

REVIEW

on the doctoral thesis of Eunnare Cho

“Grammatical Means of Expressing Imperativeness in Modern Bulgarian and Russian”

for the award of the scientific and educational degree "Doctor"

in the professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Language)

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Member of the scientific jury, approved by the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". Order No. RD-38-628/30.11.2022.

The work of Eunnare Cho "Grammatical Means of Expression of Imperativeness in Modern Bulgarian and Russian" is a comparative study of grammatical, lexical and pragmatic means of expressing imperativeness in Bulgarian and Russian. Apart from its theoretical contribution, the text also has a practical application and its observations could be used in translation practice and language teaching. Eunnare Cho prepared her dissertation as a full-time Ph.D. student at the Department of Bulgarian Language of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" under the supervision of Prof. Yovka Tisheva and Prof. Tatiana Aleksieva.

The text presented for review has a total length of 273 pages and consists of an introduction, four chapters, conclusion, reference about the scientific contributions of the dissertation and bibliography. The text has a clear structure that follows the adopted approach to the study of imperativeness in both languages. Evidence of Eunnare Cho's excellent awareness of opinions and approaches to the presentation of imperative utterances are the key works and articles in Bulgarian, English, Korean and Russian included in the bibliography. The study bases on a research corpus created by the doctoral student from data extracted from the Russian-Bulgarian Translation Corpus, the Bulgarian National Corpus and the National Corpus of the Russian Language. Working with original and parallel texts is a reliable basis to conduct the scientific research.

Subject of the study is the mechanism of realization of imperativeness, considering both direct and indirect speech acts in the terminology of J. Searle. Object of study are the imperative utterances in the Bulgarian and Russian, comprising the use of different linguistic means - morphological, lexical and syntactic. The PhD student sets herself the following research goals: to present the different means of expressing imperativeness in Modern Bulgarian and Modern Russian; to examine the means used to express variations of illocutionary force; to reveal the variety of translation equivalents. In view of this, she sets the following specific research tasks:

to present the mechanism that makes possible the variety in the means of conveying imperativeness; to define clear criteria by which an utterance can be defined as imperative; to identify the person to whom these means can be applied; to excerpt suitable examples from corpora that can be used to describe characteristic features of each means; to associate the imperative utterances (original and translated) from the selected literary works. The structure of the text follows the fulfilment of the scientific tasks.

The first chapter of the dissertation provides an overview of theoretical studies in the field of imperativeness. The approach chosen is to consider an utterance as imperative in relation to the context in which it is used. Obligatory elements of the situation are the speaker and the hearer, and the predicates are usually two, one related to the speaker's volition and the second to the action to be performed by the hearer. The detailed discussion on imperative utterances in the context of deontic modality is also contributive. Speech act theory is presented in the context of the dissertation topic. Some of the approaches considered in the classification of directives are introduced for the first time in Bulgarian. Of interest, for example, is the subdivision between restrictive and directive utterances proposed by Tsui (1994), as well as their subtypes, according to the degree to which the hearer has a choice whether to perform the requested action (pp. 94-95).

Within the framework of speech act theory, Eunnare Cho also considers indirect speech acts, which have implicit directive illocutionary force. The first chapter contributes with a critical review of the opinions in Bulgarian and Russian linguistic literature on the forms included in the imperative paradigm. The detailed review of opinions in the scientific literature is summarized in the table on p. 48.

The doctoral student adopts the following approach in her research. Linguistic means are classified as direct and indirect (see Figure 3 on p. 72) according to the main illocutionary force of the utterance. Markers can be morphological, syntactic and lexical. As morphological means of imperativeness, the dissertation considers synthetic imperative verb forms and analytic constructions with an imperative marker and a full verb form. Syntactic means include different types of clauses. Lexical means include various lexemes which can be used independently and convey a volition.

The theoretical model presented is applied successively in the description of the means of expressing imperativeness in Bulgarian (Chapter Two), in Russian (Chapter Three), and in their comparative analysis (Chapter Four). In Chapter Two of the dissertation, Eunnare Cho discusses the uses of the synthetic imperative form in Bulgarian as well as constructions with imperative meaning. Important for the comparative analysis is the emphasis on specific

meanings in the use of imperative forms of imperfective and perfective verbs. It is specific for Bulgarian to convey an insistent prompt with an imperative form of an imperfect verb used in a situation where the listener has to perform a single action (*Влизай вътре!*). These usages are also marked by a certain informality and even familiarity. The observation of the Ph.D. student about the combination of imperfective verbs with additional lexical markers expressing impatience (*soon, now, quickly, immediately*), as well as the increased use of the particle *де* to express urgency in sentences with imperative forms of perfective verbs, is contributory. The presence of a gradation in the urgency of the prompt in a series of imperative utterances through the use of perfective and imperfective verbs has also been noted (p. 94). The observation about the different meanings of the imperative form of the perfective verb - request, advice, instruction, categorical command and non-categorical command - is of great value (p. 95). The doctoral student's observations on the degree of categoricity of the prompt expressed by the independent *да*-forms, as well as the nuances in the communicative intention expressed by the speaker, which can be conveyed by a passive form (*Да се строи войската!*), by a positive (*До края на седмицата да сте свършили*) or negative (*Да не си посял!*) past form, or with a past preterit verb form (*Да бяхте ми дали чаша вода!*).

Нека and *нека да* forms are analysed according to the model chosen by Eunnae Cho - an analysis of the speech situation, who the addressee of the utterance is, the presence of an agent in conveying his desire, and the degrees of categoricity. Constructions with *недей* are considered a separate type of imperative analytical forms, which the speaker uses to urge the hearer to stop an action that is already in progress (p. 105). Different nuances in the meaning of the constructions with *недей* are presented: instruction, request, advice-warning, and categorical order. It is an interesting observation that constructions with *стига* are only used when the speaker is instigating the cancellation of an action, but unlike the other constructions, *стига* also expresses imperativeness in combination with a noun (*Стига празни приказки, приятелю*).

In order to make the presentation of imperative constructions complete, the dissertation also examines the uses of constructions with *дано* in cases where the imperative utterance has a real addressee and the requested action can be performed. The author points out that the meaning of utterances with *дано* such as *Дано не се излъжеш* is similar to the meaning of *да*-forms (*Да не настинеш*) and can be represented as preventing an action by establishing prior control. The particles *хайде* and *нека* are considered as lexical devices for expressing imperativeness in cases where they can independently convey this meaning. The lexical means

also include some interjections which can be considered as independent directive utterances (*шшшт!*, *млък!*).

A separate contribution of the dissertation is the analysis of indirect speech acts, which also have directive illocutionary force. Indirect speech acts include both utterances containing an explicit illocutive force marker and utterances with an implicit one. Utterances with an explicit marker for an indirect speech act include those with a verb in conditional mood as well as those with a modal verb. Their illocutionary force becomes clear to the listener due to the context and the speech situation, and they are largely a conventional means of making an indirect command to the listener. Utterances with a performative verb represent a separate model for the overt expression of the speaker's will. The presence of different performative verbs (*command, please, suggest, advise, warn, permit*) allows the articulation of different degrees of imperativeness - advice, request, command, instruction. The author's observations on the use of the verb *казвам* 'say' with a performative meaning are also of interest. Within performative utterances are also included constructions with a nominal or adverbial phrase such as *молбата ми е, забранено е* 'my request is, it is forbidden'. It seems to me that the above constructions could be subject to a study of their own, by examining in detail which are the nominal phrases with performative meaning, do they include expressions like *съветът ми е, предложението ми е* 'my advice is, my suggestion is'. I also have a question here. The dissertation gives examples with a performative verb in the 1 p. sg. Do you think that utterances with verbs in the 1 p. pl. (*съветваме ви, заповядваме ви* 'we advise you, we command you') have the same imperative semantics?

The means of implicit expression of imperative included in the dissertation are insufficiently studied in Bulgarian linguistics. Their detailed presentation is a significant contribution, especially in outlining the language-specific features of the Bulgarian language. As Eunnare Cho points out, in Bulgarian only context helps to understand utterances with a verb in the present or future tense as containing a second directive illocutionary force.

The structural features of the request with a verb in conditional mood are described in comparison with Russian. It is important to emphasize the role of context (the examples given are from fictional literature) for their unambiguous reading as a request or a question. It seems to me that the lexical meaning of the main verb is also significant here. Examples such as *Could you tell me...* are easily transformed into imperatives (*tell me...*), whereas in examples such as *Could you tell an ancient frame from a modern one* (p. 127) such a transformation is impossible since the utterance emphasizes the listener's ability/inability to perform the given action. This feature was highlighted by the PhD student when looking at the requests with modal verb. The

lexical meaning of the verb is also important in indirect requests with a verb in future tense and the question particle *ли*. It has been noted that utterances with verbs such as *престана, спра, оставя* ‘cease, stop, leave’ in most cases are directives.

Some privative questions, introduced with *what, why* (*Какво ме зяпаш?, Защо не дойдеш?* ‘What are you staring at me for?, Why don't you come?’) are also considered as indirect prompts. Here the context and the lexical meaning of the verb are leading in determining the illocutionary force of the utterance, as well as the presence of particles (*бе*), which direct the listener to the meaning of a categorical command (*не ме зяпай; стига си ме зяпал* ‘don't stare at me’) or suggestion (*защо не дойдеш – ела* ‘why don't you come – come’). I would recommend the PhD student to present this issue in a separate publication, possibly in contrast with Russian.

The consideration of elliptic clauses is important for the overall consideration of the means of expressing incitement. Their degree of conventionality is the weakest. Their comprehensive description is extremely difficult due to the lack of an explicit grammatical or lexical marker. However, their illocutionary force can be described on the basis of the context in which they are used.

Chapter three of the dissertation discusses in detail the means of expressing imperativeness in Russian. The different usages of the imperative forms of the perfective and imperfective verbs are presented, as well as the corresponding particles that reinforce the imperative meaning (*ну, же*). The possibilities of using negative imperative forms are also investigated, and differences with Bulgarian are observed. The analysis of the linguistic means follows the model set in the second chapter of the dissertation - representing the morphological/lexical means of expressing the imperative, describing the communicative situation, presenting the meaning of the utterance (request, advice, warning, order). Similarly to Bulgarian, in Russian there are analytical constructions with imperative meaning with the particles *пусть, да, давай, хватит, брось*. The use of utterances with *хватит* and *брось* to express an incitement not to perform a certain action is also noted. The observations made about the role of the infinitive within imperative constructions are useful for the comparative study.

When describing indirect speech acts with imperative meaning, the model with modal predicate is presented, and in this model in Russian the non-verbal predicates such as *надо, можно, должен* predominate. The expression of incitement with a performative verb is also characteristic of Russian. The full representation of the implicit means of expressing imperative

in Russian also includes the description of utterances with the independent infinitive form of the verb (*С Зиной всякие разговоры прекратить!*).

Important for the comparative study is the predominance of negative sentences when making a polite request in Russian: *вы не могли бы...; вам не трудно...; не можете ли вы...* As a specific feature of Russian language is noted the usage of conditional mood in statements as means to express categorical order.

Chapter four of the dissertation examines the actual uses of the specific features of Bulgarian and Russian regarding the expression of imperative presented in chapters two and three of the dissertation. I appreciate the choice of empirical material and the motivation for selecting data from specific works. The utterances with imperative meaning are analyzed in the context of translation equivalents, and classified on the basis of the type of imperative utterance - order (categorical order and non-categorical order), request, suggestion, advice-warning, permission, instruction, wish, warning-threat. The conclusions base on a parallel corpus of examples from Bulgarian and Russian fiction.

In the conclusion, Eunnare Cho summarizes the observations made in this dissertation. The conclusions show that she has successfully accomplished the research tasks of the study.

The summary of the main contributions in the dissertation corresponds to the results achieved in fulfilling the research objective. The abstract of the dissertation accurately and faithfully reflects the main aspects of the research, the positive results of the analyses and the overall scientific contributions.

Eunnare Cho has 2 publications on the dissertation topic. One of them is in Korean and one – in an indexed journal. The number of publications meets the requirements for the degree of Doctor.

Conclusion. The dissertation presented by Eunnare Cho on "Grammatical Means of Expressing Imperativeness in Modern Bulgarian and Russian" convincingly proves the author's skills for independent analysis, shows excellent awareness of modern approaches in the field of the imperativeness and the ability to use them critically in her study. This leads me to propose that Eunnare Cho BE GRANTED the educational and scientific degree of Doctor.

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