

A Survey of Russian Pronominal Lexemes Expressing Cause and Goal: Constructions and Pragmatics

Like many other languages, Russian has one major interrogative pronoun for expressing 'cause' – *pochemu* 'why', and one for expressing 'goal' – *zachem* 'what for'. It is remarkable though that modern Russian is also characterized by a rich list of lexicalized pronominal forms referring to 'cause' or 'goal': *k chemu, na chto, s chego, chego, chto*. As a rule, the meaning of such lexemes is close to the meaning of one particular pronoun (either *pochemu* or *zachem*) and is defined in dictionaries by means of this pronoun [Shvedova&Belousova1995, Kuznecov2000].

However, in case of lexemes *chto/chego* we can observe an interesting variation of 'cause' and 'goal' meanings: *Chto tak pozdno prishla?* ('why?'); *Nu chto prishla?* ('what for?'). From literature we know some more examples of neutralization between 'cause' and 'goal', cf.: *Ja poehal v teatr, chto-by razvlech'sja tak kak hotel razvlech'sja* [Arutjunova&Paducheva1985:24]. Also in actual speech the question Why P? can be answered with the goal construction and vice versa [Rakhilina1989:49-54, Levontina2006, Biagini2007].

All the facts mentioned above leave us with an impression that the boundary between cause and goal is rather vague and the means of expressing cause-goal meanings can be presented on a gradual scale. The main objective of this research is to introduce the criteria for distinguishing pronominal lexemes *k chemu, na chto, s chego, chego, chto* from traditional pronouns *zachem* and *pochemu* and thus to estimate the role of these lexemes in the system of Russian pronouns.

In this work we claim that the main difference between traditional pronouns and pronominal lexemes lies in their pragmatics. For instance, *k chemu* is usually used in contexts which not as much inquire about the goal of an action as they emphasize that the action is unnecessary and redundant: *Kazalos' by, k chemu slova, etot vopros reshilsja by sam soboj...* Moreover, the fact that pronominal lexemes are mainly used for pragmatic reasons is supported by the type of constructions in which they are used: they usually occur within nominative and infinitive sentences which are more expressive than the sentences of Subject+Predicate (finite form of the verb) type. Cf.: *S chego vdrug takaja ljubov'?* vs. *?Pochemu vdrug takaja ljubov'?*; *Zachem ty mne vresh?* - **K chemu ty mne vresh?* (cf. *K chemu vrat'?*).

Similar correlation between the pragmatics of an interrogative pronoun and the construction in which it is used can be observed in English in the use of pronoun *why* and the lexicalized expression *how come* with a close meaning. Unlike 'actual' interrogative *why*, *how come* is rendered more like a statement where the speaker expresses surprise, and does not require inversion: *Why are you late?* vs. *How come you are late?*

Thus, this work analyses the correlation between pragmatics and constructional grammar, gives further insight into the system of Russian pronouns and the 'cause-goal' conceptual category. The main statements of this research will be supported by the data from the Russian National Corpus.

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