

The Typology of Repetitions in Text Prefaces

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The paper focuses on anthropological and linguistic characteristics of text repetition. It deals with introductions to special scientific texts, where the author's intention is verbalized. The author's intention determines the choice of lexical, grammatical, syntactical and stylistic means among which there are intentional repetitions. Lexical, morphemic, syntactic and synonymic repetitions are explicit units. In text prefaces (introductions) the author's intention is to present the relevant information about the book and to advertise it at that. Repetitions are aimed at the objective, precise, logical representation of information. Lexical repetitions are typical of text prefaces (TP). They are used together with morphemic, syntactic and lexical units, which makes the author's speech rich, emotional, precise, informative and reader-friendly.

Research into the process of text-formation has become one of the most popular directions in modern linguistics. Linguists' attention is drawn to text-forming factors among which the author's intention goes to the forefront. The choice of lexical, grammatical, syntactical and other means in process of text-formation is governed by the author's purposes.

The author's intention can be displayed both explicitly and implicitly. Explicit forms are easier to trace and to study as they are on the surface of the text. The purpose of the following paper is to observe functioning of repetition as a means of explicit realization of the author's intention.

It is a common knowledge that pragmatic orientation of texts of different genres varies. In belles-lettres texts the author appeals to the reader's emotions, in scientific text (ST) he renders essential information seeking factual understanding on the part of reader. TP comprises the features of both text-types. The purposes of TP are the following ones: to present information about the topical and structural composition of the book and to advertise it at that. The author appeals both to the reader's emotions and understanding. The language means used in TP appear to be objective and precise. Emphasis here is used for the sake of lucidity.

The intentional repetition is a valuable element in TP. Different authors choose individual creative types of repetitions. But there is a tendency towards a frequent usage of lexical repetitions in TP.

- (1) *Problems of rhetoric are dealt with particularly as they relate to problems with the language, as in an extensive section on comparison of adjectives under adjectives and comparison of adverbs under adverbs (Maclin, 1994).*
- (2) *Over the life of this text many, if not most, accredited schools of business either required or offered a legal environment law course. [...] Thus, the trend towards more and more legal environment courses in business schools, closely paralleled the trend in society to use law and litigation ... (Corley, 1993).*

A wide usage of terms and nomenclature words is typical of TP as well as of ST. Terms are directly connected with the concept they denote, they are included into a

synonymic paradigm, so the usage of synonymic repetition is uncommon for ST (Morokhovsky 1984:125). Synonymic repetitions in TP are presented mostly by language synonyms and are used to keep the recipient's attention on the object of communication.

- (3) *The sections represent smaller units of information, than some handbooks present (Maclin, 1994).*
- (4) *With average or slow students he will probably need to initiate study of a topic in the classroom. In fact, with these pupils he should probably devote some class time to reading (Rummel, 1967).*
- (5) *Why do you write? To communicate, to send a message to someone. Putting words on paper is a better, faster way of sending messages than smoke signals ... (Sohn, 1969).*

The author is constantly aware of the reader he appeals to. This fact to some extent determines the choice of expressive means in the text. For example, in the introduction to a popular edition (example 5) the author appeals to a broad circle of readers, who are not professionals in the given sphere of knowledge. The usage of contextual synonyms and metaphors is determined by this fact. The author aims to capture the reader's attention and to hold it by means of synonymic repetitions.

- (6) *They all do see the world. They notice everything. They observe the shapes and colours of nature ... They watch the tiny movements of people's eyes ... [...] Like the best police detectives of fiction they develop their skill of observation until it becomes second nature (Sohn, 1969).*

In examples (3), (4) the authors appeal to students and teachers who are somewhat familiar with the topic. These texts are notable for precision, lucidity, high degree of abstraction in terms of information. Lexical repetitions are intentionally used by authors to achieve the highest degree of lucidity of statements.

- (7) *In Modern Composition the authors have presented in text form a complete, sequential writing program for junior and senior high school students. This program explains the writing process and grammar as it applies writing, offers illustrative models of writing and provides specific writing and grammar practice (Rummel, 1967).*

Alongside with lexical units, morphemic units are also involved into the repetition process. Morphemic repetitions, mostly root-repetitions, are rather frequent in TP. Root-words make a terminological paradigm of a specialized area. They take part in forming topic-chains of the text.

- (8) *Decisions of the Supreme Court have become as important to the business Community as legislation by the Congress. [...] While the primary emphasis today is on government regulation of business, private law subjects ... comprise much of the legal environment ... (Corley, 1993).*
- (9) *These excerpts, by classic writers, contemporary writers or student writers, plus critical analyses and practice assignments in writing, offer not only practical models for imitation, but also the inspiration often needed to spark enthusiasm of writing (Rummel, 1967).*

To meet the demand of the pragmatic effectiveness of the statement, the authors use syntactic repetitions, i.e. similar syntactic constructions in adjoining sentences, repetitions of members of a sentence (10) or parts of paragraphs within the whole text (11). The usage of parallel constructions attracts the reader's attention and improves text perception.

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- (10) *There are now four parts: the first two cover the legal environment of business and the last two the regulatory environment. Part One introduces ... Part Two covers ... Part Three provides ... Part Four's seven chapters each focus on ... There are now 20 chapters ...* (Corley, 1993).
- (11) *This book is a ready reference that can help student locate and correct their problems ... The book is not a comprehensive review ... [...] This book is intended to supplement ... other text* (Maclin, 1994).

Repeated syntactic constructions promote organization of the information, contribute to logical sequence, coherence and completeness of the statements. Intentional repetitions within the whole text aim at the accumulation of the reader's experience and knowledge. Authors prefer to use syntactic repetitions for summing up, conclusions and accentuation of important items. Syntactic repetitions are the text's skeleton.

- (12) *Every book and particularly every series of books, should grow out of a definite philosophy. [...] The whole philosophy of Modern Composition program, then, is one which encourages self expression ...* (Rummel, 1967)

Lexical (synonymic) and morphemic repetitions take part in extending the topic-chains of the text, in promoting its coherence and integrity. Preciseness in terms of topics and the whole composition of the text determine coherence of information and facilitates the reader's perception (Mednicova 1985:80). Numerous repetitions within the sentence, in adjoining sentences and within the whole text function simultaneously, make the main theme work. It is typical of a great number of authors.

- (13) *The essence of good writing is choosing the words that carry your message most clearly. If your writing is not good enough ... your message may not get through at all [...] Professional writers watch the whole of life. They think about what it may mean and life's meaning is the complex and individual "message" they send to their readers* (Sohn, 1968).
- (14) *At that time, law courses in business schools covered such topics as contracts negotiable instruments and business organization. [...] While the primary emphasis today is government regulation of business private law subjects such as contracts, ... comprise much of the legal environment in which business is conducted* (Corley, 1993).

Lexical repetitions of verbs in TP are the means of textual coherence. The author achieves integrity of the statement by repeating verbs in adjoining sentences. The redundant use of verb-repetitions results in tautology. To avoid this, the authors prefer to use synonyms focusing the reader's attention on the object and accumulating his experience.

- (15) *At that time, law courses in business schools covered such topics as ... [...] Thus, our new approach emphasized public rather than private law ... [...] New editions were prepared ... and much of the original coverage was expanded. [...] ... each revision also attempted to cover areas of current importance ...* (Corley, 1993)
- (16) *This program explains the writing process and grammar as it applies to writing, offers illustrative models of writing, and provides specific writing and grammar practice. [...] The materials in the Guide show ...* (Maclin, 1994).

The choice of a repetition type is regulated, on the one hand, by purposes of the text and, on the other hand, by the author's intention. These factors correlate and work together. The author's aim is to influence the reader's mind and he chooses a certain

type of repetition due to linguistic and anthropological factors. Hence differences are observed in the selection of lexical (17), (19), morphemic (17), (18) and syntactic (18), (19) means, which results in the expressiveness of the author's speech.

(17) "To be fully awake is the condition for not being bored, or being boring." Being awake is necessary for experiencing a full, interesting life (Sohn., 1969).

(18) Life is not really lived by these who automatically follow their daily routine like robots without seeing much, hearing much, feeling much, or understanding much of what goes on around them (Sohn, 1969).

(19) For example the use of quotation marks might be studied in relation to narrative writing which entails the use of dialogue. Words and their meanings might best be studied with material on descriptive writing ... (Rummel, 1967).

Authors appealing to readers-professionals use precise, logical units for presenting information. Synonymic repetitions are not typical of TP of such kind (19). Authors appealing to a wide circle of readers, use a broad range of expressive means, among which morphemic, syntactic and synonymic repetitions are involved. The usage of different types of repetition enriches the author's speech, creates his individual style of writing.

In conclusion we would like to say that the repetition of the main theme of the text is common for author's speech of the observed TPs. Repetitions of key words in topic-chains as well as parallel constructions and synonymic repetitions contribute to the texts' coherence and thematic integrity. Repetitions are polyfunctional, for they provide the text's coherence, topic unity and accumulation of the reader's attention and so promote the author's intention. Repetitions are typical of TP; their functioning in other text types awaits investigation.

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