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**SUBJECT AND OBJECT OF THE VERB ACTION AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE ACTANT IN RUSSIAN LINGUISTICS**

**SUJETO Y OBJETO DE LA VERBARIZACIÓN Y SU RELACIÓN
CON EL ACTANTE EN LINGÜÍSTICA RUSA**

S. V. Lazarev

Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, Russian Federation

S. V. Smirnova

Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, Russian Federation

A. I. Lakhaeva

Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, Russian Federation

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Abstract

The article discusses the categories of "subject", "object" and "actant". It is proved that in modern linguistics such a distinction of concepts is necessary, since it allows you to avoid new disputes about their essence and the best ways of differentiation. The article proposes to significantly limit the use of the concepts "subject" and "object", and instead use the term "actant" in the broad sense of the word, meaning not only living beings, but also inanimate objects and concepts.

Keywords

Subject – Object of verb action – Actant – Grammar

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Introduction

The terms "subject" and "object" are often used in linguistic literature. Different researchers put different content in them. In the foreign linguistic literature, the terms "subject" and "object" are used to refer to certain members of the sentence, which in Russian linguistics correspond to the subject and the complement.

Identification of the subject and the "grammatical subject" is a very common phenomenon among domestic specialists. The definition of the subject through the concept of the subject and, conversely, can be found both in normative grammars and in special studies. However, the category of semantic subject, although it occupies an important place in the concept of the deep structure of a sentence, does not always distinguish between the subject as a source, generating actions, or a carrier of a sign, and an object changing under the influence of internal or external causes, as is the case in reality. In order to minimize disputes about the essence of the "subject" and "object" of a sentence, it is proposed to use the linguistic category "actant".

Methods and techniques of research

The work uses a comprehensive method of research of language material, which combines elements of grammatical, semantic, logical-semantic and logical-grammatical methods. An important role is played by the methods of semantic component and oppositional analysis.

Discussion of the research results

The concept of subject and object of the verbal action

In modern linguistics, the definition of academician I. I. Meshchaninov: the subject is a separate member of a sentence expressing the subject¹. A. I. Smirnitskiy believed that the subject in the sentence finds expression in the subject. Consequently, the subject is a word or a combination of words that designate the subject².

With other interpretations of the terms "subject" and "object" can be found by reading the relevant articles in the encyclopedia "Russian language" or in the "Linguistic Encyclopedic Dictionary." The latter, besides the concept of "grammatical subject", indicates others:

- a) a semantic subject related to the content of the sentence is used to designate the agent (agent), opposed to the object of action (patient);
- b) a communicative subject is used in the theory of actual segmentation of the sentence and denotes the topic.
- c) the psychological subject expresses the original view.
- d) a logical subject designates a part of the sentence corresponding to the subject of the judgment.

It is emphasized that in the above values the subject does not necessarily coincide with the subject in the sentence.

¹ I. I. Meshchaninov, Verb (Moscú: Science Leningr. Branch, 1982).

² A. I. Smirnitsky, Syntax of English (Moscú: 1957)..

In our opinion, the concept of "semantic subject" should be discussed in more detail. The emergence of this term is closely connected with the spread of verbocentric views on the proposal and the development of the theory of valency, when attempts were made to express their understanding of the terms based on the ideas developed in the framework of this concept. One of the representatives of this direction was S. D. Katsnelson. Considering the content valency of the verb as a decisive factor, which determines the composition of the arguments and their functions relative to the predicate, of the entire set of functions, S. D. Katsnelson considers the subject-object functions that characterize the verb from the inside as the most important. The distribution of arguments on specific syntactic functions occurs in speech, where they appear in the form of specific sentence members.

If the verb is monovalent, it allows the presence of only one argument; it becomes a subject regardless of the form of the sentence. If the valency of the verb determines the presence of two or more arguments, one of them becomes a subject, and the rest are objects. The semantic type of the verb has a greater influence on the choice of the argument that can be in the role of the subject, for example, the semantic structure of the verb of action implies the nomination of such an argument for the role of the subject, in the semantic structure of which the sema of "activity" is pronounced. According to the definition of S. D. Katzenelson, the subject of a sentence is either the only argument of a single predicate, or that of the argument of a multi-place predicate, which is clothed with the function of a theme and, as a rule, attracts the predicate intention³.

Therefore, from the point of view of the semantic valency of the predicate, the selection of the various members of the sentence is based on the content plan, and the idea of the subject, object and circumstances is formed from the mental and communicative elements. However, not all experts agree with the reduction of one of the elements of the case frame to the level of the usual argument – additions. Some researchers see in the subject a factor that has a direct impact on the predicate, thereby increasing its rank among the others as a mediocre influence on the predicate, and thereby increase its rank among the remaining arguments.

According to N. D. Arutyunova, the subject plays a very important role in the semantic organization of the sentence. On the one hand, it is turned to the subject of reality and identifies it; on the other hand, it looks to the predicate with its value and creates prerequisites for explication of the predicate's own value, creating a certain semantic background. The subject has a specific semantic structure, somewhat different from the semantic structure of other components, and this fact pushes him to a special place in the sentence⁴. V. A. Beloshapkova also pays attention to the special place of the semantic subject in the sentence. She explains this by the fact that "in the event referred to as a sentence, it is distinguished by receiving the function of the" protagonist of the message, "the bearer of a predicative attribute," one of the subjects participating in the event. «The remaining arguments serve only to propagate the predicate⁵.

³ S. D. Katsnelson, *On the category of the subject in the sentence. Universals and typological studies* (Sweeden: Science, 1974).

⁴ N. D. Arutyunova, *To the semantic characteristic of a subject and predicate of the sentence. The All-Union scientific conference on theoretical questions of linguistics. Theses of reports of section meetings* (Moscú: Ying t of linguistics of Academy of Sciences of the USSR, 1979).

⁵ V. A. Beloshapkova, *Modern Russian language. Syntax* (Moscú: BULDER, 1977).

Like the previous author, V. A. Beloshapkova believes that the semantic subject does not necessarily coincide with the subject and there is no fixed morphological form behind it, i.e. it can be expressed both nominative and oblique cases. The author illustrates these provisions with examples: Кустарнику нет конца. У нее голубые глава. У плодов был вкус ананаса и земляники. На него злятся. Ему вспоминается детство. Про батарею Тушина было забыто. (L. Tolstoy). С этой ночи в Ромашове произошел глубокий душевный перелом. (К.).

The semantic subject does not have a permanent, single meaningful role in relation to the predicate: since the semantic valency of the verb is the most important factor influencing the functions of the subject, the latter, depending on the situation, may take, for example, the functions of agent or patient. The functions of the agent are realized in the active construction, and of the patient in the passive constructions, or with verbs denoting a natural disaster.⁶

Other researchers propose to single out the category of semantic-syntactic subject. In their opinion, one cannot consider such a complex phenomenon as a sentence and its components, considering only one of the sides of this phenomenon. In the process of communication, the sentence acts as a single structure, and often the observed discrepancy between the semantic subject and the subject pushes for a separate study of the deep and superficial structure of the sentence. Therefore, it gives the definition of each component of the proposal, it is necessary to take into account its dual nature. G. A. Zolotova holds this position.

From this point of view, the subject is a “syntactically independent substantial component of the subject-predicate structure denoting the carrier of the predicative attribute”⁷.

The concept of "subject" and "object" is used by N. Yu. Shvedova in "Grammar – 80, in chapters on the semantic structure of the sentence. The author does not give her own definition of the term "subject", but builds an entire classification within this category. To the extent that the core of the semantics of the structural scheme is the relationship between the subject and its predicative characteristic, action or procedural state, the classification of subjects should be based on the semantic structure of the verb. In concrete sentences, the predicative attribute appears either as an active (i.e., action, activity) or as inactive. Therefore, we can begin to classify the types of subjects with the allocation of two large classes: subjects of action and subjects of state. Further, in accordance with different shades in the meaning of a predicative attribute, the subject can act as the subject of a specific action (the subject is acting, producing, acting on someone, changing something), speech, thought, attitude, volitional act, perception, skills, knowledge, or as a subject of an inactive state: being, arising, disappearing, a subject-carrier of various internal states⁸. The object is considered as what the action is directed at, activity, and in accordance with the values of the predicative attribute, you can select the object of action (the object of influence produced, achieved), the object of speech, thought, relationships, etc.⁹

⁶ V. A. Beloshapkova, Modern Russian language...

⁷ G. A. Zolotova, "On the subject of the sentence in the modern Russian language", Philological sciences num 1 (1981): 32-42.

⁸ Russian grammar (Moscú: Science, 1980).

⁹ Russian grammar...

Actant as a universal category of linguistics

As noted earlier, in many works the concepts of subject and object are opposed to the concepts of subject and object. The first reflect the relationship between the components of the sentence at the semantic level, the second at the level of surface implementation. This opposition serves as the basis for the formation of functional meanings of verbal actants. Following O. M. Sokolov, we believe that the actants, who call the producer of the action or carrier of the state, i.e. any substance or entity acting on the object or detecting a characteristic feature of it, perform a generative function. For example, Дениска поставил чемодан на крыльцо и вытащил из картона книжечки (I. Bunin "The Village"). Ворвавшись в подъезд, Иван Николаевич взлетел на второй этаж, немедленно нашел эту квартиру позвонил нетерпеливо (M. Bulgakov. "Master and Margarita").

Accumulative function is characteristic of actants, denoting various entities exposed to external influences and acquiring new attributes and qualities because of such effects. For example, Кофе у ней перекипел, сливки подгорели, чашки валились из рук. (I. Goncharov. "Ordinary history"). Море под ними как будто провалилось, осело, и другое море катилось на них высокой, как дом, стеной, с черной верхушкой сплевывалась белая пена. (E. Zamyatin "Ela").

In addition to those already mentioned, O.M. Sokolov distinguishes a group of actants of a hybrid nature, that is, those that equally have generative and accumulative characteristics. This includes primarily the actants who are adjacent to reflexive verbs (self-reflexive, mutually-returnable, indirect-productive-reflexive verbs).

For example: Мальчик одевается, я причесываюсь; они шепчутся; мы засиделись и забыли о времени. In addition, the hybrid function also manifests itself in cases where it is conditioned by the semantic-syntactic structure of the sentence and, in particular, the presence in the sentence of constructions with self-pronouns, their own or combinations of each other, each other, etc.

Compare: Не Он растер себе нос, и щеки и лоб. Лицо загорелось. (A. Bitov. "Flying Monks"). От этого он до того обезумел, что упавши на скамью, укусил себя за руку до крови. (M. Bulgakov. "The Master and Margarita"). И в то утро от двух березовых веника исхлестала себя. Жарилась, парилась, чтобы не только грязи на теле – в памяти следа не осталось от той ночи. (F. Abramov. "Pelageya").

The student of M. V. Kuznetsova studied the influence of verbal semantics on the functional meanings of actants. She proved that the actant's function is determined not only by the semantics of the verb as a whole, but also depends on such elements of its semantic structure as the activity / passivity of the verbal action, transitivity / non-transitivity, reflexivity / irrevocability, etc. Moreover, M. V. Kuznetsova, it was possible to show that the functional characteristics of actants depend on which lexico-grammatical category or lexico-semantic group belongs to the noun itself, acting in this role. New facts obtained because of the study allowed the author to shed light on the problem of pledge in a new way, and to show that reflexive verbs are capable of expressing different degrees of actant-subject activity.

Conclusions

Summarizing the above, we make the following conclusions: 1. From the position of the verbocentric theory, the verb acts as a factor that determines the actant structure of the sentence and defines the specific functions of the actants; 2. The generative function of an actant is understood as its ability to express the active principle, realized in those cases when the actant acts as a producer of an action or carrier of a state, acting on an object or exhibiting its inherent property; 3. By the accumulative function of an actant, one should understand its feature that is associated with a change in its internal nature because of external or internal factors, because of which the actant acquires new or loses old signs and 4. A hybrid function means the ability of actants to simultaneously act as the carrier of the active principle, the producer of the action and at the same time the object of the action, as a result of which the state of the actant changes. Thus, in the actants of this type both generative and accumulative signs are combined.

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