

УДК 81'44(811.161.2+811.161.1+811.111):81'37

LINGUAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL FUNDAMENTALS OF THE
CATEGORY OF REFERENCE (BASED ON ENGLISH, UKRAINIAN AND
RUSSIAN)ЛІНГВО-ФІЛОСОФСЬКІ ОСНОВИ КАТЕГОРІЇ РЕФЕРЕНЦІЇ (НА МАТЕРІАЛІ
АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ, УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ ТА РОСІЙСЬКОЇ МОВ)

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Abstract. The present article deals with the brief results of the research devoted to lingual and philosophical fundamentals of the category of reference as well as its representations in the English, Ukrainian and Russian languages. For its versatile investigation, complex, multi-paradigmatic approach was applied. Reference, being reflected in a person's mentality as an abstract logical and philosophical category, is represented as a part of the conceptual and semantic picture of the world in the mentality of a language speakers, and reflected in a wide range of types of language units, both on the level of a word, and on the level of a context. They are united into the functional and semantic field of reference in each of the languages under analyses. The model of functional and semantic field permits to investigate different language levels altogether, that is of a great importance for comparing languages of different structural and typological types (like English, on one hand, and Ukrainian and Russian, on the other hand).

Key words: linguistics, reference, representation, lingual category, philosophical categories in a language

Анотація. Стаття містить стислий огляд дослідження лінгво-філософського підґрунтя категорії референції, а також її репрезентацій в англійській, українській та російській у мовах. Для різнобічного їх вивчення був застосований комплексний, поліпарадигмальний підхід. Референція, будучи представлена у свідомості людини як абстрактна категорія логіко-філософського змісту, реалізується у мові у низці видів мовних одиниць, як на рівні слова, так і на рівні контексту. Вони об'єднані у функціонально-семантичне поле референції у кожній із зіставлюваних мов. Модель функціонально-семантичного поля дозволяє дослідити різні мовні рівні разом, що є надзвичайно важливим для порівняння мов, що належать до різних структурно-типологічних типів (як, наприклад, англійська мова, з одного боку, і українська й російська □ з іншого боку).

Ключові слова: лінгвістика, референція, репрезентація, мовна категорія, філософські категорії в мові.

Introduction

Modern science has been developing dramatically, but its fundamentals, as it has been before, are originated from ancient philosophy, in particular, from understanding of philosophical categories by Ancient Greece philosophers. The category of reference is not an exception in this sense.

Reference is defined here in its broader and narrower meanings. In its **broader meaning** reference denotes any indicative relations in a language (deictic, anaphoric, referential (in its traditional understanding, see, for example, [ЛЭС 1990, p. 411-412; Терехова 2012, p. 93], etc.). The **narrower meaning** of the term reference is as

follows: it is the nomination and the indication on a particular object (referent) expressed mainly by adverbs, adverb phrase or pronouns [Терехова 2012, p. 93].

As the category of reference is the subject of investigation of several fields of science (philosophy, logics, physics, mapping, linguistics, cognitive science, translation studies, language and culture studies, etc.), its **topicality** is undoubted.

The **aim** of the present research is to observe lingual and philosophical fundamentals of the functional and semantic category of reference in modern languages (based on English, Ukrainian and Russian).

Methodology of the Research. As the research was conducted based on reference representations of English, Russian, and Ukrainian, contrastive method of analyses of the language units was chosen as the main method in the research. Beside it, complex, multi-paradigmatic approach (see in detail in [Terekhova 2012, p. 87-99]) was used here allowing "...to additionally employ inclusion notional and associative analyses, which is highlighted the way native speakers of the contrasted languages conceptualize" reference representations in their isomorphic and allomorphic features" [Terekhova 2010, p. 89].

The Main Part

Traditional philosophical understanding of reference and its reflection in a language. Due to the many types of reference, it is right to say, that philosophical aspects of this category are originated from the philosophers of the Ancient Greece and the Roman Empire (Aristotle, Dionysius Thrax, Apollonius Diskol, etc.). In particular, from their understanding of space, location, moving in space and time, types of space, time limitation, the present understanding and conceptualization of time, space and a person as the three-dimensional reality started. Representatives of both idealism and realist doctrines (Socrates, Aristotle, Plato, Democritus, Hippocrates, etc.) tried to explain the sense of a human being, the existence of the Universe, the roots of matter, space and time from different points of view. And till nowadays their theories have been developing deeper and deeper. One can find a lot of specific conceptual characteristics of both time and space. For example, time is perceived as individual from biological, sociological, physiological points of view. It is universal if to look at it from theoretical position of physicists and other representatives of nature and medical studies: time is absolute, atomic, irreversible, permanent, and relative; it can be cyclical, variable, symmetric or directed, etc. It is observed in different dimensions (time of existence, cosmic time, ephemeral, historical, chronic time, etc. [Terekhova 2010, p. 91; Папина, p. 160-161]).

Space is represented as two-, three- or four-dimensional essence; it is endless, perceptual, closely related to time, affected by gravity and electro-magnetic fields [Рябцева 1997; Солодкая 1992; Коринь, p. 169].

Thus, space and time organize the parameters of identification, that is basic for defining reference. The start-point of spatial and temporal coordinates of reference (or, in other words, orientational reference), is a person. These three dimensions – spatial, temporal, and personal ones – are also the coordinates of communication, so reference organizes the coordinats of communication and, at the same time, it is defined by the particular act of communication.

Linguistic Aspects of the Category of Reference. The above mentioned types of spatial and temporal relations are conceptualized in the speakers' mentality, and reflected as corresponding parts of the national language picture of the world representing different types of reference representations. These types are: general linguistic, paradigmatic and syntagmatic, structural and semantic, functional and semantic, stylistic, functional-stylistic, as well as its trans-functional and trans-semantic ones (deictic and referential, deictic and anaphoric, nominative and deictic, referential and anaphoric, referential and nominative ones) [Terekhova 2012].

Reference is represented in a language as a monocentric functional and semantic field structured in accordance with the segmented model: in the center of the field the main referential representations (namely, adverbs in all the contrasted languages) are placed. They have the most general lexical meaning; they are monosemantic, often used in speech, neutral (have no stylistic, emotional or expressive connotations). For example, if to speak about orientation reference, the central lexemes of the field are engl. *here* □ *there*, ukr. *тут* – *там*, rus. *здесь* – *там*. These words are the dominants of the corresponding micro-fields and the thematic groups in their frames in the discussed functional and semantic field structure. At the same time, across these structural units, reference representations are spread within the field nuclear as well as its near and far periphery. So, the functional and semantic field of reference has a complicated, segmented and leveled structure in the languages under analyses. All its structural elements are united in the field with their common semantics "referred to something or somebody; identified with something or somebody". Other shades of referential (in its wide meaning) or nominative meanings can be expressed by adjacent lexical and semantic variants in the semantic volume of the word.

Conclusions

The key aspects of the lingual and philosophical fundamentals of the multi-disciplinary category of reference are originated from the Ancient Greece philosophers, their understanding of space, time and a person. These concepts form the conceptual and semantic picture of the corresponding fragment of the picture of the world in the mentality of language speakers – the one reflecting in our languages. To investigate this in detail complex, multi-paradigmatic approach was used. The key method of the present research is the contrastive one.

In the compared languages the above mentioned referential concepts are represented in language units of different types. They are unified into the lexical and semantic field of reference. The field has a complicated semantic structure. It was confirmed that the model "nuclear – periphery" is not relevant for reference representations functional and semantic field, as well as for other abstract functional and semantic category.

Philosophical and nature studies define and characterize peculiarities of the referential language units, their contrasts and isomorphic features in the compared reference representations.

Further aspects of the research are perceived in frames of conceptual semantics, language and culture studies, translation studies, contrastive and general linguistics, as well.

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Статья отправлена: 19.05.2023 г.

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