
A Study of Legal Interpretation of Russian and English Texts

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Abstract

Translation of legal texts in any language requires special precision and skill. Language is the transmitter of information and it becomes usable for the public with the help of the legislator's thought language expressed in the legal text. Poor translation of legal texts causes different and multiple interpretations. The concept of the legal text is obtained as a result of reading it, and it is the reader who analyzes the text in his mind and understands its meaning. Of course, it should be considered that not all readers have the same level of understanding and literacy. For this reason, the main goal of the translation of legal texts is to achieve the same interpretation of these texts by the reader, and at the same time, without introducing the slightest flaw in the concept of laws. Legal Currently, as a result of examining the translations of legal texts from English to Russian, we come across two main types of translation problems. The first type of language problems: grammatical, lexical, morphological and syntactical, and the second type is in legal translation. In some cases, poor translations of legal texts lead to disagreements about their nature and legal problems. The translator's familiarity with the legal translation technique, terms and their exact equivalents in both languages and passing training courses will undoubtedly be effective. The article is devoted to consider different adverbials used to express the category of simultaneity. The research is proved to be actual because simultaneity is one of basic meanings of temporal context. It is necessary to distinguish different types of simultaneity in complex sentences. The purpose of the article is to prove that adverbials realize different kinds of simultaneity in English and Russian.

Keywords: Legal interpretation, simultaneity category, adverbials, lexical means, politization.

Introduction

In conducting the research, component analysis, mental-logical analysis, and the descriptive method were all employed. The "British National Corpus" (<https://www.NationalCorpus.org>) and "English-Corpora.org/BNC/" are two examples. The study is carried out in accordance with the linguistic works where the concept of time coordination is developed. The analysis demonstrates that lexical non-verbal devices like adverbs can be used to express simultaneity. The study has demonstrated that adverbials can express two different kinds of simultaneity—special proximity and coincidence with another time moment or situation interval. There are various contextual factors that affect how simultaneity is expressed. The study of lexical expressions of simultaneity is the focus of this essay. Temporality has been the subject of numerous recent studies. (see, for example: [1; 2; 3; 4]). The temporal structure of a text is a set of relations connecting facts and time periods to which the text refers [5: 67]. The temporal structure of a text is a system comprising a content plan and an expression plan. A.V.Bondarko interprets the temporal order of actions as the linguistic representation of «time of situations» reflected in the utterance [1: 519]. The category of simultaneity belongs to Taxis category. «Taxis is a temporal correlation of actions expressed within the framework of polypredicative constructions, the coordination of their components within a single temporal plan» [1: 520]. The temporal structure consists of a complex of explicit and implicit temporal markers having primary or auxiliary status. Within a temporal structure Tenses interact with other temporal context markers.

In modern linguistics there are two approaches to determine the interaction of tenses with non-verbal lexical means. The first direction called «concept of polysemy» gives the priority to the context. According to this concept lexical means exert positive pressure on the meaning of Tense. The second direction qualified by Jacques Brès as

«concept of monosemy» [6: 147] proves that Tense always has the same single meaning. These two directions – polysemistic and monosemistic – reflect two approaches to determine the meaning of Tense and the role of contextual lexical means [6:148]. Simultaneity adverbials exert pressure on the meaning of Tenses.

How interact intervals implied by Tense and expressed explicitly by adverbial markers? According to L.Gosselin's definition the phenomenon of anaphora is considered as a search for an antecedent interval [7].

J.Kleiber emphasizes «since any Tense requires an interval, it launches the search of an antecedent interval in the context» [8: 9]. The relationship between verbally implied interval and interval expressed by adverbials may be coreferential or non-coreferential.

We developed the concept of correlation of non-verbal and verbal temporality or the concept of primary and secondary temporal localization. *Primary temporal localization* is realized by Tenses at subconscious level. *Secondary temporal localization* is realized by non-verbal temporal means at conscious level.

There are simultaneities in time and the world, according to R.Declerck. Time simultaneity occurs when the situation time and the orientation time are expressed linguistically as being at the same time. By definition, strict coincidence is a relation of t-simultaneity. Contrary to how simultaneity expressed by a tense form is expressed, world simultaneity is a pragmatic relationship. Language-specific information, the linguistic and nonlinguistic context, and additional pragmatic knowledge can all be used to infer W-simultaneity [2: 127]. The goal of this article is to define allomorphic and isomorphic characteristics of adverbials' lexical functions as expressions of simultaneity. To accomplish this, the following tasks were assigned: 1) to identify temporal adverbs of simultaneity in English and Russian; and 2) to contrast their semantics and frequency of use in the two languages. This research is important because artificial intelligence needs to be built on a linguistic foundation that uses time adverbials to express simultaneity.

Materials and Methods

In conducting the research, component analysis, mental-logical analysis, and the descriptive method were all employed.

For the collection and systematization of linguistic data, the British National Corpus (BNC) for English and the National Corpus of Russian Language (RNC) for Russian were used as the sources, respectively (also see corpus-based researches [9, 10, 11]).

As a result the following are analyzed: British National Corpus database with a volume of 189369 characters, National Corpus of Russian language database with a volume of 132193 characters.

Results and Discussion

In English adverbials of simultaneity are distributed in correspondence with their frequency indicator in Google as follows: *simultaneously* – frequency indicator 4; *at the same time* – frequency indicator 3; *together* – frequency indicator 2; *contemporaneously* – frequency indicator 1.

However these figures contradict BNC data according to which: *together* – 29533 tokens; *at the same time* – 6835 tokens; *simultaneously* – 1715 tokens; *contemporaneously* – 39 tokens.

This contradiction can be explained by the interaction of polysituation and simultaneity categories. Polysituation is a category of utterance which semantic dominant is the distribution of situations in space and time. Its expression plan is constituted by multilevel language means and their interaction.

In English the adverbial *together* often represents spatial proximity although it can function as an indicator of simultaneity. Its wide range of values determines its high frequency.

In Russian the following adverbials of simultaneity are revealed with their frequency indicators according to RNC: *одновременно / simultaneously* – 31664 tokens; *в одно время / at one time* – 1359 tokens, *в одно и то же время / at one time* – 30 tokens, *вместе / together* – 140942 tokens.

Thus in English the adverbial «*together*» is more frequent, in Russian the adverbial *вместе* is the most frequent. We can state the dominance of adverbials with the same meaning and structure in both languages. Let's consider adverbials' semantic features and functioning.

Coincidence with another Moment as an Indicator of Simultaneity

In English the adverbial expression *at the same time*, according to BNC list of frequency collocations, is combined with following conjunctions and words: *while* – 365 tokens; *whilst* – 57 tokens; *maintaining* – 13 tokens. All other lexemes have less than 4 tokens.

(1) I went to the island of Kos with some mates and *at the same time* as I was being ill some of my mates were having a good holiday (BNC).

(2) A woman was arrested *at the same time* as the man was still being quizzed last night (BNC).

(3) The child is in some respects freer than his predecessors while, *at the same time*, he is less able than might have been the case in the past to participate (BNC).

It can be noted that simultaneity adverbials are associated with corresponding conjunctions in complex sentences representing two situations. It is possible to emphasize syntactic coordination. The representation of the category of simultaneity is realized at different linguistic levels:

At syntactic level simultaneity is expressed by complex sentences representing two situations and united by the conjunction *while* (3).

At the lexical level simultaneity is specified by corresponding adverbials.

At the morphological level simultaneity is expressed by Tenses with an unlimited temporal-aspectual quantitative value such as Continuous (1) – (2) or Indefinite (3).

Simultaneity can imply two long-term, parallel situations (1) or the performance of one situation against the background of another long-term situation (2) which corresponds to the use of Continuous Tenses.

In Russian there are two equivalent adverbials *в одно время, в одно и то же время* / *at the same time* (4), (5). The meaning of these adverbials is to express the coincidence with some designated moment.

(4) We just agreed to get together at two o'clock, so they came *at the same time* (*в одно и то же время*) (RNC).

(5) *At the same time* (*в одно время*) we lowered our glasses and bending over she said to me in a whisper (RNC).

Simultaneity is expressed by plural forms of subject pronoun *мы* / *we* and by adverbial (4), (5).

(6) Both of these attacks were carried out *at the same time* (*в одно и то же время*) in the same season – June 22 and 24 (RNC).

(7) *At the same time* (*в одно и то же время*) I resigned and was dismissed with the rank of colonel (RNC).

Simultaneity is expressed by plural forms of subject nouns *оба этих нападения* / *both of these attacks* and by adverbial (6). In the example (7) two different situations expressed by two different predicates in Past Simple Active and Passive voices. They are represented as simultaneous due to the adverbial.

Simultaneity

The adverbial *simultaneously* has frequent collocations with following lexemes in BNC: *both* – 91 tokens; *different* – 51 tokens; *several* – 29 tokens (all other lexemes have frequency indicators less than 4).

(8) He now watched how men rose *simultaneously* to their feet (BNC) (9)

Next I withdraw the punch and *simultaneously* step forward (BNC).

Diversification of situations is one of hallmarks of polysituation. This principle is characterized by obligatory external manifestation. It is only possible to reveal an externally expressed predicative feature and to attribute it to different subjects *Men rose at the same time* (8). Spatial synchronicity of similar situations is expressed through the quantification of the subject group. Multiplicity of homogeneous situations is ontologically justified by test phrase: *men rose, some man rose earlier than another man, later, in a different way*. The principle of diversification presupposes the variability of action performance (8). However it is possible that several simultaneous actions are performed by one person (9).

(10) Cytomegalovirus infection was found *contemporaneously* at some site in the body in six individuals (BNC).

(11) Cinema was born virtually *contemporaneously* with the other great discourse of sexuality, psychoanalysis (BNC).

The synonymous adverbial *contemporaneously* has frequent collocation with lexeme *with* – 18 tokens. Other lexemes have less than 3 tokens (*published* – 2; *developed* – 2). Among 18 tokens all contain verbs in Past tense form. It is worth noting that this adverbial is typical for scientific style. Half examples are taken from texts about abstract scientific facts. We can talk about the simultaneity of scientific facts (10), about the simultaneity of diagnoses (11).

(12) During the record-breaking process data was transmitted over a regular network and it was *simultaneously* (*одновременно*) used by Sprint and Sunet customers (RNC).

(13) Having understood this trend, the company was looking for its own image and *at the same time* (*одновременно*) was producing something new in its market (RNC).

One adverb, *одновременно* (12), in the Russian language can be used to denote both simultaneity and Compatibility.

The full situation's time was transmitted at the situation's time. The full situation time, which is also the situation time, was employed. Strict simultaneity (coincidence) is the definition of time simultaneity (12). The overlap is supported by empirical evidence, more specifically by how we interpret phrases like the company was looking for and producing (13). This sentence can be interpreted in an unmarked way to mean that the situations of producing and looking for things are all concurrent. The duration of the full situations becomes apparent when we look at their times. The past tense forms of looking for and producing express simultaneity: looking for is denoted by the T-simultaneous with producing symbol. The adverbial also simultaneously indicates the time. In terms of the overlap between two complete situations, simultaneity can be defined. The situations of seeking and producing are seen as unbounded. The full situation of looking and producing are not entirely congruent at the same time. Therefore, simultaneity must be defined as an overlapping relationship between the times of complete situations rather than as a coincidence between situation times.

The Value of Spatial Proximity as an Indicator of Simultaneity

(14) They read it *together* and separate (BNC).

(15) I think they will manage these project *together* and over time they will come together and they will work (BNC).

In English simultaneity can be represented by the adverbial *together* expressing the compatibility of actions' performance (15), (14). Its meaning emphasizes the spatial proximity of situation participants but diversification principle allows us to talk about the parallelism and synchronicity of situations.

In English adverbial *together* has collocations with following verbs: *will* – 582; *was* – 863 tokens; *worked* – 268 tokens; *come* – 400 tokens; *bring* – 432 tokens; *brought* – 515 tokens; *work* – 850 tokens; *are* – 1438 tokens; *were* – 1293 tokens; *have* – 1080 tokens; *had* – 991 tokens. Spatial synchronicity of identical situations is expressed through the quantification of the subject group expressed by plural pronoun *they* (15) – (14). The principle of diversification is important for this adverbial. Due to this principle situations can be considered as separate.

(16) I know that we created the portal *together* (*вместе*) (RNC).

(17) I know that many teachers travel *together* (*вместе*) with their children, but I think first I will go myself, for the sake of my soul (RNC).

In Russian the equivalent adverbial is *вместе* which represent identical meaning.

Summary

The category of simultaneity is semantically complex. On the one hand we have to talk about the simultaneity to moment of speech, on the other hand one cannot deny the possibility of simultaneity to any moment in future or past. Traditional means of expressing simultaneity are divided into verbal and non-verbal. **Verbal means** are Tenses, participle and gerund forms, which are morphological means that allow us to express the synchronicity of two situations. **Non-verbal means** are lexical means used to represent the simultaneity of two or more situations.

Conclusions

Thus, a comprehensive study of adverbials allows us to make the following conclusions. In both languages the following types of simultaneity adverbials are revealed: simultaneity indicators and indicators of proximity and coincidence with another moment as simultaneity. In English the adverbial *together* is the most frequent, in Russian the adverbial *вместе* is the most frequent. These adverbials have the same meaning of space proximity which implies numerous situations with different participants. In English two adverbials *simultaneously*, *contemporaneously* are used to express simultaneity last is typical for written, scientific speech. Both languages have an adverbial *at the same time* / *в одно время, в одно и то же время* of an equivalent structure. In both languages adverbials of proximity represent temporal meaning of simultaneity as realization of one action by several subjects *together* / *вместе*.

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