

STRUCTURAL AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF IMPERSONAL SENTENCES

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Annotation

The article examines the syntactic meaning of one - partedness, defines the semantic features of sentences with one main member. The signs of impersonal sentences are characterized in detail: semantic basis, structural features. The main types of impersonal sentences are described taking into account the general meaning and morphological nature of the main term. The classification of structural and semantic groups of impersonal constructions takes into account the grammatical form of mandatory and optional members. The presented classification shows that the meaning of impersonal sentences receives a different structural expression. However, in all structural variants there is a common element – a form of impersonality with the same indicators.

Keywords: one - partedness, the nature of the main term, impersonal sentences, impersonal verbal, impersonal nominal and impersonal participial sentences, sentences with proper impersonal verbs, sentences with personal verbs in impersonal use, state category words, short forms of passive participles, infinitive, negative words.

The appearance of the section "One - part sentences" in Russian grammar was a natural stage in the development of linguistic thought, since grammarians of the XVIII-XIX centuries limited their object to a system of sentences that coincide with logically correct two-part judgments. The merit of A.A.Shakhmatov, who developed the classification and terminology of "one - part" sentences, is that he put "one - part" sentences on a par with two-part sentences, without denying the ambiguity of thought. The syntactic meaning of singleness is characterized by a special way of expressing predicativity – in one main member of the sentence, which is the communicative and logical center of the utterance and combines the psychological subject and predicate. A one-part sentence "expresses a one - term judgment with one main member - predicate, in which there is no subject of judgment as a logical category. ... but on the other hand, there is an object of judgment subject to lively perception, lively contemplation" [3, p.111]. Due to these properties, single-part sentences serve as a means of compact and economical transmission of information, are a vivid expressive means and are of great interest in terms of text formation.

Semantic features of one-part sentences are mainly reduced to the nature and method of actualization in the sentence of one of the two components of thought-the subject or predicative feature. The nature and method of actualization of either the subject of speech-thought, or a predicative feature are connected, first of all, with the lexical semantics of the main member, with the form of its representation and with its contextual environment. Cf.: *I go out, and there is no one there. We walked, walked and got ready to go home.* All single-compound sentences have the same lexical unit as the main member, but they belong to different structural and semantic types. In this case, the difference in structural and semantic types is due to the form of the verb predicate.

On the basis of the grammatical characteristics of the main member of the sentence and the semantics of the whole construction, conjugate-verb, impersonal, infinitive and nominal one-part sentences are distinguished. V.V. Babaytseva identified and described in detail seven structural and semantic types of

one-part sentences in modern Russian: definitely-personal, indefinite-personal, generalized-personal, impersonal, infinitive, nominative and vocative [1, pp. 24-26].

The most diverse type of one-part constructions are impersonal sentences, which are traditionally understood as sentences whose grammatical basis is represented by one main member - the predicate. Its morphological nature excludes the position of the nominative case with the meaning of the subject of speech, i.e. the subject (*It was getting dark; I was scared; There was still a mile to go to the station* (Lermontov)). Semantically, impersonal are "sentences in which an action or state (attribute) is expressed, arising and existing independently of the producer of the action and the carrier of the attribute" [2, p.100].

In the system of impersonal sentences, G. A. Zolotova identifies "absolutely impersonal" constructions (*Freezing; Frosty; Dark; Dusk*), "reporting some natural phenomena perceived by the linguistic consciousness as an object-free state, a state in itself that is not associated with any carrier" [5, p.160]. A. N. Gvozdev notes the peculiarity of impersonal constructions to denote "states that are imposed on a person from the outside, in addition to his will and desire; such states are characterized by unconsciousness, involuntary, unaccountability"[4, p.91]. And the scientist designates the figure expressed in the form of the creative case as "an elemental force that involuntarily causes this or that process": *Thunder killed a person*.

The semantic basis of impersonal sentences is recognized by most scientists as the absence of an active figure (or a carrier of a trait), since an indication of a figure (or a carrier of a trait) in a proposal can still be, however, in a form that does not allow a grammatical subject. Here, following V. V. Babaytseva, we can talk about the passivity of the figure in impersonal sentences [2, p.96]. Let's compare the examples: *I wanted to remove it from there* and *I wanted to remove it from there...* In an impersonal sentence, *I wanted to remove it from there ...* there is an indication of the actor (me), however, the verb-predicate form does not allow the nominative case, it cannot be established in connection with other words, and the action is presented as proceeding independently of the actor.

The contents of the main member of impersonal sentences are: a) the designation of an independent feature – an action, a state; b) the expression of the inconsistency of the action with the figure; c) an indication of the relation of the utterance to the moment of speech (syntactic time). The indicator of these values is a form of impersonality: the 3rd person singular of the present-future tense, the past tense of the neuter gender.

The structure of impersonal sentences is diverse:

- a) the main member does not require additional words: *Evening; Dawn; Freezing;*
- b) the main member requires an addition in the genitive case: *There was no opportunity to go; No noise was heard; There will be enough food for a short time;*
- c) the main member requires an addition in the dative case (if necessary, designate the subject): *I am unwell; He could not sit at home;*
- d) the main member requires an addition in the creative case: *It felt damp; It felt cold;*
- e) the main member requires a direct addition: *The dam blew up; The plane was shaking.*

The main types of impersonal sentences differ in their general meaning and in the morphological nature of the main member: impersonal verbal, impersonal nominal and impersonal participial sentences.

The first type is represented by varieties:

- 1) sentences whose predicate is expressed by verbs with the meaning of the active impact of natural forces on an object: *Floating lighthouses were torn from anchors; Eyes were dusted with dust;*
- 2) sentences in which verbs denote various kinds of natural processes, most often – changes in the weather, time of day, seasons, etc.: *It was getting cold; It was already dawn;*
- 3) sentences with impersonal verbs on -xia expressing involuntary lightness, and when negated, on the contrary, the difficulty or even impossibility of staying in a certain state: *But you can't sit; I'm working well today.*
- 4) sentences in which verbs express the painful state of a living being, most often – a person: *He was shivering; His eyes were rippling;*
- 5) negative sentences expressing the absence of a certain object or phenomenon in the described situation: *There was no time for reflection; There is not a single star in the sky.*

This type distinguishes sentences with proper impersonal verbs, which can represent the state of nature as a process by introducing phase verbs into the sentence (*It was beginning to dawn*). The greatest power of impersonality is manifested in sentences with a personal verb in impersonal use. The spontaneity of natural phenomena is particularly clearly emphasized here. *Water washed away the road* – water becomes an instrument of some other elemental force (wind, snowmelt).

The second type is impersonal sentences with the main term expressed in words of the category of state. These sentences are more universal in semantic terms: they can denote the state of nature or the environment: *The room is getting fresh; Leave, because it's too late, it's cold.* (Lermontov); *It is solemn and wonderful in heaven.* (Lermontov); the mental or physical state of living beings: *Why is it so painful and so difficult for me? It was awkward and painful for her;* the meaning of duty, necessity, possibility and other modal shades: *In this case, you can turn your head at the moment* (Sholokhov); *We must live!* (Bryusov); *What do you need, elder?* (Pushkin); visual or auditory perception: *For a long time there was no sound of a bell, nor the sound of wheels on a flinty road.* (Lermontov)

Impersonal sentences with impersonal predicative words that morphologically coincide with nouns (sin, shame, horror, pity, it's time, lack of time, laziness, hunting, reluctance), in combination with the infinitive, denote an assessment of the action from the moral and ethical side: *It's a sin to laugh at old age.* (Griboyedov); emotional state of a person: *And it was a pity to tell me the truth.* (Fet); due in relation to the time of the action: *I had a good friend—it's much better to be—but I still didn't have time to talk to him.* (Simonov); modal-volitional shades: *I would like to dance.*

The third type of impersonal sentences expresses an assessment of objective conditions for the implementation of that action, which is called an infinitive: *Someday it will be possible to look at the Earth from the Moon; It was difficult to start; It was not easy to work in the desert* [7, p.144].

The formal criterion for distinguishing impersonal and two-part sentences is the position of the infinitive in the sentence. The preposition makes the infinitive independent, and the sentence is divided into the composition of the subject and the composition of the predicate: *It is pleasant to meet friends with gifts.* In the postposition, the infinitive is dependent, and the sentence is one-part: *It's nice to meet friends with gifts.*

The main member of an impersonal sentence can be expressed by a short passive participle. The neuter form of the short passive participle conveys the meaning of the state as a result of the action performed. For example: *Already sent in pursuit* (Pushkin); *Sat in the printing house, where it was smoked.* In the

composition of the main member with a short participle, there may be an infinitive naming a specific action. For example: *Petrushka was ordered to stay at home.* (Gogol); *It's not allowed to bite now.* (Chekhov)

In an impersonal sentence, the main structural element may be a negative word or a construction expressing negation. For example, the negative word no, there is no: *There is no longer any position in society, no former honor, no right to invite you to visit.* (Chekhov)

The variety of ways of expressing the main term, the uniqueness of semantics, which emphasizes the spontaneity or involuntariness of a situation or state, distinguish impersonal structures from conjugated-verb single-compound sentences, emphasize the special position of impersonal constructions in Russian syntax.

The richness of structural features and semantic possibilities of impersonal sentences is demonstrated by the classification of structural and semantic groups of impersonal constructions given by A.M.Peshkovsky [6, pp.315-336]. In analyzing the structure of an impersonal sentence, scientists take into account not only the grammatical form of the main term (predicate), but also other terms that are mandatory or optional in this construction.

1. The designation of various processes occurring inside the human body by means of the corresponding verb of the 3rd person (and in the past tense of the neuter gender) and a noun in the accusative case or in indirect cases with different prepositions; for example: *The hand pulls, presses under the heart. I was tormented by convulsive pain.* (Lermontov)

2. The designation of natural phenomena (nature and social life) by means of the corresponding verb in the same forms and the noun in the creative case; for example: *It smells like a thunderstorm; It was carried away by a river; It will flood with rain.*

3. The expression of the inner state of a person is impersonally predicative in the form of a zero bundle, for example: *It was fun, it became sad.* As additional components, optional, but characteristic of these combinations, are:

a) the dative case of the noun: *I had fun; The child is cold;*

b) infinitive: *Fun to ride; Late to go.*

4. "Formless word", in the terminology of A.M. Peshkovsky, as an impersonal predicative term. Note the following types of formless words used:

a) it is possible, it should, it is necessary, it is necessary; for example: *We need to study; We need to go;*

b) sorry, it's time, time, impossible, hunting, bondage, laziness, annoyance, laughter, sin, leisure; for example: *I felt sorry for the poor old man...* (Lermontov);

c) there was no time, nowhere, nowhere, nothing, nowhere, nothing; for example: *There's no need to drag yourself to the village. There was nothing to do.*

5. A participial impersonal compound predicate expressed by an impersonal bundle was-will be and a nominal part represented by a short passive participle on -o; for example: *The promise was forgotten*

6. An impersonal (or personal with the meaning of impersonal) verb in combination with an infinitive with the irregular presence of the dative case of a noun: *We will have to spend the night here; I decided to wrap up under a canopy.*

7. Negative sentences with a personal transitive verb in the role of an impersonal and with a controlled noun in the genitive case; for example: *Not a cloud in the sky wandered.*

8. Negative sentences with a passive impersonal compound predicate and with a controlled noun in the genitive case; for example: *And there is no measure for women's stupidity.*

9. A personal verb in the meaning of an impersonal or a passive participle with a quantitative adverb or an equivalent prepositional-case combination; for example: *A lot of thoughts fermented in his head.*

The presented classification shows that the meaning of impersonal sentences receives a different structural expression. However, in all structural variants there is a common element – a form of impersonality with the same indicators.

Impersonal sentences are widely used. Impersonal constructions, expressing an action or a state, the true actor and the cause of which are unknown, actively function in the description of the nature and state of man, since in Russian the forces of nature and the causes of the inner state of man are considered as beyond human control and comprehension. The use of impersonal constructions allows us to describe states characterized by unconsciousness, unmotivation (cf.: *I do not want* – conscious unwillingness; *I don't want to* – an unconscious unwillingness), to give the action a special shade of lightness (they say to me - it's easy for me to speak) and, finally, to highlight, if necessary, the action itself or the state without attributing it to any figure. All this contributes to the widespread use of impersonal constructions in colloquial speech and in the language of fiction.

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