

Ways and means of expressing verbal aggression in modern Russian communication

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ABSTRACT-- *The article deals with the genres of verbal aggression common in modern Russian communication. The author describes the ways and means of representation of verbal aggression, reveals their functional-semantic and communicative-pragmatic properties, and determines the causes of aggressive speech behavior of communicators. The materials of the article are of practical value for linguists, lawyers engaged in forensic linguistic expertise on the material of Russian speech.*

KEYWORDS-- *verbal aggressiveness, insult, threat, slander, invective, invective communication, communicant, addresser, addressee, speech act, communicative intention, perlocutionary effect, linguistic expertise.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Modern Russian communication is characterized by a distinctive feature - verbal aggressiveness, understood as a form of aggressive behavior of communicators. This phenomenon is explained by different reasons: democratization of Russian society at the turn of the 20th-21st centuries, literal understanding of speech freedom, negative attitude to representatives of power and law, disregard for moral and ethical norms, low speech culture, dissemination of information about violence and aggression in Russia, in the world. Any action, including speech action, in modern Russian society is in the legal plane and protected by law. In order to reveal and describe a speech transgression as an aggressive behavior within the limits of justice and law, at the beginning of the 21st century there appeared a necessity of interaction between jurisprudence and linguistics in science. As a result, a new section in Russian linguistics was formed - juridical linguistics, the object of study of which is the relationship between language and law [4, 5]. Jurisprudence interacts with a number of areas of language science: linguo-conflictology, pragmalinguistics, communicative linguistics, speech act theory, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, text linguistics and others. Juridical linguistics is an applied field, the result of which is linguistic expertise. Theoretical and practical substantiation of linguistic expertise is carried out by modern Russian linguists: Baranov A.N., Brinev K.I., Grachev M.A., Osadchiy M.A., Chernyshova T.V., etc.

Our research object is the ways and means of representing the genres of verbal aggressiveness on the material of the texts proposed for forensic linguistic expertise in the Kamchatka region, the subject of the Russian Federation, which is very remote from the cultural and administrative center of Russia, which, in our opinion, affects the specificity of the genres of verbal aggressiveness. In the Kamchatka region plaintiffs in cases of speech conflicts are more often representatives of the authorities and the law than in the metropolitan region, where along

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with this social group, media personalities, show business stars are more often involved in court disputes on language and law.

The research objective is to identify and describe the ways and means of representing the genres of verbal aggressiveness, in describing the functional-semantic, communicative and pragmatic properties of the allocated means of verbal aggressiveness. The ways of verbal aggressiveness include contact and distant, direct and indirect forms of invective communication. Under means of verbal aggressiveness, we mean multilevel language units functioning in the act of aggression, containing marks of aggressive speech behavior of communicants, having negative influence on the addressee, realizing perlocutionary effect.

The research materials were the texts of speech conflicts proposed to us for forensic linguistic expertise in order to determine the court of the Kamchatka region and Petropavlovsk-Kamchatka punishment for the initiators of verbal aggression. Such contexts of speech conflicts function in oral business communication, as well as in forms of modern written communication of various messengers (WhatsApp, Instagram, V Kontakte and others).

II. METHODS

The fundamental research method is the method of scientific description, implemented in the methods of lexical, morphological, syntactic, complex analysis, as well as the method of observation, the method of introspection (the inner world of the researcher becomes the object of observation in order to identify the degree of impact on the addressee of the means of speech conflict and determine the perlocutionary effect), the method of component analysis, distribution, contextual, functional-semantic, communicative and pragmatic methods.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Verbal aggression can be defined as follows: "offensive communication; verbal expression of negative emotions, feelings or intentions in a form offensive, rude, unacceptable in a given speech situation". [12, 9].

Verbal aggression arises under the influence of various external and internal factors and has different forms of expression. So, verbal aggression is a way of expressing negative feelings of a communicator (anger, resentment, dissatisfaction, contempt, disgust, and the like), negative emotions (irritation from events, circumstances of public, personal life, personal qualities, and behavior of the addressee of speech). Such behavior can be partially justified by the presence of external, internal irritants. However, some communicators express verbal aggression intentionally, purposefully, wishing to inflict communicative, psychological damage (insult, humiliation, intimidating, etc.) on the addressee of speech, to raise their communicative status (self-realization, self-assertion, etc.).

The category of intentional aggressive speech behavior includes the following genres: insult, threat, slander. These are named by the degree of prevalence in modern Russian communication. Let's look at it.

The most widespread form of verbal aggression in modern Russian communication is insult. In court proceedings of the Kamchatka region the number of claims about insult makes about 82 % from total number of cases about speech conflictology. In legal linguistics, insult is understood as an invective word or statement expressed in an indecent form. It should be noted that in the general linguistic and judicial-linguistic aspects, the boundaries of insults differ. For example: Your scumbag ... (from the examination materials). Such an invective

word (statement) potentially humiliates the honor and dignity of the addressee of speech, has an obscene form of expression.

Experts identify in linguistic literature classifications of offensive means, to which primarily refers lexicon with negative connotations [4, 34-35; 5, 55]. For example: *a slob, a prostitute, a pig* (in the meaning of "a man"), and others. However, for the linguist, it is important to determine the form of expression of the speaker's thoughts in the course of expert research - to be decent / indecent. An indecent form of representation of thought in legal linguistics is the presence of non-normative and/or tabooed elements [Osadchiy, 87]; "non-normative elements are understood to be LSV that have in linguistic dictionaries labels of *swear words, scripts, rudeness*, and obscenities; tabooed elements are understood to be images of a body bottom, excrement, sexual act, and act of defecation". [7, 87] (LSV - lexical-semantic variations). So, in judicial and linguistic terms, the obscene vocabulary - is a narrow, more distinct group of means than in general linguistic terms.

For instance: phrases like Rat! Bitch, got it?! (from the examination materials), we qualify as an insult, as they have an obscene form of expression. Means of insult are non-normative lexemes of a *rat* and a *bitch*, as in a speech situation express figurative meaning "name of the person", in the investigated speech event - "a female", enter into classification of offensive means of modern Russian, are elements of group "zoosemantic metaphors" [4 34], are reflected in the explanatory dictionary of Russian obscenities [1, 136, 337].

Such insulting words cannot be insulting in themselves. These lexical means become an insult if they are directed at the addressee of speech, express address, which is understood as a pragmatic meaning, a function: "directionality of speech to the interlocutor in order to induce him/her to respond (verbalized or non-verbalized)" [11, 39]. The meaning of address in contemporary Russian is expressed by lexical, grammatical means with the semantic component "You". So, the statements of the *Rat! Bitch, got it?!* Represent the meaning of "you", because the lexemes of the *rat* and the *bitch* function in the role of an address, call the addressee of speech and are directed at it, as well as the questioning statement, it is addressed to the interlocutor. So, the lexemes of a *rat* and a *bitch* included in the classification of insulting means, which are obscenities-invectives that implement in a speech situation the meaning of the orientation of a statement to the addressee of speech, are qualified by us as an indecent form of insult, for which the addresser who expressed an idea in this way against a representative of power is subject to criminal punishment.

The listed insult parameters are not the only signs of a speech act of insult. Examples of direct, contact insult are described above. In other speech situations, the proof of the fact of insult is the publicity of the statement, the presence of a third person as a channel for transmitting the speech event. In this case, an indirect, remote statement also becomes the fact of insult. So, Do you think that the twenty-two-year-old jerk N is interested in your snow and the retaining wall? (from the expertise materials) is characterized by an essential sign of insult - publicity, as it is used in the mass communication media - by the mobile application "Instagram". The statement has the status of publicity, and stable publicity, because, unlike newspapers, radio, television, anyone can enter "Instagram" at a convenient time and find this comment from the user of the application, including the addressee N, so we consider the statement under addressed to all users of "Instagram" and the addressee of speech N in particular. The author of the statement is also aware of this fact, because he knows about the publicity of this method of communication, and the mass addressee of - Instagram users and the specific addressee N.

Besides, from the functional point of view the insult corrects the image of the addressee for the worse by means of status demotion in relation to the addresser [7, 97], aims to emphasize the inferiority, disadvantages of the second person and / or his inconsistency with the status, position. The lexemes of a *scumbag*, a *rat*, a *bitch*, and a *jerk* from different described speech situations reduce the communicative status and discredit the images of the addressees at the expense of the presence of a sharply negative connotation in their semantics.

So, the fact of insult is characterized by the following parameters: 1) a addresser and an addressee; 2) an insulting means, an invasive statement; 3) a third person as a channel of transmission, publicity of the statement; 4) correction of the addressee's image for the worse.

Sometimes the insult is combined with the threat. For example, *you're a scumbag..., I'll kill you, jerk* (from examination materials). The threat is a genre of speech conflict, also subject to forensic linguistics. Threat is a statement containing a message about negative consequences for the addressee in case of any actions of the threatening addresser, which can be taken if the addressee does not commit or, on the contrary, commits any action [9, 7].

The genre of threat can be manifested in different ways in this or that sphere of communication: in the sphere of everyday life, the threat is sometimes not the actual threat, but a way to solve any speech problems or failures (increase self-esteem, self-assertion, self-protection, protection from verbal aggression, the desire to resist in conflict, etc.). For example, if you do not stop shouting at me, I will hit you (spoken language), while in the production of forensic linguistic expertise get communicative situations of a different order and other potential consequences, for example, ... I guarantee troubles, address N ... I know, I will find a two-leveled apartment, there is not much time left ... I will do anything to cause her maximum pain, and this means to remove what is most precious to her (from the expertise materials).

The principal difference between the threat in the forensic-linguistic aspect is the reporting of undesirable consequences to the addressee the threat of killing or causing serious harm to the health of the addressee and / or his or her family. So, in the investigated context the addresser uses the following combinations: to guarantee troubles, not much time left, to cause maximum pain, to remove what is more expensive, implementing the information about negative consequences for the addressee. Negative connotations in the analyzed context are represented by word forms of trouble and pain. The lexeme trouble in the explanatory dictionary is accompanied by the following lexical meaning: "Unpleasant message, event. Trouble happened." [6, 621]. In the investigated phrase the word trouble functions in the form of plural and expresses the second component of semantics - "unpleasant events, i.e. those which cause excitement, disturb somebody's peace of mind". The lexeme pain has the following lexical meaning in modern Russian: "Feeling of suffering. Tooth pain. Mental pain." [6, 95]. In the analyzed context, the word pain represents the synthetic semantics of "mental and/or physical suffering". The addresser uses the dependent adjective maximum (pain) to express the idea that "he wants to cause the addressee severe suffering, mental and/or physical".

In addition, the addresser in the act of threat uses the word form of guarantee, representing the semantics of "guarantee, ensure, i.e. undertake to achieve a result", as opposed to the word promise, i.e. "make a promise, hope for something". In other words, the addresser vows that he or she will break the addressee's peace of mind, gives guarantees, because he or she knows the address and intends to find the addressee's place of residence immediately, as evidenced by the combination of "there is not much time left". As a continuation of the thought, the addresser

informs about his guarantees "I will do everything" in order to achieve his goal "to cause maximum pain". Probably, the addresser wants to cause the addressee mental experiences that lead to physical suffering, explaining the cause of the addressee's pain by the combination "to remove what is most precious to her". The addresser, knowing that the recipient of the studied contexts is a woman, and for a woman-mother only her children can be the most precious, the addresser informs about his intention to remove them, otherwise "destroy, kill". Such meaning to remove is not characteristic of a word of modern Russian literary language, it is realized in thieves', prison tongue of modern Russian language, which has a negative connotation.

The addresser expresses his intentions in the form of a threat explicitly (direct threat), for example: *I guarantee* trouble, there is not much time left, to cause maximum pain and implicitly (indirect threat) to remove what is most precious to her, his determination is evidenced by the verb of the first person, Indicative Mood, present time *guarantee* and future time will do, which is actually a lexical-grammatical sign of the threat genre. The addresser does not report according to the formula "I am threatening", but tries to disguise the threat and issue it as a warning, for example: I guarantee and do.

The threat speech act has a diverse language structure. More often the threat is represented by a model of a complex subordinate sentence with an appendage condition with an exclamation point or in the form of an inducement structure. For example, I will hit you now if you don't leave! (spoken language) or Get out of the way or I'll kill you! (spoken language) However, in our forensic linguistics practice, we have identified threats-statements that contain information about any possible action that is unpleasant or dangerous to the addressee, as well as expressing the addresser's determination to carry out his or her intention. For example, Yes, I understand everything. I will take revenge, I will take revenge, and the first thing when I will be released, I will kill N, who illegally condemned me. She's the reason I'm serving my sentence illegally. Everybody will pay who is involved in my conviction (from the examination materials). In this way the addresser expressed his intention to perform threatening actions in the future according to the voiced plan in the form of complex sentences, naming the time of committing undesirable actions for the addressee with their consequences and pointing out those who are also threatened.

So, in the forensic-linguistic aspect, the threat can be presented by the following formula: 1) "I want you to know that I will do you something bad"; 2) "I don't think you want me to do it"; 3) "if you will or won't do X" (in our opinion, an optional component, which depends on the degree of determination and seriousness of the intent of the addresser). This formula, taking into account expert experience, is slightly adjusted in comparison with the formula of the act of threat [2, 158-159], [3, 104].

Speech acts of threat make up 11% of the total number of forensic linguistic researches, which, in our opinion, is explained by the severity of the threat addresser's punishment, and this makes it possible to think that the addresser in conditions of public communication, if there is a channel for information transmission, thinks about the consequences of his speech act.

Less widespread are speech acts of slander, which according to our statistics in the Kamchatka region is no more than 7%. The slander also refers to the genres of speech conflictology, which in forensic linguistics is understood as the dissemination of knowingly false information that defames the honor and dignity of another person and undermines his reputation [4, 24]. Honor is a social category that reflects the status of the individual in society. Being localized outside the person, honor can be hurt when distributing negative information, when

bringing it to the public [7, 25]. Dignity - is a personal category reflecting an individual's self-esteem. Being localized in an individual's consciousness, dignity can be hurt by the way of transferring negative information without transferring information to third persons [7, 25]. Business reputation, like honor, is a social category reflecting the status of a subject in society [7, 25]. Such information in speech is expressed in the form of statements correlated with an assertion, opinion, evaluation and supposition.

So, for forensic linguistic expertise we have been proposed a text published on the Internet, which contains information that defames the honor, dignity and undermine the reputation of a particular official with the name of his surname and initials (for objective reasons to replace the surname, initials will use the T, the name of the area - N). Such information is expressed in the following statements: T - a criminal recidivist, covered by the FSB (The Russian Federal Security Service) in order to collect information about all and everything and to influence the acting authorities in the N district through the introduction of these authorities; That is, according to the gangster concepts T - a thief, T - ... a complete snitch and provocateur. The underlined lexemes denote the socially condemned activity of a concrete person *T*, while the presence of a name, patronymic (or initials), surname, name of a town translate the text into a genre of slander and determine its status in the legal plane.

IV. CONCLUSION

A widely used genre of forensic linguistics is insult, because of its frequency, productivity in all areas of communication. As an object of linguistic expertise the insult becomes if the given speech acts has the status of publicity and is directed, as a rule, on the representative of power as the addressee. Speech acts of threat and slanders are less widespread, probably because of the high degree of communicative, psychological damage they are capable of inflicting on the addressee and the higher severity of the addresser's punishment under the Criminal Code.

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