Transition of Proper Personal Names When Using in the Plural form (Based on the Material of the German Language)

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Abstract---The process of language unit reinterpretation to use them in a new communicative or syntactic function is observed in the history of development of all human languages and is characterized by extreme complexity and heterogeneity. This article deals with the process of transition of personal proper names to the category of common names at the morphological level, where the factor of this transition is the grammatical category of the plural, which determines the semantic specificity of proper names in a different way than that of common names. This is due to the fact that proper names are oriented to a single object, which does not imply multiplicity. The resulting semantic shift leading to partial or complete transition of proper names, is described in this article.

Keywords---change of denotative correlation, occasional meanings, partial or complete transition of proper names, plural category.

Introduction

The process of language units reinterpretation to use them in a new communicative or syntactic function is observed in the history of development of all human languages and is characterized by extreme complexity and heterogeneity. This fact is noted by various scientists (Kerr & Jermier, 1978; Bartsch, 1984). Thus, V. V. Vinogradov writes: "The history of a proper name and its transition into a common name with a certain meaning and a bright expressive color are very complex" (Vinogradov, 1962).The peculiarity of this process is that in contrast to common names, in which the acquired values are fixed first at the language level, in paradigmatics, and then they are concretized in speech, that isat the syntagmatic level, proper names go the opposite way. In speech they are used for naming a class of objects that are used in one way or another in relation to this individual object. When the same occasional meanings often appear in proper names in different contexts, they are assigned to them at first random features that become permanent over time, and then appear in proper names at the paradigmatic level, forming a significative component of the meaning. The close interaction of the paradigmatic and syntagmatic levels shows that the division of common names and proper names is unstable and mobile: in speech, they converge both in the meaning of private-subject correlation and in the meaning of General-subject correlation (Conrad, 1985; Burge & Karlin, 1997).

Objectives

This article deals with the process of transition of personal proper names to the category of common names at the morphological level, where the factor of this transition is the grammatical category of the plural, which determines the semantic specificity of proper names in a different way than that of common names (Hogg, 1996; Harvey, 1964; Tomasello & Olguin, 1993).

Method

In modern linguistics, a complex approach to the object of research is particularly relevant. When working with language material, the functional and semantic analysis was combined with communicative and pragmatic analysis. Along with the descriptive method, an intuitive logical method was used (Daniel, 2020; Zapf & Smith, 2008).

Discussion

According to Russian linguists studying this problem Komarova (1985), Superanskaya et al. (1986), proper names (hereinafter referred to as PN) take a special position in the language, as evidenced by the absence of a conceptual component in their structure, the absence of the article before the PN as a grammatical norm, and their disuse in their identifying function in the plural (Superanskaya et al., 2007; Gak, 1986; Komarova, 1985). Among other things, the features of word formation and pronunciation, their untranslatability into another language, and the close relationship of the PN with extralinguistic factors are distinguished (Sherstyukova 2007). All of the above characteristics indicate that the PN form an intermediate sphere between language and non-linguistic

phenomena on the language periphery, in which linguistic and extralinguistic factors come into closest contact (Čerče 2017). As a result, the PN cannot form an opposition with common names (hereinafter referred to as CN). The blurring of the boundaries between them makes it possible for cases of the PN transition to CN and explains many intermediate phenomena that are only at the initial stage of the transition process. According to existing points of view, the transition, on the one hand – is a "blurring" of the specificity of the named object (Superanskaya, 1973), and on the other hand, it is a process of secondary nomination based on the PN, largely due to the influence of the human factor, the speaker's belonging to a particular human community; linguistic, social, cultural) (Heine et al., 2019; Sadeghpour et al., 2017).

The process of transition, being a kind of linguistic universal, penetrates all vocabulary layers and is implemented at different language levels: derivational (desemantization of the PN which act as semi suffixes), morphological (the use of suffixes to express the plural category of the PN, the use of articles to indicate the gender and case of the PN), at the phrase level (the compatibility deviance of the PN with other lexical units) and at the utterance level (the acquisition of occasional meanings due to the immediate and further environment, as well as situational conditionality and determinants that help to " thicken" the PN meaning in the context) (Sherstyukova, 2007).

This paper deals with the problems of morphological transition of the PN. Morphological transition, like all its other types, is a consequence of the functioning of the PN in speech. Not all cases of morphological transition observed in the PN are fixed by the language system (Gardiner, 1958). The latter include, first of all, the PN with individual connotations, that is the PN of outstanding people who are well known to everyone, e.g.: They are not born Napoleons, they become Napoleons. Here we are referring to outstanding strategists and generals. The plural category of the PN indicates the transition of this PN to the CN (Stolberg 2019).

It is known that the main morphological categories of a noun are the categories of number, gender, case, animate/ inanimate (Faust, 1959). As for the PN, they do not have all the grammatical categories inherent in the CN. So, for example, the PN do not have an opposition on the categorical basis of animality/ inanimation, do not have neuter gender and determinants for the expression of masculine and feminine gender in personal names, the paradigm of declension of articles by cases, the PN cannot be used in the plural, without changing its meaning (Nandito, 2016; Martini, 2016). However, the analysis of the material shows that there are a large number of cases when the PN deviates in its use from the rules listed above, which indicates that in morphological terms, as well as in semantic terms, such the PN converges the CN, that is, they undergo a process of partial or complete transition (Blumfield, 1968).

Of all these grammatical categories, we shall study the plural category. It is of particular interest, because it is believed that quantitative meanings determine the semantic specificity of the PN in a different way than for the CN, as the PN refer to a single object, although there are cases in which the PN simultaneously

designate several objects. There are many points of view about the plural category of the PN:

- The PN can be used in the plural, but then multiplicity is thought of as unity (Gardiner, 1958).
- The use of the PN in the plural transits it into the category of the CN, since from the point of view of traditional logic, the idea of the PN is incompatible with the category of plurality (Faust, 1959; Blumfield, 1968).
- Plural forms of the PN are special naming units that denote the names of families and that make up the category pluraliatantum (Shcherba & Matusevich 1957). This fact allows us to distinguish them into a special category of group anthroponyms, where the denotation is always defined, and the connotations tend to zero. Such PN do not just have the sum of denotations, but have a collective meaning, being a certain social cell.
- Based on the "meaning of singularity" peculiar to the PN–they are not pluraliatantum, but singulariatantum, so the calculus of the PN in the plural is not purely semantic, but semantic-pragmatic (Rudenko, 1990).
- The PN refer to uncountable nouns and have restrictions on the formation of plural forms, the use of the article and their agreement with the definition (Gak, 1986).

Based on the material analyzed we have identified two groups of the PN in the plural:

- The PN that have a metalinguistic (or conventional-linguistic), rather than a reflective-semantic feature (partial transition of proper names, or partial appellatives) (Superanskaya et al.,1986).
- The PN that have completely transited to the CN (cases of complete occasional transition of proper names, or complete appellatives) (Rudenko, 1990).

The first group includes cases of using the PN in the plural, when it is not the connection with the denotation itself that is important, but either its direct numerical characteristic, or an indication that the PN serves as a sign (Weiss et al., 2018). This is evidenced by the weakening of the link between the PN and denotation, since the main function of the PN -the ability to identify individuals - is fading into the background, which allows us to talk about metalinguistic transition (Strittmatter, 1962).

There is a different degree of semantic shift (transition) of the PN, it directly depends on the change in denotative correlation of the PN. In cases where the correlation does not change, but only partially shifts, the so-called pluraliatantum is formed, which leads to incomplete morphological transition of the PN, for example: die beiden Frankes или die Liebe der Büdnersvertrocknetesich (Neutsch, 1974). In this type of example, we are talking about a limited set that can be indicated by context, grammatical and / or lexical units. The set designated by the PN includes a different number of people: two or more. This can be a husband and wife, other family members (ex. 1), in some cases representatives of the genus (ex. 2):

- Zwischen dem Hause der Mautenbrinks und dem Hause der Weißblatts drohte eine große Feindschaft aufzustehen (Strittmatter, 1962).
- So waren die Wolzows einpreusisches Offiziergeschlecht (Neutsch, 1974).

In all cases, first of all, the sign function of the surname, which is carried by the family, is meant. What is important here is not the presupposition of the existence of a particular family or the identification of these persons, but the naming of a group of people who are closely related to each other on the basis of a feature (common surname, common sign, which is the denotation), which serves as the basis for their integration in a set (Jobst, 1963).

The second group includes cases of complete occasional transition of proper names, or complete appellatives (Carrithers 2008; Fox et al., 2010; Mendoza, 2018). Limited sets of this type are not related by the generality of family or ancestral relationships (Lorimor et al., 2016). They are grouped on the basis of another characteristic in common. In this case, the denotative correlation is changed either when the main sub-categorical attribute "man" is preserved, or when it is changed to the attribute "not-man". The plural category performs a generalizing function, which the singular attribute raises to the rank of General:

- Die Schuld lag nicht bei den Gustav Gernguts, bei den Otto Rollings – sie lag bei ihm (Strittmatter, 1962).

In the analyzed sentence (ex.3), Gustav Gernguts and Otto Rollings are not individual, specific people, but a lot of those who have the same characteristics as them: a sound mind, a correct vision of life, fearlessness and determination (Jobst, 1975). The features that are distinguished and generalized using the plural category become clear from a macro context (Superanskaya et al., 2007).

In addition to the definite article, numerals and pronouns are used before the PN in the plural, which are markers of displaced denotation:

- Mutter Diemke hat kapiert und zahlt. Und sämtliche Mutter Diemkes im ganzen Deutschen Reich zahlen gleich mit [14, p. 56] (Rebrina & Chukina, 2018).

PN with a preposition determinant in sämtliche Mutter Diemkes (ex. 4) is all women, who lost their husbands in the war and living in poverty. In the following example (ex. 5), there is a case that characterizes the shift, that is the transition of the PN to the category of CN on the basis of external similarity:

- Zwei kleine Mädchen hüpften umher: Zwillinge - zwei kleine Elisbeths (Strittmatter, 1962).

The girls referred to in the analyzed sentence are called differently. The proper name Elisabeth (without –s) belongs to their mother, whom they look very similar to. But it is the plural form of PN that indicates the generalizing meaning of the name in this context (Schodde et al., 2017). When the PN is fully converted to a CN, the suffix-s is omitted for appellative PN, which, along with numerals and

determinatives, also indicates the new status of the PN (the desire for monoflexion):

- Die Hitler kommen und gehen, aber das deutsche Volk bleibt (Strittmatter, 1962). A PNused in the plural does not have a formal indicator -s, and only the article acts as a plural marker, like a CN, for example: der Lehrer – die Lehrer.

In this regard, it is interesting to compare the process of PN transit with the reverse process – the process of converting a CN into a PN:

- Marie läuft allmählich auf wie das Hefestück bei Kaisers in der Backstube (Jobst, 1975).

In order to emphasize the new status of the CN, which in this case is used as a PN, it is necessary to correctly formalize this new status grammatically, which is done using the plural suffix of the PN, since the plural of the CN der Kaiser is formed without adding the plural formant to the word, but only using the article - die Kaiser (Nycz & Tęcza, 2020). The following example illustrates a different mechanism of transition of personal proper names to the category of common names:

- In seiner Dachstube schob er die Liliencrons, die Storms und die Mörikes beiseite (Strittmatter, 1962).

The change of denotative correlation is accompanied here by the change of the main sub-categorical attribute "man" – "not-man". The PN is used for naming not authors, but their works, which indicates such a process of semantic transformations as metonymization of the PN. The plural of a PN (ex. 8) expresses the meaning of plurality in inanimate objects (books).

Conclusion

The process of transition covers all language levels, and if the reasons for semantic changes in the PN are the same for all types of appeal, the mechanism for their transition to a CN depends on each specific level. For example, in the process of morphological transition, semantic changes of the PN are facilitated by the categories of gender, declension, and plural. In colloquial speech, the use of a definite article before a PN is often observed as an indicator of generic characteristics and for the purpose of expressing the speaker's attitude to the person he mentions. Among other grammatical features, the plural category is of particular interest, since it is believed that quantitative values determine the semantic specificity of a PN in a different way than that of a CN. In such cases, the use of the PN in the plural may be accompanied by determinatives (numerals, adverbs, etc.), indicating the nature of plurality; articles in the plural, and get the suffix –s. Thus, the appearance of plural category markers in PN is an indicator of the displacement of the denotative correlation of the PN and ensure the transition of the PN to a CN.

Recommendations

In this paper, descriptive method and a logical visual method are used. However, to get a reliable result, it is better not to just read this article in this field and read more articles that have been written in this field in different countries.

Acknowledgments

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