunction also indicate an approximate correlation of the semes “condition-object” (*Kate couldn't stick to the thought **if** Kurt was living with Grace* [5, p. 329]; *Kate would feel a little disappointment **if** it wasn't until Friday lunchtime that Milly called in, and she was very busy* [5, p. 271]).

As for the intermediate zone **AB**, there are syncretic complex sentences in which the objective seme predominates to a greater extent. It is explained by the fact that their structure uses the supporting words being able to express such different semes as speaking, interest, thinking, etc. (*And what would he say **if** Gerald came here looking for her* [5, p. 136]; *I was just wondering **if** it was cheaper for me to buy them off you instead of Milly going to the market* [5, p. 227]; *Milly **thought if** he didn't go into work, like anybody else, he wouldn't be paid* [5, p. 131]). The use of the conditional conjunction, the correlation of the time forms and the possibility of transformational changes indicate the presence of the seme “condition”, but to a lesser extent. Compare, *And what would he say **if** Gerald came here looking for her - And what would he say **when** Gerald came here looking for her?; I was just wondering **if** it was cheaper for me to buy them off you instead of Milly going to the market - I was just wondering **what** it was cheaper for me to buy them off you instead of Milly going to the market.*

Conclusions.

Having analyzed the material presented above, we come to the conclusion that a characteristic feature of the combination of semantic meanings in the structure of English complex constructions is, first of all, the polysemantic nature of connecting elements and their ability to express numerous functional-semantic fields. This can be explained by the flexibility and complex form of the invariant meaning which is also one of the main factors in the study and isolation of the typology of these constructions. It was established that the important role of the development of syncretic phenomena of a transitional nature lies in the nature of the supporting components and their lexical



content. It is appropriate to note that there is a whole complex of the features that contribute to the development of additional shades in English complex constructions. For example, these are morphological and syntactic features of supporting words, the flexible positional nature of subordinate clauses or their clear fixed position in some cases.

The functioning of syncretic units of a transitional nature in the language indicates a desire to economize on linguistic means due to the semantic capacity of syncretic units that makes them much more attractive from the point of view of this universal linguistic trend. Another factor is the need to differentiate semantic connections and relationships since the use of lexical-grammatical means of communication between syntactic units in parallel with the grammatical ones leads to the development of such units.

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Анотація. В статті розглядається проблема функціонування синкретичних конструкцій перехідного характеру в англійській мові. Досліджуються багатоаспектний характер складнопідрядних речень в рамках структурно-семантичної класифікації з урахуванням модифікованих семантичних значень різних синтаксичних функцій. Враховуються факт репрезентації синкретичних структур, що викликаний характером зв'язку між компонентами складнопідрядних конструкцій, що і призводить до нестабільності типологічної системи цих одиниць. Моделі речень, що відзначаються синкретизмом, як правило, розглядаються як такі, що не укладаються в чітко побудовану класифікацію або порушують уявлення про виразність системи в мові. Робиться висновок, що в англійській мові складнопідрядні речення перехідного характеру утворюють опозиції, де представлені приклади перетину синтаксичних площин різноманітної семантики, наприклад, умова та додаток.

Ключові слова: складнопідрядні речення, синкретичні конструкції, перехідний характер, багатоаспектна природа, структурно-семантична класифікація, функціонально-семантичне поле, відношення умови та додатку.