

LEXICAL MEANS OF EXPRESSING INDETERMINACY OF ENGLISH AND FRENCH
SEMANTICS

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Abstract: *Currently, the study of indeterminacy in the framework of formal and natural languages, in colloquial speech continues, therefore the topic corresponds to modern areas of research in the field of lexical semantics, pragmatics, cognitive linguistics. The paper attempts to give, if possible, a systematic description of the ways of expressing indeterminacy by lexical means of the language.*

Keywords: *indeterminacy, semantics, means of expression, linguistic category*

The presence in the language of a significant number of indicators of indeterminacy has been repeatedly noted by the authors of studies in the field of philosophy of language, logic, cognitive linguistics, and lexical semantics. In recent years, interest in the study of indeterminacy has increased significantly: situations of indefinite naming, ways of conveying an indefinite meaning at various language levels, etc. have become objects of consideration by scientists. Therefore, this work is devoted to describing the lexical means of expressing indeterminacy in English and French. In nature, certain and indefinite objects do not exist as such, this name takes place only in a specific speech situation, therefore the category of certainty / indeterminacy is a kind of linguistic category that exists in the minds of people and is expressed differently in each language. In French, the subject is updated with the help of a formal indicator - the article. In both languages, the certainty/determinacy of an object is a contextual category.

Determinacy as a lexical and grammatical category of a noun means the separateness of an object, its uniqueness in the described situation, uniqueness (sun, moon). It is worth talking about the certainty of an object even in the case when it belongs to a famous person, is connected "with a known object by a natural or conditional connection" (grandmother of (my) friend, mother's scarf).

In French, the meaning of the definiteness of an object is expressed by the definite articles ("individualizers") of the masculine and feminine singular *le, la* and plural *les* (Il lit *le roman de Maupassant "Une vie"* et *les nouvelles de Maurois*. - He reads Maupassant's novel "Life" and short stories by Morois). In the choice of the article, the situation of communication and context also play an important role. So, if both interlocutors are French, the definite article is used before words such as tower (*la tour*), capital (*la capitale*), this is the Eiffel Tower, Paris. Means such as noun adjectives (*seul, unique, dernier, suivante*, etc.), superlative quality adjectives, attributive clauses,

“complements expressed by a noun with the preposition *de*” [2; 15] allow you to individualize the subject (*C'est la seule amie, que j'aime dans ce monde.* - The individualizing role of the definite article also appears before nouns denoting the names of countries, parts of the world, rivers, lakes, islands (*le Mexique* - Mexico, *le nord* - north) The preposition '**de**' indicates the indefiniteness of the subject and its quantity in sentences with a prepositive adjective in relation to the noun and a formally unexpressed article (zero article) after the words expressing negation (*Jamais je ne lui chante de chansons*; I never sang to him songs), in this case there is no specific referent.

The object constituting a class of objects is indefinite, but if it is the only one in a given situation, or with the help of gestures, demonstrative pronouns following the noun determiner (“single definition, widespread definition, including isolated, and subordinate definitive” is distinguished from the rest objects, then it can be definite. In the absence of connection with the speech situation, the object has the meaning of generalization with both the definite and the indefinite article.

In English, the category of certainty / indeterminacy has a morphological design in the form of an article. In addition, demonstrative and possessive pronouns on the one hand, as well as indefinite pronouns on the other hand, are an expression of this categorical meaning, since the semantics of these pronouns is either generalizing or individualizing, respectively. So, if in the sentence *The wife was not listening* / the category of definiteness is expressed by the article '*the*', then in the sentence *His wife was not listening* / this function is performed by the possessive pronoun *his*. The only difference is that the pronoun expresses the concept of certainty more explicitly than the article.

At the same time, this example demonstrates the impossibility of replacing the definite article with the indefinite one, and vice versa, as well as the unreasonable omission of the article, without violating grammatical norms: (*Look at an apple-tree! Look at apple-tree!*).

As for the indefinite article, using the substitution method, it was demonstrated that it is possible to replace the article *a / an* with such lexical units as *a certain, a kind of, a sort of, etc.*, without significantly changing the general connotation of the statement: *We passed a windmill ? We passed a certain windmill.*

In particular, in the grammar of R. Kwerk, 6 classes of determiners are distinguished according to the criterion of their compatibility with nouns with different grammatical characteristics: 1) the first class includes determiners combined with both uncountable nouns and countable nouns in the singular and plural: definite the article (*the*), the pronouns *whose, which (ever), what (ever), some, any, no*, as well as the possessive pronouns *my, your, his, her, its, our, their*; 2) Zero article, pronouns *some and any* that are not distinguished intonation, as well as *enough* (not used with singular nouns); 3) Demonstrative pronouns *this, that* (not used with plural nouns). Demonstrative pronouns *these, those* (on the contrary, they are not used with singular

nouns); 4) Indefinite article a / an, indefinite pronouns every, each, either, neither (combined only with singular nouns); 5) The indefinite pronoun much, used only with uncountable nouns.

So, in the phrase 'Être homme c'est précisément être responsable', the word "homme" reflects the whole of human nature, without highlighting any special properties in it.

It is necessary to distinguish abstraction as the meaning of a certain semantic group of nouns from the generality inherent in all names, except for those that correspond to a particular subject. "All abstract words and words denoting material, substance, without the context of characterization and concretization, gravitate toward the definite article" [3, 13] (le soleil, le ciel, l'eau, etc.), here the article rather acts "as a sign of syntactic actualization name" [4, 21].

The category of certainty / indeterminacy plays a very important role in literary and journalistic texts. So, language means of expressing certainty perform a text-forming function, while uncertainties perform a text-compositional one. The use of indefinite nouns in the mass media also entails connecting the reader to the dialogue. In works of art, there is a primary mention of a hero or an object, an event in order to inform about the subject, which will be discussed in the future narrative.

Summing up all that has been said, it should be noted that the definiteness / indefiniteness of the subject as a lexical and grammatical category plays an equally important role both in English and in French, being transmitted in the first by syntactic, lexical and morphological means, and in the second by a grammatical indicator, the article . This category is mostly manifested in the text, in a specific speech situation and performs a number of functions: it forms the text and its composition, shows the subject's belonging to one or another person, its originality, uniqueness or generality.

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