

**SYNTAX CONSTRUCTIONS OF INDIRECT EVIDENTIALITY IN FRENCH:  
RUSSIAN TRANSLATION**

**CONSTRUÇÕES DA SYNTAX DE EVIDENCIALIDADE INDIRETA EM FRANCÊS:  
TRADUÇÃO RUSSA**

**CONSTRUCCIONES SINTAXIS DE EVIDENCIALIDAD INDIRECTA EN FRANCÉS:  
TRADUCCIÓN AL RUSO**

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**ABSTRACT:** This article covers French syntactic constructions – complex sentences and parentheticals – as overt manifestations of indirect evidentiality in the language. Linguistic problems in the field of contrastive linguistics employ "a word - a word", "a word - a phrase" and "a phrase - a word" relations as functionally equivalent fragments. Search of translation matches implies finding all equivalences of a construction when used in the translation. For this, the authors used a total search strategy and an implicative strategy for meaning matching. Research data (up to 50 occurrences) were derived from the parallel corpus of French-Russian translations of the Russian National Corpus (RNC). The study showed that in French, indirect evidentiality, which implies acquiring information from third parties, is characterized by *full* and *minimal* representations of the source of information. The former corresponds to a complex sentence in which the main clause is authorizing and subordinate clause, introduced by the conjunction *que*, is informing. The latter involves uses of *pour lui*, *à son avis*, *selon lui*, with *selon lui*, *pour lui* being more frequent. When translating, the status of a complex sentence is preserved. One can only replace the informative part with a verbal noun. At the lexical level, both languages use reporting verbs. French parentheticals are mainly translated with the similar Russian one – *po yego mneniyu*. *Pour lui* is also rendered with *dlya nego*. These constructions tend to express personal attitudes and opinions, i.e. a subjective evaluation or judgement. Data analysis from the RNC shows that in translation they explicate reportative evidential. Usually this potential is 'triggered' by the context of parenthetical phrases.

**KEYWORDS:** Information reportage. Indirect evidentiality. Parenthetic constructions. Reportative evidential. Syntactic translation matches.

**RESUMO:** Este artigo cobre as construções sintáticas francesas - frases complexas e parênteses - como manifestações abertas de evidencialidade indireta na língua. Os problemas linguísticos no campo da linguística contrastiva empregam as relações "uma palavra - uma palavra", "uma palavra - uma frase" e "uma frase - uma palavra" como fragmentos funcionalmente equivalentes. A pesquisa de correspondências de tradução implica em encontrar todas as equivalências de uma construção quando usada na tradução. Para isso, os autores utilizaram uma estratégia de busca total e uma estratégia implicativa para

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correspondência de significados. Os dados de pesquisa (até 50 ocorrências) foram derivados do corpus paralelo de traduções francês-russo do Russian National Corpus (RNC). O estudo mostrou que, em francês, a evidencialidade indireta, que implica a obtenção de informações de terceiros, é caracterizada por representações completas e mínimas da fonte de informação. A primeira corresponde a uma frase complexa em que a oração principal é autorizativa e a subordinada, introduzida pela conjunção *que*, informa. O último envolve os usos de *pour lui*, *à son avis*, *selon lui*, *com selon lui*, *pobre lui* sendo mais frequente. Ao traduzir, o status de uma frase complexa é preservado. Só se pode substituir a parte informativa por um substantivo verbal. No nível léxico, ambas as línguas usam verbos de relatório. Os parênteses franceses são traduzidos principalmente com o russo semelhante - *po yego mneniyu*. *Pour lui* também é renderizado com *dlya nego*. Essas construções tendem a expressar atitudes e opiniões pessoais, ou seja, uma avaliação ou julgamento subjetivo. A análise dos dados do RNC mostra que na tradução eles explicam a evidência reportativa. Normalmente, esse potencial é "acionado" pelo contexto de frases entre parênteses.

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** Reportagem de informação. Evidencialidade indireta. Construções parentéticas. Prova reportativa. Correspondências de tradução sintática.

**RESUMEN:** Este artículo cubre las construcciones sintácticas francesas - oraciones complejas y paréntesis - como manifestaciones abiertas de evidencialidad indirecta en el idioma. Los problemas lingüísticos en el campo de la lingüística contrastiva emplean relaciones "una palabra - una palabra", "una palabra - una frase" y "una frase - una palabra" como fragmentos funcionalmente equivalentes. La búsqueda de coincidencias de traducción implica encontrar todas las equivalencias de una construcción cuando se utiliza en la traducción. Para ello, los autores utilizaron una estrategia de búsqueda total y una estrategia implicativa para el emparejamiento de significados. Los datos de investigación (hasta 50 ocurrencias) se derivaron del corpus paralelo de traducciones francés-ruso del Russian National Corpus (RNC). El estudio mostró que en francés, la evidencialidad indirecta, que implica adquirir información de terceros, se caracteriza por representaciones completas y mínimas de la fuente de información. La primera corresponde a una oración compleja en la que la cláusula principal es autorizante y la subordinada, introducida por la conjunción *que*, informa. Este último implica los usos de *pour lui*, *à son avis*, *selon lui*, siendo más frecuentes *selon lui*, *poor lui*. Al traducir, se conserva el estado de una oración compleja. Solo se puede reemplazar la parte informativa con un sustantivo verbal. A nivel léxico, ambos idiomas utilizan verbos informativos. Los paréntesis franceses se traducen principalmente con el ruso similar: *po yego mneniyu*. *Pour lui* también se traduce con *dlya nego*. Estas construcciones tienden a expresar actitudes y opiniones personales, es decir, una evaluación o juicio subjetivo. El análisis de datos del RNC muestra que en la traducción explican la evidencia informativa. Por lo general, este potencial se "activa" por el contexto de frases entre paréntesis.

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** Reportaje de información. Evidencialidad indirecta. Construcciones entre paréntesis. Evidencial informativa. Coincidencias de traducción sintáctica.

## Introduction

Communication of information is one of the most important functions of the language. Information can come from various sources: through seeing or hearing; by inference and

assumption, from hearsay and even asleep (BOLLY, 2010). In speech, the speaker must specify the source of information of a statement (CAUDAL, 2012).

Started in America study of evidentiality led to a flow of investigations known as evidentiality research (Vogeleer, 1994). The term *evidentiality* comes from the word "evidence", implying means of justification. It usually encompasses morphological, lexical and other means detailing 'how you learn what you state about' (DUBOIS et al., 1997). Category of evidentiality introduced for English has its own peculiarities in French and Russian and this, in turn, results in idiosyncratic terminology (FAYOL & PACTON, 2006; GUENTCHÉVA, 1994).

Evidentiality was first developed in America, and for a reason. Some Native American languages have specific evidentiality markers (WILLEMS & DEFRANCO, 2000) and have elaborated complex morphological systems specifying the way the speaker acquires information (MARCHAND, 2016). This elaboration helps evaluate reliability and further collate the information (MARSAC, 2006). These studies give rise to broad and narrow interpretations of evidentiality (MILLER, 2003). In a broader sense, evidentiality embraces modality as epistemic relationship. In a narrow sense, evidentiality is equivalent or complements epistemic modality (DENDALE & TASMOWSKI, 1994).

The system of evidential meanings tends to distinguish the source of information by two criteria: 1) the speaker had a *direct access* to the situation (direct or indirect information); 2) the speaker had a *personal access* to the source of information about the situation (direct or indirect information). In evidential systems, commonly used terms are *citations*; *the grammar of "eyewitness"*; *inferential and quotative meanings*; *meaning of doubt or speculation*. However, in Tibetan, Native American, Eskimo and some other languages you can discover even more extended types of information sources. **Direct sources** of information are divided into *visual*, *sensory* and *endophore*; **indirect sources** of information are *inference* and *presumptive* (Pecqueux, 2012). There is further grammatical differentiation of mediated information: 1) reporting the words of a particular person; 2) reporting the words of a generalized or unknown speaker; 3) communicating information from the pooled background knowledge. Indirect evidentiality implies receiving information from third parties (ANSCOMBRE, 1994).

This article discusses full and minimal manifestations of reportative evidential as the core category of indirect evidentiality. The analysis was through French utterances expressing indirect evidentiality to their translation matches in Russian. Despite growing interest of the scientific linguistic community into the problem of evidentiality, there is still a

significant knowledge gap regarding the implementation of the reportative category at the syntax level.

## **Methods**

The present paper focuses on French complex sentences and parentheticals as markers of full and minimal representation of reportative evidential, which requires specifying the source of information, the addressee, methods of reporting information and other components of the informing situation. Our approach presumes that reportative category involves reporting information about a fact or event. The objective of the study is to consider overt markers of the source of information in French, followed by analysis of their translation into Russian and by back translation analysis whenever required. Research data comprises up to 50 instances from the parallel corpus of French-Russian translations of the RNC. This corpus consists of many literary works and their translations, including original Russian texts and their translation into French and vice versa.

This research is based on methods of componential and distributional analysis. Similarly, statistic and interpretation methods are used along with methods of corpus linguistics described in (R ABDULLINA ET AL., 2019). Studies in contrastive linguistics also involve considering "a word - a word", "a word - a phrase" and "a phrase - a word" relations (MAKHMUTOVA & LUTFULLINA, 2017), which are referred to *functionally equivalent fragments*. Search of translation matches includes finding instances of using one construction and its matching construction(s) in the translation. For the purpose, we apply both total search strategy and implicative strategy for meaning matchings (VASILOVA ET AL., 2019; SOBOLEVA & ZUBKOVA, 2019).

Our research agenda includes, first, investigating explicit markers of reportative evidential at the level syntax; second, considering French complex sentences with reference to the source of information; third, analyzing French parenthetical constructions as a means of specifying information and their ways of translation into Russian, and finally, at the lexical level, identifying translation matches of French and Russian reporting verbs.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **Full representation of the source of information – complex sentences**

Complex sentences are considered as the relationship of two statements, representing simple sentences, explicitly or implicitly related by a logical connection (RABY, 2002). The ability of the main clause to integrate the subordinate clause (as part of the complex) is called

active valence, and the ability of the subordinate clause to complement the main clause is called passive (ГАК & ГРИГОРЬЕВ, 2000). An essential identifier of the subordinate clause dependency is subordinative conjunction, which determines the meaning of the subordinate clause. Functionally subordinate conjunctions not merely connect two sentences; also, they can assign the sentence the function of the word. For example, the conjunction *que* assigns the subordinate part the function of the complement (ГАК, 2000).

Constituent elements of the complex sentence (*la phrase de subordination*) are unequal sentences, one of which is the main (*proposition principale*), and the other is subordinate (*proposition subordonnée*) (ЦАРИКАЕВА, 2015). M. Grevisse, and A. Gous distinguish the following types of dependent clauses: 1) *subordonnées substantives* / nominal or noun clauses, 2) *adjectives, relatives* / relative clauses, 3) *adverbiales, circonstancielles* / adverbial clauses. In other words, these types correspond to a specific part of speech and, accordingly, function as parts of the sentence (GREVISSE & GOOSSE, 2007).

*Functional classification* considers complex sentences following the syntactic functions of the subordinate clause and functionally equates this clause to a member of the simple sentence. Functional classification of subordinate clauses is based on analogy, functional identity of utterance members and subordinate clauses. It is built on valence properties of the sentence, in which valences are replaced by the clause in the two-member complex sentences. *Morphological classification* emphasizes the part of speech of the defined word, to which the clause belongs. *Formal classification* of complex sentences by H. Bonnard assumes the division of adjectives based on analysis of conjunctions and connective words. All sentences for this classification are divided into conjunctive clauses (*conjonctives*), relative clauses (*relatives*), etc. (BONNARD, 1974).

Applying semantic approach for the analysis of complex sentences in French, V. Gak distinguished two structural types – discrete and indiscrete constructions. Discrete constructions are complex sentences, in which the dependent part determines the main clause as one piece and attaches itself to it by conjunctions or connectives of purpose, place, condition, etc. Indiscrete constructions are sentences with the subordinate clause, which determines the defined word and joins in with the main clause with asemantic *qui/que* (ГАК, 2000).

As a functional approach researcher, K. Sandfeld identifies three principles for classifying subordinate clauses: lexicological, syntactic, and semantic principles (SANDFELD, 1977). The lexicological principle assumes three types of adjectives depending on the way of linking: (1) simple and complex conjunctions; (2) relative and interrogative

pronouns; (3) lack of linking devices. The syntactic or functional principle is based on functioning of a subordinate syntactic unit as a member of the sentence. The semantic principle implies that subordinate clauses are distinguished in the function of the complement, predicate, along with relative, adverbial and other clauses.

In French linguistics, a number of research projects have been devoted to syntactic manifestations of evidentiality. S. Vogeleer studied into existential evidential sentences of narration and reportage, referring to the latter as sentences of direct observation with subsequent reproduction. She registers the point of perception in the utterance: *Au coin de la rue se promène / se promenait un homme vêtu d'un long manteau noir* (At the corner of the street, is strolling /was strolling a man wearing a long black coat). With S. Vogeleer, the sentence describes the situation not from the point of view of the author who is aware of it, but from the point of view of the observer. In terms of the present, the observation interval is identical to the time of the situation and the moment of utterance. In terms of the past, the time of observation is moved to coincide with the time of the situation, and the moment of reporting follows them (VOGELEER, 1994).

In a complex sentence the subordinate part is an indispensable part of the principle clause, it is immersed into the main clause and answers various questions of the main clause and, thus, its components are multi-ordinal. Comparing instances of post-, pre- and interpositions of subordinate clauses of an informing part is one of the criteria for the study of sentences with reportative semantics.

Complex sentences of evidential semantics feature the object (complement) clause introduced with the subordinative conjunction *que*. Indirect evidentiality is predominantly marked by syntactic suprasegmental devices, i.e., the main part of a complex sentence. As Russian linguist O. Kobrina states, in the complex sentence, the principle clause acts as an auxiliary component while the subordinate clause is the main dictum component (Кобрина, 2005). This priority of the subordinate clause is due to its function of providing the information on the context of the event. The secondary role of the main clause as the one that introduces the dependent clause is in specifying the information source. In French, full representation of two Subject-Predicate-Object information reportage and the event presupposes its dictum and modus components.

Thus, information reportage in the main clause is marked by dedicated reporting verbs. In French, the predicates of the main clause characterizing the information reportage are *informer, annoncer, renseigner*. Figure 1. shows frequency of reporting verbs used in the



main clause of complex sentences to express. The records are based on data from the parallel translations corpus of the RNC.



Figure 1.

Let's take a closer look at the usage of reporting verbs that are involved into the situation of informing in the main clause and their translation matches in Russian. Analysis below is based on utterances with reporting verbs *informer* (2 occurrences in RNC), *annoncer* (7 occurrences in RNC) and *renseigner* (6 occurrences in the RNC).

### Informer

- (1) En mon nom, et au nom de mon défunt mari, je vous *informe que* je quitte le Parti  
 Ot svojego imeni i ot imeni moyego pokoynogo muzha *zayavlyayu* o svoem *vykhode* iz partii

In (1), the referentially-authorized part contains the source of information – a specific individual, the speaker *je*; extra characteristics of the source of information *en mon nom, et au nom de mon défunt mari/ ot moyego imeni i imeni moyego pokoynogo muzha*; the verb specifying spoken form of information transfer – *informer/informirovat'*; the recipient, the listener – *vous /vy*. In this example, the informing part introduces the subordinate clause with the conjunction *que*: *je quitte le Parti / ya ukhozhu iz partii* that is qualified as a complement clause. Situations of informing and the event feature two-member sentences. In translation, the subordinate clause situation is represented by verbal noun *vykhod*. The reporting verb has been replaced by the verb *zayavlyat'*. The complex sentence in French matches a simple sentence in Russian.

## Annoncer

- (2) le gouverneur leur *annonce que* l'oukase a été brutalement révoqué  
Gubernator <...>, *zayavil, chto ukaz vnezapno otmenon*
- ...et un jour, *l'un d'entre eux vous annonce que* vous allez mourir et alors  
(4) i vot prikhodit den', kogda *odin iz nikh ob'yavlyayet, chto ty skoro umresh'*
- Tantôt on *annonce que* les Juifs seront échangés contre les prisonniers de guerre allemands.  
(6) *To soobshchayut, chto yevreyev budut obmenivat' na nemetskikh voyennoplennykh.*
- et *je vous annonce que* celui qu'on appelait Judas de Kerioth a été assassiné il y a quelques heures!  
(8) i vot *ya vam dokladyvayu, chto* tot, kogo imenovali Iuda iz goroda Kiriafa, neskol'ko chasov tomu nazad zarezan.
- Entre *la femme de chambre qui nous annonce que* le thé est servi.  
(10) *Vkhodit gornichnaya i zovet nas pit' chay.*
- Un déclic m'annonce que* c'est la fin.  
(12) No slyshitsya *shchelchok – i ya znayu, chto* eto konets.

All the sentences above are structurally identical: the main clause as the authorizing part has the reporting verb and specifies the information source. Sentences (2) and (6) specify both the source of information (*le gouverneur/ femme de chambre*) and the addressee. In (3) the source is not specified and the addressee is the listener; in (4), the source is anonymous, marked by the indefinite pronoun; the main clause is impersonal. In (5) the speaker and listener correspond to the source and the addressee; in (7) the source is an inanimate sound signaling the end of the situation for the speaker.

In translation, *annoncer* corresponds to Russian reporting verbs: *zayavil, ob'yavlyayut, slyshitsya* and *ya znayu*. From Russian into French, *announcer* corresponds to: *soobshchayut, dokladyvayu, zovet pit' chay* (=reports its readiness). In translation, the syntactic pattern of the statements remains complex in both.

## Renseigner



Remarkably, due to its verb patterns, the synonymous verb *renseigner* is not used in the informative part of the main clause. Often it co-occurs with preposition *sur*.

(13) Videl gde-to eto litso, – dumal on <...> – *nado uznat'*.

J'ai vu ce visage quelque part <...>. Il faut que je me *renseigne*.

(15) *Uznay naschet tseny*.

*Renseigne-toi* sur les prix.

(17) *Uznay tam, na kukhne*, – skazal Oblomov.

*Renseigne-toi* à la cuisine.

(18) et cet organe dont le siège n'est nulle part et qui nous *renseigne* sans appel *sur nos limites*.

і drugoy organ, zapryatanny neizvestno gde, kotoryy, khot' yego і ne prosyat, *opoveshchayet* nas o nashikh *predelakh*.

(20) Vous m'avez dit que vous étiez l'évêque, mais cela ne *me renseigne* point sur votre *personne morale*.

Vy skazali, chto vy yepiskop, no eto nichego *ne govorit* mne o vashem *nrvstvennom oblike*.

(22) mais cette exactitude, plaisante à tous, nous *renseigne* sur ce par quoi il 's'en écarte.

no yego detal'naya pravdopodobnost', kotoraya vsem tak *nrvitsya*, *svidetel'stvuyet*, *chto* v chem-to on ot neye otkhodit.

As we see *renseigner* is used in the imperative statements (9), (10) or in subjunctives (8), either it collocates with abstract nouns (11), (12). From French into Russian *renseigner* matches *opoveshchayet*, *govorit mne* (figurative), *svidetel'stvuyet*. From Russian into French, it matches meanings of the Russian verb *uznat'* or *uznay*. Only in (13), we can see a prototypical complex sentence of indirect evidentiality but not the reported evidential, as the source of information is unspecified. It is rather assumed/inferred evidential. In Russian the verb of indirect evidence *svidetel'stvovat'* is used, which corresponds to French *renseigner*. It can interpreted as follows: the manner in which the artist paints testifies that he deviates from reality.

Thus, conjunctive clauses with the main clause representing information reportage and the complement clause – the situation of the event, mark full representation of the information source. The dependent clause tends to be in post-position expressing the reported situation.

French-Russian and Russian-French RNC matches of the reporting verbs are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1.**

<b>French →</b>	<b>Russian</b>
<i>informer</i>	<i>soobshchat'</i>
<i>annoncer</i>	<i>zayavit', ob'yavlyat'</i>
<i>renseigner</i>	
<b>Russian →</b>	<b>French</b>
<i>soobshchat', dokladyvat'</i>	<i>annoncer</i>
<i>opoveshchat', govorit' (figuratively), svidetel'stvovat'</i>	<i>renseigner</i>

### **Minimal Representation of the Source of Information – Parentheticals**

Much research has been devoted to the semantics of parenthetical elements, their stylistic functions, prosody, and syntactic features. Parenthetical phrases are sentence elements that are not related to any part of it and express attitude of the author to the utterance and reality described in it. Parentheticals impart the following meanings to utterances: source of information, certainty/uncertainty in its reliability, evaluation of events and linguistic means (Фава, 2001). Information introduced with parentheticals helps focus on the content of the utterance, the information carrier recedes into the background to preserve the unity of the narrative, its "harmony" and logic. One especially needs this when analyzing scientific texts or stating someone else's views, etc. Linguistic value of parentheticals is in the extension of the sentence structure and informativity (ЛЕВОНТИНА, 2006). Evidentiality deals with semantic parameters reflecting the speaker's attitude to their own communication, namely, with reference to the source of information (ХРАКОВСКИЙ, 2007).

To express indirect evidentiality, parenthetical phrases function as introductory elements of the sentences. Structurally they represent reduced form of the introductory clause. Parentheticals specify the information source and mark minimal representation of the reportative category (ЛЮТФУЛЛИНА, 2015). In informal communication, 'cut-down' parentheticals prevail (NUYTS & DENDALE, 1994). A common parenthetical has a preposition and a possessive pronoun specifying the information source.

In French constructions with *pour lui*, *à son avis*, *selon lui* are used as indirect evidentials specifying the third-parties information: *Pour lui, Jeanne est incapable d'avoir commis cette erreur*; *À son avis/selon lui, Jules s'est fait teindre en blond*; *À son avis, le chat est sur le paillason*. The construction *pour lui* syntactically suggests complex (i) and non-integrated (ii) - (iv) types of use (COLTIER & DENDALE, 2004): (i) J'ai a parlé *pour lui* / suis venu *pour lui*; (ii) *Pour lui*, Jeanne est incapable d'avoir commis cette erreur; (iii) *À son avis* / *selon lui*, Jules s'est fait teindre en blond; (iv) *À son avis*, le chat est sur le paillason.

Formally, the two-component parenthetic constructions *selon lui*, *pour lui* have identical structures – the third person pronoun in the objective case and the prepositions *selon*, *pour*. *À son avis* uses the preposition, the possessive pronoun and the noun *avis*.

Their quantitative distribution in the RNC differs. Figure 2. illustrates frequency of the parenthetic phrases in the parallel corpus.

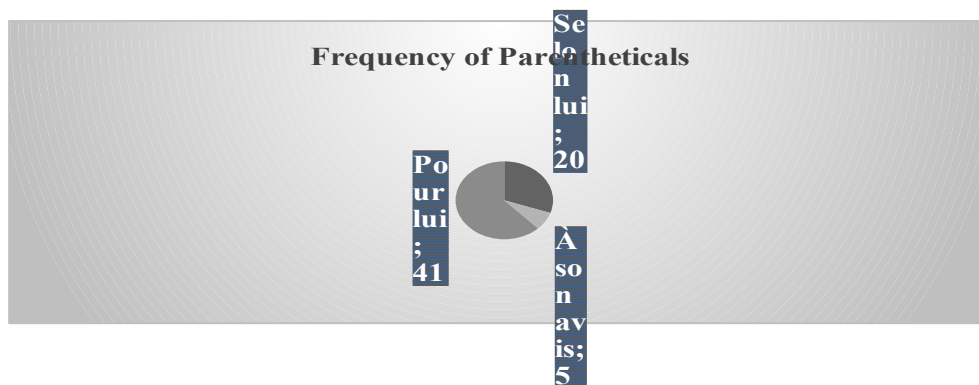


Figure 2.

## Selon Lui

La qualité en Amérique – *selon lui* – était cher payée.  
(23)

*Skazal, chto kachestvo v Amerike – uzhasno dorogaya shtuka.*

Les décorations ne correspondent pas. *Selon lui*, il s'agirait du général  
(24) Zakomelski.

*Ordena, vidite li, ne sootvetstvuyut. Yakoby' e'to general Zakhomel'skij.*

Il s'était adressé à Hitler pour lui communiquer que, *selon lui*, la 6e armée  
(25) devait briser l'encerclement en accord avec Manstein en direction du sud-ouest...

*On obratilsya k Gitleru: 6-ya armiya dolzhna soglasovanno s Manshejnom prorvat' kol'czo okruzheniya v yugo-zapadnom napravlenii*

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La seule chose qu'il ne communiqua pas, c'était que, *selon lui*, l'axe même de l'offensive passerait par la maison où lui et ses hommes s'étaient  
(29) incrustés.

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On ne soobshhil tol'ko, chto, *po ego mneniyu*, dom, v kotorom on zasel so svoimi lyud'mi, budet naxodit'sya na osi nemeckogo udara.

In the RNC we identified 20 examples with parenthetical *selon lui*. All the examples above express the speaker's opinion and hardly report about a particular fact or event. Only sentences (16) and (17) express the reportative category. Thus, (14) marks opinion about the quality in America and (15) – speculations on the General's identity.

Let take a closer look at Russian translations of the reference to a third-hand opinion. Sentence (14) has the verb *skazal*, and in (15), we see the particle *yakoby*'. In (16) the Subjunctive is rendered into French with equivalent forms of *devait*, *évacuerait*. In Russian, the speaker does not emphasize his vision of future, as it is implied by the verb *obratilsya* and the extension of the statement introduced by the colon. Only lack of direct speech markers specifies it as an opinion. Similarly, utterance in (17) is prediction and in French it has the subjunctive of *passerait*, *s'étaient incrustés*. As above, along with the speech verb *communiquer*, the construction *selon lui* specifies the 'author' of the opinion, although in this context 'authorship' can be mismatched. In Russian versions of (16) and (17) the authorship is not specified.

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*Selon lui*, les chefs de tout poil et de tous grades n'étaient rien en comparaison de ce gringalet de Lobatchevski ou de ce vieillard de  
(30) Romain Rolland.

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Vse nachal'niki, *po ego mneniyu*, <...> nichego ne znachili pered kakim-nibud' pleshivy'm Lobachevskim ili usokhshim Romenom Rollanom.

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Ivan Ilitch en venait déjà à penser que le mariage non seulement ne mettrait pas fin à ce mode de vie facile <...> toujours convenable et approuvé par la bonne société qui, *selon lui*, devait être le propre de toute  
(31) chose, mais encore qu'il en redoublerait les avantages.

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Ivan Il'ich nachinal uzhe dumat', chto zhenit'ba ne tol'ko ne narushit togo kharaktera zhizni legkoj <...> i odobryaemoj obshhestvom, kotoryj *Ivan Il'ich schital* svoystvenny'm zhizni voobshhe, no eshhe usugubit ego.

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	<p>L'évêque, de son côté, quoiqu'il se gardât ordinairement de la curiosité, laquelle, <i>selon lui</i>, était contiguë à l'offense (34) Éпископ oby'chno vozderzhivalsya ot lyubopy'tstva, ibo <i>v ego ponimanii</i> ono granichilo s oskorbleniem...</p>
	<p>Il croyait que la fréquentation du bureau n'était nullement une obligation &lt;...&gt;; <i>selon lui</i>, la boue, la chaleur, une simple indisposition étaient des événements tout à fait suffisants pour qu'on s'absentât légitimement, et négligeât ses travaux. (36) Он polagal, &lt;...&gt; chto poseshhenie prisutstvennogo mesta otnyud' ne est' obyazatel'naya privy'chka &lt;...&gt;, i chto slyakot', zhara ili prosto neraspolzhenie vseгда budut sluzhit' dostatochny'mi i zakonny'mi predlogami k nexozhdeniyu v dolzhnost'.</p>
	<p>Il fit paresseusement &lt;...&gt; dit adieu à tous les espoirs juveniles qui l'avaient, <i>selon lui</i>, trompé. (38) Лениво махнул он рукой на все юношеские, обманувшие его или обманутые им надежды'</p>
	<p><i>Selon lui</i>, la mission normale de l'homme était de vivre les quatre grandes saisons de l'année, c'est-à-dire les quatre âges humains (40) Он говорил, что "normal'noe naznachenie cheloveka – prozhit' chety're vremeni goda, to est' chety're vozrasta</p>

Translation of *selon lui* deserves attention in (18), (19), (20) and (21). Sentence (18) marks opinion about attitude toward the greats while (19) features the character's thoughts about family life. Sentence (20) marks personal attitude to curiosity. In (21), Oblomov discusses duties of functionaries and lost youth (22).

Into Russian, the construction *selon lui* is translated by the matching phrase *po ego mneniyu* (18) or omitted as in (19), (20) and (21). It also corresponds to the phrase *v ego ponimanii* as in (20). These examples do not express the reportative category. We can assume that in French this construction is often used to specify authorship even if there is a specific speech verb. Russian statement (23) has the predicate *govoril* that matches *selon lui* and it marks the author's thoughts about life.

(45) *Selon lui*, l'ouriadnik aurait fait de faux rapports

Pokazaniya uryadnika, po slovam Yulaya, by'li lozhny'

(43) *Selon lui*, Georges et Carmen avaient eu une brève 'aventure'...

*Po slovam Rokrua*, u Zhorzha s Karmen by'l mimoletny'j roman...

In (24), (25) the subject *pokazaniya uryadnika* and the parenthetic phrases *po slovam Yulaya* / *po slovam Rokrua* are translated into Russian and correspond to. Out of ten occurrences, only these two are translated into Russian by the equivalent parenthetical. *Selon lui* here expresses the reportative category, since the information about past event is specified.

### A Son Avis

*A son avis*, la jeune femme ne serait véritablement en sûreté qu'après avoir quitté l'Inde.

(44) *Po ego mneniyu*, molodaya zhenshhina budet v bezopasnosti tol'ko za predelami Indii.

Only five examples of *a son avis* were found in the NCR, four of them mark communicated opinions, judgement or attitude. The only sentence (26) has reference to the source of information. This use of *a son avis* can be the reportative evidential: in his opinion (= according to his information), a young woman will be safe only outside India. Here, a third person, based on his information, estimates the level of danger in India as threatening to a young girl. Into Russian, the parenthetical is translated by the equivalent construction *po ego mneniyu*.

### Pour Lui

*Pour lui*, vous n'êtes que du bétail à gaver, des chiens de Pavlov

(45) *y' dlya nego* vsego lish' besslovesny'j skot, postavlenny'j na otkorm, sobaki Pavlova

Or, cela s'était produit parce que la guerre s'était révélée *pour lui*, Kozyr, une véritable vocation

(47) *A proizoshlo e'to potomu*, chto vojna *dlya nego*, Kozy'rya, by'la prizvaniem

(49) *Pour lui*, Marx était plus grand que tous les génies russes et la Symphonie héroïque de Beethoven triomphait de toute la musique russe.



	<i>Dlya nego</i> Marks byl vy'she vsekh russkix geniev, <i>dlya nego</i> Geroicheskaya simfoniya <i>Betxovena</i> bezrazdel'no torzhestvovala nad russkoj muzy'koj.
(51)	<i>Pour lui</i> , c'est facile, il n'a rien. Mikhaïl n'avait ni bêtes ni lopin. <i>A emu</i> chto... KHozyajstva u Mikhal Ivany'cha ne by'lo.
(52)	<i>Pour lui</i> tout va on ne peut mieux. <i>U nego</i> kak raz vse zamechatel'no.
(54)	<i>Pour lui</i> , il n'existe pas d'idées, de pensées, de situations n'appartenant à personne
(56)	<i>Dlya Dostoevskogo</i> ne sushhestvuet idej, my'slej, polozhenij <i>Pour lui</i> le réalisme de Dostoïevski est fondé non sur la connaissance (objectale) Realizm Dostoevskogo <i>on opredelyaet kak realizm</i> , osnovanny'j ne na poznanii (ob"ektnom)
(58)	<i>Pour lui</i> , la vie a moins de valeur qu'un bout de ferraille. Papa zhil <i>dlya</i> togo, chtoby' vy'polnit' lyuboe zadanie partii i pravitel'stva. Zhizn' stoila men'she zhelezki.
(59)	Il n'avait pas pris une minute de sommeil, tous les instants de cette nuit-là avaient été marqués <i>pour lui</i> par une joie. On ni na sekundu ne somknul glaz, no <i>dlya nego</i> kazhdoye mgnoveniye etoy nochi bylo otmecheno radost'yu.
(60)	Au demeurant, ces questions n'étaient pas nouvelles <i>pour lui</i> ni attendues mais déjà anciennes, douloureuses de longue date. Vprochem, <i>dlya nego</i> vse eti voprosy byli ne novyye, ne vnezapnyye, a staryye, nabolevshiye, davnishniye.

The analysis shows *pour lui* is often translated into Russian by *dlya nego*, which allows the speaker specify attitude of a third party. Thus, in (27), (28), (29) mark attitude to the dialog partner, to the war and to Marx respectively. The other two translation options *a emu* and *u nego* for *pour lui*, which are equivalent to *dlya nego* and similarly express attitude in (30)–(31). Sometimes translation replaces pronominal constructions with proper names, e.g. *dlya Dostoevskogo* (32). Sentence (33) marks attitude to life and here, as well as in (34),

*pour lui* is not translated into Russian. Again, French has greater detailing if there is reference to a third person uninvolved in the conversation.

However, none of the instances above express reportative evidential. This interpretation is only likely for sentences (35), (36). In both cases, the third party acts as the source of information, in (35) he reports about *personally* experienced event: for him (=according to his information) every moment of the night was full of happiness while in (36), the reported situation is impersonal – outdated status of the problems. The speaker as a third party reports: for him (=according to his information) all these questions were not new.

Table 2. presents all manifestations of indirect evidentiality as well as the reportative category by means of French parentheticals and their Russian translation equivalents.

**Table 2.**

French parenthetic constructions	Russian word-based translation	Represented meaning of reportative evidence	Russian translation matches (RTM) in the RNC	Total of RTM
Preposition <i>selon</i> + personal pronoun of a third person (mentioned in the conversation) in the object case	<i>soglasno komu-libo</i>	Reference to another person's opinion + specification of authorship	Verbs of speaking ( <i>skazal, govoril, etc.</i> )	2
			Particle <i>yakoby</i>	1
			Verbs of speech ( <i>obratilsya</i> ) + colon	1
			No specification of authorship in the translation	5
		<i>po ch'yemu-libo (yego) mneniyu</i>	1	
		<i>v ch'yem-libo (yego) ponimanii</i>	1	
		Reference to the information about a past event (expressed reportative evidence)	Verbal noun of speech ( <i>pokazaniya</i> ) + <i>po slovam kogo-libo</i>	1
	<i>po slovam kogo-libo</i>	1		
Preposition <i>à</i> + possessive pronoun + noun <i>avis</i>	<i>po ch'yemu-libo mneniyu</i>	Reference to another person's opinion	<i>po ch'yemu-libo (yego) mneniyu</i>	5
Preposition <i>pour</i> + personal pronoun of a third person (mentioned in the	<i>dlya kogo-libo</i>	Attitude of a third party non-participating in the conversation towards	<i>dlya nego</i>	3
			<i>a yemu</i>	1
			<i>u nego</i>	1

conversation) in the object case	something or someone Representation of authorship (only one occurrence)	Preposition <i>dlya</i> + the proper name of the referred third party	1
		No reference to the third party non-participating in the conversation	2

## Summary

The study found that in French indirect evidentiality, which implies information acquired from third parties, characteristically exhibit full and minimal representations of the information source. Full reported evidential in French tend to be related to the complex sentence in which the main clause is authorizing and the subordinate one, introduced with *que*, is stating the information, i.e. informing. The verbs *informer*, *annoncer* are the nuclear reporting verbs used as predicates of the main clause representing the situation of informing. A complete representation specifies the source of information, the addressee, and manner of reporting, and, in some instances, the functional title. In the translation, they correspond to Russian verbs with the similar semantics: *deklarirovat'*, *soobshchat'*, *izveshchat'*. In translation, complex sentences keep their syntactic structure; optionally, the informative part expressed with a verb can be replaced with verbal or processual nouns. According to the RNC, reporting verbs show low frequency. We have reason to believe, that this due to extensive use of speech verbs in the representation of the reporting situation. However, this point invites further investigations.

Minimal representation of the source of information explicates only the source of information, whereas the addressee, the method of reporting can only be implicated. Parenthetic phrases are explicit markers of the category of indirect evidentiality in both languages. In French this category, which specifies third-hand information, features use of parentheticals *pour lui*, *à son avis*, *selon lui*. The two-component parentheticals *selon lui*, *pour lui* have the same structure – the personal pronoun of the third person (mentioned in the conversation) in objective case and the prepositions *selon*, *pour*. And *à son avis* consists of the preposition, possessive pronoun and noun *avis*. According to our research, *selon lui*, *pour lui* show a higher occurrence. The construction *selon lui* is commonly used to specify authorship indicating a third party as the source of information. Only in two cases out of ten it is rendered into Russian by an equivalent construction. In other instances, either the speech

verbs are used or the construction is not translated. The construction *selon lui* marks reportative category, as the one that reports about past event. Occasionally *pour lui* can also be used to mark the reportative evidential.

Both constructions are mainly translated into Russian by the phrase *po ego mneniyu* (in his opinion). The construction *pour lui* can also be rendered by an expression *dlya nego* (for him), which allows you to actualize or emphasize the attitude of a third party to something or someone, but not the reportative evidence. All analyzed constructions are frequently used to specify attitudes and opinions, thus, they cover some subjective evaluation. In most considered examples, they do not explicate the objective information source. Moreover, the key factor implying a verb-expressed situation in the second informative part is also ruled out. Nevertheless, the results of the RNC analysis show that the studied constructions are still used in translation to express reportative evidence.

## Conclusions

Thus, complex sentences and parentheticals can be considered as overt manifestations of indirect evidentiality in French. The corpus data convincingly prove the potential of the parenthetical phrases in expression of reportative evidence, which is determined by the contextual environment. These conclusions are consistent with the studies of D. Coltier, P. Dendale, L. Tasmowski.

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