

## **THE ORIGIN AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE TERM TAXIS IN LINGUISTICS**

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### **Abstract**

The article deals with introduction of the term into scientific circulation, the interpretation and analysis of the aspect in semantics, syntax, the chronological comprehension of complex forms with different time manner, the study and theoretical understanding of the category.

**Key words:** Scientific characteristics, taxis interpretation, the relation of actions, the category of forms, dependent and independent, a complex temporal orientation, grammatical and semantic meaning.

**INTRODUCTION.** The sequence of events taking place around us, the order, consistency, continuity, and gradual time between them linguistic reflection and its analysis of relations in language creates the need to study the taxis as an object for research.

**ANALYSIS OF THE SUBJECT.** Taxis are one of the few terms in linguistics that has an exact date of birth. This term was introduced into scientific circulation by R. O. Jakobson in 1957. He writes literally the following: This category does not have a standard name; terms like “relative time” define only one of its varieties. Bloomfield's proposed term “order”, or rather its Greek counterpart “taxis” (“τάξις”), seems to be the most appropriate.<sup>1</sup> Taxis characterize the reported fact in relation to another reported fact and regardless of the fact of the message.<sup>2</sup>

Various terms have been used to refer to the category of relative time. L. Tesniere, for example, speaks of the category of time sequence (section), or the category of succession, and characterizes it as follows: “The category of succession reflects the order of the processes, that is, it determines whether a given process precedes another, whether it follows it or accompanies it.”<sup>3</sup> I. A. Melchuk adheres to a narrow interpretation of the taxis. He knows well the fundamental article by R.O. Jakobson, but he himself uses the term ‘relative time’, noting that “R. O. Jakobson proposed a very convenient term for the category of relative time – taxis.” In his understanding of relative time, I. A. Melchuk is in solidarity with L. Tesniere.<sup>4</sup> Thus, I. A. Mel'chuk deliberately does not accept a broad interpretation of the taxis.

On the contrary, V. P. Nedyalkov adheres to a broad interpretation of taxis in the already mentioned work. In his article, all the numerous adverbial (non-finite) forms of the verb in the Nivkh language are considered as a form of dependent taxis, and there are more than 25 of them, regardless of what meaning they express.

Y. S. Maslov adheres to a narrow interpretation of the taxis, however, in contrast to the previously named authors; he considers this category not as grammatical, but as functional and semantic. Without making a detailed analysis of this category, he at the same time notes that “in many languages taxis is grouped within one category either over time or with a view. The combination of taxis and time gives the meaning of a complex (two-and sometimes multi-

<sup>1</sup>Bloomfield, Leonard. A semasiological differentiation in Germanic secondary ablaut. *Modern Philology*, 1909-1910. - P. 345-382.

<sup>2</sup>Jakobson. R. Shifters and Verbal Categories. On Language. (ed. Linda R. Waugh and Monique Monville-Burston), 1990. - P. 386-392.

<sup>3</sup>Tesnière L., *Elements of Structural Syntax*. – Amsterdam: Benjamins, 2015. – P. 102-105.

<sup>4</sup> Melchuk I., Pertsov N.V. *Surface Syntax of English. A Formal Model within the Meaning-Text Framework*. - Amsterdam: Benjamins, 1987. – P. 526.

stage) temporal orientation, expressed in some languages by special forms included in the system of so-called relative tenses. At the same time, taxis meanings of simultaneity, precedence and succession in time regularly arise as a result of interaction of species forms, so that in some languages the expression of taxis relations can be considered as one of the most important functions of the verb form".<sup>5</sup>

The combination of taxis and time gives the meaning of a complex (two- and sometimes multi-stage) temporal orientation, expressed in some languages by special forms included in the system of so-called relative tenses. At the same time, taxis meaning of simultaneity, precedence and succession in time regularly arise as a result of interaction of specific forms, so that in some languages the expression of taxis relations can be considered as one of the most important functions of the verb form". Taking Maslov's concept of taxis, A.V. Bondarko, who did a lot for the study and theoretical understanding of this category<sup>6</sup>, occupies a position somewhere in the middle between a narrow and a wide interpretation, because the prototypical meanings of taxis for him meanings of simultaneity, precedence and succession, however, it also takes into account those cases when forms of a dependent taxis express not prototypical, but occasional values. In general, according to him, "the temporal relations of actions can be complicated by the semantics of conditionality (the values of the condition, cause, effect, purpose, concession, the dependence of the time of one action on the time of another), as well as modal elements and characterization relations ". Moreover, in his opinion, "a puretaxis", freed from everything that goes beyond the limits of proper chronological relations, would be an abstraction far from linguistic ontology". In general, he believes that "the semantics of taxis is a temporal relationship between actions (in the specified sense) within an integral period of time, always associated with the aspectual characteristics of the components of the predicative complex expressed in the statement and implemented as: a) relations simultaneity / diversity (precedence - succession); b) the attribution of actions to the same period of time when the difference of simultaneity / diversity is not actualized; c) the connection of actions in time in combination with the values of conditionality (values of condition, cause, effect, purpose, deed, conditionality of the time of one action by the time of another), modal values and values of characterization ". A.V. Bondarko interprets the semantics of taxis very broadly and makes the appropriate changes to the definition of this category. Now "taxis (we are talking about a

<sup>5</sup> Маслов Ю.С. Введение в языкознание. Учебник для филологических специальностей вузов. - М.: Высшая школа, 1987. – С. 272.

<sup>6</sup> Бондарко А. В. Теория функциональной грамматики: Введение. Аспектуальность. Временная локализованность. Таксис. — Л.: Наука, 1987.

semantic category and the corresponding field) is interpreted as the conjugation of actions (components of a predicative complex) expressed in polypredicative constructions within the framework of a single time plan. This refers to the conjugation (connection), acting in the following main varieties: a) the relation of simultaneity/non-simultaneity (precedence/succession), b) the relationship of actions (components of the polypredicative complex) when the above chronological relations are not actualized, c) the relationship of actions in time in combination with conditional relationships (causal, conditional, concessive)”. The proposed terminological innovation “taxis is the conjugation (connection) of actions” is an attempt with the help of the generalized term ‘conjugation’, practically synonymous with the term ‘relationship’, to combine semantically heterogeneous phenomena, as a result of which the taxis becomes a semantically indefinite category. A. V. Bondarko approached the interpretation of the concepts of independent and dependent taxis in a very peculiar way. If R. O. Jakobson always presents taxis in the text in two forms: one form of dependent taxis and another form of independent taxis, then for A. V. Bondarko “a dependent taxis is a temporary relationship between actions, of which one is the main one, and the second is secondary (concomitant). An independent taxis presupposes a temporal relationship between actions in the absence of an explicit, formally expressed gradation of the main and secondary actions (shades of incomplete equality of the elements of the taxation relationship are possible, but they do not have formal expression and are not grammatical meanings of certain forms or designs) ”.

From our point of view, it is more expedient to adhere to a narrow interpretation of the taxis category and the interpretation of dependent and independent taxis in the spirit of R. O. Jakobson. In this case, we are talking about a group of homogeneous chronological meanings: simultaneity, precedence, succession, which can be rightfully characterized as mutually exclusive gram memes of the same category.

**CONCLUSION.** As for the broad interpretation, it, as we noted above, is also valid in the sense that within its framework we are talking about the expression of chronological meanings, but these meanings have an unequal status: in one case, these meanings can be characterized call as the main, and in another - these values act as background, accompanying other basic values and expressed, if I may say so, by default. The question of whether it is legitimate in the latter case to characterize these meanings as grammatical categories of taxis deserves a separate discussion.

Let us note by the way that, if we are not mistaken, the problem of identifying background meanings and their status has not been widely discussed in theoretical linguistics.

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