

THE PHENOMENON OF PERIPHRAISIS IN MODERN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

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Abstract:

The article is devoted to periphrases, which are one of the interesting and complex phenomena of linguistics. Periphrases belong to the category of tropes - stable combinations of artistic speech, used semantically indivisibly and everywhere. The article discusses the features of the semantics and grammatical design of descriptive phrases - periphrase.

Keywords: linguistics, modern Russian language, periphrase, denotation, expressiveness of the text, fiction, journalism, structural unity, periphrasing.

The functional and communicative aspect of the language and the language of the speaking subjects finds its embodiment in modern linguistics and involves the study of the features of the implementation and functioning of language units of different levels.

A special type of stable combinations (periphrases) has long attracted the attention of language researchers. In modern linguistics, there are several views on this linguistic phenomenon of language. One point of view presupposes a broad understanding of periphrasis, when this term is used for almost any descriptive turn that calls something a second time. Proponents of a narrow approach limit the composition of the periphrases, bringing to the fore any leading distinguishing feature of these turns.

"Periphrastic combinations have been known since biblical times, and their description is already found in the works of ancient theorists of language and style (Aristotle, Quintilian). In antiquity, periphrasis was attributed to figures or tropes, contributed to the creation of the effect of sublimity of speech, and was also used to replace aesthetically unacceptable words and expressions" [4].

According to some researchers, the term periphrase (periphrasis) is borrowed from the French language.

Thus, D. E. Rosenthal and M. A. Telenkova define periphrase as a descriptive turn, namely: "An expression that is a descriptive transfer of the meaning of another expression or word" [7]. A. P. Kvyatkovsky defines periphrase as: "a stylistic device consisting in replacing a word or phrase with a descriptive turn of speech" [3].

The term "periphrase" combines phenomena of different linguistic nature: descriptive characteristics (a cunning beast – a fox), assessments (old age – the evening of life), verbal pairs (to be perplexed – to be perplexed), poetic lines in the volume of a whole sentence ("Sad time! The enchantment of the eyes is about autumn (Pushkin).

The Russian language has enormous possibilities of descriptive transmission of meaning using various lexical and phraseological means. But it would be wrong to consider any turnover with a substitutive function as a periphrase, as well as to narrow the volume of periphrases, guided by only one distinctive feature, and not their totality.

Periphrasis is one of the interesting and complex phenomena of linguistics. It is used in various fields of scientific knowledge, namely: literary studies, logic, stylistics, rhetoric, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, etc. All this makes it possible to consider periphrasis not only within the framework of linguistic analysis.

"Periphrases as modeled units, representing in terms of semantics typed expressive modifications of lexical meanings of words, carrying a variety of pragmatic information, constituting a special type of linguistic meaning - periphrastic, and in terms of nomination acting as actual nominative formations, are integrative facts of language and as such should be included in the circle of objects of communicative linguistics" [1].

The peculiarities of the semantics and grammatical design of the descriptive turnover depend primarily on which area of extra-linguistic reality is called a second time: subject, action, feature. That is why periphrases are expressions that describe the object or phenomenon of reality for the second time.

The nature of the descriptive turnover also depends on the purpose for which the turnover is created, and this is largely determined by its belonging to a particular functional style of speech.

The periphrase can have several meanings. They are polysemous if they denote the primary image of phenomena, are connected by generic relations. So, for example, the periphrase "heavenly body" can be used in two meanings: like a star and like the sun.

In other cases, periphrases are considered as homonyms if they denote several primary images. So, the periphrase of the "northern lemon" is called cranberries and kohlrabi, although the first is a berry, and the second is cabbage.

If earlier periphrases were more common in fiction (especially poetry of the XIX century), recently they have been used more often in journalism.

There is still a tendency among linguists to take linguistic material from fiction, so the periphrases of the Russian language, which find their expression in the journalistic style of speech, were not the subject of a special lexicographic description. Therefore, the question of the distinctive features of the periphrasis in the language of newspapers is currently relevant.

Periphrases are secondary nominations. The semantic techniques of secondary nomination of objects and phenomena used in periphrasis are not so diverse. The primary image (denotation) is replaced by a new peripheral one (doctors are people in white coats). In periphrases, two methods of constructing a new image are mainly used: transferring the concept to another sphere metaphor or metonymy (the supporting component of the periphrase is used figuratively: green pharmacy medicinal plants) and expanding the scope of the concept of denotation (the supporting component of the periphrase is used in the direct meaning - this is a generic word in relation to the denotation: white grain - rice).

"The elementary cell of the semantics system is the unity of 3 elements, the so-called "semantic triangle": the external element of a verbal sign (a sequence of sounds or graphic signs) – the signifier is connected, firstly, with the denoted object of reality - the denotation (as well as the referent), secondly, with the reflection of this object in consciousness a person is signified. The signified is the result of social cognition of reality and is usually identical to a concept, sometimes a representation. The triple connection "signifier – denote – signified" constitutes the category of meaning, the basic cell of semantics. Semantic relations consist in the fact that these cells are likened to each other by any of

their three elements - by the signified (synonymy), by the signifier (homonymy), by denotation and referent (periphrase)" [5].

A distinctive feature of the periphrasis is their structural unity - it is mainly the construction of "adjective + noun" (blue planet, green wealth), "noun + noun" (queen of fields, son of Heaven), "numeral + noun" (third hunt). Periphrastic denotations of objects and phenomena of the external world are expressed by nouns, therefore, the supporting component of the periphrasis, which contains the grammatical properties of the descriptive turnover, in the vast majority of cases is a noun.

"Periphrases can be moderated and unmoderated. The structural and semantic models according to which the periphrases are constructed belong to the language system, for example, "city + noun in R. P.": the city of sin (Las Vegas), the city of love (Paris), the city of millionaires (Baden-Baden), the city of metallurgists (Vologda), the city of bridges (St. Petersburg) and others. Speech implementations of peripheral models either remain single neoplasms within the same context, or acquire the properties of reproducibility and stability (are usualized) and enter the corpus of language"[4].

Not every substantive combination is a secondary nomination. It is necessary to take into account the syntactic position. Since the concepts denoted by nouns are mainly paraphrased, to the extent that the periphrases in a sentence usually perform syntactic functions characteristic of a noun, i.e. it is a subject, complement or circumstance. A sign of the stability of these linguistic units is very important for the lexicographic description of periphrases. The occurrence of periphrase is occasional, but its first use is a potential opportunity to acquire stability.

It is quite difficult to fix the moment when the secondary nomination turns from an occasional one into a linguistic unit of periphrasis. Of great importance for the acquisition of stability by the secondary turnover is the character of the trait, which determines the subject correlation of the periphrase with the denotation. For example, if we compare such descriptive phrases as the steel bogatyr - dump truck and the red-haired traveler - cat, then we can notice a different dependence of these secondary nominations on the context. In the first case, the context specifies a feature that can be applied to various denotations in various plots, in the second it deciphers a feature that is relevant only in a specific plot. The reproducibility of periphrasis is due to the relevance of peripheral denotations.

"Consideration of the periphrase as an object of a system description, and not an occasional speech phenomenon, allowed us to discover that in the periphrase there is a communicative actualization of the semantics of the nominate word according to certain semantic and syntactic rules: a) the use of thematic relations between the members of the periphrase, based on the iteration of the seme of the nominate word in the supporting component of the periphrastic combination; b) the use of words of certain selective classes according to the communicative function of each of the components of the periphrastic combination; c) the use of the mechanism of figurative valence, based on the actualization of expressively promising semes of the supporting component of the periphrastic combination, generating the phenomenon of semantic formants in the periphrastic word; d) the use of a "semantic filter" that determines the presence of a direct nominative meaning in one of (or both) members of the combination as a "pledge" of its periphrasticity; e) the use of appositive relations for the paratactic expression of the semantic correlation of the parts of the periphrasis" [1].

Although most of the topics in the newspaper are constant, the specific material in them is often updated. Sometimes denotations are relevant for a short time, but during this period they are actively paraphrased, and then disappear forever from newspaper materials. Some secondary nominations have appeared nowadays and are not frequent, but their denotations may become relevant later, and then these paraphrases have a chance to become reproducible and stable. Paraphrases include both traditional paraphrases that have been used in the press more than once (white gold - cotton), and the most frequent paraphrases that have emerged in the last decade, simultaneously with the realities that they denote (the second literacy is knowledge of the basics of computer science).

«The linguistic and stylistic features of the press are the result of the generality of information of global importance. This is the reason for the convergence of the style of utterance, intensive borrowing of terminology, some stylistic techniques, types of headings, manner of presentation of content»[8].

In the language of the newspaper, mainly paraphrases born within the framework of the journalistic style are used (such paraphrases denote denotations that occur exclusively or predominantly in newspaper materials). However, in newspaper journalism, one can also find paraphrases "borrowed" from the language of fiction [despicable metal is gold, a friend of life is a wife, etc.]. Most literary paraphrases are recorded in explanatory dictionaries of the Russian language. The use of newspaper paraphrases is also not limited to the limits of the journalistic style of speech; paraphrases, frequent in the newspaper, are found both in fiction and in popular science texts, performing there, of course, somewhat different stylistic functions than in the language of the newspaper.

There are also paraphrases of famous people. Russian poet Alexander Pushkin is often called the "Sun of Russian poetry", Georgy Zhukov – "Marshal of Victory", Konstantin Tsiolkovsky – "Father of Russian Cosmonautics", Johann Strauss – "King of Waltz", Margaret Thatcher – "Iron Lady", Louis XIV – "King of the Sun", Elvis Presley – "King of Rock -n-roll."

Arguments against the lexicographic development of paraphrases often boil down to the fact that most of the periphrastic turns can be easily understood from the context and does not need a special dictionary interpretation. However, this "disadvantage" of paraphrases entirely stems from the functional features of the journalistic style - too encrypted paraphrases simply would not take root in a newspaper that should carry information in the most accessible form for the mass reader.

At the same time, although many paraphrases easily correlate with the denotation, the periphrastic image can not always be understood without information about the denotation, which goes beyond ordinary ideas. With regard to the lexicographic description of the periphrasis, the issues of speech culture become particularly relevant due to the well-established attitude to periphrastic turns as costs of the journalistic style of speech, as newspaper clichés that should be avoided. They not only help to avoid repetitions, but also in a compact form express an assessment of an object or phenomenon of reality. In the newspaper language, the new, original is dialectically interconnected with the standard, stereotypical. Every linguistic discovery in the press is inevitably put "on stream" and quickly turns into its opposite - a speech stamp. Therefore, the frequent repetition of once-created images in the newspaper is not a cost, but a pattern of journalistic style. Unfortunately, quite often there is an inappropriate use of paraphrases, when they do not agree with the context, are perceived as linguistic excesses.

Thus, periphrases serve as means of enhancing the expressiveness of the text, in many respects remain traditional phrases that developed in the previous century, but they are influenced by the new time with new realities, the reflection of which we are currently seeing with the birth of new periphrastic units.

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