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FUNCTIONAL RELATIONS AND THEIR ROLE IN DISCOURSE SYSTEMITY FORMATION

The article describes the specificity of discourse semantic space formation with the usage of the basic principles of linguosynergetics. The objective of the article is to study discourse functional relations and order parameters as one of the necessary conditions for self-organization of discourse semantic space and for its systemity. The author specifies the concept of discourse, its main features and properties. The role of the synergistic interaction of all discursive elements in the formation of order parameters and discourse functional plan is also analyzed. The author comes to the conclusion that order parameters determine discourse functional links formation, regulate the semantic development of discourse system and account for its stable functioning.

Key words: linguosynergetics, discourse, semantic space, functional relations, order parameters, systemity

Discourse as an object of research is considered as a complex hierarchical open system which incorporates not only different layers, parts and elements but also various relations (links) among them, their interaction inside and outside the discourse system [Dijk 1981]. Generally, the systemity of the discourse structural and functional planes makes the bedrock of discourse self-preservation, i.e. keeps the unwinding speech chain within a preset range of sense formation [Malakhova 2022; Ponomarenko 2013].

The systemity of functional relations of discourse, which underlies its semantic space self-organization [Haken 2013; Ponomarenko 2013], is considered from two angles – as a process of interaction between the functional components of discourse and as a set of forms of their language representation. According to T. van Dijk, discourse functional relations are specific functions between utterances/sentences based on semantic correlations between the propositions and on the relations between facts and their properties in “possible worlds” [Dijk 1981].

Although communication is carried out in accordance with a certain intention, a speech act can undergo significant modifications in the process of partners’ interaction – strengthening or, on the contrary, weakening of certain sense components, involvement of additional language units and even deviation from the original plan of communication.

Such changes in the functional plane are possible due to functional non-linearity of discourse, the ability to preserve its integrity under the influence of self-organization mechanisms. It is these mechanisms that help curb deregulating fluctuations in the discourse system and avoid its non-systemity, complete loss of communicative power, inability to perform the function of means of communication. Taking everything into account, we see the relevance of applying here one of the main principles of linguosynergetics according to which the self-preservation of the system is determined by certain stabilizing discursive properties that subordinate all components of the discourse system and ensure its semantic self-organization. In terms of synergetics the stabilizing factors of discourse are determined as “order parameters”.

Order parameters are functional links of discourse; their formation is provided by the aggregate interaction of language means. Order parameters are key to the adequate comprehension of the meaning (or meanings) of discourse. Having the dual nature, they, on the one hand, regulate semantic development of the discourse system (that is, stabilize the functional organization of discourse) and thereby create an adequate, invariant semantic structure. On the other hand, they are themselves subject to the influence of the system.

Order parameters specify the kind of functional relations emerging in the discourse space and the exact mechanisms determining its self-organization. Since order parameters are in fact basic discourse characteristics and reflect typical peculiarities of functional links, a complete analysis of functional interaction of discourse elements demands consideration of various interdependent factors which impacts evolution of the discourse plane, namely: the communicative situation, the wide context the communicative unit is used in and the functional perspective.

Summing up, order parameters are factors of the system inward processes regulation and in reference to discourse these factors are imbedded in functional links between discourse components.

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