

Lemish N.Y.

Genesis and Development of Causal Dominant Semantic Meanings in Dutch

Lemish Nataliya Yevgenivna, PhD, Associate Professor, Doctorate student
Kyiv National Linguistic University, Kyiv, Ukraine

Abstract. The paper deals with the genesis and development of causal dominant semantic meanings in the Dutch language as one of the languages of our cross-linguistic research. As we differentiate between causal blocks within the causal complex, the causal dominants are considered to be their components, i.e. cause, effect, reason, conclusion, condition, result, concession, consequence, means, and purpose – 10 on the whole. It is anticipated that defining of integral semes and lexico-semantic variants of those dominants can help to prove the fact that the discussed units can be put together in one causal complex for studying. Moreover the found evidence could in our opinion facilitate the clarifying of the closeness of causal thinking and causal structures in the universal language as of the human being, and at the same time, their diversification in studied languages in the near future.

Keywords: a causal complex, causal blocks, causal dominants, integral semes, lexico-semantic variants, genesis

1. Introduction

As a whole our scientific research is dealing with various causal relations in the languages of different structures (Germanic, Romance, and Slavic). Those can be represented by such causal blocks as cause-effect, reason-conclusion, condition-result, concession-consequence, and means-purpose. The hypothesis is that all of them can have something in common in their semes, lexico-semantic variants through the languages, though they may have appeared in different ages. The most important result of such a study could be some evidence found to support the idea that the connection between causal thinking and causal structures can vary from language to language because of various mentality types as well as different language systems.

Discussing the nature of meaning in general D. Geeraerts (2010), following M. Hecht (1888), mentions "an additional aspect of historical-philological semantics" [1, p. 9] within which there is distinguished "a psychological conception of meaning" [1, p. 10]. On assuming this idea any linguistic phenomenon can reveal some properties of the human mind, thus studying semes and lexico-semantic variants of the dominants under research, we are approaching the discovery of different peoples' mentality peculiarity.

The aim of the present paper lies in the semantic analysis and linguistic description of the causal dominants in Dutch (oorzaak / cause, reden / reason, conditie (voorwaarde) / condition, concessie (tegemoetkoming) / concession, doel / purpose, effect / effect, conclusie / conclusion, resultaat / result, gevolg / consequence, middel / means) with the purpose of defining the integral causal seme. Such approach (covering the componential analysis of meaning) has been used by many linguists (E. A. Nida 1975 [7], L. Lipka 1979 [5], H. Kardela, G.A. Kleparski 1990 [3], G. Györi 2002 [2], G.A. Kleparski 2007 [4] etc.) both for synchronic and diachronic studies.

To start with it should be mentioned that earliest sources of written Dutch are, with a few exceptions, of the Late Middle-Ages. Thus most etymological evidence of words of interest starts from that period. Frisian (a minority language in that time very poor Northern part of the Netherlands) almost disappeared and made a revival about a century ago, so it is considered as a relatively poor etymological source though still included in the overview.

However the Netherlands has the world's largest and most active language-society with over 37.000 members

[10, p. 19]. They have recently started, in close cooperation with some universities, publishing all known Dutch literature online in a searchable format. Also, some five years ago the integrated language database was launched with the lemmas of 5 historical (etymological) dictionaries (MNW [6], ONW [8], VMNW [11], WFT [12], WNT [13]). These sources are used here together with the 'standard' Dutch dictionary (VD [9]) to provide illustrations of meanings of the causal dominants in their appearance through the ages (see illustrations in the Annex).

In Section 2 the semantic analysis per causal dominant is made. Section 3 'Conclusion' shows some general observations on the genesis and development of the constituents of causal blocks components in Dutch.

2. Semantic analysis of the causal dominants meanings**2.1. Oorzaak**

The eldest find of *Oorzaak* is from the mid fifteenth century <ill.1> meaning 'somebody or something gives motive/ground to somebody else'. Today's definition is perhaps a little stronger, but in principle the same <ill.2>. Around the start of the nineteenth century it became a synonym for God <ill.3> (who caused everything and everybody). This is still in the current dictionary but not generally used.

2.2. Reden

Reden has the eldest find in this article. In 1154 it meant 'somebody making himself ready for something' <ill.4>, still found in the sixteenth century, and then lost its use. By the end of the sixteenth century this had shifted to making ships ready (currently still used – a fleet-owner is called a *Reder*), later to an anchorage for ships (still in use). In 1236 it was already used <ill.5> for 'somebody giving accountability to somebody' and it is still used in contemporary Dutch this way. This was extended by 'somebody giving an argument to somebody else' (by the end of the thirteenth century – the verb *Redeneren* is still frequently used for giving reasons/arguments), and to 'somebody causing something to somebody' in the middle of the nineteenth century. 'Being reasonable, the ability to think and intelligence' were added in the sixteenth century <ill.6> (reasonable is still called *Redelijk*), followed by 'common sense' <ill.7> in the middle of the seventeenth century. The contemporary dictionary has a score of lemmas to describe some form of argument or motivation/motive. In the past different writing occurs (rede/reeden/rede/redden/reyt), in modern Dutch the meanings have split up: 1) Rede: ability to think; anchor-

age; 2) Reden: ground; reason; (verb) making a ship ready.

2.3. Conditie / Voorwaarde

The most used meaning of *conditie* in Dutch is *voorwaarde*. However both are translated into English with 'condition' so this circular reasoning will not be of help in the cause of this article.

The oldest find of *conditie* is from the end of the thirteenth century <ill.10>, meaning 'stipulation; terms/fixing, clause; provision, regulation; determination' and is still used this way today. Since the mid sixteenth century the second meaning is used: 'the total of circumstances in which somebody is'. In the seventeenth century it became 'a toast', which is still in the contemporary dictionary, but no longer actively used. The same goes for 'being employed as a servant' from the eighteenth century, and for 'bottom/behind' used in funny situations <ill.11>.

Voorwaarde is first found in 1257 <ill.12> as 'agreement, appointment; definition; stipulation, clause; provision; demand, claim; requisition'. The same definition is still used in Friesland around 1900. In the last half of the thirteenth century the definition is enlarged by 'claim; demand' which is still in the contemporary dictionary. At the start of the sixteenth century reference to agreements is extended with 'agreed provisions, restricting provisions, scope and restrictions that need to be fulfilled in order to achieve the desired something' <ill.13> which is still the main use of *voorwaarde* <ill.14>.

2.4. Concessie / Tegemoetkoming

Concessie first appeared in the sixteenth century with the meaning of granting a right or renouncing a possession <ill.15>. This is still recognisable in the current meaning of an exclusive licence of government to perform public works or to mine (the latter is not in the dictionary). In the second half of the nineteenth century the second meaning of '(partly) satisfying demands of the opposition in a dispute' appeared <ill.16>, which is still in use today and in this resembles *tegemoetkoming* (see below).

Tegemoetkoming meant 'partly satisfying needs or wishes' or 'partly reimburse costs or damage' from its first appearance in 1740 <ill.17> and is still used that way. So somewhere at the end of the nineteenth century *concessie* became in use as a synonym for *tegemoetkoming*. A literal translation of *tegemoetkoming* is 'coming' (*komen*) 'towards' (*tegemoet*).

2.5. Doel

In the earliest appearance (1258) it meant a ditch to mark the border between two fields. Later it expanded to the pile of earth, resulting from digging that ditch. It is easy to see a connection to the meaning of target for shooting (at that time for the archers placed in the fields on a dike <ill.18>). A 'shooting-target' is still one of the main uses. In the early fourteenth century it was used for 'conflict' which has some relation with practising servicemen but that use seems to have disappeared. The shooting-target was expanded to a goal for (ball) games in the early twentieth century, which is currently still in use. But already in the seventeenth century it became figuratively used as something or somebody one directs one's actions to <ill.19>.

2.6. Effect

Effect first appeared in the mid sixteenth century with the meaning 'having a goal in mind' and 'action' <ill.20>. A

century later (17th) it became used in the meaning of 'consequence', which is still in use. Around that time other meanings like 'execution/performance, validity, all that represents any value' emerged and disappeared again. Although the first stock-market was founded in 1606 already (in Amsterdam), the word *effect* came into use for a 'share' of a company resalable on the stock-market in 1785. From the nineteenth century the 'consequence' was expanded to 'forcefully influencing the imagination or feeling of the public' still remaining one of the main uses of today. Currently in technical jargon it symbolises the amount of work per second, exalted by a force or machine.

2.7. Conclusie

The main definition (end, closing/decision/result) has been in use since the mid thirteenth century <ill.8>, widened by the end of that century to 'deduction'. The use in court and the juridical system appears in the early sixteenth century <ill.9>, and is gradually expanded since. All these meanings are still in use.

2.8. Resultaat

Resultaat is the youngest word in the list of causal dominants. Its first appearance was in 1732 <ill.27>, with the meaning of 'something that was caused by an action', and this is still one of the main uses today. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries some slightly deviant definitions appeared but still in line with the one above. In modern times depending on the context the meaning can shift to 'positive outcome' or 'outcome of hard labour, fruit'.

2.9. Gevolg

Gevolg is derived from the verb *volgen* (*volgen* – *volg* – *gevolgd*) = to follow. At the end of the fourteenth century it was already in use for a group of people following a person (the entourage) <ill.21>, both directly and indirectly. This looks not causative, but on the other hand: it is the wealth/power/importance and the hopes that some of it will reflect on themselves that causes the group to follow the person. This meaning is still widely used in everyday speech. One earlier meaning was found some hundred years before this: 'agreement' <ill.22>. But this had stayed in use till the middle of the sixteenth century. From the 1550's the current main meaning of 'something following from something else' came in use <ill.23>. From mid-eighteenth century till the end of the nineteenth *gevolg* could also refer to some medieval rights, which is related to the above mentioned agreement. From the mid-seventeenth century it appears in several slightly different explanations tending towards the current one, namely 'something that is caused by something that precedes it' <ill.24>. In modern Dutch some new derivations appear in the dictionary: progress; mathematical truth following from some theorem; acting according to a summon/convocation. But in a broad view all can be seen as something or someone following something or someone else, either by free choice or caused by the preceding something or someone.

2.10. Middel

The first occurrence was in a fifteenth century copy of work from 1152, meaning 'the geographical middle' (later this changed into *midden*). It stayed valid till in the sixteenth century, though stretched to 'on equidistant from both ends', no longer restricted to geographic. From the

end of the thirteenth century it already meant 'in (the middle of) a group of people, or in the middle-class, in the middle of a time period, between large and small'. From 1500 it meant 'tax', a hundred years later 'money' to make something possible <ill. 25>, which is still valid today. From the end of the seventeenth century it has been used as 'medicine'. In the nineteenth century these above mentioned meanings were generalised to 'something that somebody uses to achieve a goal' <ill.26>.

3. Conclusion

Summarising it is possible to state that in general there seems a tendency to use more lemmas in the middle ages than in contemporary Dutch. Most lemmas only slightly differ in description. This might be very well deceptive as the historical dictionaries cover a range of ages whereas the modern dictionary of course only lists what is currently most used. Anyway, *Reden* is an exception to this. VD gives more lemmas than MNW or WNT. *Conclusie* is an exception, too. All meanings from the past are still valid

today as well as some new ones (all to do with the administration of justice). God is seen both as cause and as reason. From the mid-fifteenth century till at least the nineteenth century one of the translations of *Oorzaak* was 'giving motive'. In 1976 'giving motive' was translated with *Reden*. The same goes for 'giving ground'.

Decomposing the meanings of causal dominants has resulted in their integral semes discovery. For *oorzaak*, *reden*, *conditie* / *voorwaarde*, *concessie* / *tegemoetkoming*, *middle* it is 'smth that causes' (antecedent), for *doel*, *effect*, *conclusie*, *resultaat*, *gevolg* – 'smth that is caused' (consequent). Thus it proves practicability for the studying those causal dominants within the causal complex as a mental-logic construct consisting of causal blocks (antecedent – consequent).

As a result it is anticipated to conduct a similar studying in other languages to receive the data for the cross-linguistic comparison of causal dominants and causal thinking of different peoples where the most important role will be played by the differential semes.

REFERENCES

1. Geeraerts D. Theories of Lexical Semantics. – Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010. – 341 p.
2. Györi G. Semantic change and cognition // Cognitive Linguistics. – 2002. – Vol. 13. – P. 123–166.
3. Kardela H., Kleparski G.A. Approaching Diachronic Semantics : The Componential vs. Cognitive Account. – Umea: Printing Office of the Umea University. – 1990.
4. Kleparski G.A., Kochman-Haladyj B. Components, Domains and Mental Spaces: The Overview of Current Methodology for the Study of Semantic Change // Studia Anglica Resoviensia 4. – 2007. – Vol. 47. – P. 140–168.
5. Lipka L. Semantic components of English nouns and verbs and their justification // Hungarian Studies in English. – 1979. – Vol. 12. – P.187–202.
6. MNW: Midden-Nederlands Woordenboek [Online] Available at: http://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middelnederlandsch_Woordenboek
7. Nida E.A. Componential Analysis of Meaning: An Introduction to Semantic Structures. – The Hague-Paris-New York: Mouton Publishers. – 1975.
8. ONW : Oud-Nederlands Woordenboek [Online] Available at: <http://middenin.wordpress.com/2009/05/19/oudnederlandswoordenboek-onw-online/>.
9. VD: Van Dale: Groot woordenboek der Nederlandse Taal / red. C. Kruyskamp: 2 Dl. – 10-e dr. – 's-Gravenhage: Martinus Nijhoff, 1976. – 3230 p.
10. Van Oostendorp M. Doe er wat aan // Onze Taal. – Den Haag, 2007. – N 1. – P. 19.
11. VMNW: Vroeg_Midden-Nederlands Woordenboek [Online] Available at: <http://www.inl.nl/onderzoek-a-onderwijs/lexicologie-a-lexicografie/vmnw>.
12. WFT: Woordenboek der Friese Taal [Online] Available at: <http://gtb.inl.nl/>.
13. WNT: Woordenboek der Nederlandse Taal [Online] Available at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woordenboek_der_Nederlandsche_Taal.
- 9) Bi sulker *condisie* & bi sulker maniere sal dureren dese kuere ende dese wet binder port van brugge [VMNW: Corp.I p. 565, r. 20-22, Brugge, West-Vlaanderen].
- 10) Hij viel op z'n *conditie* [WNT: Corn.Vervl].
- 11) Ende ombe+dat dese *vorwarde* vast bliue ende ghestade soe hebbe wi dese letteren ghegheuen den abt van Niniue enden Conuente gheseghelt met onsen seghele [VMNW: Corp.I p. 68, r. 4-6, Velzeke, Oost-Vlaanderen, Ninove, Oost-Vlaanderen].
- 12) Wie in 't besit van alsulcke (onroerende) goederen ... gevonden sullen worden; de selve sullen dat goet, als geconfisqueerd ende vervallen, verliesen. Insgelijcx van de Renten, uyt onroerende goederen, vercocht sonder *voorwaarden* van wedercoop [WNT: Statut. v. Friesl. 1, 20].
- 13) Wat is het woord wanneer de mens in de elementaire *voorwaarden* van zijn bestaan bedreigd wordt (v. Heugten) [VD, p. 2830].
- 14) Dese Onse confirmatie, approbatie, declaratie, nieuwe *concessie*, of verleeninge ende erectie (t.w. van het gulden privilege van Brabant) [WNT: Gr. Placaetb. 4, 29].
- 15) Men maakte dus elkaar, over en weer, *concessies*, zoodat een wapenstilstand plaats greep [WNT: FRUIN, Geschr. 9, 422].
- 16) *Te gemoedkooming*, of quytslag van 's Lands Lasten, om den inval des Vyands [WNT: DIBBETZ, Milit. Wdb. 649]. *Te gemoedkooming* van de onkosten gemaakt tot enz [WNT:

Annex

Illustrations

- 1) Also wort inden ghemynden menighe rescap ende *oresake* daer (d. i. der) sueticheit ghevonden [MNW: Hs. Moll 5, 73c., Holland].
- 2) Verkeerde voeding is de *oorzaak* van vele ziektes. De *oorzaak* van het ongeluk is onbekend [VD, p. 1692].
- 3) Jehova, Zeus, uus Heer! // Jo, greate, eerste, *oarsaek*, in 't minst kind! [WFT: R. Posthumus, Keapman, 236].
- 4) (Hi) ghinc hem te hant doe *reden* ende voer te Brucghen in de poort [MNW: Stoke, VI].
- 5) Ende oec es hi sculdech *redene* tegeuene bede uan dat men ontfangen heuet; ende uan dat men gegeuen heuet [VMNW: Corp.I p. 22, r. 8-9, Gent, Oost-Vlaanderen].
- 6) Indien yemandt wair, die dairjehens was, dat die soude boven by den gerechte comen, men soude hem hoeren nae eyssch van *reden* [WNT: in POSTHUMUS, Leidsche Textielnijverh. 2, 267].
- 7) De Verstandelijckheydt en siet maar op een ding of voorstel: maar de *Reden* op vele dingen, die sy houdt jeghen malkanderen [WNT: COORNHERT 1, 285 d].
- 8) Dit es di *conclusie* van desen boken [VMNW: Lutg.K p. 357, r. 10, Brabant-West].
- 9) De Procureurs sullen ten dage van de antwoorde niet anders mogen dicteeren, als hunne contrarie *conclusie* [WNT: Handv. v. Amst. 613 b].

DIBBETZ, Milit. Wdb.].

17) Dit segghen was dans henric van brabant. dans splenter. broeder ye. broeder meus van der mole. ende broeder ian die waghennmakere. andries boets sone. hugo *doel*. loettin van den dike. ian heine. hugo mommaert. ende ian hildebrant [ONW: Corp.I p. 657, r. 28-31, Kloosterzande, Oost-Vlaanderen, 1282] at niemant en schiet in die drie langhe stucken inden *doel*, dan mit drie grote windaesbooghen [VMNW: O. K. v. Delft II, 25, Holland].

18) Granida! *doel* van mijn genegenheiden [WNT: HOOFT, Ged. 2, 171].

19) Tot die eijghen verzeckertheit, ruste ende vrede vanden poorters ... hebbende die vander zelve stadt ... ghescreven ende ontboden tzelve alleenlic tot dien *effecte* te wesen [WNT: V. VAERNEWIJCK, Ber. T. 2, 35]. Wech-nemende een rijck in ladingh leggende Schip, en andere *Effecten*, waer by de voors. West-indise Compagny declareerden by de twee Tonnen Goudts schade te hebben geleden [WNT: Holl. Merc. 1660, 27].

20) Ende sich, ene grote scare ... der dienstknechten, die waren gheseynd vanden princen des tempels mit *ghevolch* der ridders, die si ghenomen hadden vanden rechter [MNW: Pylatus, Hs. Moll 7, 96 a., Holland]. De prins met zijn *gevolg* [VD, p. 806].

21) Na+dien+male+dat ons dat lant van amestelle ont+wiset was altemale van des stiftes mannen van vtrecht met vonnisse ende ordele vore den bisscop van vtrecht met vollen *ghevolghe* [VMNW: Corp. I p. 1049, r. 20-23, Holland, graf.kans., Holland-

West].

22) De thans zoo gewone beteekenis van *gevolg*, nl. wat uit iets anders voortvloeit (Kil. sequela), schijnt in 't mnl. nog niet voor te komen. Toch maken uitdr. als *ingevolge*, dien ten *gevolge*, ten *gevolge* van, den indruk van vrij oud te zijn. Doch vgl. Grimm, Wtb. 41, 2151, waar ook van de overeenkomstige hd. uitdrukkingen aangetoond wordt, dat zij betrekkelijk jong zijn [MNW].

23) Dat die ziekte een gevolg is van Willems vriendschap voor haar [WNT: WOLFF en DEKEN, Leev. 4, 186]. *That the illness is a result/consequence of Williams friendship for her* Hjr is now wat to leeren. / Wij steane foar 't gefolg, as jimme wieze Heeren [WFT: S.S. de JONG, rijmwerk, 11]. *God* zijn ziekte was een gevolg van overspanning; nu ondervindt hij de gevolgen van zijn gedrag [VD, p. 806].

24) Een heyr cracht ... onderhouden op sijne *middelen* [WNT: Scricck, A. Van Van 't Beghin der eerster volcken van Europen 1614].

25) Dit *middel* omme wierheit fenne falskens te schieden wier ek al wer better yn dij as yn uus tiden [WFT: R. POSTHUMUS, jouwerkoerke, 34]. 't Underskie twisken hjir en W. sit him hjir yn 'e haedsaek yn 'e *middels* fen bistan [WFT: M.P. TROELSTRA, Sw., 64].

26) *Resultaat*, is zo veel als de werking, of het gevolg dat uit een zaak ontstaat [WNT: HUBNER, Koer.-tolk].

Леминш Н. Е. Генезис и развитие семантического значения каузальных доминант в нидерландском языке

Аннотация. В статье рассматривается генезис и развитие семантического значения каузальных доминант в нидерландском языке как одном из языков нашего кросс-лингвистического исследования. В связи с тем что в рамках каузального комплекса нами выделяются каузальные блоки, то каузальными доминантами считаются их составляющие, а именно: причина, эффект, основание, вывод, условие, результат, уступка, следствие, средство, цель, – в целом 10 компонентов. Предполагается, что определение интегральных сем и лексико-семантических вариантов доминант способствует подтверждению факта про возможность объединения обсуждаемых единиц в единый каузальный комплекс для изучения. Более того, выявленная очевидность, по нашему мнению, могла бы облегчить обоснование близости каузального мышления и каузальных структур в изучаемых языках в скором будущем.

Ключевые слова: каузальный комплекс, каузальные блоки, каузальные доминанты, интегральные семы, лексико-семантические варианты, генезис