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**Cases of Grammatic Interference in Contemporary News Discourse**

**Случаи проявления грамматической интерференции в современном новостном дискурсе**

This study presents a distillation of 2 years of academic research into relevant news discourse both in Russian and English languages. The discourse itself offers both oral and written subjects to analysis, that is to determine and classify the cases of grammatic interference. The study provides a problem-solving strategy to discard said interference effects while delivering the news, consecutive and simultaneous translation. The goal of the research is to relay the results to a larger academic field in a brief format of an overview.

*Key words*: grammar interference, comparative analysis, discourse analysis, mass media, syntax.

Данная статья посвящена обзору данных, собранных в результате проведения двухлетнего исследования, посвященного анализу грамматической интерференции в новостном дискурсе. Статья содержит анализ наиболее частотных случаев проявления грамматической интерференции, а также рассматривается и иллюстрируется попытка обозначения новостного дискурса в качестве гибридной категории.

*Ключевые слова*: грамматическая интерференция, компаративный анализ, дискурсивный анализ, медиа, синтаксис.

The present study is largely devoted to analysis of a syntax sentence structure in a juxtaposition of the Russian and the English languages in a hybrid news discourse.

The objective of the research is to describe patterns of professional communication and to suggest a problem-solving strategy to minimize the effect of grammar interference in a naturally occurring speech, while delivering the news. The goal of the study is to present the syntax features of the hybrid news discourse based on general/common linguistic interference. This goal has set the objectives as follows:

1) to determine the nature of news discourse and the inner relation of its both written and oral aspects;

2) to reveal the syntactic difference in sentence structure of both Russian and English news discourse;

3) to render an account of interference features in a linguistic correlation.

Nowadays new objects are introduced to the various ﬁelds of linguistics. More attention is drawn to studies of different spheres of human activities. Every year we see more news aggregators, serving as the international intermediaries distributing the news and related information. Under these circumstances, news agencies must keep in check both the quality and quantity of information that is being disseminated.

Discourse is a constantly developing both linguistic and extratextual factor (van Dijk, Kintsch, 1998). Holland linguist Teun A. van Dijk has developed a thorough description of a news discourse, yet it is worth mentioning that the academics regard a written material higher than the oral aspect of a discourse in that research. Academic works that were published at a later time were based on the research of the scientists leaving the oral discourse out of academic loop. This particular fact has rendered many other researches in this field into written aspect ever more relevant.

It is worth mentioning that there are many interpretations of conventional typologies applied to discourses in the field of discourse analysis. In order to show the relation of both written and oral factors intertwined in news discourse and to convey the idea of treating it as a hybrid discourse it might prove useful to rely on the typology of A.P. Zagnitko (Zagnitko, 2008), that is based on differentiation of types of discourses by the ways of interaction, those are 2 types: discourse-monologue and discourse-dialogue accordingly.

In this academic frame V.B. Kashkin (Kashkin, 2004) claims that the applied linguistics call for adding another type of discourse – polylogue, which portrays the communication of 2 and more individuals both verbally and non-verbally. Yet it is prudent to note, that such notion is not yet to be considered in any way conventional (Chart 1).

Chart 1. Typology of Discourses based on the Ways of Communication

The potential polylogue nature of the discourse is conveyed by the need of a reporter to convey the message both to the viewer and to crew assigned to the specific report, which can presented as an on-site crew, cameraperson etc., in this way the discourse takes form of monologue, yet the pragmatics of a message rely heavily on viewers that are considered to be a group, thus both monologue, dialogue and polylogue nature comes together to form a hybrid form of discourse, aligning the pragmatics and verbal means accordingly.

The language interference can be represented as the divided-into-two-parts system (Chart 2), the both parts, primary and secondary systems are intertwined affecting each other, thus such effect can be considered as interference.

Chart 2. The Source of Language Interference

In this research we focus on negative impact of language interference, as interference occurs during the act of speech, the models that the individual might use, can be affected by both primary and secondary systems, when an individual fails to deliver his or her message due to irregularities in speech pattern, we call it negative interference (Chart 3).

Chart 3. Interference Prerequisite

The preliminary stages of the research involved sophisticated sampling, with its frame as follows:

1) In the first stage news aggregators were selected: Vice News Network, CNN and BBC, all containing material in the genre of on-the-spot reports, to convey the notion of hybrid status of the news discourse.

2) In the second stage, videos that do not match the concept of the study, i.e. meet the following criteria were deleted from sampling:

a) The Initiator of Communication (the journalist) did not speak the Russian language.

b) The Russian language was not native for the journalist, i.e. the primary system was replaced by another language thus shifting the focus of the study.

c) The Journalist carried out an act of communication in their native language, the video contained only subtitles.

d) The Journalist speaks the Russian language as native, however, he/she was able to carry out the act of communication into several other languages, thus it was impossible to limit the effect of interference to particular system.

3) During the third stage of sampling it was found that on their websites, news aggregators – CNN and BBC – do not offer sufficient functionality for finding videos according to certain criteria. This prompted the research to focus on Vice News Network.

4) As of the fourth stage of sampling only 55 videos remain included.

Chart 4. Occurrence of Grammar Interference

After sampling was completed, the research accumulated the data of 55 video with total duration over 17 hours. Through content-analysis it was revealed that only in 47% of all videos cases of language interference were documented and benchmarking analysis showed that only 13% of all cases were grammar interference (Chart 4).

Benchmarking analysis showed that grammar interference in a hybrid news discourse is often reduced to the use of incorrect preposition, for example: *Today we’ll try to find out* ***among*** *local residents of Slavyansk, how many medical facilities were damaged.* In this sentence we see the wrong interpretation of the preposition ***among***, which matches Russian language equivalent ***среди***, which would be used in case of translation of this sentence into the Russian language, in this case, the preposition ***from*** must be used. This feature accounts for 23.8% of all cases of grammar interference.

The most frequent cases of negative interference were based on using adverb before the verb in the English linguistic material, as it stands for 21.5% of all found cases of grammar interference. Table 1 provides relevant examples.

Table 1. Grammar Interference: Adverb before the Verb

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Incorrect | Correct |
| The injured were *hastily* taken to the hospital in Donetsk, later it was bombarded as well, what the hell?! | The injured were taken *hastily* to the hospital in Donetsk, later it was bombarded as well, what the hell?! |
| These notions started *excessively* spreading among ethnic minorities in early 90’s, after the fall of USSR. | These notions started spreading *excessively* among ethnic minorities in early 90’s, after the fall of USSR. |
| The conflict *sporadically* appeared as you can see on the map there. | The conflict appeared *sporadically* as you can on the map there. |

Content analysis showed that another group of grammar features was reduced solely to the sentence structure. For example, we found the frequent mistake of using the objective complement before the verb: *Tymoshenko yesterday said that for women in Eastern Europe there is no chance to prevent domestic violence.* In the given example, the adjunct and the objective complement *for women* should be introduced after the verb. Thus, the sentence structure should be as follows: *Tymoshenko said yesterday, that there is no chance for women in Eastern Europe to prevent domestic violence*. This feature accounts for 18.4% of all cases of grammar interference.

The analysis of video material showed that there are 9.2% cases of pronouns transpositioning as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Grammar Interference: Pronoun Transpositioning

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Phrase | Grammar Interference |
| Today we decided to visit Vatican, after the accident with Rome and Matteo Renzi comments, I guess we are all curious what Vatican official political thinking is. […] *He (Vatican)* opened doors for us to get closer to the truth in this case. | He (Vatican) – It (Vatican) |
| Today *Russia* tries to put into motion plans to support the Militia in the East. *It* does it best to provide supplies, military equipment and manpower to Rebels. *She*, perhaps, at this rate will have open military presence here. | She (Russia) – It (Russia) |

The first case in Table 2 deals with grammar interference occurring due to incorrect pronouns that are used to name countries. The lexical unit *Vatican (Ватикан)* in the Russian language is associated with male pronouns, while the English language opts for gender-neutral pronouns (it/its), when addressing the country as a subject in a sentence. The second presented case deals with the same strategy of assigning the gender qualities based on first language of the reporter.

The objective of this study was to provide the analysis of cases of linguistic interference in the sentences of naturally occurring speech while delivering the news. Most frequent cases of grammar interference are determined by the infraction of FSP (Functional sentence perspective) and the use of incorrect prepositions. Primarily grammar interference is caused by the fundamental differences in the grammatical systems of the languages, rather than extratextual factors, in contrast to other kinds of interference occurring in the sentence. The pedagogical way to interpret the results is to focus on these features in an educational process more and form curriculum accordingly bearing in mind all the methodological needs. The results of this study can be applied in teaching and learning materials for journalists, writers, editors, interpreters, and translators.

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