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THE PECYLIARITIES OF RUSIIAN REACTIVE VERBS STUDYING BY FRENCH SPEAKING STUDENTS

Grammar plays an important role in the process of studying Russian by the foreign students. The verbs deserve special attention in Russian grammar because of the wealth of Russian verbs' meaning, variety of grammar forms, difficulties connected with their building and changing, the peculiarities of functioning present the significant difficulties for all the foreigners as well as for the French speaking ones. Reactive verbs belong to the one of the most difficult grammar notions for studying. Lexical and grammar essence of reactive verbs reveals in the specific combination of lexical and grammar features in their general meaning as well as in the variety of the semantic characteristics being expressed and in the heterogeneity of the reactive and non-reactive verbs correlation.

The difficulties of reactive verbs mastering by the French speaking students as well as mistakes in verbs of reactive voice usage can be explained not only with the difficulty of the present grammar category but also with the essential differences of the category of reactivity in French.

In the Russian linguistics the reactive verbs are traditionally observed in the close connection with the categories of voice, reactivity, transition and non-transition (A. V. Bondarko, L. L. Bulanin, V. V. Vinogradov, A. V. Isatchenko, N. A. Yanko-Trinitskaya), the syntactic connections and qualities of reactive verbs are also analyzed (N. A. Lobanova) as well as peculiarities of their usage in the scientific style (O. D. Mitrofanova, Y. I. Motina). In the aspect of process of foreign students' studying the reactive verbs are investigated by E. I. Amiantova, O. V. Tchagina, N. Y. Surzhikova, M. A. Veselova, etc.

To the reactive verbs in Russian belong all the verbs with the postfix *-ся* (*-cb*), "showing that the subject's action is directed on him, as though it is "turning" to the agent" [2, p. 188]. As far as the main grammar function of the

postfix *-ся (-сь)* is formal expression of general meaning of non-transitivity thus we may say that category of reactivity belongs not to the grammar but mostly to semantics and word building.

Meanings and colour of affix *-ся* depend on the lexical meanings of the verb stems to which this affix is joining. The general function of affix *-ся* is transitivity of the motivating verb removing. Such general function also may contain in the amplification of verbal non-transitivity. It may be also complicated by the different meanings according to the lexical essence of some verbal divisions as well as by their semantic differentiation.

Depending on the verb motivating the scientists define two kinds of reactive verbs in active voice: the first ones motivated by the transitive verbs and the second ones motivated by the non-transitive verbs [3, p. 156]. In their turn reactive verbs created from the transitive verbs may be defined in some lexical and semantic categories such as generally reactive, actually-reactive, mutually-reactive, indirectly-reactive, etc. Reactive verbs which were created from the non-transitive verbs do not join any define lexical and semantic category.

Non-transitive verb combined with the postfix *-ся* very often creates the new verb lexically close to the verb without postfix *-ся*: *грозить* and *грозиться*, *стучать* and *стучаться*. Sometimes joining to the verb the postfix *-ся* adds to its meaning colour of intensity or persistence in doing some action: *Я стал стучаться в дверь. Вышел хозяин (Pushkin)*. In the other cases postfix *-ся* joining the non-transitive verbs with the meaning *to see something in some light, colour* may add to the verb's meaning colour of the indetermination, slight manifestation of the attribute, compare: *белеть* and *белеться*, *краснеть* and *краснеться*, *чернеть* and *чернеться*. In such case verbs with the postfix *-ся* have slighter colour than the verbs without *-ся*. We may find the examples of such reactive verbs usage in the literature: *Только свет луны белеется длинной чертой по полу (I. Turgenev)*. *В овраге краснелся догоравший огонь (L. Tolstoy)*.

Some non-transitive verbs or transitive verbs in the non-transitive meaning during adding of the postfix *-ся* obtain the impersonal meaning. Such verbs denote the action without any object or subject. As a rule, they denote the condition which subject is feeling despite of his will, for instance: *хорошо думается, не работается, пишется, слышится, не спится, не ложится, не сидится*.

In French according to Russian the so-called pronoun verbs also exist. Their specific feature is presence of reactive particle *se*. This particle may change in person and number. Pronoun verbs in French are divided in two categories [1, p. 459-567]:

1. Actually-pronoun verbs (*verbes essentiellement pronominaux*) – verbs don't changing without particle *se*. Such verbs have the only reactive form. For instance: *se formalizer – обижаться, se réfugier – укрываться, se dédire – отрекаться, se méprendre – ошибаться, se repentir – раскаиваться, se désister – отказываться, se soucier – заботиться, se souvenir – вспоминать, se perjurier – гордиться*.

2. Occasionally-pronoun verbs (*verbes accidentellement pronominaux*) – verbs which may have non-reactive meaning and may be used without particle *se* (*voir - se voir*). These verbs are divided into three groups:

- Mutually-reactive (*verbes réciproques*) – the verbs action of which is made by several persons and is directed on each of them. In the sentences with the mutually-reactive verbs such expressions can be used as *lun lautre / lune lautre / les uns les autres / les unes les autres (to each other)/ entre eux (between each other): Ils se sont regardés. = Ils se sont regardés les uns les autres. – They looked at each other. They looked around.*

- Actually-reactive (*verbes réfléchis*) – verbs denoting action directed at person doing it, that is to its subject. In the sentences with the actually-reactive verbs one may meet such expressions as *moi-même, toi - même, lui - même, elle - même, nous - mêmes, vous - mêmes, eux - mêmes, elles – mêmes: Il sest regardé dans le miroir = Il sest regardé lui - même. – He looked at himself in the mirror.*

- Passive-reactive (verbes passifs) - verbs, denoting somebody feeling action but don't acting himself: *Les journaux se sont vendus rapidement.* – *The magazines have been quickly sold out.*

The basic function of the pronoun form is reactive and mutual voice expression. As a result the subject of action appears to be its subject. The reactive voice (reflexive) creation is a grammar phenomenon and it isn't connected with the lexical measures except such condition that transitive verb must belong to the alive subject capable of providing an active operation belonging to himself [1, p. 472]. For example: *Je me coiffe. Lave-toi bien.* The characteristic features of reflexive are: a) possibility of changing of the pronoun *me, te, se* with the form *moi, toi, lui (-même)* (*Pierre s'admire. - Pierre n'admire que lui.*) and б) possibility of usage of condition such as *volontairement* underlining active role of a subject. In such a way, the reactive voice varies from the neutral one: *Il s'est blessé en tombant* (neutral meaning); *Il s'est blessé volontairement* (reactive) (compare also in Russian: *пораниться* and *ранить себя*).

Let us observe the grammar peculiarities of the particle *se*. In French, this particle changes in person and number. In the simple tenses, it is been put before the verb as a rule, in the complex ones – before the auxiliary verb *être*, in the tenses of *immédiat* group – before the indefinite form of the reactive verb according to the person and number of the subject.

If the pronoun verb is having the indefinite form in the sentence the reactive particle nevertheless changes according to the person to which the verb belongs: *Je dois me dépêcher.* – *I must hurry.*

So let us mark features of similarity of the reactive verbs in Russian and French. The basic and the most important similarity is the presence of the reactivity category itself in French. Such condition makes the explanation of the theme analyzed much easier in the French-speaking group. In such case, the teacher has the possibility to explain the material drawing the parallels with the foreign students' native language. Besides, in French the category of reactivity is been created in the same way like in Russian: using the reactive particle *se*

according to Russian affix *-ся* or to the pronoun *себя*. Next similarity is contained in the classification of the reactive verbs both in Russian and French (for example: mutually-reactive, actually-reactive, passive-reactive, etc.).

The last linguistic feature described closes similarity between Russian and French verbal system. In the next part of our investigation, we are going to describe the main differences between Russian and French verbs. Such differences account helps to avoid various mistakes during the process of studying Russian by foreigners.

First, there are much less pronoun verbs in French than in Russian. Therefore, foreign students may face many significant difficulties during studying Russian.

Next, particle *se* presents an auxiliary part of speech, which is been used before the verb and is written separately in French. At the same time in Russian affix *-ся* is in fact postfix and is been always written together with the verb.

Last, in French *se* is changing in persons and numbers together with the verb to which it belongs. At the same time in Russian affix *-ся* always stays without any change despite the fact in which person or number the verb is used. Besides, in French *se* semantically and structurally does not differ from verbal pronouns *me*, *te*. It also means the direct or indirect object (compare: *il se lave*, *il se lave les mains*) and occupies the same place near the verb. The two basic peculiarities vary the pronoun form of the verb from the combination of the verb with the pronoun: usage *se* (instead of *le*, *lui*, etc.) in the 3-d person – *il l'a blessé* and *il s'est blessé* as well as the auxiliary verb *être* instead of *avoir* in the compound forms usage (*Il m'a étonné*. *Je me suis étonné*).

Thus, the essential differences in the ways of expressing of reactivity in both languages are the reason of the difficulties in the reactive verbs mastering by the French-speaking students. The markers of such difficulties are various mistakes such as incorrect usage of the correlating non-reactive and reactive verbs, ruling contravention, bad recognition of the structural types of the simple sentence in which such reactive and non-reactive verbs are functioning, etc.

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