

RUSSIAN POSTURAL VERBS OF PUTTING AS MEANS OF SPATIAL THINKING VERBALIZATION

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Abstract: The paper deals with the compositional semantics of derived units formed with the prefixes в-, на-, под-, над-, пред-, за- from positional verbs of putting класть, сажать, ставить, вешать. Nine groups of derivatives formed according to different models are identified on the basis of the derivational analysis. The most productive were the models which develop the verbs of putting with position-spatial, spatial and spatial-quantitative semantics. In the first and the second cases, the prefix introduces a spatial meaning and indicates the direction of movement, which is often duplicated by an appropriate preposition; at that the positional semantics of the verb is preserved in the first group, and it is neutralized in the second group. In the derivatives of the third group, the prefix introduces a quantitative value, indicating a large number of objects to which the action extends. Other groups are represented by a significantly smaller number of derivatives. So the group of putting verbs, complicated by additional semes, has mainly the derivatives with the prefix под-, indicating that the action is done secretly, with any intent. The rest models develop, as a rule, the verbs of creative, social and intellectual activity, as well as the verbs of movement and physical impact.

Key words: space, Russian positional verbs, spatial prefixes, compositional semantics

1 Introduction

The development of cognitive linguistics led to the rethinking of a number of theories. They include such a direction in the word formation, as the compositional semantics, investigating the compatibility of units within a derived word, on the one hand, and the compatibility of units with derived words, on the other. At present, a special emphasis is made on the fact that a derived word is a "linguistic way of representing the structure of knowledge and / or its evaluation" (Cubryacova, 2004, p. 408) (see also (Clark, 1997).

The term "composition" was introduced in linguistics by G. Frege. R. Langacker was among the first ones who considered this concept from the cognitive point of view (see (Langacker, 1987)). He notes that "an expression's composite structure may invoke a domain or an incorporate specification ... that is not predictable from the component structure or other conventional units" (Langacker, 2006, pp. 54-55). A similar position is occupied by E.S. Cubryacova, who distinguishes three classes of derived words: fully motivated (semantically transparent), partially motivated (partially lexicalized) and idiomatic (the meaning of a derived word is not deduced from the meaning of its parts) (1, p. 446). This means that often a native speaker has to "figure out" the meaning of a derived word, restoring the missing components. Compare, for example: Russian фельетонист is the one who (expressed by the suffix -ист) writes (restored) feuilletons (expressed by the basis), or English. compound blackboard, which does not necessarily mean a blackboard or black color in the prototypical sense of these words.

It seems important to consider the semantics of Russian derived units formed on the basis of causative positional verbs (-ложить, -садить, -ставить, -весить) and spatial prefixes (в-, на-, под-, над-, пред-, за-) from these aspects. The reference to this group of words is conditioned by the following factors. First, these verbs in Russian language, along with such correlative series as лежать, сидеть, стоять, висеть, and also лечь, сесть, стать, виснуть, represent a special lexicon-word-formation category and reflect the initial stage of space mastery by a man. They denote the causation of a state, namely a sitting, a standing or a hanging position of an object in their initial values. Secondly, the

prefixes that go back to the adverbial preverbs fix a person's orientation in space and correspond to the base axes: the horizontal (пред-, за-), the vertical (под-, над-) and the location at the intersection of these lines (в-, на-).

Russian spatial prefixes, like spatial prepositions, have often become the object of linguistic analysis (see, for example, the collections (Issues in Russian Morphosyntax, 1984; The scope of Slavic aspect, 1985; Verbal prefixation in Russian language, 1997)). Many works are devoted to positional verbs (of Russian, and other languages) (see, for example, (Barton, 1968; Newman, 2002; Rakhilina, 1998). In our study, a special attention is paid to the peculiarities of derived word compositional semantics, which is connected with the search for answers to the following questions: what is the result of the spatial prefix and the positional verb of location interaction; why a number of derived words develop other non-spatial meanings; what influences the development of such values?

2 Materials and methods

The material for the work was the meanings of the verbs and prefixes recorded in the Dictionary of Modern Russian Literary Language in 17 volumes, in the Great Academic Dictionary, in the Interpreting Dictionary of Russian Language ed. by I.A. Shirshov, in the modern explanatory dictionary of Russian language ed. by T.F. Efremova, in the explanatory dictionary of Russian language ed. by D.N. Ushakov, as well as their use, reflected in the National Corpus of Russian language. During the analysis they used the methods of compositional semantics, as well as the data obtained by comparative-historical method.

3 Results

First of all, it is necessary to take into account that modern Russian language has the redundancy of causative positional verbs of imperfective type (IV) (класть – ложить, сажать – садить, вешать – весить¹), which is eliminated in the language by their stylistic distinction: ложить, садить, весить (in the meaning to 'hang') are labeled as colloquial, класть, сажать, вешать are marked as literary. At the same time, the vernacular forms left their mark in literary language, since a number of prefix causative verbs of PT is developed on their basis (наложить, насадить, навесить, etc.).

In addition to the structural features of producing verbs, their semantics must also be taken into account. So, they are all multi-valued. In this case, their main meaning is positional one: класть - to bring in lying, or vertical, position; сажать - to bring to a sitting position, or a horizontally-vertical one; ставить - to put in a standing position, or a vertical one; вешать - to provide a hanging position. Only the verb класть is treated ambiguously: the Large Academic Dictionary provides an extensive meaning 'to put somewhere' is fixed as the main one, while the positional value is presented as first one in other dictionaries. Besides, these verbs have a number of non-position values that will be described later.

So, let's consider what derivatives are formed on the basis of the bases -ложить, -садить, -ставить, -весить и префиксов в-, на-, под-, над-, пред-, за-. Table 1 shows the possibility of these units combination.

¹ The verb весить in the meaning of 'вешать' is not used in modern speech, in some dictionaries this meaning is marked as obsolete (for example, in the Explanatory Dictionary of the Russian language edited by D.N. Ushakov).

Table 1. Word-building possibilities of positional putting verbs and spatial prefixes

	-ложить	-садить	-ставить	-весить
в-	+	+	+	—
на-	+	+	+	+
под-	+	+	+	+
над-	—	+	+	+
пред-	+	—	+	—
за-	+	+	+	+

As can be seen from Table. 1, causative verbs are combined with prefixes actively. So, the basis -ложить forms the following derivatives: вложить, наложить, подложить, предложить, заложить. The base -садить develops the derivatives вложить, наложить, подложить, предложить, заложить. The verb ставить, combining with all considered prefixes, forms the following derivatives: вставить, наставить, подставить, надставить, представить, заставить. The basis -весить acts as a manufacturing base for the derivatives навесить, подвесить, навесить, повесить. There are no derivatives with the prefix пред- and the basics -садить and -весить, with the prefix над- and the base -ложить, and also with the prefix в- and the base -весить. Most of the developed derivatives, with the exception of подвесить and надставить, are multi-valued ones. In addition, there are homonyms (наставить, заставить). Many derived words have stylistic marks: obsolete and colloquial.

4 Discussion

Let's consider the structure of the derived verbs and select the groups of derivatives depending on the way of a producing base and a formant interaction.

1. Spatial value of prefix + positional verb of putting = the verb of putting with position-spatial semantics. The following verbs are formed according to this model:

- 1) вложить - 'to put inside in a lying position': to put the brush in the box;
- 2) наложить - 'to put on a surface in a lying position': put a tracing paper on the drawing; 'to place on the hole attaching': put patches;
- 3) подложить - 'to put under something in a reclining position': lay the rug under the door; 'to put something under a lying position, attaching': to put silk under coat;
- 4) заложить - 'to put in a lying position for something': to lay the pillow behind the head;
- 5) подсадить - 'to put in a sitting position, to help sit down, to climb': to put an old woman into the tram;
- 6) вставить - 'to place inside or in the middle in a standing position': insert the glass into the window;
- 7) подставить - 'put in a standing position under something': to place the barrel under the water pipe;
- 8) навесить - 'attach to hinges, hooks, a nail': hang the door;
- 9) подвесить - 'to attach to anything, under something': to hang the lamp on the ceiling.

In such cases, the positional semantics of the verb is preserved, and the direction of motion provided by the prefix is usually duplicated by the preposition: вложить в..., заложить за..., подставить под..., etc. The prefixing derivatives are formed from all four verbs in question by this model. However, not all prefixes can participate in the development of such derivatives, пред- and над- are among them. Therefore, the values 'to place an object before something' and 'to place an object above

anything' are expressed using the verb and prepositional-case forms, and the latter indicate the direction of movement.

Some of the verbs presented in this group denote not just the placement of an object somewhere, but constructive activity. For example, to lay silk under the coat can be treated as "to create a lining", at that the position-spatial semantics ('put in a lying position under something') is preserved.

2. Spatial value of the prefix + the verb of putting = the verb of putting with spatial semantics. This group includes the following derivatives:

- 1) вложить - 'to put inside': put the letter in the envelope → 'to put money in something': to invest money in the project;
- 2) наложить - 'to cover something from above with a layer': to put make-up on the face; → fig. to put a trace, an imprint, to fine;
- 3) подложить - 'to put under something or nearby': to put the heating pad at feet;
- 4) заложить - 'to put inside': to lay the reinforcement in a concrete structure; 'to fill a hole by putting something': to lay a breach with bricks;
- 5) всадить - 'to put something stabbing inside something (usually alive) with a strong movement': to put the knife in the back; colloq. всадить - 'to put a lot of money into something': to put in all capital;
- 6) насадить - 'to fix an object on something long, sharp, to pierce': to put the duck on a spit;
- 7) colloq. засадить - 'to put forcibly for a long time': to put in jail; colloq. "To force to do something": to make girls to sew;
- 8) вставить - 'put information inside an object containing it': to insert a quote in a manuscript;
- 9) подставить - 'place under anything': to place the chair for the feet;
- 10) obsolete представить (deliver) somewhere, to someone: to present the nobleman to the general.

In these derived verbs some, indicating the position (horizontal, vertical, horizontal-vertical), is neutralized, which allows them to denote a much larger range of situations. It should also be noted that the semantic specificity of the derivatives всадить and насадить, which are related to the colloquial verb садить, signifying a strong, vigorous action (the boy runs down the road, the wind blows strongly, the adolescents beat him on the back, the battery fires rapidly).

3. The non-spatial (quantitative) value of the prefix + (position) verb of placement = the verb of putting with space-quantitative semantics. The following verbs belong to this group:

- 1) наложить - 'to put something in a certain amount on something or inside anything before filling': to put firewood in the stove;

- 2) подложить - 'to put in additionally': to put porridge in a plate;
- 3) заложить - 'to put on a surface, filling it': lay the table with books;
- 4) насадить - 'to put in a sitting position, filling it': put people in the bus; 'Put, burying roots in the ground, in large quantities': to plant trees;
- 5) посадить - 'to place additionally, burying roots in the ground: to plant acacias;
- 6) засадить - 'to put, burying roots in the ground, in many places': to plant the site with birches; colloq. 'to spend a lot of money': to put in all money;
- 7) наставить - 'to put in a standing position in a large quantity': to set dishes on the table; "to extend by adding": to extend the sleeve;
- 8) надставить - 'to extend by lengthening': to extend the sleeve;
- 9) заставить - 'to put in standing position in large numbers': to put a lot of books on the table;
- 10) colloq. навесить - 'put in a hanging position in large quantities': to hang ornaments;
- 11) завешать - 'to put in a hanging position, having arranged on all space': to hang walls with pictures.

Let's note that sometimes a prefix combines spatial and quantitative values, for example: to put firewood in the stove, to put people in the bus. As can be seen from the examples, the value of accumulation is mainly expressed by the prefixes на- and за-, and additionally - the prefix под-. The positional meaning of the verb is preserved in some cases, compare: to lay the table with books, to put a lot of books on the table, to hang the wall with pictures.

Derived verbs наставить and надставить, having the same value 'to extend by adding' (to extend the sleeve), can be attributed to the verbs of physical influence on an object.

4. Other non-spatial values of the prefix + (position) verb of putting = (positional) verb of putting, complicated by additional senses. The action denoted by such a verb is not aimed at an object itself, but at other, more distant goals (storage, some secret intent, etc.):

- 1) подложить - 'to put secretly, with intent': to put an explosive device in the building;
- 2) посадить: "put next with any purpose": to put the policeman to the prisoners;
- 3) подставить 'to put instead of someone, to replace': to substitute a real sculpture for a fake;
- 4) заложить - 'put somewhere for storage': to lay silage; 'to put (put in literally) as a deposit': to borrow the clock.

5. Other non-spatial values of the prefix + verb of putting = the verb of creative activity. This group includes such meanings of the verb заложить as 'to build, to establish' (to establish a house), 'to harness the crew' (to harness three horses).

6. Other non-spatial values of the prefix + verb of putting = the verb of social activity. The colloquial LSV verb заложить - 'to give away, to betray' is also an example here: to betray friends.

7. Other non-spatial values of the prefix + the verb of physical action = the verb of physical action. This group includes LSV verbs заложить: colloq. 'Cause harm by excessive stress' (to

deteriorate health); colloq. 'Cause grief' (to make a foe unhappy); obsolete. colloq. 'to push, making sharp movements' (to push in the stomach).

8. Spatial value of the prefix + the verb of putting = the verb of social / speech / intellectual activity. This group combines some verbs with the prefix пред-:

- 1) предложить - 'to declare readiness to provide someone, something at the disposal': to offer a chair;
- 2) представить - 'to present': to submit projects for the competition; "To initiate a motion for rewarding": to submit to the award; 'Call by name, introducing': to present the guest to the audience; "To be representative": to represent the committee;
- 3) представить - 'to imagine': to imagine the future.

The verbs предложить and представить do not have a causative-positional meaning in modern Russian language (предложить does not mean to put before something, представить does not mean to put before something). Although, the abovementioned LSV were formed from them using semantic derivation.

9. The spatial meaning of the prefix + the verb of putting = the verb of motion. This model corresponds to such derivatives as навесить - 'to send the ball, the puck with a strong blow towards the goal, the basket' (to kick the ball on the gate); наставить - "to direct, to aim" (to direct a pistol on the opponent).

5 Conclusions

Having examined the features of prefix interaction having the initial spatial meaning and positional verbs of putting, we identified nine groups of derivatives derived from different models. The first three models were the most productive ones, on which the verbs of putting are developed with position-spatial, spatial and spatial-quantitative semantics.

The performed analysis allows us to draw some conclusions about Russian spatial thinking. First of all, the situation of an object placement in a certain position is significant for Russian language consciousness, as evidenced by the frequency of the first model, according to which the verbs of putting with position-spatial semantics are developed.

Secondly, as is known, the category of space is the basis for the development of new categories in a language and, accordingly, in human thinking. In Russian, such a spatial characteristic as the direction of motion (putting) is associated with the following non spatial parameters:

- 1) with the quantitative characteristic of an action (the prefixes на- and за- denote not only the direction of an action, but also a large number of objects to which this action extends);
- 2) with the peculiarities of an action course (the prefix -под indicates that the action is done in secret, with some intention or additionally, and над- indicated that it is directed only at a part of an object);
- 3) with physical impact on an object (prefixes на- and над- may indicate the increase of an object size).

Acknowledgement

The work is performed according to the Russian Government Program of Competitive Growth of Kazan Federal University.

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