

Repetition of Action as the Basis of the Functional-Semantic Field Represented by Various Linguistic Means

DAVID ARSENOVICH SAAKYAN
Andijan State University, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

This article examines the functional-semantic field of iterative verbs in the Russian language and the repetition of action as the basis of the functional-semantic field. Moreover, it highlights the intricate role of action repetition as a fundamental component of the functional-semantic field, specifically within the context of iterative verbs in the Russian language. Employing paradigmatic comparisons and contextual analysis, this study adheres to established methodological principles to dissect the semantics of iterative verbs and their functional-semantic implications. The findings reveal that action repetition serves as a differential semantic feature, intricately woven into the semantic potential of imperfective verbs, and manifesting through various specific aspectual meanings and contextual indicators. This research underscores the complexity and multifaceted nature of action repetition, highlighting its centrality within the functional-semantic field and its significant impact on the morphological system of the Russian verb.

Keywords: Iterative verbs, functional-semantic field, reciprocal aspect verbs, derivational base, semantics of iterative feature, meanings of producing and derivative reciprocal aspects of actions.

INTRODUCTION

In the history of global linguistics, the position of action repetition within the aspect category remains undefined, and

there is no definitive answer regarding its classification as grammatical or lexical semantics. A thorough investigation of these issues is essential not only for theoretical purposes but also for developing linguodidactic technologies that facilitate the accurate and profound study of the aspect category. This category occupies a central position in the morphological system of the Russian verb and is absent in the Uzbek language.

The unresolved issue of the correlation between the grammatical meaning of aspect and the lexical meaning of the manner of action likely holds a special place in Russian linguistics, drawing considerable attention from specialists in Russian studies. Additionally, the lexical-semantic group of iterative verbs, within whose semantic structure these meanings are pertinent, forms the core of the functional-semantic field of action repetition.

RESEARCH METHODS

In his dissertation, the author adhered to the leading and established methodological concepts in contemporary linguistics regarding the nature of language, the linguistic sign, and grammatical and lexical meanings. As noted, "...the description of a language, without becoming eclectic, must utilize different methods" [7, 285].

The investigation of the semantics of the members of the identified microgroup was conducted using the method of oppositions, based on the paradigmatic comparison of words, and the method of contextual analysis, which is rooted in the study of their syntagmatic relationships.

The method of contextual analysis is particularly advantageous when examining the semantics of predicate signs, one of which is the verb. The verb possesses only a signifier, which represents a set of generalized features devoid of denotative content [1, 45].

MAIN PART

The place of action repetition within the overall semantics of the verb can be determined by approaching the understanding of this

meaning from the perspective of aspect theory, as developed by A.V. Bondarko [4].

Bondarko addresses the meaning of action repetition in connection with solving various problems. He considers repetition as one of the fundamental conditions of aspectual opposition. As previously noted, Bondarko classifies action repetition both as the meaning of certain manners of action—such as iterative, intermittently mitigative, accompanying, multi-act – and as a core component of the semantics of certain specific aspectual meanings of perfective and imperfective aspects (indefinitely-short, demonstrative-exemplary, limitedly-short, potentially-qualitative) [4, 67].

Bondarko pays particular attention to the meaning of action repetition in connection with the study of the functioning of tense forms. For instance, when examining the features of the realization of the indefinitely-short meaning in the form of the abstract present, Bondarko notes that the meaning of repeated usual and generalized actions can be determined by lexical indicators such as *каждый вечер, нераз, часто, обычно, всегда, никогда* – every evening, repeatedly, often, usually, always, never.

In conveying the repetition and usualness of past actions, two factors play a decisive role: 1) the influence of the surrounding context on the verbal form; 2) the susceptibility of the imperfective past form to this influence. The combination of these two factors creates the possibility of presenting any action expressed by the imperfective past form as repetitive or usual.

According to Bondarko's observations, the meaning of action repetition can also be conveyed by the imperfective future form, often requiring the presence of various circumstances. Perfective verbs, when used to convey repeated actions, almost always require specific contextual conditions, and in the past tense, they almost always appear in a paired iterative construction [4].

Thus, in Bondarko's works, the meaning of action repetition is considered from various perspectives, although in none of them does the author aim to identify all the means and methods of expressing this meaning. Nonetheless, it is precisely Bondarko's doctrine of functional-semantic categories that allows

us to determine the nature of action repetition in contemporary Russian language.

“A functional-semantic category represents a system of heterogeneous linguistic means capable of interacting to perform specific semantic functions” [4, 89]. Through the interaction of these heterogeneous linguistic means, a functional-semantic field of the given category is created, which, in turn, consists of several “smaller-scale” functional-semantic fields, or microfields.

Bondarko defines the main features of the structure of the functional-semantic field as follows:

1. typically, the field has a core, a centre, relative to which other components of the field represent the periphery.
2. the field is characterized by partial overlapping of its elements; different fields also partially overlap, forming common segments and chains of gradual transitions.
3. the field encompasses semantic connections of both homogeneous and heterogeneous linguistic means.

Among the functional-semantic categories of the Russian verb, Bondarko highlights aspectuality, which encompasses various means of expressing the manner of action [4, 54]. Aspectuality unites the category of aspect and the manners of action. The aspect category serves as the morphological core of aspectuality, while manners of action are the "most important component of the periphery." Peripheral elements also include non-verbal means and lexical indicators.

The semantic content of aspects is considered as the aggregate of their functional possibilities, the «semantic potential» as a set of differential semantic features. The semantic potential of aspects finds its expression in specific aspectual meanings: “A specific meaning reflects a particular feature within the complex of differential features that characterize the semantic content of the given form, in one way or another encompassed by this semantic content.” The realization of specific aspectual meanings is influenced by manners of action and various contextual conditions. Thus, all elements of aspectuality are interrelated and interdependent.

The theory of functional-semantic categories, in our view, can serve as a starting point for analyzing the phenomenon of action repetition in contemporary Russian, especially since Bondarko considers this meaning as one of the essential elements of the semantic content of the imperfective aspect. He includes action repetition among the differential semantic features of the semantic potential of aspects.

Defining the functional-semantic field of action repetition in contemporary Russian. We rely on the following theoretical principles:

1. The semantic content of aspects constitutes a set of differential semantic features, one of which is the repetition of action.
2. The differential semantic feature of repetition is realized through a) Specific aspectual meanings, which refer to the various meanings of each aspect that result from the functioning of verb forms in a given context; b) Manners of verbal action, defined as «semantic, partly word-formation groupings identified based on the commonality of the nature of the action's progression»; c) Other peripheral means of expressing aspectual (lexical, lexico-semantic).

Repetition of action is one of the components of the semantics of manners of action, such as iterative (e.g., хаж-ива-ть, вид-ыва-ть, зна-ва-ть, говар-ива-ть), intermittently mitigative (e.g., по-хаж-ива-ть, по-глад-ыва-ть, по-март-ива-ть), accompanying (e.g., при-пляс-ыва-ть, под-свист-ыва-ть), multi-act (e.g., стукать, моргать, ехать), indefinitely-motor (e.g., ходить, летать, ездить), and verbs like повторять, случаться, приходиться, являться, and others.

Various contextual means participate in expressing repetition, including lexical indicators (e.g., иногда+приходить, изредка+ заглядывать, регулярно+навещать, пятьразвсутки+звонить etc.).

Sometimes, the repetition of action is conveyed by the verb's tense form itself: НемедленнопосылализатройкойЕчкину, скакалисломяголовузаТверскуюзаставу, обедалив

«Мавритании» или «Стрельне»
 и возвращались домой поздно вечером. - Immediately, they sent
 for Yechkin's troika, dashed headlong beyond the Tverskaya
 outpost, dined at 'Mauritania' or 'Strelna,' and returned home late
 in the evening" (A.I. Kuprin. Taper).

The meaning of repetition is supported by the plural form of
 nouns related to the verb: Ломались резцы, вибрировал станок,
 вспыхивали в друг молнии, раздавался пронзительный визг
 (Н. Асанов. Ветер с моря). - "The chisels broke, the machine
 vibrated, lightning flashed suddenly, and a piercing squeal
 resounded" (N. Asanov. Wind from the Sea).
 Сухим треском обломывались сучья. (К. Паустовский.
 Повесть о лесах). - "With a dry crack, the branches broke" (K.
 Paustovsky. Tale of the Forests).

The collected material indicates that, in conveying repeated
 actions, even within a single context, both homogeneous and
 heterogeneous means of expressing this meaning can be
 combined. For instance, word-formation means are used
 simultaneously with lexico-syntactic means:
 Союз иногда изредка поглядывал на часы. (Г. Орлов). - "Souyonin
 occasionally glanced at his watch" (G. Orlov).

The aforementioned means of expressing repetition belong to
 different levels of the language, yet collectively they constitute a
 unified system that realizes various types and shades of
 repetition. This unity can be classified as a section or a
 constituent element of the functional-semantic field.

It should be noted that the dissertation analyzes only
 instances of action repetition expressed by imperfective verbs,
 despite the phenomenon existing in the contemporary language.
 Specifically, in the realization of definite-short repetition, there is
 an "intrusion" of the perfective aspect into the domain of the
 imperfective aspect. For instance: Я два раза написал ему (I wrote to
 him twice) versus Я два раза написал ему (I have written to him
 twice). Вам трижды напомнили (You were reminded three
 times) versus Вам трижды напомнили (You have been reminded
 three times). In modern Russian, parallel usage of such sentences
 is possible.

Similarly, the parallel use of verbs of different aspects is observed in conveying the type of repetition known as reiteration. Reiteration is conveyed in the language through prefixation: пере-делать (to redo - only reiteration) and пере-дел-ыва-ть (to redo - reiteration and another type of repetition), воз-обновить (to resume - reiteration) and воз-обновлять (to resume - reiteration and another type of repetition); lexical-semantic means: снова встретиться (to meet again), еще раз подумать (to think once more), опять вернуться (to return again), второй раз спорить (to argue for the second time); and the lexical meaning of verbs: повторить (to repeat).

The mutual influence of the semantic domains of perfective and imperfective aspects observed in the process of realizing action repetition is of a specific nature. The resulting types of repetition differ in characteristics that are conditioned by the general meaning of the perfective aspect (actions as a whole, indivisible). These types extend beyond the phenomenon of repetition we are considering and require specialized investigation. Consequently, it seems appropriate to limit the study of the characteristics of action repetition to instances conveyed exclusively by imperfective verbs, which, due to the similarity of their lexical meaning, form a microsystem occupying a central place in the functional-semantic field of repetition.

The linguistic literature pertaining to the study of action repetition is marked by disordered terminology. The names for various types of action repetition are characterized by a diversity of labels, vagueness in their content, and differing scopes of the concepts designated by various terms. This can be easily confirmed by a simple sampling of the names of types and shades of repetition from recent works. For instance, in L.I. Maslennikova's article, one encounters terms such as regular and irregular repetition, indefinite multiplicity, multiplicative-correlative type of repetition, and morphological iterative [6, 34].

Researchers use several terms to denote action repetition: multiplicity, iterativity, frequency, and repetitiveness. These terms are sometimes used interchangeably, but their semantic content and functional features suggest that they are not

equivalent. To verify this, let us examine the meaning of each of these terms. The term "multiplicity", judging by its interpretation in dictionaries, is very close to the phrase "repetition of action". In the dictionary edited by Prof. D.N. Ushakov, we read: «Multiplicity – 1. Abstract noun for multiple in the first sense. 2. Repetition of action, meaning multiple action» [8, 179].

In contemporary linguistics, the concept of multiplicity is associated with the type of repetition expressed by a few prefixless verbs with the suffix -ыва- (-ива-), -ва-, which are grouped in modern aspectology under the iterative manner of verbal action. Thus, the term "multiplicity" does not cover all instances of repeated actions.

Кратность (countability) is another term used to denote repeated actions. This term is also inconvenient for use in the sense of action repetition, primarily due to the history of its functioning in linguistics [2,56].

The term кратность (countability) emerged in aspectology in connection with the study of the grammatical semantics of aspects and the establishment of criteria for classifying verbs by aspect. Linguistics has repeatedly attempted to define the content of the concept of кратность (countability). This seemingly unequivocal use of the term кратность (countability) to mean повторяемость (repetition) may suggest the parallel use of these terms. However, in our opinion, this would not be entirely correct.

As for terms of foreign origin – итератив, фреквентатив (iterative, frequentative) – their usage requires particular caution, even though they are explained through the notion of action repetition. The explanatory dictionaries provide the following definition: "Iterative" (from Latin), frequently recurring – encompassing the meaning of a repeated action [5, 48]. O.S. Akhmanova, in her dictionary of linguistic terms, defines "iterative" as repeating, multiple. Here, "iterative" is viewed as a type of verb [3, 289]. This may be considered valid for any other language but not for Russian, where the presence of two aspects is universally acknowledged. Incidentally, by placing the conjunction "or" between the adjectives "multiple" and

"repeated", the authors of the dictionary inadvertently confirm that "multiplicity" and "repetition" are not the same.

Considering the aforementioned nuances in the meaning and usage of the terms "countability", "multiplicity", and "iterativity", it can be asserted that all of them inadequately characterizes the meaning of action repetition.

SUMMARIES

The history of studying the concept of «action repetition» in Russian linguistics indicates that linguists have paid attention to this category when determining the quantity and composition of aspects, defining general and specific aspectual meanings, and distinguishing aspects from manners of action.

It has been established that action repetition, on the one hand, is a specific meaning of the imperfective aspect, and on the other hand, pertains to the lexical meanings of so-called "manners of action."

Despite a certain interest in contemporary linguistics regarding the study of action repetition, many aspects of this phenomenon remain underdeveloped or ambiguously interpreted.

Recently, this conceptual category has been examined by researchers within the functional-semantic field, represented by various linguistic means, at the centre of which lies the lexico-semantic group (LSG) of verbs such as болтать, ворчать, глотать, долбить, кашлять, кивать, метать, свистеть, повторять, названивать, покашливать, подпевать и др. (chatter, grumble, swallow, pound, cough, nod, throw, whistle, repeat, call repeatedly, cough intermittently, sing along, and others). The analysis of the semantics of the members of the identified LSG has shown that it has a complex internal structure, consisting of the opposition of two subgroups: «regular repetition» and «irregular repetition», each of which, in turn, breaks down into a series of microgroups.

CONCLUSION

The study of action repetition and its modes of expression, conducted from the perspective of the intensively developing

theory of functional-semantic categories in recent linguistics, allows for several general conclusions:

1. The nature of action repetition and its place in the overall semantics of the verb are determined through a correlative analysis of concepts such as general aspectual meaning and specific aspectual meanings, the semantic potential of aspects, and differential semantic features.
2. As a differential semantic feature (DSF), action repetition is included in the semantic potential of the imperfective aspect, alongside DSFs of duration, processuality, and others.
3. Observations have shown that the DSF of repetition does not represent a single, indivisible semantic whole. The DSF of repetition stems from the generalization of «specific» DSFs of regular, irregular, and undifferentiated repetition of action, which, in turn, are divided into «minimal» DSFs. For instance, regular repetition encompasses concepts such as intraverbal (multi-act) repetition, mutually conditioned repetition of at least two actions, and the repetition of a single action in its entirety. Irregular repetition includes definite-short, indefinite-short, the repetition of action in the distant past, repetition of action with incomplete manifestation, and, like regular repetition, mutually conditioned repetition of at least two actions.

Thus, action repetition is not merely a purely aspectual meaning; it is a whole complex of meanings generalized to varying degrees.

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DAVID ARSENOVICH SAAKYAN

PHD STUDENT, ANDIJAN STATE UNIVERSITY,
ANDIJAN, UZBEKISTAN.

E-MAIL: <KMUAZZAMKHON@MAIL.RU>