

EXPLICATION OF THE ZONE OF PERIPHERAL PARENTHETIC MODAL UNITS IN THE CONTEXT OF MODALATION

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The authors give a thorough account of linguistic units that express the peripheral zone of parenthetical modal units on the scale of transitivity. The dynamics of formation of their syncretic properties that in various proportion reveal the attributes of adjective, adverb and a parenthetical modal word is presented. The modalation process is related to desemantisation and decategorisation of word forms, development of pragmatic aspects of semantics in the position of parenthetical part. Peripheral modalates' attributes are: subjective-modal semantics of categorical/problematic reliability (truthfulness) of information (it is certain/ no doubt, looks like); its unpredictability (accidentally/by chance); indeclinability, absence of grammar categories, apartness from paradigms of adjective and adverb; presence of the suffix -o /-e in the morphemic structure, use of simple semi-compound sentence in the function of parenthetical modal component, absence of word-modifying subordinate relations with dependent words; emphasizing (setting apart) in speech; setting off by commas in written speech.

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Gradual character of modalation of short adjectives in the Russian language generates structures that in modern language present different stages of this type of inter-part-of-speech transposition. Graphically the process and the result of modalation can be presented in the form of links on the scale of transitivity. As a premise it is admitted that the degree of modalation of adjectival and adverbial lexemes is different, moreover, there can be movement of the same word form in various speech environment along the transitivity scale from point "A" (stage **Short adj./ Adverb**) [midpoint of short adj, and/ or adverb]) to point "B" (stage **Modal word** [midpoint of parenthetical modal words]) through a series of intermediate stages: "Ab" (stage **Short adj. modal** [periphery of short adjective] → "ab" (stage **short adj. modal** [zone of hybrid structures] → "aB" (stage **short adj./adverb: Modal** [periphery of parenthetical modal words]) (on types, attributes, degrees of transposition of linguistic units in the system of parts of speech, see [1-4].

Of interest is the study of transient phenomena, manifesting next-to-last, functional stage ("aB") of modalation of linguistic units.

In relation to functional modalates such as *it is certain/no doubt, it seems/looks like, by chance/accidentally*, that reveal a zone of the periphery on the scale of modalation, it is difficult to talk about one starting (initial) point of inter-categorical transposition. The fact is that in synchrony they, as it is known, can be correlated simultaneously with two classes of words – adjectives in the short form (in the predicate function) and adverbs homonymous to them. This circumstance makes us distinguish two transition zones with different initial

and one final point of modalation. Compare their explication (expression) in the context of the use of the adjective (1) and adverb (2), on the one hand, and correlative with them introductory modal word (3) on the other:

(1) Congruence (coincidence) of numbers on the documents is **accidental**;

(2) Numbers on the documents coincided **by chance (accidentally)**;

(3) You, **by any chance**, know him?

There is reason to assume that from a diachronic point of view, the starting point for adverbs such as *by chance/much alike* and modal words (*accidentally, it seems/probably*) are short adjectives (*accidentally, alike*), which could be transformed into parenthetical modal words at once (4) or through an intermediate stage of an adverb (5):

(4) This **seems (feels) like** truth (short adjective) --> This is, **like**, truth as it is (parenthetical modal word);

(5) His superiority (dominance) was **undoubted** (short adjective) --> a) At the last stage he won **undoubtedly** (adverb); b) they were people who knew each other, **no doubt**, a very long time (parenthetical modal word).

The degree of modalation of adjectival and adverbial word forms in various speech environment is different. Their limitation to transposition into parenthetical (introductory) modal words is the stage of periphery of the parenthetical modal words that does not disturb (impair) the semantic identity of the original lexemes. The given type of inter-part-of-speech transposition has functional character: it leads to the formation of grammatical homonyms such as *alike* short adjective / *seems/looks like* (adverb) – *apparently/like* (parenthetical modal word).

Compare typical contexts of their use:

(6) (a) *Kyamal liked the name because it sounded like his favorite name: Irina* (V. Tokareva. His Own Truth) (short adjective);

(b) Savva has copied **very truly** Alyosha Popovich's sonorous tenor (M. Bakunina. Nine grams of plastic explosive) (adverb);

(c) Dmitri Fedorovich seems to have been told of insubordination (A. Azolsky. Lopushok) (parenthetic modal).

Functional modalates such as *accidentally* are syncretic by its nature. They are characterised by such attributes as:

1) subjective modal semantics of categorical / problematic reliability of the information (*no doubt/it is certain/looks like*); its irregularity (unusualness), unpredictability (*by chance*);

2) indeclinability, i.e. absence of grammar categories and paradigms of gender and number of short adjective as well as categories and paradigms of adjectives and adverbs' degree of comparison; complete isolation, apartness from any paradigms of adjectives and adverbs;

3) the presence of the morphemic suffix *-o / -e*, formed on the basis of flexion-suffixal morph in hybrids like **it is certain, no doubt, it looks like** (cf.: *They look much alike: the copy is undistinguishable from the original*);

4) the use in the function of parenthetic modal component in a simple semi-compound sentence;

5) the absence of a predicative function; compare with the hybrid forms' predicate function in

two-member elliptical construction, prepositively used in asyndetic complex sentences with the explanatory relations between predicative parts: *No doubt: his superiority (dominance) was obvious* (\approx *There is no doubt: ...*);

6) use in a detached position, along with the absence of word-modifying subordinate relations with dependent words;

7) intonation-semantic emphasis in speech (lowering of the voice tone, increase in speech delivery rate). In written speech modalates of this type are set off by commas.

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