

Text of description type: verbal predicates of spatial semantics in a journalistic style (predicates of visual perception, intermodal and actional semantics)

Yulia Varfolomeeva
East Siberia State University of
Technology and Management,
Ulan-Ude, Russia
yulvar83@mail.ru
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2914-5804>

Abstract— The current paper provides the semantic classification of verbal predicates in the text of a journalistic style. It is suggested that there are basic units of predicates of common semantics of object being in space: 1. spatial predicates, non-actionable predicates of visual perception (predicates denoting spatial configuration of an object in relation to some other object and verbalization of the spatial characteristics of an object itself); 2. non-actional units of intermodal semantics 3. actional predicates.

Keywords— *text of description type, journalism, verbal predicate, intermodal predicate, actional predicate, perception*

I. INTRODUCTION

The text of a description type, based on the synchronic attributes of an object, which are perceived at a certain moment of time [1], determines the specific character of the functioning of verbal predicates. The provided structural-semantic model of a descriptive text appeals to “constant” и “variable” values within it. The “variable” value includes actantial core, denoting the objects, which fill the described space, as well the characteristics of their space position [2, p. 10]: кресло стоит у камина (the armchair stands at the fireplace), торшер светит в углу (the floor lamp lights in the corner), гобелены украшают стены (tapestries decorate the walls), etc. In addition to the “constant” value, there are actants, predicates of being semantics, in the description.

Currently, there a large body of research in linguistic science, which provide classifications of verbal units on various criteria (Apresyan [3], Bulygina [4], Vasiliev [5], Vladimirskiy [6], Vsevolodova [6], Gaisina [7], Paducheva [8], Shmeleva [4], and et al.). The study of lexical units of spatial semantics is of great interest (Vsevolodova [6], Gukina [9], Fedoseeva [10], Mix [11], Smith [11], Gasser [11], etc.). This paper presents a classification of verbal predicates, based on semantic features. Thus, various lexico-semantic groups (LSG) of verbal predicates are identified. LSGs are referred to the groups of words, united by the core component of meaning [12, pp. 229-239] or common semantic features [13, p. 110]. LSGs are composed of lexico-semantic variants of words (LSV). LSGs have moving boundaries due to the dynamism of functioning.

The criteria for identifying LSG of verbal predicates include: 1) common meaning for all predicates of a

descriptive text, i.e. sense of being (the implication can be described as a semantic quark, a regular sense which belongs to the semantics of all verbal predicates of a descriptive text [14]); 2) the way of an object being in space, manifested through perception. In its turn, perception can be distinguished according to types of sense analyzers (auditory, olfactory, etc.) and forms of matter (perception of motion, space, and time) [15, pp. 36-38]. It should be noted that a descriptive text verbalizes the space, which is perceived by senses [16].

The empiric research data includes 684 descriptive texts of journalistic style, containing 1015 verbal predicates of visual perception, 83 predicates of intermodal semantics and 30 actional verbal predicates. Some examples have been selected from newspaper s of National Corps of the Russian language (NCRL).

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A. *The specificity of verbal predicate functioning in texts of journalistic style*

The structure of a descriptive text depends on the stylistic certainty of the fragment. The analysis of the texts from the stylistic perspective makes it possible to determine their dualism due to the structure of descriptions and semantic diversity of predicates in the same genres. For example, in books of memoirs, essays, tourist leaflets, they are similar to artistic style (usage of expressive, occasional, stylistically restricted lexical units); while in official periodicals, they function like those in texts of official style (special, learned, neutral predicates) [17].

The predicates of visual perception, which are traditionally associated with the category of space, can be used to describe space in journalistic writing. In the given lexical cluster it is necessary to distinguish a) predicates, denoting the spatial properties of an object in relation to some other object (spatial position, body position, object embracing, space filling, boundary of space, direction, the position of an object in relation to some other object), and b) predicates which verbalize the spatial properties of an object (configuration of an object, flat properties, spatial position and color/light properties of an object).

B. Classification of verbal predicates of visual perception

Let us provide a list of LSV of predicates, functioning in short and full contexts from different genres of journalism.

Among the predicates, denoting the spatial properties of an object in relation to some other object, the following lexico-semantic groups of words with the specific meaning can be distinguished.

Verbal predicates which denote **spatial position**: во дворе располагается площадка (a playground is placed in the yard), детский дом стоит на горе (a child's house stands on the hill), комната расположена на третьем этаже (the room is located on the third floor), etc.

Новый логотип группы ВЭБ представляет собой прямоугольник голубого цвета, напоминающий фундамент здания, на фронтальной грани которого располагается надпись. У ВЭБа несколько вариантов надписей на русском языке и аналогичных на английском: ВЭБ (VEB), Группа ВЭБ (VEB Group), ВЭБ Банк развития (VEB Bank for Development) (The new logo of VEB group is a blue rectangular, resembling the building's foundation; on the frontal face there is its name. VEB has some variants of the name in Russian and English: ВЭБ (VEB), Группа ВЭБ (VEB Group), ВЭБ Банк развития (VEB Bank for Development) [18].

Predicates of **body position**: gobелены висят на стене (tapestries hang on the wall), игрушки лежат на полу (toys lie on the floor), этажерка стоит¹ у дивана (a bookcase stands at the sofa), etc.

На стенах каждого этажа висят картины, везде разные – они, по мнению врачей, тоже могут побуждать пациентов ходить. Для пациентов с ограниченными возможностями передвижения созданы все условия комфортно проживания. В некоторых комнатах установлены специальные подвесные конструкции, которые помогают самостоятельно перемещаться из спальни в ванную и туалет (Paintings hang on the walls of every floor; they are different everywhere. According to the doctors, they can encourage patients to walk. Patients with disabilities and reduced mobility have all conditions for comfortable living. In some rooms there are special hanging constructions which help the patients to move from the bedroom to the bathroom and toilet on their own) [19].

Predicates of **object embracing** from different sides, transition from one entity to another: беседка увешана цветами, дома купаются в тумане (houses are bathing in fog), платье облегае фигуру (the dress fits the figure), etc.

Небольшой браслет плотно облегае запястье. В ремешке – светодиодный проводок, при его разрыве сигнал тревоги моментально подается на пульт оператора (A graceful bracelet encircles tightly the wrist.

¹ In the given examples, the verb *лежать* (*lie*) has different lexico-semantic variants. For example, in the first group it has a meaning of position, denoting objects which can have only one position in space (детский сад стоит на горе) (the kindergarten lies on the hill), in the second group it has a different meaning, describing an object which can take various positions in space (этажерка стоит у стены (a bookcase stands at the wall / лежит на полу (lies on the floor).

The strap includes the built in the LED wire. If it is broken, a warning alarm comes to the security desk [20].

Lexical units with the meaning of **space filling**: дом наполнен, старинной мебелью (the house is filled with old furniture), парк заполнен детьми (the park is full of children), полки установлены безделушками (the shelves are covered with trinkets), etc.

На выставке, посвященной столетию отечественной анимации, в режиме нон-стоп показывают классику мультипликации. В центре дизайна Artplay открылась выставка «Герои анимации» Экспозиция стала частью программы «Большого фестиваля мультфильмов». Зал установлен высокими узкими пирамидами из грубого ДСП, на вершине каждой, как на пьедестале, – персонаж знакомого всем мультфильма, будь то Топтыжка, Незнайка, почтальон Печкин, Умка с мамой-медведицей. На стенах – экраны, где в режиме нон-стоп можно увидеть ставшие классическими мультфильмы (дети на удивление мирно занимают очередь за наушниками) (At the exhibition, to mark the centenary of domestic animation, classical animation films are shown non-stop. The exhibition "Animation characters" has opened in the Artplay design center. The exposition has become a part of the program "Great festival of animated films". The hall is filled with high narrow pyramids of coarse particleboards. At the top of each one there is a character from a familiar animated film, i.e. Toptyzhka, Neznaika, postman Pechkin, and Umka with his mother bear. On the walls there are monitors, where one can watch non-stop classical cartoons (children are standing calmly in line to get headphones) [21].

Predicates, referring to the **boundary of space**: дорога отделяет жилой комплекс от парка (the road separates the apartment complex from the park), зона ограничена по периметру (the area is restricted along the perimeter), стены окружают юрту (the steppe surrounds the yurt), etc.

Двухэтажное ветхое строение стоит буквой «п». Квартиру под номером 10а, где и разыгралась семейная драма, отделяет от двери двухметровый забор с навесным замком. На колонне у входа выцветшая картинка с Княжной Таракановой (A two-storey shabby building. A two-meter height fence with a padlock separates the flat No.10, where the family drama broke out, from the entrance. On the column at the entrance there is a faded picture, depicting Duchess Tarakanova) [22].

Predicates with the meaning of **direction in space**: дорога ведет к дому (the road led to home), в середине зала дома проходит граница (in the middle of hall the border lies), тропка лежит на северо-восток (the path lies in the southeast direction), etc.

Обрывистый берег, по которому мы шли, медленно пополз к воде Тья. Тья, словно спрут, впиалась в Байкал сотнями своих щупальцев — ручьев и речек (The precipitous bank of the lake, along which we were going, slowly approached the water. The river Туу-Туа, like an octopus, has sung its streams and small rivers into the Baikal [23].

Predicates which denotes the position of an object in space **relatively to some other object**: *шатер примыкал к забору (a tent backed onto the fence), кресло примостилось у камина (the armchair found a place by the fireplace), дорожка упиралась в калитку (the path ended with the wicket door), etc.*

Почти на всем протяжении дороги сосны слегка подталкивают своих нежных и красивых сестер – белых берез (а их здесь очень мало) к самой обочине, словно очень хотят, чтобы люди видели их красоту. А они, как босоногие девочки, жмутся к соснам и приветливо, смущенно улыбаются нам. (Along the road, the pines are pushing slightly their graceful and nice sisters, birches, which there are few, to the side of the road as if they want people to see their beauty. They, like barefooted girls, get closer to the pines, and smile in a friendly way [24].

The provided example demonstrates the expressive predicates (*подталкивают* (push), *жмутся* (get closer)).

The predicates, denoting their own spatial characteristics of an object include the following LSG.

Verbal predicates with the semantics of **object configuration**: *серпантин вьется (serpentine spirals), предметы громоздятся прямо посреди комнат (objects are piled up directly in the middle of the room), глаза круглились (the eyes were becoming round), etc:*

Узкая полоса петляет среди лесов и болот. Местами ширина проезжей части всего 6 метров. Уже некуда. С высоты ямы и трещины не видны... (The narrow road winds its way among forests and swamps. The driveway is only 6 meters wide. Nowhere is narrower. From the height you cannot see the signs of cracks and pits [25].

The given description presents the perception of the landscapes of Georgia. It contains a lot of predicates with space semantics: predicates of body position in space in horizontal dimension (*район тянется*) (*the area stretches*), direction (*дорога углубляется, выворачивает*) (*the road is becoming wider, turning*) and there is a predicate of form (*дорога петляет*) (*the road winds its way*).

Lexical units with semantics of **flat surface of an object**: *песок исслежен (the sand is covered with traces), скатерть забрызгана (the tablecloth is splashed); стены оклеены газетами (the walls are covered with papers), etc.*

IPS-дисплей этого планшета покрыт прочным защитным стеклом Corning Gorilla Glass 3. Несмотря на 8-дюймовый формат и мощную конфигурацию, MeMO Pad 8 легко помещается в одну руку, обладает малым весом (299 г) и небольшой толщиной. (7,45 мм (IPS-display of the tablet is covered with durable glass Corning Gorilla Glass 3. Despite the 8inch format and strong configuration, MeMO Pad 8 can be easily placed in the hand, as it has low weight (299g) and it is relatively thin [26].

Thus, the text contains the predicate of direction (*отроги спускаются*) (*spurs come down*) and meaning of level surface (*горы покрыты*) (*the mountains are covered*).

Predicates of **spatial position**: *степи простираются на восток (the steppe stretches eastwards), река разлилась на много километров (the river swelled to many*

kilometers), небоскребы возвышаются над городом (the skyscrapers dominate the city), etc.

Таига закуржавела, казалось, что она, укутавшись в белое пуховое одеяло, замерла в сонном оцепенении (...), Хребты, которые бесконечной чередой по обеим сторонам, все сближались и, наконец, сомкнулись у перевала Ангаракан, на 632 километре трассы БАМа. (The taiga, covered with hoarfrost, was frozen in sleeping (...). Mountain ridges which stretched on both sides of the road, were getting closer, and at last, closed up at Angarakan pass on the 632^d kilometer of the highway Bam) [27].

In the given example the author uses predicates with the of spatial semantics rather than predicates with temporal semantics (*тянулись* (*stretched*), *сближались* (*getting closer*), *сомкнулись* (*closed up*), i.e. these lexical units specify different points in a co-ordinate system: in one point *хребты тянутся по обеим сторонам* (*mountain ridges stretch on the both sides of the road*), in the other point *сближаются и на 632 километре смыкаются* (*they are getting closer and on the 632^d kilometer closed up*).

4. Predicates based on the **color/light properties of an object**: *видны светящиеся окна (the light from the window can be seen), глаза мерцают в темноте (the eyes are visible in the dark), алеют маки (poppies are of scarlet color), etc.*

Ее жилище напоминает музей. На каждом квадратном метре здесь живут сказочные персонажи: в ванной – русалка с пышным хвостом, на кухне – семья домовых, вырезанных из причудливых коряг, на потолке – знаки зодиака и звезды, крупные, как в планетарии (в темноте они светятся и мерцают), на стенах – лешие, Кот в сапогах, средневековые рыцари и улыбающиеся львы (Her home looks like a museum. In each square, meter fairy-tale creatures live: a mermaid with a lush tail is in the bathroom, a bogie family from whimsical wood snags lives in the kitchen; on the ceiling, there are zodiac signs and stars as big as ones in the planetarium (they shine and sparkle in the darkness). On the walls there are satyrs, a Cat in boots, medieval knights and smiling lions) [28].

The study of the specificities of the visual perception predicates in the journalistic description has discovered more frequency usage of spatial position predicates (18,9%)², predicates of direction (18,5%) and predicates of body position in space (16,5%). In general, the specificity of verbal predicates of different LSG may be determined by the topic of the publication since journalism covers a wide scope of public relations.

Usage of predicates of intermodal and actional semantics in descriptive texts

Apart from the predicates of visual perception, predicates with other modalities can be used in descriptive texts. Scholars in the field of experimental research and physiology recognized the fact that a person gets an idea of space not only by vision but also through hearing, smell, etc. The research data make it possible to conclude that predicates of hearing, smell, taste, tactile perception and undifferentiated modality (in the present paper

² Total number of predicates of visual perception (1015) as 100%.

intermodality), used in description texts, can express spatial relations

The introduction of such units into a text enables a perceiver to make a conclusion on the spatial position of an object with the corresponding feelings, for example, when the sounds are distinctively heard and can be differentiated, so it is possible to detect the closer position of an object, a source of a sound; when certain smells are perceived, so it is concluded that the source-object is located at some distance from a perceiver. Thus, the spatial relations in the cases of intermodal predicates are expressed in the opposition “close-far”.

Among the lexico-semantic groups of predicates of intermodal semantics, it is possible to distinguish the predicates of **sound** (*море шумит (the sea makes noise), ставни стучат (the shutters make noise), пчелы жужжат (bees drone), etc.*), predicates denoting the **olfactory** properties of the environment (*маки пахнут (poppies smell), источают аромат, благоухают (exude a sense, smell, etc.)*), **tactile sense** (*зной жжет (heat sears), кожу щиплет (the skin is tingling), трава щекочет ноги (the grass, tickling feet), etc.*), **taste sense** (*пирог горчит (a pie tastes bitter), кислит (sour taste), присолен (tastes salty), etc.*), **undifferentiated** modality (*чувствуется, ощущается холод, аромат, сладость (feel, sense cold, fragrance, sweetness), etc.*

While analyzing the frequency usage of intermodal predicates (83 predicates as 100%), it was found out that predicates of sound and smell are more often used in the journalistic description, since auditory and olfactory senses are of great significance for a person.

In the example given, the predicates of intermodal semantics are used:

Канун Рождества. Пахнет блинами и конскими яблоками. Через Красную площадь идет начальник отдела по борьбе с экономическими преступлениями О., за ним – начальник отдела по борьбе с терроризмом З., семечки лузгает. (Christmas Eve. It smells of pancakes and alley apples. The chief of Department for fighting economic crimes O. is going across the Red Square. He is followed by the chief of Department for terrorism Z., who is husking sunflower seeds [29].

As can be seen from the example provided, not only the predicates of olfactory modality (*пахнет блинами и конскими яблоками (smells of pancakes and alley apples)*) are used, but also actional lexical units (*идет начальник З (the chief Z. is going), лузгает семечки (husking sunflower seeds)*). In this case, the meaning of action in the description is affected by the characteristic of action, denoted by the predicates of motion (*идет (is going)*) and the specific action (*лузгает (husking)*), which serve as attributes of the described scene.

The provided description includes actional predicates, which characterize an enclosed space motion. The described object emerges as a point, traveling in space.

В моей комнате уже стоят три железные двухъярусные кровати. Между ними проход, по которому можно только боком протиснуться. Мебели другой, естественно, нет. В душе по раковине ползет

рыжий таракан (My room has already got three iron bunk bed. There is a passage between them, where one can move only by side. Naturally, there is no other furniture. In the bathroom, there is a cockroach, creeping in the basin. The plumbing is coved with rust and lime) [30].

Thus, apart from non-actional predicates, it is possible to include in the description texts of a journalistic style **actional** lexical units which are “deprived of” the semantics of action. It should be noted that due to the polisubjective structure of such texts, (unlike the monosubjective narration, where actional predicates contain information on the changing actions of a subject) an actional predicate expresses the semantics of an object being; the action is not important, that the doer of the action fills himself the described space.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The predicates of visual modality, traditionally associated with the category of space, may be used in the descriptive texts, expressing different ways of an object being in space. Intermodal predicates explicate the meaning of distance in description and opposition “close-far”. The actional predicates denote a traveling object in space like a point.

IV. CONCLUSION

Thus, non-actional predicates of visual perception are widely used in journalistic writing. There are two groups of predicates of visual perception, divided into two units. Within these units, there are 10 LSVs, including intermodal predicates as well as actional verbal predicates, performing the function of description in the texts of this type.

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