

RUSSIAN GRAMMAR: PROCESS AND RESULT OF MODALATION OF NOUNS WITH PREPOSITIONS

GRAMÁTICA DA RUSSA: PROCESSO E RESULTADO DA MODALAÇÃO DE SUBSTANTIVOS COM PREPOSIÇÕES

GRAMÁTICA RUSA: PROCESO Y RESULTADO DE LA MODALACIÓN DE SUBSTANTIVOS CON PREPOSICIONES

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ABSTRACT: The purpose of the study is to study the degree to which differential features of nouns in the prepositional case that explicate the periphery stage of parenthetic-modal units and expressions on the transitivity scale match, on the one hand, the differential features of nuclear representatives of nouns, and on the other hand, the features of nuclear representatives of parenthetic-modal units originating from adjectives. It is established that when used as a detached parenthetic-modal component of the utterance, "po sovesti" reaches the periphery zone of parenthetic-modal units. At the same time, the functional modalate that undergoes semantic and grammatical transformations does not disturb the semantic equivalence of the original substantive lexeme. The results of the study can be used when developing the theory of the parts of speech and inter-part-of-speech categories as well as to create the transpositional grammar of the Russian language.

KEYWORDS: Russian language. Transposition. Modulation. Preposition. Parenthetic-modal unit.

RESUMO: O objetivo do estudo é estudar o grau em que os traços diferenciais dos substantivos no caso preposicional explicam o estágio de periferia das unidades parênteses-modais e expressões na escala de transitividade correspondem, por um lado, aos traços diferenciais dos núcleos representantes de substantivos e, por outro lado, as características de representantes nucleares de unidades parênteses-modais provenientes de adjetivos. Fica estabelecido que, quando utilizado como componente parêntese-modal destacado do enunciado, "po sovesti" atinge a zona periférica das unidades parênteses-modais. Ao mesmo tempo, o modalato funcional que sofre transformações semânticas e gramaticais não perturba a equivalência semântica do lexema substantivo original. Os resultados do estudo podem ser usados no desenvolvimento da teoria das partes do discurso e das categorias interpartes do discurso, bem como para criar a gramática transposicional da língua russa.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Língua russa. Transposição. Modulação. Posição. Unidade parêntese-modal.

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RESUMEN: *El objetivo del estudio es estudiar en qué medida los rasgos diferenciales de los sustantivos en caso preposicional que explican el estadio periférico de las unidades parentético-modales y las expresiones en la escala de transitividad coinciden, por un lado, con los rasgos diferenciales de los núcleos representantes de los sustantivos y, por otro lado, las características de los representantes nucleares de las unidades parentético-modales que se originan en los adjetivos. Se establece que cuando se usa como componente separado entre paréntesis-modales del enunciado, "po sovesti" llega a la zona periférica de las unidades entre paréntesis-modales. Al mismo tiempo, el modal funcional que sufre transformaciones semánticas y gramaticales no perturba la equivalencia semántica del lexema sustantivo original. Los resultados del estudio se pueden utilizar al desarrollar la teoría de las categorías de partes del discurso y entre partes del discurso, así como para crear la gramática transposicional del idioma ruso.*

PALABRAS CLAVE: *Lengua rusa. Transposición. Modulación. Posición. Unidad parentético-modal.*

Introduction

Scholars' continued interest in the transition zones in the grammatical structure of the language, for example, in the field of parts of speech and inter-part-of-speech categories, is explained by the need to study the types of interaction between grammar and vocabulary in the structure of those linguistic units that are subject to certain categorical transformations in speech. Different aspects of the theory of transposition (translation, derivation, conversion, transformation, etc.), patterns of multidimensional interaction, mutual influence of units from different categories in typical contexts of "pure" and "combined" nominalization, adverbialization, pronominalization, predication, interjectivation, etc. have been discussed more than once by the works of Russian and foreign researchers (see, for example (BABAITSEVA, 2000; BALLY, 1955; ELSEN, 2011; KURILOVICH, 1962; LUDWIG, 1982; LUKIN, 1973; MARCHAND, 1967; MELCHUK, 1995; STEKAUER, 1996; TESNIÈRE, 1988; URYSON, 1996)).

Syncretic structures exist in different languages, which is understandable: these structures synthesize, in one proportion or another, the properties of the parts of speech and inter-part-of-speech categories interacting in speech and enable the subject of the modus to express thoughts and feelings concisely yet succinctly. As Vorotnikov (2003, p. 82) said, "the combination of several meanings in one linguistic unit makes it possible to convey more information in a more compact form". When studying the facts of transitivity in German, H. Paul drew attention to the fluidity of boundaries between different grammatical units, the presence of levels, and degrees of substantive transposition of infinitives, which is caused by

their use with a preposition, an article (PAUL, 1955, p. 135). According to V.P. Pavlov, the degree of nominalization of German verbs can be different, so the verbs can retain some of the verb properties (PAVLOV, 2013, p. 35–36). Vikhovanets notes different stages of inter-part-of speech-speech transposition of linguistic units in the Ukrainian language, substantiating the need to distinguish between syntactic, morphological, and semantic stages of transposition (adverbialization, nominalization, etc.) (VIKHOVANETS; GORODENSKA, 2004, p. 26-28, 302, 323-325). Subtle observations of different degrees of nominalization, adverbialization, adjectivation, modalation, etc. can be found in studies by Peshkovskii (1938), Vinogradov (1986), Babaitseva (2000), and Bauder (1982).

The study is focused on the process of modalation of linguistic units that leads to the formation of parenthetic-modal words and expressions that are included in the inter-part-of-speech (semantic-syntactic) subclass with a common subjective-modal meaning (LYAPON, 1998). These words and expressions serve to express the point of view of the modus subject that evaluates the utterance from the perspective of content and form (see, for example: (PADUCHEVA, 2019; SHIGUROV; SHIGUROVA, 2016; VINOGRADOV, 1986, p. 594)). The types of parenthetic-modal use of words and expressions were studied in the works by Vinogradov, Zhirmunskii, Kolshanskii, Lyapon, Zolotova, Onipenko, Anikina, Vysotskaya, Vasilenko, Sorokina, Kustova, Mukovozova, etc. In some studies, the problem of subjective modality is considered through the prism of the processes of grammaticalization and desemantization of units in the function of discourse markers, leading to a weakening or loss of lexical semantics, morphological and syntactic characteristics of the original classes of words and their convergence with the basic elements of the language (Meillet, Anderson, Schiffrin, Lutzky, Pribytok, Traugott, Brinton, Maisak, Fraser, Kustova, Orekhova, and others) (KUSTOVA, 2018; OREKHOVA, 2011). The features of the functioning of discourse markers in different types of contexts were studied in the framework of international projects carried out under the supervision of D. Paillard (BARANOV; PLUNGYAN; RAKHILINA, 1993; KISELEVA; PAILLARD, 1998, 2003).

Particularly noteworthy is the position of Vinogradov, who, as it is known, considered modal words to be a structural-semantic type of words which is not a separate part of speech but is formed by words of different parts of speech – adverbs, adjectives, nouns, verbs, etc., as well as whole combinations of words and even sentences (VINOGRADOV, 1986, p. 595).

We believe that a new approach to the transpositional process of modalation requires taking into account quantitative parameters that would make it possible to objectify the results

of studying the degrees of correspondence between words and word forms that represent different stages of modalation in typical contexts, and nuclear representatives of the initial and final links of transposition. Thus, it is possible to largely reduce the element of subjectivity in assessing the stages of the advancement of each unit from point **A** (noun) to point **B** (parenthetic-modal word and expression).

The object of the study is the process and result of modalation of nouns with prepositions, the subject is the degree of correspondence of their differential features to the characteristics of typical representatives of the initial and final links of inter-category transposition.

The purpose of the study is to identify, using the example of the noun "po sovesti" in the prepositional case, the degree to which differential features of nouns such as "sovest" [conscience], "spravedlivost" [fairness], "slukhi" [rumors], that represent the peripheral zone of the parenthetic-modal units (*po sovesti, po spravedlivosti, po slukham* [in good conscience, in fairness, according to rumors]) in the parenthetic position, correspond to differential features of nuclear nouns, and nuclear parenthetic-modal units.

Methods

The methodological framework of the study included research by Russian and foreign authors into the problem of parts of speech, transposition, and syncretism (BABAITSEVA, 2000; BALLY, 1955; BAUDER, 1982; KIM, 1978; MIGIRIN, 1971; TESNIÈRE, 1988). To objectify the results of the study that looked into the gradual modalation of nouns with prepositions, combinatorics, and the proportion of differential features in the structure of peripheral derivative modalates, we used the methods of oppositional analysis (with a transitivity scale) and indexing (CHESNOKOVA, 1991) which made it possible to reduce the element of subjectivity in calculating the indices of correspondence of nouns in the prepositional case to nuclear nouns and nuclear parenthetic-modal words.

The study was based on the methods of oppositional analysis and indexing described in Shigurov's works, including the monographs on the theory of transpositional grammar. There is a description of the types of gradual transposition of transgressives, and participles when the action is negated (nominalization, adjectivization, adverbialization, conjunctionalization) (SHIGUROV, 1993); stages of pronominalization of units from different parts of speech (SHIGUROV, 2015); stages and indices of interjection of linguistic units, including when combining this type of transposition with verbalization,

particularization, etc. (SHIGUROV, 2009); stages and indices of predicativation of linguistic units, as well as at the intersection of this type of transposition with adjectivation, adverbialization, modalation, etc. (SHIGUROV, 2016); stages and indices of modalation of linguistic units, including when combined with particularization, interjectivation, conjunctionalization, prepositionalization (SHIGUROV, 2020a, 2020b, 2021; SHIGUROV; SHIGUROVA, 2017; SHIGUROV, SHIGUROVA, 2019, 2020). We created a booklet on the transpositional grammar of the Russian language and developed a program for a comprehensive study of the transposition mechanism which generates functional and functional-semantic homonyms and syncretic (peripheral and hybrid) structures in speech (SHIGUROV; SHIGUROVA, 2016).

Results and discussion

The application of the method of oppositional analysis and indexing made it possible to calculate the degrees of modalation of nouns with prepositions such as *po sovesti*, *po spravedlivosti*, *po slukham*, etc. It has been established that nouns can be gradually transposed into the category of parenthetical-modal units, both in a single position (*pravda*, *fakt*, *chasom*, *sluchaem*, etc.) and in combination with other words (*k schastyu*, *na gore*, *po sovesti*, *po slukham*, etc.). In different speech contexts, the nouns demonstrate certain stages of modalation, which correspond to certain sections on the transitivity scale. Let us illustrate this with the example of the prepositional-case word form *po sovesti*:

The area of the noun nucleus as the initial point of modalation [N(oun)]:

(1) *On sudil po sovesti, po spravedlivosti. [He judged in good conscience, in fairness].*

The stage of the periphery of nouns functioning as a predicate: [N(oun) m(od)]:

(2) *Eto – po sovesti, kogda delyat nashitoe popolam. [This is in good conscience when the property is divided into halves].*

The stage of hybrid, substantive-modal structures used as part of detached parenthetical structures with a verbal grammatical center: [n(oun) m(od)]:

(3) *Govorya po sovesti, izmenit chto-to v etoi situatsii prakticheski nevozmozhno. [Frankly speaking, it is nearly impossible to change anything in this situation].*

The periphery stage of parenthetical-modal units [n(oun) M(od)]:

(4) *Po sovesti, ego povedenie nikomu ne ponravilos. [Frankly, nobody liked his behavior].*

Further, we will focus exclusively on the peripheral zone of parenthetical-modal words and expressions, where a noun with a preposition *po sovesti*, relatively speaking, ends the movement towards the parenthetical-modal units.

Parenthetical-modal expressions such as *po sovesti*, *po spravedlivosti*, *v sushchnosti* [in good conscience, in fairness, in essence] are used in simple expanded sentences in pre-, inter-, and postposition; cf.:

(5) **Po sovesti**, mne samomu vse eto protivno [**In fairness**, I am disgusted by all this] [S. Danilyuk. *Biznes-klass* [Business class] (2003)];

(6) *V tvoi otdel i zaiti-to*, **po sovesti**, nepriyatno [Entering your department is, **to be honest**, unpleasant] [Yu. Dombrovskii. *Khranitel drevnostei* [Keepers of antiquities], part 2 (1964)];

(7) *Ei-bogu, tut nichego takogo netu*, **po sovesti** [Heaven knows, there is nothing of the kind here, **in fairness**] [O. Smirnov. *Do zvezd rukoi podat!* [The stars are at arm's length!] // "Ogonek", 1961].

Denominative peripheral modalates can be interpreted as a result of reduction (ellipsis), hybrids in the form of stable parenthetical-modal expressions with a verbal center represented by a transgressive or an infinitive: *po sovesti* \approx *po sovesti govorya*, *skazat po sovesti*, *esli govorit po sovesti* [in good conscience \approx speaking in good conscience, to speak in good conscience, if you speak in good conscience].

Like hybrids such as *po sovesti (govorya)* [(speaking) in good conscience], parenthetical-modal units of the peripheral type (*po sovesti*) are usually detached from the rest of the utterance through commas, which indicates a significant degree of their independence in utterance. Like hybrids, peripheral parenthetical-modal units synthesize in their structure the features of nuclear nouns and nuclear parenthetical-modal words, albeit in a slightly different proportion.

With the nuclear noun *sovest (sudit, postupat po sovesti)* [conscience (to judge, act in good conscience)], the peripheral introductory-modal expression *po sovesti (u nego net takogo dara)* [in good conscience (he is not gifted that way)] is brought together by such differential features as: 1) the equivalence of the lexical semantics, that acts, however, in a somewhat weakened form in the peripheral modalate ("a sense of moral responsibility for one's behavior; moral principles, views, beliefs"); one point; 2) part-of-speech semantics of objectivity (also somewhat weakened in the peripheral modalate in comparison with the original noun); one point; 3) being part of the lexical and grammatical categories of common

nouns, inanimate, abstract nouns; three points; 4) the category of gender in the form of the feminine gender; one point; 5) the category of number (with the singular form fixed in the nuclear noun and in the denominative peripheral modalate); one point; 6) the category of case [with the opposition of six case forms in the nuclear noun (*sovest*, *sovesti*, etc.) and the fixed use of the prepositional form of the dative case of the peripheral modalate (*po sovesti*)]; one point; 7) a complex paradigm with fixed forms of the dative case and the singular; one point; 8) inflectional ending *-i* with the meanings of the feminine gender, singular number and dative case, as well as with the general grammatical meaning of objectivity in the nuclear noun *po sovesti* and with neutralized (desemanticized, empty) forms of nominal categories in the denominative parenthetic-modal expression *po sovesti*; the preposition *po* requires the dative case in the modalate *po sovesti*, restraining the transformation of its inflectional ending *-i* into a suffix; one point; and 9) the divisible (albeit darkened in the peripheral modalate) nature of the morphemic structure of the word: (*po*) *sovesti*; one point. Thus, the peripheral denominative modalate *po sovesti* and the corresponding nuclear noun have 11 common features.

The peripheral parenthetic-modal expression (*po sovesti*) is distinguished from the initial nuclear noun (*sovest*, *po sovesti*) by such features as: 1) the fixed use of the dative case with the preposition *po* (in the absence of other case forms); five points; 2) fewer forms in the complex paradigm (due to the fixed use of singular and dative forms); one point; 3) lack of function of a part of a sentence; cf.: *On deistvoval po zakonu ili po sovesti* [He acted according to the law or **in good conscience**] and *Po sovesti, nado bylo by ego prostit* [**In fairness**, he should have been forgiven]; one point; 4) lack of syntactic links with other words; cf.: *On postupal v takikh sluchayakh po sovesti* [In such cases he acted **in good conscience**]/ *Po sovesti, nado bylo by s etim soglasitsya* [**In fairness**, one should have agreed with this]; one point. In general, the peripheral substantive modalate (*po sovesti*) differs from the original nuclear noun in eight features.

The functional modalation of the prepositional-case form of the noun *po sovesti* does not lead to a disturbance of the semantic identity of the word, although it is associated to a certain extent with the abstraction of its lexical and part-of-speech semantics, as well as with some degrammaticalization, i.e. loss of syntactic properties of typical nouns. See contexts of proper substantive (8) and parenthetic-modal usage of *po sovesti* (9):

(8) *Sudit nuzhno po sovesti* [One should judge **in good conscience**];

(9) *Shansov u nego, po sovesti, pochti ne bylo* [He had, **in fairness**, hardly a chance].

It is also noteworthy that with some weakening of the substantive properties in the peripheral modalate *po sovesti*, the loss of the categories of gender, number, and case, which serve as a means of expressing the part-of-speech semantics of the subject, does not occur. There may be several reasons for this. First, the preposition *po*, which requires the dative form of the noun and does not transform into a prefix spelled together with the noun, seems to prevent further desubstantivation of *po sovesti*; cf. the parenthetic-modal word *kstati* [by the way] which arose as a result of the transition from the preposition *k* and the noun *stati* in the dative form through the adverbialization (eg: *Eto skazano kstati* [This has been said **at an appropriate time**] – an adverb). Second, the limiting factor for the further loss of substantive properties in the modalate is the possibility of restoring the omitted verb (*skazat, govorya* [to speak, speaking]), which is part of the structure of the initial parenthetic phrase *skazat po sovesti, chestno govorya* [to speak fairly, fairly speaking], where the prepositional-case form *po sovesti* is syntactically related to the verb through case adjunction. This also seems to prevent the further advancement of the modalate into the category of words like *kstati*, which do not have grammatical categories. Finally, in our opinion, it is also important that the process of modalation of word forms like *po sovesti, po spravedlivosti* is not associated, as in cases such as *kstati*, with the process of adverbialization. Cf. Also syncretic unities *mezhdru nami, po mne* [between us, as for me], involved in the processes of modalation and adverbialization: *Pust eto ostanetsya mezhdru nami* [Let this stay **between us**], and *Mezhdru nami, on ne prav* [**Between you and me**, he is wrong].

The degree of modalation of the prepositional-case form *po sovesti* at the peripheral stage of parenthetic-modal units can be determined more precisely through a special formula that demonstrates the correspondence of the modalate features to the features of the original nuclear noun:

$$x_1 [\dots po sovesti\dots n(\text{oun}) M(\text{od})] = 11 / (11+8) = 11 / 19 \approx 0.58 (58\%)$$

When calculating the second modalation index of the peripheral denominative modalate *po sovesti*, the degree of correspondence of its differential features to the features of the nuclear introductory-modal unit *konechno* [of course], formed as a result of the functional-semantic modalation of a short adjective, is established: *Vremya sushchestvovaniya zhivoi materii konechno* [The time of existence of alive matter is **finite**] -> *Konechno, on vse prekrasno ponimal* [**Of course**, he understood everything perfectly].

The peripheral modalate *po sovesti* in the function of a detached parenthetic-modal component [stage **n(oun) M(od)**] is similar to the introductory-modal nuclear-type word

konechno [stage **M(od)**] in terms of the following traits: 1) categorical subjective-modal semantics of the assessment of the utterance in moral and ethical terms (peripheral parenthetic-modal expression *po sovesti*) or in terms of its reliability (parenthetic-modal nuclear-type word *konechno*); one point; 2) usage in sentences with a clear division into the spheres of modus and dictum; peripheral parenthetic-modal expression (*po sovesti*) and nuclear parenthetic-modal word (*konechno*) demonstrate the position of the modus subject (modus), evaluating a particular state of affairs, the rest of the utterance (dictum) explicates this state of affairs (or a certain fragment of it) as a rhematic component); one point; 3) immutability, detachment of fixed forms of number and case from paradigms of hybrid categories and the absence of forms of gender and number in the prototypical modalate *konechno*; one point; 4) the usage in a detached parenthetic position (signs of intonation design: lowering the tone of the voice and accelerating the tempo of speech); one point; 5) separation with commas in writing, less often – dashes; one point; and 6) the presence of an introductory way of entering the structure of the utterance; one point; In general, the peripheral parenthetic-modal expression *po sovesti* and the parenthetic-modal word of the nuclear type *konechno* are characterized by six differential features (points).

The peripheral parenthetic-modal expression *po sovesti* is distinguished from the nuclear parenthetic-modal word *konechno* by such features as 1) the absence of homonymous lexical meaning, which arises when the semantic equivalence of the original lexeme is violated; cf. *po sovesti* and *konechno* (\approx 'certainly'); two points; 2) the divisible nature of the morphemic structure of the word; cf. peripheral parenthetic-modal word with the inflectional ending *-i* (*po sovesti*) and nuclear parenthetic-modal word *konechno*, which underwent partial phonetic transformation (*kone[sh]no*) and incomplete simplification; one point; and 3) preservation of working derivational connections with the same root words (*sovestlivyi* [conscientious], etc.) in the peripheral non-substantive modalate *po sovesti* with the loss of such connections in the nuclear modalate *konechno* in the meaning of "certainly"; one point. In total, as we can see, the peripheral and nuclear modalates have four distinguishing features.

The degree of correspondence (similarity and difference) of the differential features of the peripheral parenthetic-modal expression *po sovesti* to the features of the nuclear parenthetic-modal word *konechno* is determined using the formula:

$$x_2 [\dots \textit{po sovesti} \textit{n(oun)} \textit{M(od)}] = 6 / (6+4) = 6 / 10 \approx 0.6 (60\%)$$

Conclusion

The calculation of the indices of functional modalation of the peripheral denominative modalate *po sovesti* indicates that when used in the position of a detached parenthetical-modal component of the utterance, the expression shows a 58% correspondence of its differential features to the features of the original nuclear noun and a 60% correspondence to the features of the nuclear parenthetical-modal word *konechno*. The studied contexts of usage of the peripheral modalate represent the limit of functional modalation of this kind of prepositional-case forms of nouns. The nouns balance between nouns and parenthetical-modal units, being syncretic structures specializing in the laconic expression of complex semantic sets. Further desubstantivization of nouns with prepositions such as *po sovesti* is impeded by the purely grammatical nature of this process, which manifests itself in the fixed usage (and not in the loss) of grammatical forms of case and number, in the preservation of the semantic identity of the lexeme during parenthetical-modal use, etc. From the procedure of indexing the degrees of correspondence of the functional modalate *po sovesti*, it is clear that even at the last stage of modalation, the prepositional-case form of a noun does not allow its unambiguous grammatical interpretation according to the principle "either... or", i.e., only as a noun with a preposition or as a parenthetical-modal expression. It is clear that in this syncretic unity there is both: it combines the characteristics of interacting nouns (with prepositions) and parenthetical-modal words and expressions.

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How to reference this article

SHIGUROV, V. V.; SHIGUROVA, T. A. Russian grammar: Process and result of modalation of nouns with prepositions. **Rev. EntreLinguas**, Araraquara, v. 8, n. esp. 1, e022011, Mar. 2022. e-ISSN: 2447-3529. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.29051/el.v8iesp.1.16922>

Submitted: 15/11/2021

Required revisions: 16/01/2022

Approved: 23/02/2022

Published: 30/03/2022