

論文の英文要旨

論文題目

Verbal prefixation in Latvian –
the linguistic activity of expressing
space, time and emotion

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The aim of this research is to describe the Latvian verbal prefixation as a linguistic activity from aspectual and word-formational points of view.

About the research

The research is motivated by two concerns : prefixation as a linguistic activity and the conflict between language norms and practices. The first concern is explained by a great involvedness of a speaker in this word-formational process. This linguistic activity is contrasted with the second concern, since some types of prefixation have been often criticized in the *culture of language*, the discipline which promotes language norms.

Among some types of prefixation negatively evaluated in the *culture of language*, this research focuses on the most often criticized prefixation : redundant perfectivization of the borrowed verbs which already include a PFV meaning (Ozola 1984, Freimane 1993 etc).

This research is new and worthwhile as described in the following four points :

1. It contributes to Latvian aspectology in many different ways. It sheds light on the relativity of the aspectual opposition of PFV and imperfective (IPFV) and their syntactic behaviors. Based on this recognition, this research reinterprets perfectivization of borrowed verbs, thus describing the linguistic reality as it is and marking prefix *no-* as the prefix specializing to perfectivize base-verbs. It also points out the intersection of aspect and subjective evaluation, correlating attenuative *pa-*verbs and diminutives. Finally, it deals with prefixed verbs in speech correction, concluding that a speaker modifies or clarifies aspectual meanings.
2. The research widely describes the prefixation of borrowed verbs in Latvian, presenting the newest qualitative and quantitative tendencies of the prefixation.
3. The research, in places, is based on a quantitative analysis, which has generally been rarely

applied in the research of Latvian prefixes and contemporary Latvian linguistics.

4. Throughout this research the prefixes are described in a tight connection with the problem of communication and context. For example, it analyzes prefixed verbs in spoken language, providing a fully new point of view – “prefixation in speech”.

The materials used in this research have been from the language of mass-media represented by newspapers, journals and a radio talk show. This huge amount of data is mainly taken from “Newspapers Library (*Laikrakstu Bibliotēka*)” (<http://www.news.lv>) which provides more than 4.8 million articles from 64 Latvian periodicals from the last 15 years.

Chapter I Introduction of Latvian verbal prefixes

An introduction of 11 prefixes and their three main meanings, i.e., spatial, quantitative-temporal and formal. Prefixes have spatial meanings as primary ones which are abstracted to the last two aspectual meanings. Formal meaning is the same spatial meaning of a base-verb which seems to just perfectivize base-verbs, for example, *uzrakstīt / rakstīt* “to write (PFV/IPFV)”, prefix *uz-* “on”. Division of these three meanings is a matter of convention.

Chapter II Aspect in Latvian

The aspectual opposition expresses semantic oppositions like *non-process / process, concrete / general*, but contexts often neutralize and do not actualize them. It is also noteworthy that the aspectual opposition is observed even among verbs whose lexical meaning is not associated with a process : *apsēsties / sēsties* “to sit down (PFV/IPFV)”. For such verbs, base-verbs function relatively as IPFV verbs, denoting a PFV action as a habit or in its repetition.

So, the PFV meaning recognized in the base-verb does not obstruct the existence of relative aspectual opposition. This relativity of aspectual opposition is a key to reinterpret the perfectivization of borrowed verbs.

Chapter III Prefixation of borrowed verbs

Prefixation of borrowed verbs illustratively reflects the aspect of linguistic activity of the prefixation. In comparison with using “already prefixed” Latvian-origin verbs, here an observation is made of an ongoing process of word-formation and a greater involvedness of speakers who, based on the analogy, derive newer and newer prefixed verbs from base-verbs originally not prefixed.

In the “Newspapers Library”, it is found that 19,5% of prefixed borrowed verbs of the

theoretically possible 13530 verbs (11 prefixes and 1230 borrowed verbs). 63,7 % of borrowed base-verbs have at least one prefix added. Prefix *no-* is the most active : it is prefixed to 40,0% of 1230 borrowed verbs. The percentage of possible prefixations for each prefix is as follows : *aiz-* (13,1 %), *ap-* (7,8 %), *at-* (9,1 %), *ie-* (25,0 %), *iz-* (23,3 %), *no-* (40,0 %), *pa-* (20,6 %), *pār-* (23,3 %), *pie-* (13,8 %), *sa-* (25,8 %), *uz-* (13,1 %).

Perfectivization of borrowed verbs has been criticized in the culture of language (Ozola 1984, Freimane 1993 etc.) rather than discussed in aspectology. Perfectivizing prefix *no-* can be deleted in the editing process of newspaper articles, though it sometimes actualizes its aspectual opposition.

Let us remember that the PFV meaning recognized in the base-verb does not obstruct the existence of relative aspectual opposition : once prefixed and perfectivized, base-verbs start to function as their IPFV counterparts. This aspectological reinterpretation allows us to describe this phenomenon more closely to the language practice. Based on this, this research analyzes aspectual oppositions with *no-*verbs / base-verbs.

Prefix *no-* has the spatial meaning of “under” or “apart”. But while other prefixes perfectivize base-verbs, clarifying a spatial meaning of action or always having some semantic relationship with base-verbs, prefix *no-* usually perfectivizes base-verbs without them. In this aspect, prefix *no-* should be regarded as “a more formal prefix” than other prefixes. For many base-verbs connected with spatial prefixes, *no-*verbs exist despite of their minor frequency. That would be why the prefix scores a higher percentage.

Chapter IV Emotional side of verbal prefixation

The research draws a parallel between Latvian attenuative *pa-*verbs and the diminutives, showing an intersection between aspect and subjective evaluation. Both of their affixes modify base-words and express a smallness of things and actions and speaker’s subjective evaluation.

The limitative aspect of the prefix expresses a short-time action, thus it can be compared to diminutives referring to a real smallness. The attenuative aspect is dependent to a greater extent on a speaker and it sometimes arouses evaluative overtone. As denotative meaning and evaluative meaning are often combined in diminutives, *pa-*verbs can also denote a limitative action with the speaker’s subjective evaluation.

To establish more convincingly the subjective evaluation, *pa-*verbs, base-verbs and other prefixed verbs are compared : *pabombardēt* against *sabombardēt* / *bombardēt* “to bomb (PFV/IPFV)” (all referring to the Russian military attack of Georgia in 2008). Attenuative *pa-*verbs are often surrounded by diminutives or colloquial words expressing subjective evaluation as well. Both diminutives and *pa-*verbs are criticized in the *culture of language* and

can be deleted in texts' editing process. On the one hand, this shows that expressing of subjective evaluation is restricted socially (stylistically), yet on the other hand, it does not highly influence the proposition of a sentence.

Chapter V Some aspects of prefixes in communication

Analyzing both written and spoken language, a discussion is formed about the actualization of prefixed verbs according to three types : 1) base-verb and prefixed verb, 2) verbs with the same prefix and different bases and 3) verbs with the same base and different prefix.

As to spoken language, a speech correction in regard to prefixed verbs is deliberated. In this research, speech correction is widely understood, including rephrasing and addition of synonymic components. In all of these phenomena, a speaker intends to make himself understood more definitely.

In speech correction, a speaker sometimes adds or deletes prefixes, and changes or keeps prefixes, thus changing, modifying or clarifying meanings denoted by prefixes. This leads us to a discussion of the problem of "the choice of prefix" in communication that highlights prefixation as a linguistic activity.

Chapter VI Conclusion

A summary and evaluation of remaining problems and perspectives for further research is presented.