

## **SUBJECTLESS SENTENCES OF CHARACTERISATION IN ENGLISH AND UKRAINIAN**

### *1. Introduction*

The study of the semantic structure of a sentence has become one of the most interesting and topical directions in modern linguistics. The logical-semantic sentence analysis which is based on semantic modeling of the sentence (Арутюнова, 1976; Филлмор, 1981; Palmer, 1976; Van Valin, 2005 etc.) has become very popular. The key notion of the semantic syntax is a proposition, the cognitive meaning of the sentence, which introduces relations between arguments. The main component of the proposition is the predicate which characterizes the situation (action, state, characterization etc.), identifies arguments, their number and semantic roles.

### *2. The investigation*

The current research deals with the study of semantic types of subjectless sentences of characterization (CSS), i.e., one- and two-member sentences without formally introduced semantic subjects with predicates of quality, estimation, identification and comparison. Despite a big number of researches of sentences with predicates of characterization, the comparative study of CSS in English and Ukrainian has not been done before.

The number of subjectless sentences (SS) under analysis is 1500 SS in English and 1500 SS in Ukrainian. The research has shown that the number of CSS is 788 (52,5%) in English and 488 sentences (32,5%) in Ukrainian.

To model the meaning formulae (MF) of CSS the following variables have been used: X – argument of characterization (being, non-being, action, situation, abstract notion etc.), Q – qualitative characteristic of X; E – estimation characteristic of X. Formally absent semantic arguments are marked with  $\emptyset$ .

### *3. Semantic types of English and Ukrainian CSS*

Depending on the predicate meaning the following types of English and Ukrainian CSS have been identified:

3.1. CSS with MF “X has quality Q” numbers 169 CSS (21,4%) in English and 100 CSS (20,5%) in Ukrainian. The key semantic component of these CSS is the

predicate of quality identifying age, weight, shape, size, distance, perception characteristics, temperature, personal characteristics etc.: (1) *It was an old (Q) market-town (X)* (Lawrence 1928 : 147); (2) *Козаки? Що це за люди?— Невпокорені (Q)* (Загребельний 1980 : 371). Example (1) is a simple two-member sentence in which argument X *market-town* is characterized according to its age *old*. CSS (2) is a subjectless elliptical sentence that denotes a personal characteristic feature *невпокорені* of the argument XØ *козаки* which is identified with the help of a wider situation.

3.2. CSS with MF “X has estimation characteristic E” (eng. 563 SCC – 71,5%; ukr. 330 CSS – 67,6%). SCC of this type denote either general or subjective, positive or negative estimation characteristics of the action, situation, state, abstract notion etc. as in examples: (3) ... *love (X) is the cruellest thing in the world (E)* (Galsworthy 1976 : 231); (4) *Там страшенно нецікаве (E) життя (X)* (Загребельний 1979 : 95). CSS (3) and (4) are full two-member sentences with negative estimation characteristics *the cruellest thing in the world* (3) and *страшенно нецікаве життя* (4) related to the abstract notion (feeling) *love* (3) and existence state *життя* (4).

3.3. CSS with MF “X1 is equaled to X2” number 20 CSS (2,5%) in English and 54 CSS (11,1%) in Ukrainian. The predicates of such sentences are introduced with the help of the verb *to be* “бути”: (5) *Living (X1) is moving and moving on (X2)* (Lawrence 1928 : 262 ); (6) *Завод (X1) — воєнний об’єкт (X2)* (Дімаров 2004 : 835). CSS (5) and (6) are full two-member sentences in which the state X1 *living* (5) and establishment *завод* (6) are equaled to the action X2 *moving* (5) and object *воєнний об’єкт* (6).

3.4. CSS with MF “X1 with quality Q1 corresponds to X2 with quality Q2” (eng. 36 CSS – 4,6%; ukr. 4 CSS – 0,8%). CSS of this type compare descriptor X1 to descriptor X2: (7) “*(I (X1Ø) am) two years older (Q1≠Q2) than you (X2)*” (Galsworthy 1976 : 96); (8) *Сума (Q1) щастя (X1) на землі так само постійна (Q1=Q2), як кількість (Q2) повітря або води (X2)* (Загребельний 1979 : 365). In CSS (7) X1Ø (*I*) is different from X2 (*you*) in quality Q (age) though in CSS (8) the quantity Q1 of the related argument X1 *щастя* is equal to the quantity Q2 of the related argument X2 *повітря або води*.

#### 4. Conclusions

4.1. The findings presented in this paper show that CSS are quite widespread both in English and Ukrainian (among SS of action, state, characterization and existence). The number of English SCC is twice as big as the number of Ukrainian ones.

4.2. It has been found out that CSS in both English and Ukrainian can denote qualitative, estimation, identification and comparative characteristics of substances. CSS of quality dominate in both languages (see 3.1.-3.4.).

4.3. The least frequent in the English language are CSS denoting equality (see 3.3.), while in Ukrainian – CSS of comparison (see 3.4.).

#### “References”

- Арутюнова Н.Д.* Предложение и его смысл / Н. Д. Арутюнова. – М. : Наука, 1976. – 384 с.
- Вихованець І.Р.* Нариси з функціонального синтаксису української мови : [монографія] / І. Р. Вихованець. – К : Наукова думка, 1992. – 222 с.
- Дімаров А.* Біль і гнів : [роман] / Анатолій Дімаров. – К. : Україна, 2004. – 925 с.
- Загребельний П.А.* Роксолана : [роман] / Павло Загребельний. – К. : Радянський письменник, 1980. – 574 с.
- Загребельний П.А.* Твори в шести томах : (Розгін) : [роман] / П. Загребельний. – К. : Дніпро, 1979. –Т.1. – 575 с.
- Загнітко А.П.* Теоретична граматики української мови. Синтаксис : [монографія] / А. П. Загнітко. – Донецьк: Вид-во ДонНУ, 2001. – 662 с.
- Филлмор Ч.* Дело о падеже / Ч. Филлмор // Новое в зарубежной лингвистике. Лингвистическая семантика. – М. : Прогресс, 1981. – Вып. X. – С. 369 – 495 с.
- Galsworthy J.* A Modern Comedy. Swan song : [novel] / John Galsworthy. – Moscow : Progress publishers, 1976. – 303 p.
- Dixon R. N. W.* A Semantic Approach to English Grammar / Robert N. W. Dixon. – Oxford : Oxford Textbooks in Linguistics, 2005. – 543 p.
- Lawrence D. H.* Lady Chatterley’s Lover : [novel] – Feedbooks, 1928. – 292 p.
- Palmer F.R.* Semantics / Farah R. Palmer. – Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 1976. – 144 P.
- Van Valin Robert D.* Exploring the Syntax-Semantics Interface / Robert D. Van Valin. – New York : Cambridge University Press, 2005. – 310 p.