

## **Communicative-pragmatic field as a basis for contrastive analysis**

Contrastive studies of two or more languages are among top priorities of modern linguistics. Such studies help to discover similarities and differences in the structure and functioning of the languages studied, which in turn may serve as a basis for typological generalizations. There is a tendency to cover all levels of the language structure as well as every single phenomenon, although no such multi-layered comparison has yet been carried out for a concrete language pair. Along with some other linguistic phenomena, those of text and discourse still remain to be studied.

The main constituent of discourse is the speech act, which follows the rules and principles of speech behaviour peculiar to a particular language in a particular society. A key component of the speech act is represented by illocutionary force, which characterizes the communicative intentions of a speaker and embodies the communicative function of an utterance. The various means of expression of each concrete illocutionary act can be represented as a communicational-pragmatic field. By examining this field, it is possible to determine how frequent and prototypical each means of realising a particular utterance is in language.

The first part of this presentation defines the place of the communicational-pragmatic field among other types of fields (lexical-semantic, functional-semantic, corresponding, etc.), and describes the principles of the organization of this field as well as its structure and composition. The communicative-pragmatic field brings together an inventory of various grammatical, lexical, word-forming, topological and prosodic means that serve to express a specific illocutionary purpose (e.g., REQUEST, CONGRATULATION, WARNING etc.). Thus, the communicative-pragmatic field is understood as the complex of the illocutionary purpose and the forms of its realisation.

The second part of the presentation puts forward a certain nomenclature of communicational pragmatic fields for the German language and compares some of them with the corresponding fields in English and Russian.

Special attention is given to the place of performative utterances and indirect speech acts in the composition of different communicational-pragmatic fields.

Performative verbs and utterances are usually considered to be prototypical forms of the realisation of a certain illocutionary purpose. The results of the investigations however support the conclusion that the role of performative utterances in the expression of an illocutionary force depends on the speech act class and speech act type. It is possible to distinguish three types of coherence: 1) illocutionary act can be realized only by means of a performative verb (ex. *christen*, *excommunicate* etc.), 2) performative utterances are prototypical for the realisation of the illocutionary act, but besides there are many other means to express it (ex. *excuse*, *promise*, *thank* etc.), 3) illocutionary verb denoting the aim of the action can never be used as a performative one (ex. *threaten*, *deceive*, *offend* etc.)