Correlation of Theme-Rheme Structure with Dictum and Modus in English and Ukrainian Speech

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Abstract. The article is devoted to the problem of correlation of a semantic structure of a sentence reflecting the content structure of a situation and is represented by dictum and modus in a sentence with the communicative structure represented by logical sense, expressed by the theme and rheme, as well as the means of their implementation in speech as one of the important aspects of the theme-rheme structure of an utterance in the communication process. Considerable attention is paid to prosodic means in English and Ukrainian speech.

Keywords: theme, rheme, dictum, modus.

Introduction. Modern stage of linguistic science development is characterized by great attention of researchers to the communicative and pragmatic aspects of a human language code. Scientists’ interest in problems of features of the speaker’s communicative intent verbalizing results in studying the mechanisms of production and interpretation of the content of utterances as a process of speech strategy actualization. One of the important issues in this regard is the issue of actual division of utterances, which causes many disputes, becomes an object of theoretical and experimental study aimed at identifying regularities of language units functioning in the communication process. Today the least understood aspect of this problem is the role of intonation in distinguishing the theme and rheme components of the utterances in speech.

Overview of publications related to the theme. Reliable basis for the study of this issue is a series of works, which contain a deep understanding of the issue of current division of speech units. In particular, they include the interpretation of the concepts of "theme" and "rheme", clarification of the content and scope of these categories (Ch. Bally [1], F. Danesh [21], I. I. Kvtunova [5], V. Matezius [10], O. V. Paducheva [13], I. P. Raspopov [14], N. O. Slusareva [17], J. Fibras [23], M. Halliday [24], L.O. Cherniakhovska [18]); study of functional and semantic nature of the actual division of a phrase as a language category (F. S. Batseyvych [2], O. O. Lapteva [9], V. Ye. Sheviakova [19]); study of linguistic and non-linguistic means of expression of theme and rheme components of an utterance (grammatical, lexical, intonation, para- and extralinguistic) (T.R.Kiik, A. M. Naumenko, O. D. Ogui [4]); comparing the form and content of theme-rheme structure in different system languages in order to identify typological and specific language features (V. P. Morozov [11], V. I. Shakhovskiy [20]).

The research is supported by the known theoretical and practical developments clarifying the issue of functioning of prosodic structures in the language, the integral part of which is the issue of prosodic figuration of a theme-rheme structure of speech (Yu. O. Dubovskiy [22], T. M. Koroliova [7], Ye.Yu.Savchenko [15]).

Objective. Studies on the issue of correlation of dictum and modus with a theme and rheme and the means to implement them in speech as one of the important aspects of formation of the theme-rheme structure of the utterance in the communication process.

Materials and methods. Research materials are segments of the popular TV shows "Top Gear", "First Test" and "Beware of the Car" in English and Ukrainian; total time of sounding of the investigated material makes up 301 minutes 6 seconds, the amount of experimental data is more than 3000 utterances.

Achievement of the objective and solving specific research problems is based on the general provisions of systems analysis with the use general elements of general scientific (abstraction, generalization, formalization) and empirical theoretical methods (analysis, synthesis, ideational). The method of linguistic observation associated with perceptive analysis of the research material (auditory analysis), contextual and interpretative analysis methods have been used in order to determine logical and argumentative organization of English-speaking and Ukrainian-speaking television discourses; experimental phonetic research and processing of its results have been implemented using empirical general scientific methods (experiment, comparison, measurement) and special methods of determining the specific of prosodic updating of theme-rheme structure of the utterance in speech (survey of informants, audit and intonographic, quantitative analysis of experimental results).

Results and their discussion. According to the theory of actual division, the sentence is divided into two main parts, namely the theme and the rheme. The theme of the utterance, its foundation, according to V.Matheius, is deemed the thing, which is known or obvious in this situation, the thing, which is not important in the speaker’s opinion, the thing, which becomes the starting point of the utterance; the rheme is a core statement, new information reported by the speaker about the starting point of the utterance. Linguists dealing with the issue of the actual division of the sentence to the initial part containing the theme (as reported in the sentence), and the rheme (what is reported thereof), containing the main content of the message, for which purpose the utterance has actually been made as such.

In addition to the communicative structure of the sentence represented by semantic (logical) content expressed by theme-rheme structure of an utterance, the content of certain sentences can be presented in the form of a semantic structure that reflects the content structure of the situation (the event). Mental analogue (prototype) of the situation, reflected in the sentence, with its inherent semantic relations is called the proposition. The
proposition is the message content core, standing out from the broader concept of the information content of the utterance. From a semantic point of view, the utterance is interpreted as a denomination of any situation, fragment of reality, state of affairs. The proposition in a particular utterance in any way is construed by the respondent. Therefore, the utterance contains two aspects, namely the objective content and interpretation of this content by the communicant. These two fields of semantic structure of the utterance are called dictum and modus. These terms were introduced by French linguist Charles Bally.

Dictum is understood as a set of objective semantic elements of a sentence, pointing to the outside world, in contradistinction to the subjective, evaluative sentence elements relating the modus coming from the speaker.

Conversely, modus refers to one of the logical blocks of mental analogue of the message, subjective variable, expressing various shades of feelings and will [16, c. 391].

The utterance cannot consist of the modus only due to lack of material for interpretation. However, we can meet them in the context during articulated presentation of speech, but only if there is a basic structure, for example:

_Here it goes. At last!_

В нього незручні крісла. Який жах!

Did you like the /old TT?

The second type includes the following sentence:

_Я *поміряв (T = D) з блискутого (P = M)_.

I *get (T = D), this pitcher has a *shine.

The third type may be represented by the following sentences:

_У меня! (P = M + D)_ – respondent understands: "I want you to go forward"

_Come *back!_ – respondent understands: "I want you to be back"

These sentences express motivation to action. They are characterized by a descending tone. Interrogative sentences of this type in the Ukrainian language may include general questions with particle "чо"(if) related to the predicate (expressed by the verb) and is before it. Intonation in similar questions in the Ukrainian language is characterized by a slight slow increase in tone on the predicate of the question. The pitch of the tone subsequently remains constant throughout the question, which is apparently combined into a single unit, at the same time the predicate is slightly highlighted. As for the English language, it is characterized by the the Low Rise.

Did you like the /old TT?

The particular interest is raised by the analysis of communicative situations that cause "dictum" or "modal" status of the rheme component of utterances. Let's consider this example:

_(And then wanted to know whether it's going to be an automatic or manual gearbox? So I said automatic. – Yeah, you're absolutely right.) And of course I got the *manual._

Прошу тобі *поміряти колір?

The examples demonstrated above are the utterances of the "dictum" rheme. This means that the respondent performs the identification of one of the many options in the "material" sense of the situation. Let's consider another example:

_I *got the manual._

Він *збільшив потужність.

In this case, we have observed the "modal" realization of a rheme. The respondent confirms the realization of the predicted event of "increased capacity" and "purchase of a car with a manual gearbox." In this case, the "modal" options of realization (they are all associated with the opposition yes / no) of a single "verbal" opportunity are considered. In all these "modal" rheme groups, the emphasis is made on top of the predicate, and at the same time the dynamical doubling of the accented vowel happens, the emphasis carrier is characterized by a greater degree of phonetic selection, namely dual falling of the tone begins from a higher level, giving greater interval of changes.

Rheme of dictum utterance always has explicit text utterance, while a rheme of a modal utterance usually does not have its own lexicalization. In the case of its joining to the propositional predicative group it is realized implicitly, by specific accentuation from the pitch, i.e. the dynamic split of accented vowels seems mandatory in these sentences.

Placing emphasis both in dictum and modal statements does not depend on changing the order of words:

_I *got the manual yesterday. Yesterday I *got the manual._

Він *збільшив потужність. Він потужність *збільшив.

**Conclusions.** Summarizing, let us note, that the communicative structure of utterance in some way relates...
to the semantic structure. Thus, in sentences where mode relates rheme, and dictum relates theme, the dictum part in both languages is characterized by a slow low increase in the nucleus and absence of a strong emphasis on a word at the level of intonation. In modus part there is a combination of strong emphasis on the nucleus with the sharp fall in accented syllable. General questions are characterized by the absence of sharp prosodic highlight of any word. In the Ukrainian language, the tone slowly grows from the beginning of an utterance and reaches the peak on the last word on the question. In English, the Low Rise is used. In sentences where modus relates theme, and dictum relates rheme, modus is presented by the ascending tone on the emphasis carrier of the theme, and dictum is characterized by sharp ascending tone and increased emphasis falling on principal emphasized syllable. General questions are characterized by a strong emphasis and a sharp rise in tone of the predicate. The sentences, where modus and dictum relate the rheme, are characterized by descending tone. Intonation of questions in the Ukrainian language is characterized by a slight increase of the tone on the predicate of the question. The pitch of the tone subsequently remains constant throughout the question, as if it is combined into a single unit, at the same time the predicate is slightly highlighted. As for the English language, it is characterized by the Low Rise.

ЛІТЕРАТУРА


REFERENCES


Соотнесенность tema-рематической структуры с диктумом и модусом в английской и украинской речи

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Аннотация. Статья посвящена изучению проблемы соотнесенности семантической структуры предложения, которая отражает содержательную структуру ситуации и представлена диктум и модусом в высказывании, с коммуникативной структурой, представленным логическим содержанием, выраженным темой и ремой и средствами их реализации в устной речи как одного из важных аспектов формирования тема-рематической структуры высказывания в процессе коммуникации. Значительное внимание уделяется просодическим средствам в английской и украинской речи.

Ключевые слова: тема, рема, диктум, модус.