

PRETERITES IN THE SLAVONIC-RUSSIAN PROLOGUE OF THE XV CENTURY

^aANNA ALEXANDROVNA EROFEEVA, ^bTATYANA ALEXANDROVNA KORNEYEVA, ^cTATYANA DAMIROVNA MARKOVA

^a*PhD student at the Department of the Russian Language and the Methods of RL Teaching, IFMK KFU, 18 Kremlyovskaya street, Kazan 420008, Russia*

^b*PhD of Philology, Associate Professor, Associate Professor of the Department of Russian Language and the Methods of RL Teaching, Institute of Philology and Intercultural Communication KFU, 18 Kremlyovskaya street, Kazan 420008, Russia*

^c*PhD of Philology, Associate Professor at the department of teaching Russian as a native and foreign language, Nizhny Novgorod State Linguistic University named after N.A. Dobrolyubov, K. Minina street 31a, Russia
e-mail: ^aAnnaribka86@mail.ru, ^btatyana.tak1110@gmail.com, ^ctatiana.markova2012@yandex.ru*

Abstract: This article's research subject is preterites in the previously not described Slavic-Russian Prologue from June to November 1429, posted in an electronic resource (<http://www.stsl.ru/manuscripts/index.php>). Based on the uniqueness of the Prologue as a genre and as a text representing a creative interpretation of the primary sources, the semantics and functioning of linguistic units are of particular significance in this work. This is especially valid in terms of analyzing the formation of the Russian normative and literary tradition. Microcontexts in which past tense forms of verbs were utilized were chosen by constant sampling from a specified Prologue (438 sheets of handwritten text). Subsequently, contextual grammatical and stylistic semantics of preterites (as the components of a single grammatical paradigm) were analyzed and described.

Keywords: grammatical paradigm, preterite, aorist, imperfect, perfect

1 Introduction

The research problem, the results of which allowed us to write this article, has repeatedly turned out to be the focus of attention of many scholars, namely: V.V. Borodich, E.M. Vereshchagin, B. Gavranek, A. Gamanovich, V.M. Zhivov, L.P. Zhukovskaya, A.M. Kamchatnov, V.V. Kolesov, V.G. Kostomarov, P.S. Kuznetsov, B.A. Larin, D.S. Likhachev, T.P. Lomtev, S.P. Lopushanskaya, V.M. Markov, Yu.S. Maslov, S.D. Nikiforov, N.V. Novikova, P.V. Petrukhin, V.I. Postovalova, M.L. Remneva, E.A. Fet, G.A. Khaburgaev, P.Ya. Chernykh, E.N. Eterley, and many others. The purpose of our study is related to the need to clarify some aspects of the Russian literary standard developed using the material of a previously unexplored ancient manuscript. There is still no unanimity in the answers to this question since many of the most important questions in the history of the Russian Language are traditionally resolved through the use of foreign material (Markov, 2001). Between the elements of different origins and between the markers of different regulatory standards (as for preterites, first of all), the text demonstrates quite meaningful, systemic relationships, and not just random interference of various communicative formats.

The priority rule of the Prologue is a book, with the active use of simple preterites. Does this indicate that the Prologue is divorced from the real speech of that period? In connection with the analysis results of the text under study, it is necessary to give a negative answer to the question posed, contrary to the usual point of view. Church Slavonic language of the Russian edition (in which, first of all, Prologues were written), which served important spheres of culture, is the literary Language of Russia of the XI - XVII-the centuries. This Language had a multi-component paradigm of preterites, and the East oral Slavic of the historical period had no simple preterites as such. Therefore, when the thing is about the preservation of the written Language in the monuments of a complex system of past times, one probably should bear in mind that we are talking about a norm that is formally preserved as the tradition result, as the sign of a literary language. The Church Slavonic edition — Russian and normative — was well known to Russians and actively interacted with Old Russian languages as a version of a higher

and prestigious level. All of the mentioned above is confirmed by the results of contextual semantics and stylistics analysis of the studied Prologue.

2 Methods

The primary research method is the historical method, which permitted us to unveil the functions of preterites in the Slavic-Russian text and trace the features of the literary tradition development in verb forms. This method's result and descriptive and systematizing methods are the text-forming functions of preterites, which define the event and modal polyphony of fragments. The methods of component and contextual analysis of linguistic units enabled us to pay attention to the syncretism of semantics and grammar of verb forms and maximize the use of the full potential of their grammatical semantics, syntagmatic and paradigmatic. The analysis of the paradigmatic and syntagmatic connections of linguistic units deepened the idea of the oral and written forms of language interaction during the formation of the literary tradition and the literary norm. The comparative method permitted us to compare the studied manuscript's data with Slavic writing's oldest manuscripts and later works, thus emphasizing the truth of the proposed conclusions.

3 Results and Discussion

T.I. Froyanova, examining various writing manuscripts of the 12th-15th centuries, notes that the business texts of the indicated period often use aorist in perfect meaning exclusively to enhance the bookish style (Froyanova, 1970). Thus, already during the indicated period, the specially updated semantics of the components of the preterite paradigm was a stylistic marker of texts of a high book standard. At the same time, let us disagree with the researcher: the aorist "effectiveness" is not identical to the perfect.

At the same time, the semantics of effectiveness (without a modal axiological connotation) is the characteristic of aorist forms, indeed. Similar cases occur in the Prologue of the 15th century. Regularly, the aorist forms serve to indicate some final action that completes the sequence of actions indicated by the participles. It is probable that in such cases, the participles semantically compensate for the circumstantial "insufficiency" of the aorist semantics, introducing dynamic layering and volume into the text, taking actions from one plane, and creating some semantic stereo effect. Regarding this case, syntactic homogeneity is established between the forms of the aorist and the participles, and parallel structures are built in a sentence or a text, sequentially.

The meaning of the result conveyed by the forms of the aorist in the context of Prologue plots is organically combined with the main meaning of the aorist - action as a certain fact of a historical nature in the past, without an additional shade of expression or evaluation - in the headings of memorable events to which this or that day is dedicated. Within a single plot fragment, the aorist's forms in their basic meaning fulfill the function of the leading narrative form, lining up on the principle of stringing into homogeneous rows of predicates and filling the living space with dynamics and eventfulness. Moreover, the number of aoric forms can be very large in a relatively small volume of text. For example, more than 30 forms of aorist were found in the "Memory of the Holy Martyrs Fotian, and Anikit" (2 pages of the Prologue), including the connective components of compound nominal predicates, and aorist forms were used 49 times on 3 pages of the narrative in the "Word of the Barbarian the Robber". In everyday narratives, the aorist forms used in the Prologue function as designations of the main life milestones, representing a chain of names by which it is easy to restore the entire biography of the saint.

Aorist forms in a context can be surrounded by various

circumstantial shades, combined with the semantics of aorist performance. In particular, these may be the shades associated with the speed of the indicated action, and in the case of a long homogeneous chain of aoric forms, with the action swiftness. Thus, St. John Chrysostom, reflecting on the effectiveness of prayer, emphasizes the need to pray not only with the lips but with the heart. This fragment is contained in the analyzed Prologue, and the actions related to the effectiveness of heartfelt prayer, with the instant response of God to the call of a warm heart, are indicated by a number of aorist forms that follow one after another in the space of just a few lines of text. Note that the Prologue has the cases of aorist form use in the sense of a pluperfect effect, which, in general, confirms the conclusions of researchers about the aorist semantics erosion during the indicated period.

The aorist forms used in the Prologue under consideration are often the result of the undoubted influence of spoken Language on the book-written standard. For example, in the "Sacred memory of the royal and divine temple of the Almighty Savior Christ, our God", the aorist book form is found instead of the expected, according to the colloquial form model. And these are not rare cases. There is no reason to consider such formations, which are a cross between an aorist and the sacrament, random errors or evidence of illiteracy of scribes who did not understand the rules of preterite form development. The scribes use the forms of preterite very competently. The "hybridity" of preteritic formations is probably the consequence of the active interference of styles and genres with a lively and conscious perception of the preteritic language resources.

The ordinary meaning of imperfect forms is the value of the subject state, often with a modal connotation (Elliott, 2000). This can also be facilitated by the lexical semantics of the verb, as, for example, in the "Memory of the Most Reminiscent and Blessed Queen and Ktitoritsa Irina from the Blessed Church of the Almighty Savior Christ."

The use of imperfect forms in the meaning of a prolonged or repeatedly repeated action, against which events occur, most often indicated by the aorist and the sacraments, is reflected in "Presentation of the holy first martyr Archdeacon Stephen", "Word of St. John Chrysostom", "The memory of the venerable father Theodosius, the igumen of Orovsky."

In those cases, when the forms of the imperfect in the meaning of long-term action are used to describe the torment suffered by the holy martyrs, the narrative takes on maximum severity ("The memory of the holy martyr Ii"). When the forms of imperfect, in the meaning of repeated, frequent actions performed in the past, are used to describe completely unusual acts, from the point of view of an ordinary person, performed by saints, an expressive and emotional shade appears in the narrative ("The word from the life of St. Markial") (DeLancey, 1997).

In some cases, there is a peculiar interference of two communicative standards - oral (with the focus on the processes taking place in the Old Russian Language) and book-written (with the focus on the Church Slavonic pattern). The result of such interference is, for example, -хуть, -шетъ forms, which are often found in other texts of the Russian edition ("The word about the Deacon Raphael"; "The word from the Life of St. Markial"; "In Memory of our Venerable Fathers Dalmatians, Favst, and Isaac"; "In memory of the holy martyr Ii"). Similar processes are observed during the formation of aorist forms. All of this can be interpreted as an argument in favor of the fact that native speakers mastered the book norm and tried to consciously change it in accordance with the contemporary conversational standard, perceiving this norm as living, natural, and modern.

M.A. Kazazayeva (2000), analyzing the use of perfect forms and plusquamperfect in "The Tale of Bygone Years", notes the high frequency of perfect forms with a complete set of components, with the exception of several cases of 3rd person forms. This is also indicated by S.I. Merechina, analyzing the texts of the works by Cyril Turovsky (Merechina, 2001). The considered

Prologue makes it possible to agree with the conclusions and observations of researchers. As a feature of perfect forms, one should note their semantics, not duplicated by any other verb forms that function in the text: the semantic specificity of the perfection is noteworthy, which is associated with the designation of an action that has not just an actual result, but an observable (De Haan, 1999; Givón, 1982) and extremely significant result linking the past-present-future together ("Memory of the priesthood of the royal and the divine temple of the Almighty Savior Christ, our God").

The forms of perfect, denoting the relevant and significant result (Klenin, 1993; Haugen, 1972) in the context of the Prologue, can acquire the connotation of a well-known, indisputable fact ("The Word of Holy Ephraim"). In such cases, the effective semantics of the perfect can include semantic nuances inherent for plusquamperfect ("Word from the Patericon").

The importance and uniqueness of the action indicated by the perfect form can be emphasized by the strong semantic position that the shape of the perfect takes in the fragment (Baayen, 1997). In the end of the text, for example, the perfect form can indicate the action in which the main idea of the fragment is summarized ("The word of holy Ephraim").

The few plusquamperfect forms found in the Prologue under consideration are used in their basic meaning - an action performed in the past before another action performed in the past, which allows you to arrange the actions in the past tense space in a relatively chronological sequence ("The position of the honest belt of the Most Holy Mother of God").

Denoting an action committed in the past earlier than the narrated events, the form of past perfect tense can introduce into the context the semantic circumstantial elements of remoteness degree concerning the indicated action from the moment that is reported in the text ("Memory of the Holy Martyr Tation"). This text shows that due to the use of the past perfect form, there is not only the distribution of actions in the past in chronological order, but also the indication of a long time: the martyr had the faith of Christ for a very long time, that is, a very long time.

4 Summary

In general, the analysis of the Prologue makes it possible to assert that native speakers were fluent in the book norm and consciously focused on it, reading and creating written texts. Like the colloquial standard, the book norm was perceived as living, natural, modern, and not just traditionally copied and replicated from text to text. The functioning of preterites evidences this in the studied Prologue with the maximum use of their grammatical semantics full potential - both syntagmatic and paradigmatic.

5 Conclusions

Thus, the choice of preterite in the Prologue is dominated by the artistic and communicative intentions of the author (translator/interpreter). Preterites introduce event and modal (Shirokova, 2010) polyphony into the Prologue text. The semantic potential of each verb form of the past tense and the preteritic paradigm as a whole in each specific case is intended to convey the deep value concept of not only a text fragment but of the whole era as a whole (Shayakhmetova & Zholobov, 2018; Shakurova & Yusupova, 2017; Shkurko et al., 2017).

There are not so many cases of aorist form used in the Prologue (in their main meaning). If there are other verb forms in the context, then the aorist interacts with them and produces many additional meanings (Fattakhova et al., 2019; Rakhimova et al., 2017). There are also the cases of aorist form used in the sense of past perfect.

The systemically defined grammatical semantics of imperfect is the meaning of an extended action or a state in the past (often with a modal or emotionally expressive connotation, which can

also be facilitated by the lexical semantics of a verb). The semantic potential of the imperfect assumes its auxiliary and background character. A strong connection is observed between imperfect and aorist forms: imperfect forms play a significant role in aorist's semantic and stylistic potential implementation. The alternation of groups of imperfect and aorist forms allows you to vary the narrative pace. Imperfect is able to denote not only the action of a subject but also his condition, which has become his characteristic, a hallmark.

In the studied Prologue, perfect forms are used everywhere with an updated touch of performance. More precisely, the perfection denotes an action that preceded the moment of narration and led to the result observed at the moment of narration. In contrast to the effectiveness expressed by the forms of the aorist, the effectiveness expressed by the perfect forms emphasizes the result significance of the result for the present and the future, without actualizing the cause. In the context of the perfect form, they can take on a hue of a well-known, indisputable fact, including the semantic form characteristic of the past perfect.

The duration of the action indicated by the perfect is variable. In general, the perfect form is the form with a strong end-to-end beginning. It is capable of linking the past-present-future in the context. This "transtemporality" of the perfect gives it a special status within the framework of the preterite paradigm.

The semantics of the past perfect in the Prologues are clearly outlined - this is an action that is outside the narrative chain of the text. In some sense, the productive component of the past perfect semantics is already manifested in the fact that the text took place, the considered event took place.

Acknowledgements

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

Literature:

1. Baayen, R. H.: The pragmatics of the tenses' in Biblical Hebrew. *Studies in Language. International Journal sponsored by the Foundation "Foundations of Language,"* 21(2), 1997. 245-285.
2. De Haan, F.: Evidentiality and epistemic modality: Setting boundaries. *Southwest Journal of linguistics,* 18(1), 1999. 83-101.
3. DeLancey, S.: Mirativity: The grammatical marking of unexpected information. *Linguistic typology,* 1(1), 1997. 33-52.
4. Elliott, J. R.: Realis and irrealis: Forms and concepts of the grammaticalization of reality. *Linguistic Typology,* 4, 2000. 55-90.
5. Fattakhova, N., Mubarakshina, A., & Faizullina, N.: Increasing the vocabulary of foreign students at the Russian language lessons by means of innovative methods. *Valencia, INTED 219 Proceedings. 13th International Technology, Education and Development Conference,* 2019. 5907-5913.
6. Froyanova, T.I.: *Forms of the perfect group in the monuments of the Novgorod written Language of the 12th - 15th centuries.* Leningrad: LSU, 1970. 12 p.
7. Givón, T.: Evidentiality and epistemic space. *Studies in Language. International Journal sponsored by the Foundation "Foundations of Language,"* 6(1), 1982. 23-49.
8. Haugen, E.: The inferential perfect in Scandinavian: a problem of contrastive linguistics 1. *Canadian Journal of Linguistics/Revue Canadienne de Linguistique,* 17(2-3), 1972. 132-139.
9. Kazazaeva, M.A.: *The functional-semantic paradigm of the verb "being" in the Old Russian Language (on the material. The Tale of Bygone Years "according to the Lavrentyevsky and Ipatiev lists)"*, Volgograd: GPU, 2000. 18 p.
10. Klenin, E.: The perfect tense in the Laurentian manuscript of 1377. In *American Contributions to the Eleventh International Congress of Slavists. Bratislava, 1993, August.* (pp. 330-343).
11. Markov, V.: *Selected works in the Russian Language.* Kazan: DAS, 2001. 275 p.
12. Merechina, S.I.: *The system of verb tense forms in works of Kirill Turovsky.* Kazan: KSU, 2001. 21 p.
13. Rakhimova, D., Chernysheva, A., & Komar, N.: Speech-behavioral tactics of apology in secular and religious cultures. *Ad Alta-journal of interdisciplinary research,* 7(2), 2017. 190-192.
14. Shakurova, M., & Yusupova, Z. : The functioning of the verbs in folklore. In *4th International Multidisciplinary Scientific Conference On Social Sciences And Arts Sgem ,2017.* (Pp. 171-176).
15. Shayakhmetova, E. K., & Zholobov, O. F.: The perfect tense in the manuscript of the 13th century. *Amazonia Investiga,* 7(13), 2018. 192-196.
16. Shirokova, E.N.: *Temporal language code and its emotive subcode.* Nizhny Novgorod, 2010. 189 p.
17. Shkurko, V. Y., Lukoyanova, Y. K., & Sergeeva, E.: Using Fictional Texts In Teaching Russian As A Second Native Language. *Modern Journal Of Language Teaching Methods,* 7(10), 2017. 59-63.

Primary Paper Section: A

Secondary Paper Section: AJ, AI