

Initial meaning of a literary text and its place in the meaning structure

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Abstract— The paper is devoted to the study of implementation features for initial meaning of a literary text in the process of author-reader interaction. The initial meaning is characterized as the most influential element of the meaning system. It occupies the dominant position in a literary text meaning structure hierarchy, thereby functioning as an organizing principle of a text and ensuring correlation of all its elements. The initial meaning also determines the process and the course of text space deployment, for the latter will not be completed until the initial meaning is reflected in the plane of the text in all the completeness required by its creator. In terms of linguosynergetic paradigm the initial meaning can be defined as an order-parameter, relative to which partial meanings are symmetrized at the meaning level of the text.

Keywords—initial meaning, partial meaning, meaning formation, literary text, meaning structure.

I. INTRODUCTION

The establishment of contact between the producer and the recipient of the text is possible, first of all, through the generation of a common meaning space between them. The success of communication is regulated through creation and re-creation (reproduction) of the text meaning, which becomes the main reason for writing and reading the text. Meaning is the purpose of textual activity of both the addresser and the addressee.

The study of the meaning structure of a literary text aims not only at establishing certain meanings expressed in it, but also at determining the mechanisms of their implication in the text, their interdependence and functioning in the text space. The analysis of implication of meanings also provides an opportunity to study the mechanisms of their explication by the recipient as well as the possible ways to establish the interaction between the author and the recipient, which is considered to result in generation of common meanings.

The problem of meaning organization of the text space is represented by several aspects: first of all, it is the problem of determining the balance of the author's intention and reader's perception, then the question of the level division of the text space and definition of the boundaries of the meaning space, and finally the definition of the meaning space as a system, as well as the analysis of this system and elements, constituting it. One of the most significant elements of the meaning system is the initial meaning.

II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The development of text linguistics proceeds from the consideration of a sentence as an independent linguistic unit to the analysis of text fragments and the text itself in its integrity and completeness. Currently, it is the research of interconnections and structural associations at the level of the whole text that appears to be promising in the study. The change from linear modeling of text spaces and their consideration as consistently arranged sentences to nonlinear text analysis with the allocation of supralinear text-forming systems opens a new view on linguistics of the text.

Since the transfer of meanings is a hyper-task of the author, the meaning level subordinates the functioning of all levels of the text space and acts as an organizational parameter of the text. The basis for the development of a hierarchical system of meaning level is the assumption that the system of elements of this level functions due to the presence of a common concept, a common organizing principle, which is the initial meaning of the text. The initial meaning is co-directed to the target movement of the text, it subordinates all the elements of the text structure. The deployment of the text space continues until the initial meaning is expressed by the author in sufficient completeness. Under the initial meaning we understand the general (global) author's idea, the transfer of which to the addressee is the super-task of the sender. Since the initial meaning is a multidimensional complex formation, in the text it is branched into its constituents - partial meanings, which convey various meaning aspects to the reader. A relatively complete description of the initial meaning is possible through the integration of partial meanings representing it [1].

III. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The study represents an attempt to determine the significance of the initial meaning for the integral meaning model of a literary text. The initial meaning occupies a dominant position in the hierarchy of the meaning system of a literary text. In the process of analysis of its nature and role for the system as a whole, the essential aspects of meaning formation in a literary text were revealed.

IV. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study is to describe the nature of the initial meaning of a literary text, to study its functions and to provide rationale for the fact that the initial meaning is the

organizing parameter of a text and ensures the correlation of all the elements of the text structure.

V. RESEARCH METHODS

The main methods of research, in addition to general scientific methods (observation, generalization, analysis, synthesis) are methods of semantic analysis, contextual analysis, keyword analysis, modeling method, symmetry-antisymmetry method, linguosynergetic analysis of literary text.

VI. FINDINGS

A. *Initial meaning in terms of dialogism.*

Text by Bakhtin is a dialogical unity that provides the possibility of collaborative activity of the author and the reader, the possibility of collaborative meaning generation through dialogue, through question and answer: "the meaning is personalistic: there is always a question, an appeal and an anticipation of the answer, there are always two (as a dialogical minimum). This is not logical, but meaning personalism» [2]. By the form of the text, its content, the unique organization of lexical and semantic means the author refers to the reader of the text, poses a question which already contains an answer, obvious to the sender but still unknown to the recipient, the answer that the reader will have to give, solve, decode basing on the linguistic fabric of the text. Based on the dialogic nature of cognition and generation of meaning, it is possible to claim, on the one hand, the openness of meaning, its relative incompleteness, which becomes possible due to the fundamental differences between the minds of the author and the recipient. On the other hand, it is also possible to state the concurrence of meaning generation in the process of communicative activity, since the dialogue of two minds ideally aims at a coordinated, identical understanding of a literary text. The basis of understanding the world, both for the addresser and for the addressee in this matter is the text itself, it unites two minds. The meaning of the text acts as a common beginning, which, although understood in a dialogue, is designed to unite the author and the recipient, and lead them to a coordinated interaction. Speaking of the possibility of adequate perception of the text meaning, we shall note that it would be wrong to deny the possibility of existence of many various interpretations, but the differences between them do not refute the fact that they have the necessary similarities realized in representation of the most essential aspects of the interpreted text. As the material shows, these are often the moments of convergence of different interpretations that reveal objective meaning information successfully transmitted in the dialogue between the author and the reader. The core of the author's intention corresponds to the meaning core of the text, since the most important meanings for the author should be preserved in the transmission. The existence of a material text, in which the meanings are embodied in objective linguistic signs, determines the convergence of reader's interpretations, which ensures the convergence of the core of the author's intention with the core of the recipient's perception. "Only through the study of the linguistic material of the text, its nominative side, i.e. the correlation of linguistic elements with the non-linguistic objects designated by them, it is possible to approach an objective understanding of meaning» [3]. The text is a receptacle of meanings, for the preservation of which the author uses various protective mechanisms, such

as repetition of relevant information, marking of text sections significant for meaning construction, embedding the web of key words (that are the semantic dominants of the text) in the texture of the text, focusing the reader's attention through the method of semantic shifts, etc. "The adequacy of interpretation of the author's idea, reflected in the text space, is dependent on the maximum consideration of the set of meaning-generating dominants, invariant language units of different levels of the text, which form an interdependent system of relations, which is the main support of interpretation» [4]. The author organizes the linguistic fabric of the text according to certain principles, and provides the reader, through linguistic originality, the key to understanding the text meaning. The producer deliberately leads the perception of the recipient, directing his interpretation and not allowing him to deviate from the necessary vector of development of thought, in other words, determines the reader's perception, limiting its arbitrariness. Through this limitation, the author ensures the integrity of the core of the reader's perception and its convergence with the core of the author's intention.

The process of implication of meanings in the text by the author then, when reading, with relatively approximate accuracy should be reproduced by the reader, only in reverse order. If the author goes from the most complex ideas and meanings to the particular moments of their implementation in the text space, the reader, in turn, moves in the opposite direction, from the partial implementation of meanings in the text, to the most general, global author's meanings. The author's generating textual activity and the reader's perceiving textual activity have a common motive, which consists in thinking over a certain non-textual situation. In the process of perception, the reader attempts to reproduce the non-textual question that became the impetus for the beginning of the author's textual activity, that is, to come to the problem of the real world that initiated the process of meaning generation by the author, which was later embodied in the text. This points to a certain similarity of the processes of meaning generation and meaning perception due to the fact that both activities are determined by the desire to comprehend some common problem situation, to consider a common issue, which is a fragment of the non-text world. This question, which unites the activities of the addresser and the addressee, is a key question of the text. In terms of the meaning structure of the text, the key question is represented by the initial meaning, it is the organizing beginning of the text which ensures the correlation of all linguistic elements of the its structure. In order to place the question in the text, the author divides it into constituent meanings (partial meanings) and implicates them in the text, the reader recreates the key question (the initial meaning) based on partial meanings, which he finds in the linguistic fabric of the text. The processes of meaning generation and meaning perception are mirror-symmetrical with respect to the text space itself, which is the plane of their convergence. The sender addresses to the reader, intentionally re-creating a relevant problem situation, for this purpose he in a certain way orders language structure of the text. Thus, using the linguistic fabric of the text, the author leads the reader to understanding of partial meanings, and then to elaboration of the initial meaning of the text. In the basis of both the creation of the text and its subsequent interpretations lies the initial meaning, considered in the framework of the theory of

meaning formation as a meaning dominant, "structuring semantic space around itself - and the whole text represents the deployment of this dominant, which is the main idea that underlies the understanding of the text» [5].

A huge role for the perception of meaning in general and for the elaboration of the initial meaning in particular plays the intentionality that underlies the perceptual and mental activity of both the recipient and the producer of the text. Intentionality is characterized by defining the situation, embodied in the literary text, as problematic, so that the construction/expression of the initial meaning becomes the main goal of the recipient/producer of the text. The absence of common intentional disposition among communicants threatens the successful meaning construction at all levels of the meaning structure, and in some cases leads to the non-deductibility of the initial meaning from the lower meaning and semantic structures. In this case, it is possible to say that the communication process has not been accomplished in full extend, and therefore can be classified as unsuccessful.

B. Initial meaning as a result of non-linear integration.

The identification of meanings in contexts arranged in the text linearly, according to the unfolding of the text space, correlates with the linear perception of meaning by the recipient. The connection of contexts in non-text meaning associations, consistent with the general nature of the transmitted information, can be correlated with the non-linear meaning perception, here the recipient of the text is already required to engage in text activity, which implies a certain effort. The third, final stage, will be the establishment of the key question (the initial meaning) the existence of which led to the creation of the text, it is a global question to be answered by the recipient of the text. It is fractionally contained in each of the partial meanings separately but does not follow from their mere combination. This process of elaboration of the initial meaning from all the meanings contained in the text is most convenient to designate as integration, since the term meets the condition of non-additivity and denotes the phase transition of the system to a new level, more integral and organized. With regard to the non-additivity of meaning and appropriateness of use of the term integration, it should be noted that for the elements that ensure the unity of the text, its integrity, it is irrelevant to use the operations of addition, one can only point to the possibility of their correlation and integration, since the unity and integrity of the literary text can not be determined through the categories of closeness and orderliness, we intend here to speak more of categories of hierarchy and dynamic equilibrium. The elaboration of initial meaning is maintained through the explication of individual meaning components (partial meanings) in the text, and the identification in them of the element of symmetry that binds them together, "forming an entity qualitatively different from its components, dominating them and, at the same time, closely associated with them» [6].

The perception of a literary text is determined by the dialectic of linearity-nonlinearity. The perception of the recipient is moving from more simple to the more complex level, from linear to superlinear, and "on the text level, the level of meaning integrity superlinearly perceived combined effect of techniques should lead not just to a mechanical unification of the text, but to the true meaning integration» [7]. Thus, the third level of the meaning space of the text is

characterized by an integrating nature, at this level one may observe the allegation of all the partial meanings realized in the literary text with a transition from quantity to quality, signifying the emergence of a new level of the system. Through integration a fundamentally new meaning information is formed, representing the answer to the key question of the addresser to the addressee, i.e. the initial meaning of the text. This information differs from the factual and conceptual information presented in the text, in a broader sense it is textual information of the highest rank, which implements both the coherence and integrity of the text, and which possesses the resulting character, reflecting the completeness of the receptive activity of the perceiving subject with respect to a given text.

Meaning structure is a hierarchical formation, the basis of which is the semantic level, followed by meaning and integral levels. Meaning developments at each level are carried out according to special mechanisms which differ for each of the levels. At the semantic level, the meaning explication is completely dependent on the semantic analysis of keywords and the identification of such vector semantics in them, which would be supported through the semantics of lexical units of the context. The realization of the higher – meaning level, on which the partial meanings of a literary text are realized, is conditioned by the identification of the symmetry of semantic formations at the lower level. Partial meanings develop, alternating with the deployment of the text space, revealing them is possible through the principle of symmetry, expressed through repetition. Partial meanings are non-permanent structures that develop dynamically due to constant increments of meaning. They function as essential text parameters, based on a similar algorithm of logical prospectus due to the fact that they correspond with the same referent, which is the structure of a literary text. They make possible the connection of various meaning blocks, even those remotely located in the text, but we must not forget that they are characterized by high linkage with context and directly depend on the semantic explication at the level of constituents of the statement within a certain meaning block. Partial meanings are developed by meaning increments occurring "due to the inclusion in the analysis of the previous and subsequent elements of the text » [8], directly correlated by the nature of their semantic content with one of the partial meanings by the principle of symmetry. The existence of the initial meaning is conditioned by the presence of a certain problematic situation; within the pragmatic aspect, the initial meaning is an element that binds the partial meanings on the basis of the author's intentionality. The elaboration of initial meaning by an author is largely completed by the time of writing process, thus, when constructing a meaning system within the text space, the author goes deductively, that is, from the whole (initial meaning) to the private (to the partial meanings and possible ways of their expression through language units). The recipient of the text re-creates the meaning structure, moving according to the principle of induction, that is, from particular realizations of meanings (keywords, and then partial meanings) to more complex meaning elements (initial meaning). Thus, a characteristic feature of the initial meaning is capability of alignment through partial meanings. Thereby, the initial meaning can be characterized as an integral meaning formation, primary to semantic value. It is formed as a result of integrative

processes at the meaning level and reflects the transition of the meaning system to a higher level.

C. Initial meaning in linguosynergetic interpretation.

Within the framework of linguosynergetic paradigm, the meaning system appears as a kind of unity, ontologically connected with such text categories as coherence and integrity. The basic characteristics of the meaning system are "emergence, capability of alignment, hierarchical structure and multidimensionality of its structuring elements, thanks to which the system under study, on the one hand, counteracts the processes of entropy, while maintaining the ability to be decoded, and on the other – makes it possible to generate new, non-usual structures» [9].

The meaning structure of a literary text is a complex dynamic system that develops both due to the flow of information from the outside, and due to the energy of intra-text processes, which are the interrelations that arise between the elements of one and different levels of the meaning system. The basis for the emergence of such interrelations is the principle of symmetry, which underlies the target movement of text meanings, ensuring the invariance of the nuclear zone of the meaning sphere and the stability of the meaning structure with respect to external fluctuations caused by individual readings. They form self-moving meaning fluxes, which realize within the meaning system such qualities as disorderliness, nonlinearity, disequilibrium, openness. Structurally organized by the producer of the text meaning fluxes implemented in text space and self-organizing on the principle of symmetry bring into the system such qualities as linearity, equilibrium, orderliness and closeness.

The meaning system is characterized by a dynamic hierarchy, which is realized through the subordination of the lower meaning levels to the higher one, which is represented by the initial meaning. The principle of dynamic hierarchy is implemented not only through the principle of subordination, but also through the interrelationship of structural levels, since "each hierarchical level of the text can develop only in the exchange of information with other levels» [10]. The interrelationship of the levels of the meaning system provides an influx of energy that allows the system to develop independently, by the power of internal processes, and not applying the outside energy.

The elaboration of the initial meaning corresponds with the resulting character of the meaning construction, which is, on the one hand, the final result of the meaning interpretation, verbalized as an answer to the key question of the author to the addressee, and, on the other hand, is a dynamic process, because it reflects the vector nature of the result obtained at the interpretation, which consists of the directionality of the vectors of its constituent elements. In this process, the vector nature of the result (the initial meaning) is presented as the integration of vectors-components (partial meanings). Partial meanings are processual, because they reflect the process of interpretation carried out through the deployment of the meaning construct, and are resultant, since they are part of the initial meaning, which is the result of interpretation. Initial meaning is a resultant formation due to the capability of alignment, inherited to it at the final stage of interpretation, when it acquires a verbalized form in the consciousness of the

recipient; however, due to the fact that it is created from the processual components, it has a correlation with the processes of interpretation. Obviously, such interpretation of the initial meaning should not reduce the meaning of the text to a simple judgment or symbol, although a certain verbal expression or compressed symbolic designation may arise in the consciousness of the recipient, reflecting the propositional essence of the text. It would be more appropriate to speak of the construction of the initial meaning as of a "compressed meaning product" obtained at the output of meaning interpretation, when the development of the integral meaning model is at the stage of its completion. It should be noted, however, that "it would be wrong to minimize, reduce the compressed meaning product to what is often called the formula of interpretation, since this would turn the model into a scheme, a formula, would deprive the meaning product of the flesh and blood of the text present in it» [11]. The initial meaning appears as a result of the interpretative activity, which, however, does not deny the importance of the elements included in it, and as an organizational parameter of the meaning system at all its levels, and as the quintessence of the non-text situation that initiated the writing of the text in the author's consciousness.

The elaboration of the relevant initial meaning is possible only with the dynamic equilibrium of the meaning system realized through the principle of symmetry. The prevalence of asymmetry of meaning perception, implemented through the dominance of self-moving meaning fluxes can not lead the interpreter to the relevant initial meaning, i.e., to such initial meaning, which in terms of the target movement of meanings in the text would reflect the core of the author's intention, and in terms of the functioning of the meaning system would not get into disagreement with its elements. If the nature of the initial meaning does not agree with the vectors of partial meanings, it is defined incorrectly. Such seeing of the problem corresponds with the principles of the hermeneutic circle, according to which, if the partial does not agree with the general, the reader is to select such an interpretation of the partial, which would satisfy the general, and if he fails, it is the general to be altered. We, however, cannot afford the infinity of hermeneutic selection, because within the framework of our study the meaning perception is finite and resultant and is expressed in receiving by the reader of a certain meaning product represented by the meaning system at the output. It is a meaning product that does not arise in the mind of the recipient simultaneously, but develops, overcoming in the process of its formation periods of order and disorder, stable and unsteady equilibrium, and yet comes at the end to a state of stable dynamic equilibrium. The moment of bringing the system to these parameter is characterized by the absence of possible oscillations of the system, most often this moment coincides with the completion of the perception of the text by the addressee, when on the basis of the system data the initial meaning of the text is developed.

It is possible to assume that the plurality of meanings presented in a literary text possesses common purpose. The initial meaning combines all the partial meanings by common directivity, common purpose. The initial meaning is not a simple sum of its parts, it is a fusion of ideas that takes us from the quantitative to a fundamentally new, qualitative level, when by considering all partial meanings we discover

a meaning of a higher order, a meaning to which all partial meanings are consonant and which they reflect in various ways. The quantitative ratio of partial meanings can help sorting out most important meanings for the integration, it is a kind of quantitative component. The qualitative component of the initial meaning is what common to all partial meanings, the element of symmetry that is inherent in each of them. Due to the fact that partial meanings transpose into each other, they have a certain commonality, the detection of which, in fact, is the prior propulsion, the transition of the system to a new, more global level, which implements the elaboration of initial meaning.

D. Initial meaning as an order-parameter of the meaning structure of a literary text

Initial meaning is the main key to the meaning code of the text, it must satisfy the content of all partial meanings and represent new additional information obtained through their integration. Receiving of the initial meaning by the recipient at the end of perception is determined by the high-energy transition of the system, the transition from one state to another, this is the evolution from disorder to order. The elaboration of initial meaning, being a qualitatively new integrative element of meaning formation, cements the meaning structure, deprives it of mobility and susceptibility to possible fluctuations and converges the reader's consciousness as close as possible to the core of the author's intention. Initial meaning encompasses all the existing in the text meaning multitudes represented in partial meanings. The combined projection of the energy of multitudes of partial meanings on the integral meaning formation represented by the initial meaning can be considered as "projection of one set of elements into another set of elements of the system, as a result of which a qualitatively new integrative formation arises" [12], which constitutes the definition of self-movement, realized, however, not by self-moving meaning fluxes, determined by individual readings, but by the inner processes of the meaning system, that are aimed at the realization of the initial meaning.

Initial meaning is the main order-parameter of the meaning structure of the text. This is a global principle of symmetry, reflected in a varying degree in all meaning elements. The dynamic nature of the integrity of a literary text is due to the principle of subordination of parts to the whole, where the whole plays a constructive role, and parts can undergo certain deformations due to their subordinate position. The meaning system realized by the principle of such subordination can be characterized by tension and unstable equilibrium. Subordination is considered as a dynamic process, and the meaning structure as a tense system, the stability of which is determined by the initial meaning. The hierarchy of the meaning system is realized through the principle of subordination of the lower levels to the higher ones, the meaning space is represented by semantic, meaning and integral levels placed one above the

other. The interaction of the levels is regulated by the order parameter, which is the initial meaning.

VII. CONCLUSION

From the standpoint of dialogism, the initial meaning is the key question of the author of the text to the recipient. The initial meaning is the prior meaning, the most relevant for the author, which transposes into other elements of the meaning structure and unites them. The initial meaning can be obtained through the integration of partial meanings, this stage determined by the high-energy transition of the system to a new level. The initial meaning is the main order - parameter of the meaning structure of the text. It is a global principle of symmetry, reflected in a varying degree in all meaning elements. The dynamic nature of the integrity of the text is due to the initial meaning, which implies the subordination of parts to the whole, where the whole plays a constructive role, and parts can undergo certain deformations due to their subordinate position. The analysis of elaboration of initial meaning allows to reveal the essence of the factual information, and to define features of meaning deployment of a literary text and the character of explication of the text meaning by the recipient.

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