

TYPES OF SEMANTIC RELATIONS  
BETWEEN INTONATION AND LEXICO-GRAMMATICAL MEANS (LGM) OF LANGUAGE

V.I. PETRYANKINA

MOSCOW PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL LINGUISTICS

ABSTRACT

The report generalizes from the results of a long-term investigation carried on by the author. This research is based on the material of languages belonging to different morphologo-syntactical types. The general problem is outlined as "The interaction of intonational and lexico-grammatical means of language", the particular one being "The establishment of the types of semantic relations between intonation and lexico-grammatical means" with regard to the character of distribution, opposition and the amount of semantic meaning. The relations holding between intonation and lexico-grammatical means are typified oriented on "deep" interpretation of intonational facts their presentation at the abstract level irrespectively of details. These types of semantic relations are regarded as language universals. The analysis of the types of semantic relations such as semantic harmony, sameness, inclusion, overlapping, exclusion is designed to disclose purely intonational semantics. Theoretical assumptions are based on the experimental data obtained by means of auditory and electro-acoustic analyses and processed with the computer.

Different types of semantic relationships holding between intonation and LGM can be established taking into consideration the character and amount of semantic meaning, the character of opposition and distribution, their interrelation and interdependence. Intonational and LGM in the flow of speech may stand out as semantically one-directional possessing in their meanings some common semantic elements and multi-directional, those not having common semantic elements. The former are classified as being comparable presented in all their varieties depending on whether they coincide or do not coincide in meanings, the latter - as being incomparable. This opposition comprises intonation and

LGM as two objects knit together in such a way as their general meaning can not represent one object without representing the other, that is to say, the members of the opposition form a single unity. The analysis of the semantic features of objects under comparison discloses their different oppositions, being realized in the flow of speech.

The following types of semantic relation between intonation and LGM seem to be most essential: semantic "harmony", the relations of sameness, inclusion, overlapping, exclusion.

The relation of "semantic harmony" between intonation and LGM. 1. "Semantic harmony" is relevant for semantically one-directional relations between intonation and LGM when all the means merge entering into an integral unity and without diminishing functional value of each other make up a single semantic whole. Intonational features being constant, and to a lesser extent dependent (or independent) on the context.

This type of relationship between intonation and LGM is clearly traced in the utterances, formed on the basis of sentences of different typical meaning, and, hence, different semantico-syntactic structure (1).

Observing intonation with reference to its "harmony" with LGM resulted in what has proved to be essential - a syntactic hierarchy of classes of sentences being different as to the correlation with different types of the process of thinking. As it is known, the whole domain of what can be manifested in sentences is divided into two different classes: the class of thoughts and the class of facts and events. "Thoughts are the products of rational, analysing and generalising activity" (2; 320). Facts are all that is becoming the property of our consciousness through immediate observation and perception, "sensual perception of reality at the speech moment" (3; 144). Accordingly distinction is made between two kinds of sentence (4; 139 и др. ): perceptive (Идет дождь. Меня знобит.) and logically mediat-

ed (Наташа - доктор. Волга - река). Assuming the heterogeneous level system of language means used to express cognitive power of consciousness the hypothesis is adduced that the forms of thinking, on the one hand, at the empirical level of cognition, and, on the other hand, at the level of logical analysis and theoretical generalisations, having different linguistic forms are differentiated intonationally which is conditioned, in first turn, by the nature of accentuation. The sentences containing the verbal result of mental operations on the signifier denoting in particular notions, laws, categories, and also such mental operations as comparison, contrasting, logical classification etc., are shaped by means of two-accented intonation, each of the predicative components - subject and predicate are said to be accentually marked.

Accentually-articulated intonation of these utterances is opposed to unarticulated one-accented intonation represented by sentences of the perceptive type verbally reflecting phenomena, facts, features, links of denotations being observed in real world.

One-accented/two-accented intonation in addition to LGM is a formal indicator of such interrelated language features setting off sentences to different categories as temporal realization of predicativeness, namely, localization/non-localization in time, attachment/non-attachment to a speech moment and also abstractness/concreteness of an action, state or event. Cf.: Мне больно - a concrete single state of mind of a person, experienced at the moment of speaking; Чайка - птица - a constant feature, abstracted from a definite place or time.

Thus intonation being one-accented or two-accented is one of the intonational features which is in full accord with LGM of the classes of sentences differing as to character of reflecting phenomena in the real world and its correlation with different types of the process of thinking.

2. In case of intonation formed by means of accentuation there seem essential two closely connected features of intonation, i.e. the degree of prominence regarding accents and the presence/absence of a pause between accents which correlates with the semantico-syntactic structure of the utterance concerned (in its predicative minimum and out of context).

In sentences of the perceptive type the absence of a carrier of the predicative feature - (Холодно), its diminished semantic significance (it is not an agent) - (Меня знобит), inability to stand out as an expander of the word-predicative at the intonational level correlate with the absence of accentual prominence and a greater semantic significance of the predicative component correlates with the percep-

tion of it as a semantic centre and a syllable bearing the sentence stress (SS) but with a greater degree of expressiveness than the neutral SS. The types of accentuation: S P 1) (Меня знобит); ( ) P (Люблю тебя. Холодно). These utterances are likely to be treated as contextually independent, global, bearing unarticulated notion which is reflected in accentual-intonational unarticulativeness and in the absence of a pause between the components.

In logically mediated syntactically two-member sentences the degree of expressiveness of accents and connected with it their articulateness/anarticulativeness on syntagms depends on semantic significance of each of the components and language means designed to render them.

The striking contrast can be found with two-member noun patterns, having the meaning of the qualifier of the subject (in the type: Волга - река), where the presence of both the components being related to each other as parts and the whole is obligatory. Intonational articulateness on syntagms correlates with the absence of morphological and syntactical links between the components, independent status of the subject, its inability at the syntactic level to be a subjugated enlargement on the predicative, the pause (at a zero juncture) is intensifying contrast between the components. The type of accentuation is as follows: S P.

In articulated syntactically two-member utterances the components being closely connected there exists lexical, morphological and syntactic concordance. The subject is likely to be the expander of the predicative and there is no pause between the components. The type of accentuation is: S P. It holds true, for instance, for the utterances based on sentences with isosemic patterns having the typical meaning of an action characterizing the subject (Люди работают), the property of the subject. (Вода замерзает) and the like.

Thus, different degree of accentual prominence of the components and the presence/absence of a pause between them seem to be the manifestation of semantic harmony between intonation and lexico-grammatical structure of the sentence the reflection of close links between the components depending upon the semantic value of words expressing them.

3. We can also see differences in accentual-intonational structure of utterances formed on the basis of sentences in their isosemic/non-isosemic patterns in which 1) Here and further: (S) - subject, (P) - predicate, ( ) - zero subject, ( ) - neutral SS; ( ^ ) SS with a greater degree of expressiveness; ( - ) - element bearing a primary stress, ( - ) - absence of an accent; // - pause.

nouns in conformity with their prepositional-case forms and categorical-semantic content stand out as a typical nomination means regarding the features of an object (in a set with adjectives, numerals and adverbs): ДЖИНСЫ - В ЗАПЯТКАХ. Two-accented intonation of these utterances with the syntagmatic division of the type: S // P, is distinguished from two-accented intonation without the syntagmatic division - S P solely by the presence of a pause and from two-accented, two-member nominal sentences having the meaning of the qualifier of the subject S // P by a smaller degree of accentual expressiveness of the predicative components. Such are the cases with a division on syntagms in predicatively connected patterns consisting of two noun-forms excluding a notional verb from the structure (Наташа - из дома моделей), in non-verbal patterns admitting formal verbs which do not render any information but some stylistic colouring and "omitted" due to redundancy (Театр - на площади. Театр находится на площади).

Due to the fact that the combination of word-forms in these cases is sufficient to form predicative minimum intonation in itself does not render any relevant information and is in semantic harmony with LGM forming the general semantic essence of the utterance.

The relation of sameness between intonation and LGM. This type of relation is relevant for the cases when intonational and LGM are semantically equivalent to each other the two entities having the same meanings and being equivalent in their distribution.

Thus, a rising intonation used to shape predicatives in interrogative sentences and LGM, namely, the expressing of the predicative by an interrogative pronoun or an adverb are semantically equivalent, i.e. each of them is likely to convey the meaning of a question.

Full substitution of intonation and LGM in a context without any detriment to its sense takes place, for instance, in those languages in which the meaning of the communicative design of the utterance is rendered either by means of intonation or LGM, i.e. there formed a zero opposition the members of which are equivalent in distribution (for instance, in the language of Bamana the particle "wa" may replace a rising intonation in any position of the text). In the Russian context which comprises information constituting a great amount of the speakers' knowledge the meaning of a question has been minimized to the that of a word represented by an interrogative pronoun or an adverb. Intonation of a question does not work and the "compensatory law" is operative. Nevertheless, due to a specific character of categorical-semantic meaning of

words-predicates interacting with intonation complete semantic substitution does not occur (the semantics of pronominal or non-pronominal questions is different). In case of the least dependence on the context and the absence of contextually formed knowledge and, accordingly, a great amount of information required pronominal and non-pronominal questions are characterized by identical intonational forms of semantically meaningful parts of a text. Therefore, intonation and LGM as the opposites are not equivalent as far as the amount of meaning and distribution are concerned.

The relation of inclusion. This type of relation is commonly found in cases when intonation and LGM are semantically one-directional and the meaning of one of the components represented as a carrier of an additional semantic feature is contained in a wider scope of meaning created by the other component. Those may be, for instance, the relations between the intonation of a question with the meaning of problematic or categoric reliability of epistemic modality and formal means for expressing modal meanings (particles, parathetic and modal words, grading a degree of certainty on the part of the speaker in the truth of the utterance: hardly possible assumption, hesitant assumption, assumption with doubt in plausibility of the fact required etc.), thus, introducing a degree of assumption into the suppositional meaning.

There formed the so-called preventive opposition based on the presence/absence of an additional semantic feature where the LSM are presented as a marked member of the opposition which is richer in semantic features (it includes the meaning of supposition plus an additional meaning - the degree of supposition (or assumption)). But because of a narrower amount of meaning in the given marked member of the preventive opposition it is more restricted in terms of distribution and on this ground any question formally indicating the degree of reliability is likely to be replaced by the question the modal meaning of which is rendered solely by means of intonation (to add that intonation does not depend upon the presence/absence of LGM), that is to say, the distribution of the unmarked member of the opposition includes in it the distribution of the marked one. Opposition with included distribution reflects the relation of compatibility of the amounts of meanings (the notion of suppositional modality includes a notion of any of its varieties).

So there exists an inversely proportional dependence between the amount of semantic meaning and the amount of distribution. The relation of inclusion also manifests itself in the interrelation of

intonation correlated with the expression of subjective evaluative modality and LGM for expressing it.

The relation of overlapping. This type of relation holds provided that intonational and LGM are semantically multi-directional being related to each other as incompatible opposites and there appears a new "average" meaning between the amounts of meanings of the components.

This phenomenon can be observed, for instance, in utterances whose semantic structure combines both the meaning of exhortation expressed by either a grammatical or a lexical form and the meaning of uncertainty that the exhortation would be performed (realized) and, hence, the stimulus to a verbal reaction (whether the speaker is able to perform this action), expressed by a rising intonation. The main representative of the group of stimuli evoking a response is a question (syncretically combining the elements of intellect and volition) which enables as to speak about concurrence in such utterance of the meanings of exhortation and a question: requests - Разрешите посмотреть журнал? Помогите мне; offers - Хотите посмотреть? Купите книгу; invitation - Не хотите потанцевать, Приходите в гости; advice - Не читайте по вечерам and the like.

As the opposites - intonation (as a general semantic feature) a stimulus to a speech reaction and LGM differentiating between semantic meanings are different but equal in rank features they are related to each other as equipollent. Their distribution does not fully coincide and is correlated with the degree of intensity of exhortation: the greater the degree of intensity the more definite is the speech context in which exhortation is sent to a definite performer (Ср.: Не хотите поговорить? - Не разговаривайте. - Не разговаривать!).

The relation of exclusion. This relation is relevant for the cases when intonational and LGM are semantically multi-directional, when the meanings they represent are remote from each other having no common elements and being in disjunctive opposition.

With their interaction in producing the general semantic effect the dominant role is played by intonation: Как можно молчать! (Нельзя молчать). Хорош друг (in the sense of "Плохой друг"), Вот Пушкин (in the sense of "Хотите купить Пушкина?" - in a bookshop).

Intonation (as well as true sense) are actualized in speech situation. Since the members of this opposition do not have common contexts they are in complementary distribution to each other.

The types of semantic relationships holding between intonation and LGM are regarded as language universals. The disclosure

of them makes it possible to establish regular connections between the character of realization of intonation in its interaction with LGM in a context, the character of opposition of interrelated means in different positions in the text, their semiotic relevancy/irrelevancy.

Semiotically relevant is considered to be the orientation on the functional actualization of a speech signal for the distinctive function of intonation which is opposed to semiotically irrelevant purely intonational function of identifying the utterance.

#### Literature

- 1 For a detailed discussion see: Золотова Г.А. Коммуникативные аспекты русского синтаксиса. М., 1982.
- 2 Виноградов В.В. Из истории изучения русского синтаксиса. М., 1957.
- 3 Щерба Л.В. Восточно-лужицкое наречие. Пг., 1915.
- 4 Арутюнова Н.Д. Предложение и его смысл. М., 1976.