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## ON THE QUESTION OF NARRATIVE SENTENCES IN RUSSIAN AND CHINESE LANGUAGES

### К ВОПРОСУ ПОВЕСТВОВАТЕЛЬНОГО ПРЕДЛОЖЕНИЯ В РУССКОМ И КИТАЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКАХ

*Эки башка түзүлүштөгү тилди салыштыруу теориялык да практикалык да мааниге ээ болуп, тилдин окшош жана айырмалоочу белгилерин аныктоого, жалпы ойду жана тилдин белгилүү кубулуштарын тактоого, тилдин ички механизмдин тереңирээк изилдеп өзгөчөлүктөрүн түшүнүүгө жардам берет. Биздин салыштырмалуу изилдөөнүн предмети – ар башка тилдик системанын ар башка топторуна кирген орус жана кытай тилдери. Орус тили флективдүү тилдер тобуна кирсе, ал эми кытай тили аморфтук тил тобунан турат. Изилдөөнүн темасы кытай тилин үйрөнгөндөрдүн саны көбөйгөндүгүнө байланыштуу болуп актуалдуулукту жаратат. Бул багыттагы салыштыруу чет тилин так жана терең өздөштүрүүгө өбөлгө түзүп, котормо жана илимий жаатында лингвистикалык билимдерди натыйжалуу пайдаланууга мүмкүндүк берет.*

**Өзөк сөздөр.** Орус тили, кытай тили, салыштырма талдоо, жай сүйлөм, окшоштук, айырмачылык.

*Сопоставление двух разноструктурных языков имеет как теоретическую значимость, так и практическое значение, дает возможность выявить в них сходные и отличительные признаки, найти общие моменты и специфические явления, помогает глубже проникнуть во внутренний механизм и понять их специфику. Предметом нашего сопоставительного исследования являются языки, находящиеся в разных языковых семьях и относящихся к разным группам, русский и китайский. Русский язык относится к группе флективных языков, тогда как китайский – к группе изолирующих языков. Тема исследования актуальна в связи с тем, что возросло количество людей изучающих китайский язык. Сравнение в данной области способствует более точному и глубокому освоению иностранного языка, притом это позволит более эффективно использовать лингвистические знания в переводческой и научной деятельности.*

**Ключевые слова:** русский язык, китайский язык, сравнительный анализ, повествовательное предложение, сходство, различие.

*Comparison of two differently structured languages has both theoretical significance and practical significance, makes it possible to identify similar and distinctive features in them, find common points and specific phenomena, helps to penetrate deeper into the internal mechanism and understand their specifics. The subject of our comparative study is languages that are in different language families and belong to different groups, Russian and Chinese. Russian belongs to the group of inflectional languages, while Chinese belongs to the group of isolating languages. The research topic is relevant due to the fact that the number of people learning Chinese has increased. Comparison in this area contributes to a more accurate and deep*



*mastery of a foreign language, moreover, this will allow more effective use of linguistic knowledge in translation and scientific activities.*

**Key words:** *Russian language, Chinese language, comparative analysis, narrative sentence, similarity, difference.*

**Introduction.** Syntactic function of a word is manifested through its interaction with other words in a sentence. For the correct and expedient construction of the utterance, the observance of the normalized word order is important. According to generally accepted linguistic concepts, the order in a simple sentence is "a typical relative arrangement of word forms in their definite functions of the subject, predicate, etc." [1, p. 270]. In most languages, direct word order dominates, and deviation from it is considered as not corresponding to the syntactic norm of implementation. With that, both Russian and Chinese are relevant in this aspect with a pronounced variability and flexibility of the norm.

**Main part.** A simple narrative sentence is the basic syntactic unit of the Russian and Chinese languages. Structurally simple sentence has a grammatical basis, i.e., subject and predicate. A narrative sentence is a type of sentence by function, it serves to convey one of the main forms of thought - judgment [1, p. 265]. It is the most common type of sentence in both Russian and Chinese.

Let's consider the relevant specifics of the Russian language. The Russian language is characterized by a relatively free word order, which expands the possibilities of modifying the grammatical structure. In many respects, this is facilitated by its predominantly synthetic structure and a developed derivational system. In connection with this, methodologically, the potential of freedom of syntactic transformations in Russian language should be considered in a derivational aspect. Derivation is "the process of creating some linguistic units (derivatives) on the basis of others, the original ones, in the simplest case, by "expanding" the root with an affixation or word composition. In this regard, derivation is sometimes identified with word formation" [2, p. 265]. However, for the predominantly synthetic Russian language, the inflectional aspect of derivation is no less important. The derivation process can be aimed at using a sign in a new meaning or a new function [3, p. 107].

In addition, in the work "General linguistics and questions of the French language" S. Balli described the possibility of changing the grammatical meaning of a language unit with full preservation of its semantic meaning. He considered the derivational process as a transposition, and differentiated two types of transposition. E. Kurilovich proposed to distinguish between lexical and syntactic derivation. Lexical derivation assumes that "the source and the derivative words are identical to each other in terms of the primary syntactic function" [4, p. 63], for example: long-haired - with long hair. Unlike lexical derivation, syntactic derivation occurs while maintaining the same lexical meaning and is aimed at changing the syntactic function of units [4, p. 60-63], for example, walk - walking, kind - kindness. One way or another, in linguistic science the concept of "derivation" is considered as "the formation of new linguistic units (derivatives) from producing linguistic units (derivatives) with the help of derivational or inflectional linguistic means" [3, p. 106].

In Russian, with the help of syntactic derivatives, changing the order of words in a simple declarative sentence often does not lead to a change in the sequence of syntactic components. "A syntactic derivative is a form with the same lexical content as the original form, but with a different syntactic function" [3, p. 61]. In other words, instead of changing the syntactic function using word order, you can use a different grammatical form of a particular lexeme. So, if in the proposal, for example, the City Council of City Deputies approved the Regulations on the Medal of Honor "For Merit to Staraya Russa", swap the phrases of the City Council of City Deputies and the Regulations on the Medal of Honor "For Merit to Staraya Russa", then the grammatical form of the verb approved in the personal form (active voice) changed to the form of the passive voice was approved - the neuter gender was approved:" The Regulation on the Medal of Honor "For Merit to Staraya Russa" was approved by the city council of city deputies".



In addition, in the original sentence, subject is the word advice, object is the- position: and in the derived sentence, the word position becomes the subject, noun advice in the instrumental case is the object. Despite the change in the syntactic function of the units involved, in both simple declarative sentences the syntactic components are arranged in the same order: subject + predicate + object. Thus, in the Russian, nouns are characterized by active inflectional possibilities and a developed inflectional system. At the same time, changing the order of words in a sentence often does not require a change in the internal structure of the linguistic units involved.

Now let's consider the specifics of the Chinese language. The Chinese has acquired many peculiar features in the process of its formation. In particular, "... since ancient times in the Chinese, the main methods of expressing grammatical meaning are the order of words and the using of service words" [5, p. five]. This indicates that in the Chinese, the order of words (syntactic components) has more functionality.

This specificity, in turn, is associated with the functionality of the very structural elements of the utterance in the Chinese. If in the Russian the basic unit of the language is the word, then in the Chinese the significance depends not so much on the lexical semantics as on the morphological or morphemic semantics: a typical situation is when a hieroglyph is comparable in importance to a morpheme, in particular, of the Russian. At the same time, in Chinese grammar, it is 语素 yǔsù ('morpheme') that is recognized as "the minimum significant unit of the language, the minimum combination of sound and meaning, and the main word-formation element" [6, p. 68]. The very same 词 cí ('word') of the Chinese, in turn, is considered "the minimum significant unit of the language that can be used in the language independently" [7, p. 71] - and that is only functional, but not semantic. This differentiation of the concepts of morpheme and word is due to the specificity of hieroglyphic semiotics.

Thus, in the Chinese, most morphemes are completely self-sufficient in a functional aspect. They are divided into 自由语素 zìyóu yǔsù ('free morphemes') and 贴着语素 tiēzhuó yǔsù ('related morphemes'). In this regard, a free morpheme can be used as a linguistic sign isolated within the framework of a syntactic construction, for example:

Yī kànjàn tā de érzi, wǒ jiù juéde tā bǐ qùnián biàn gāo shòu le yīxiē.

As soon as I saw his son, I felt that he was a little taller and thinner than last year.

Here the free morphemes 高 gāo and 瘦 shòu express grammatically and lexically stable semantics: 'tall' and 'emaciated', respectively. Thus, when a free morpheme is used in a syntactic construction, its significance as a morpheme is included in the significance of the word as a more complex unit.

The linked morpheme of the Chinese, unlike the free morpheme, cannot be used on its own: it is itself a component word component, and is used only in combination with other morphemes. Thus, the unit 子 in ancient monuments had the significance of 'descendant', as well as the ability to express a polite address or mention. However, in modern Chinese, this morpheme is exclusively a suffix for a noun and a countable word, or a prefix that adds the meaning 'derivative', 'secondary', 'subordinate', etc. to the noun [7, p. 645]. For example:

玩钻子是一件有趣的事。

Wán zuàn zi shì yī jiàn yǒuqù de shì.

Playing with drills is a fun thing.

In this context, the morpheme 子 is a suffix for noun 钻子 ('drills').

In this case, a Chinese word can consist of several morphemes, and in a word morphemes can be combined in a different order. In such a linguistic situation, the general significance of a word depends on the sequence of its constituent morphemes, for example:

母亲和女儿都很喜欢有空的时候, 去逛街或者去喝咖啡。

Mǔqīn hé nǚ'ér dōu hěn xǐhuān yǒu kòng de shíhòu, qù guàngjiē huòzhě qù hē kāfēi.

Both mother and daughter like to go shopping or drink coffee when they are free.



儿女事业上的成就是父母最好的安慰。

Érnǚ shìyè shàng de chéngjiù shì fùmǔ zuì hǎo de ānwèi.

Achievement in the career of children is the best comfort for parents.

In this example, the words 女儿nǚ'ér ('daughter') and 儿女érnǚ ('children') are composed of the morphemes 女nǚ ('woman') and 儿ér ('child') in different order. Their lexical meaning depends on the sequence of morphemes involved. So, if the morpheme 女nǚ is at the beginning of a word, then a common noun 女儿nǚ'ér ('daughter') is formed, at the beginning if there is a morpheme 儿ér, then this is a collective noun 儿女érnǚ ('children').

In addition, there is no grammatical category of declension in Chinese, so the order of words in a sentence plays a key role. This is especially noticeable when comparing the potential of word order in Chinese and Russian. Thus, in the "Theoretical Grammar of the Chinese Language" Russian (Soviet) researcher B. I. Gorelov writes that a fixed word order is one of the syntactic means that play an important role in the grammatical structure of the Chinese [8, p. 97].

However, up to the present time, there are different opinions regarding the framework of the regulation of the word order in the Chinese. One of the most controversial in this regard is the question of the terms corresponding to the Russian-language term word order: it can be both 词序cíxù (actually, 'word order') and 语序yǔxù ('order of syntactic components'). There are different points of view on this issue in Chinese linguistics, and the discussion continues.

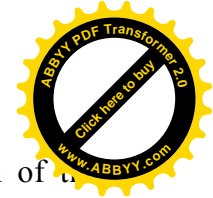
Thus, Li Jingxi, Zhao Yuanzheng, Tszyu Chengxi, Liu Yongquan and others have already used only the term 词序cíxù ('word order') [for example, 9] in their works. At the same time, other authors such as Zhang Shilu, Dai Haoi, Tang Tingchn and others already preferred the term ('order of syntactic components') [for example, 10]. Thus, in the "Dictionary of Linguistic Science Wang Li" the term 词序cíxù ('word order') is understood only as "the grammatical conditionality of the using of certain words (and phrases), which is an important syntactic tool in the Sino-Tibetan languages" [11, p. ... 106]. However, 语序yǔxù ('order of syntactic components') is not mentioned at all in this source. In doing so, however, Wang Li discusses the term 词序cíxù ('word order') in some detail.

On the other hand, Hu Zhuanglin disputes the aforementioned thesis in his work: he believes that 词序cíxù means exactly 'the order of words', and 语序yǔxù means 'the order of syntactic components' [12, p. 53]. In his concept, both terms under consideration differ from each other: 词序cíxù ('word order') implies both somatic and syntactic relations in a phrase and a sentence, and 语序yǔxù ('order of syntactic components') implies only syntactic relations. In the "Chinese-Russian Dictionary of the Russian Graphic System" provides different translations of these terms: 词序cíxù is translated as 'word order in a sentence', and 语序yǔxù as 'word order' [13]. As you can see, the problem of identifying the terms 词序cíxù ('word order') and 语序yǔxù ('order of syntactic components') has received a lot of attention in the history of Chinese linguistics.

In modern Chinese, the semantics of syntactic constructions can change depending on the order of their constituent units. Thus, the classical phrase of modern Chinese consists of 中心词zhōngxīn cí ('central word') and 修饰词xiūshì cí ('defining word'). In this case, the central word is the main word in the phrase, and the defining word is the dependent word. B. I. Gorelov believes that "according to the central component, most phrases of the modern Chinese language can be subdivided into substantive, adjective and verbal" [8, p. 106]. In a substantive phrase, the central word is a noun, in an adjective is an adjective, and in a verbal is a verb. For example, in the collocation 漂亮的裙子piàoliang de qúnzi ('beautiful skirt'), the central word is the noun 裙子qúnzi ('skirt'), which makes it possible to classify this phrase as a substantive type; in the phrase 非常开心fēicháng kāixīn ('very happy'), the central word is the adjective 开心kāixīn ('happy'), which makes it possible to classify this phrase as an adjective type; in the phrase 共同奋斗gòngtóng fèndòu ('work together'), the central word is the verb 奋斗fèndòu ('work'), which makes it possible to classify this phrase as a verb type.

When you change the order of words in a phrase, its type changes, and then the part-of-speech affiliation of its constituent components also changes. Consider the phrases





模拟动作 *mónǐ dòngzuò* ('to imitate motion') and 动作模拟 *dòngzuò mónǐ* ('imitation of motion'). In the first case, the central word is the verb 模拟 *mónǐ* ('imitate'), which makes it possible to classify this phrase as a verb type; in the second case, the central word is the noun 模拟 *mónǐ* ('imitation'), which makes it possible to classify this phrase as a substantive type.

It is important that in Chinese, depending on the order of words, not only the grammatical meaning of words in a particular phrase changes, but the semantics of the corresponding sentence and the syntactic functions of its members also change. Consider the following context: 即使生得多, 也会给真的人除灭了, 同猎人打完狼子一样。

*Jíshǐ shēngdé duō, yě huì gěi zhēn de rén chú mièle, tóng lièrén dǎ wán láng zǐ yīyàng.*

No matter how many of you are born, real people will destroy you, just as wolf hunters destroy.

Here, if the nouns 猎人 *lièrén* ('hunters') and 狼子 *láng zǐ* ('wolves'), (同狼子打完猎人一样) are interchanged in the construction, then the new design will already mean 'how wolves destroy hunters'. In this case, the semantics of the original sentence is significantly modified due to a change in the order of its constituent words. At the same time, in the original sentence, the word 猎人 *lièrén* ('hunters') is the subject, 狼子 *láng zǐ* ('wolves') is an object; and in the modified sentence, the word 狼子 *láng zǐ* ('wolves') becomes the subject, and the noun 猎人 *lièrén* ('hunters') becomes the object. Despite the change in the syntactic function of the units involved, in both sentences the syntactic components are arranged in the same order: subject + predicate + object.

In Russian, syntactic derivation does not change the semantics of the sentence and its metastructure, although the syntactic function of the units involved undergoes significant changes. In Chinese, a similar modification transforms 主动句 *zhǔdòng jù* ('sentence of the active structure') into 被动句 *bèidòng jù* ('sentence of the passive structure'). The construction, in which the subject designates the real subject of the action, and the addition is the real object of the action, is called 主动句 *zhǔdòng jù* ('the sentence of the active structure') [14, p. 82]. In a Chinese sentence, a change in the order of words leads to a change in the semantics of the sentence and the syntactic function of units. At the same time, in order to preserve the semantics of the sentence of the active structure in the Chinese language - during its modification - special function words are used, expressing relations equivalent to the passive voice in Russian. With the help of such service words, an active sentence can be turned into a special construction with a fixed word order, the so-called 被动句 *bèidòng jù* ('passive sentence'). This allows us to draw a parallel with the Russian-language grammatical model, and to consider the modification of this type in the Chinese as well as a syntactic derivation of 句法派生 *jùfǎ pàishēng* (which is still extremely rarely described in Chinese linguistics).

One of the classical grammatical tools used in the Chinese language for creating syntactic constructions of a passive type is the hieroglyph 被 *bèi*, which is a function word. So, a modification of the above example with the hieroglyph 被 *bèi* would look like this: 同猎人打完狼子一样 ('how the wolves were destroyed by the hunters'). If in the original sentence the subject is the word 猎人 *lièrén* ('hunters'), the object is the word 狼子 *láng zǐ* ('wolves'), then in the derivative the word 狼子 *láng zǐ* ('wolves') becomes the subject, the noun 猎人 *lièrén* ('hunters') becomes the object. However, despite the change in the syntactic function of the units involved, the semantics of the original sentence is preserved. The syntactic components in the sentence of the passive structure are arranged according to the following model: subject + function word 被 *bèi* + object + predicate. Thus, in the context of a simple declarative sentence, syntactic derivation in Russian is typically implemented by changing the form of the verb, and in Chinese, function words are used for this.

**Conclusion.** In Russian, syntactic derivation changes the functionality of linguistic units, but does not lead to a change in the semantics and metastructure of the sentence. Syntactic derivation is also common in Chinese. As well, in Chinese grammar, the terms 词序 *cíxù* ('word order') and 语序 *yǔxù* ('syntactic component order') characterize hierarchically different levels of syntax for a simple declarative sentence. The word order functionality in Russian and Chinese



simple declarative sentences has its own peculiarities. However, the relevant linguistic relations in both Russian and Chinese languages can be described in the aspect of formalizing these languages and their system modeling.

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