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DISCOURSE FEATURES OF NEGATIVE PRONOUNS

У статті розглядається категорія заперечення у сучасній англійській мові, окреслюється функціональна парадигма заперечення, висвітлюються дискурсивні характеристики заперечних займенників. Парадигма заперечення у сучасній англійській мові складається з морфологічних та лексичних засобів.

Ключові слова: функціональна парадигма, заперечні займенники, морфологічні та лексичні засоби.

В статье рассматривается категория отрицания в современном английском языке, исследуется функциональная парадигма отрицания, выясняются дискурсивные характеристики отрицательных местоимений. Парадигма отрицания в современном английском языке состоит из морфологических и лексических средств.

Ключевые слова: функциональная парадигма, отрицательные местоимения, морфологические и лексические средства.

The article deals with the category of negation in modern English, functional paradigm of negation, as well as discourse characteristics of negative pronouns. Negative paradigm in Modern English is constituted by morphological and lexical means.

Keywords: functional paradigm, negative pronouns, morphological and lexical means.

Negation as a universal conceptual category in the language world view is discussed in many sciences: philosophy, logic, linguistics. There are two contradictory approaches to the concept of negation: in the first one negation is treated as the property of a word, while in the second – as the property of a sentence.

The problem of realization of the category of negation was studied by different scholars and in different aspects (A. I. Bakharev [1], C. L. Baker [5], K. Burke [6], D. Fishlin [7], L. R. Horn [8], O. Jespersen [9], E. Klima [10], I. Laka [11], V. V. Mykhailenko [12], G. Tottie [13], R. Zanuttini [14]) but still there are issues that need further investigation.

The topicality of the presented article is conditioned by the necessity to study inner relations in one of the semantic paradigms of Modern English – paradigm of 'negation'. These relations are not homogeneous which may be caused by the complicated nature of the concept 'negation'. The study of peculiarities of functioning of negative pronouns on the material of the English literary discourse constitutes the scientific novelty of the presented research.

The objective of this article is to establish functional paradigm of negation, as well as to elucidate peculiarities of functioning of negative pronouns in English literary discourse.

To achieve the objective it is necessary to solve the following tasks: to outline negation paradigm in Modern English; to reveal peculiarities of functioning of negative pronouns in the author's discourse.

The tasks were realized with the help of the following methods of analysis: descriptive method was used to establish semantic and syntactic characteristics of negative pronouns in the author's discourse; quantitative method was of help in determining the frequency of usage of negative pronouns in discourse.

The investigation was carried out on the material of novels by Graham Greene and Somerset Maugham out of which by the method of consecutive selection we singled out 1430 instances of usage of negative pronouns.

Both in linguistics and philosophy the negation category is viewed from the point of its linguistic and semantic characteristics. Thus, negative pronouns may be viewed as markers of the category of negation in English. In this respect it is necessary to specify the class of negative pronouns both in the system of English pronouns in general and in the aspect of their discourse characteristics within the category of negation.

Pronoun is a lexico-grammatical class of meaningful words, the meaning of which includes reference to the given act of communication (its participants, speech situation or the utterance itself), or the indication to the type of speech correlation of the word and metalingual reality (its denotative status). Pronouns correlate with the names – nouns, adjectives, numerals. Pronouns are the constituents of a wider lexico-grammatical class of pronominals, sometimes obtaining general name – pronouns [2, p. 437].

The importance of the problem of classification of pronouns is evident. Pronouns are classified according to their logical, semantic, and thematic characteristics [4, p. 236]. Logical and semantic classification includes pragmatic characteristics and semantic parameters of the pronouns, at the same time thematic classification is characterized by the thematic component being present.

So, according to logical and semantic classification, pronouns are traditionally divided into (the classification is suggested by V. Plungyan):

1) indicatory, containing the reference to the act or speech situation in their meaning;

2) anaphoric, containing the reference to the given utterance or the text it is included into;

3) quantory, including indefinite, introductive, existential, universal, negative and interrogative pronouns [3, p. 158].

Thematic classes of pronouns according to the totality of their syntactic functions are united into two groups: pronouns-nouns and pronouns-adjectives, being included into the wider semantic class of pronominal

elements, the volume of which the scholars define in different ways. Some of them emphasize the connection between the meaning of pronominals and the speech situation. In this case they are defined as 'demonstrative words' (K. Brugman, K. Blair, U. Weinreich), 'indexes' or *'indicators'* (Ch. Pears, V. Collinson), 'words with unsteady signification' (A. Nuren), 'shifters' (O. Jespersen, R. Jackobson), 'actualizers' (Ch. Bally, E. Benveniste) [see 2].

Other scientists put forward the 'substitutive' function of pronominal words, naming them 'substitutives' (L. Scherba, L. Bloomfield), 'representatives' (F. Bruneau); sometimes the term 'pronoun' is used for the denotation of the words-substitutives (O. Peshkovsky, E. Panov). The first tendency very often leads to the exclusion of 'quantory' words from the unity of pronominal ones, the other one involves into the process of analysis of quantificators as well.

Negative pronouns refer to quantory words and are used in utterances, indicating fallibility of certain predication for all the objects of a definite class.

Lexico-grammatical group of negative pronouns in the English language includes the following lexical units: *neither, no, none, no one, nobody, nothing.* For example:

Nobody has been here since her last visit [16, p. 247];

Nothing could be done before morning, he thought [16, p. 112];

Neither of us mentioned him, but everybody knew who was the subject of the discussion [16, p. 74];

No rules he was ready to accept. That was his policy [16, p. 128].

English negative pronouns are characterized by specific syntactic functions in discourse. The main syntactic functions of pronouns, according to the results of our research, are the following:

1. that of a subject (461 pronouns, that is 32,3% of the total quantity of the speech units under research);

2. that of a predicative (12 pronouns – 0,8%);

3. that of an object (406 pronouns – 28,4%);

4. that of an attribute (551 pronouns – 38,5%).

The results of this research are presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Syntactic Functions of Negative Pronouns in the Author's Discourse

Syntactic function	Amount	Percentage
Subject	461	32,3
Predicative	12	0,8
Object	406	28,4
Attribute	551	38,5
Total	1430	100%

The following examples may illustrate the usage of negative pronouns in the syntactical function of subject (32,3%).

No one ('not anyone; no person')

No one to hear her prattling away would have guessed that she was the greatest actress in England [16, p. 82];

Julia was confident that no one would imagine for a moment that she was having an affair with a boy young enough to be her son [16, p. 238];

Neither ('not one nor the other')

The voices were approaching, neither seemed familiar to Julia, and she kept silence [16, p. 102];

Neither of her men was so young as Tom was, neither of them was too innocent [16, p. 205].

Nothing ('not any thing; no thing')

My husband has mentioned her, but nothing is settled yet [16, p. 96];

Nothing had happened to them for years, nothing now would ever happen to them till they died ... [16, p. 220].

Nobody ('not anybody; no person')

Nobody did, and he remained in her recollection, and in her bones without a name [16, p. 163];

Nobody ever thought of her clothes to be less than brilliant [16, p. 210];

None ('not any; not one')

It seemed to her that none but she knew what it was like to live with a man who was such a monster of vanity [16, p. 204];

She had an impression that he took none of them very seriously [16, p. 132].

Lesser quantity of negative pronouns was used in the syntactic function of an object (34%).

Nothing ('not anything')

But she left nothing undone to bind him to her [16, p. 127];

His behaviour had nothing of the chivalrous courtesy a young man might show to a fascinating woman [16, p. 139];

No one ('not anybody; no person')

They decided to keep their engagement for themselves, and Julia told no one about it but Jimmy Langton, two or three girls in the company and her dresser [16, p. 50];

Her emotions were typical for a woman of the theatre, no one took it strange [16, p. 46];

None ('not any; not one')

She had an impression that he took none of them very seriously [16, p. 132];

He seemed a trifle apathetic; he had none of her sparkling vitality ... [16, p. 251];

Nobody ('not anybody; no person')

When I've seen you go into an empty room I've sometimes wanted to open the door suddenly, but I've been afraid to in case I found nobody there [16, p. 282];

She had a sudden desire to see nobody and be seen by nobody [16, p. 279];

The usage of negative pronouns in the attributive syntactic function takes up the third place in the structure of W. S. Maugham's discourse (21%).

No ('not one; not any')

"No golf for Roger tomorrow, I think", said Julia to herself [16, p. 177];

She had no proof; she only had an intuition that she could not mistrust [16, p. 256];

Neither ('not one nor the other')

Neither gossip has reached the ears of Dolly de Vries [16, p. 166];

Neither of days was so long and boring to her until the time Tom went to Eastbourne with his family for Christmas [16, p. 98].

No one ('not anybody; no person')

There were no one's sweet reminiscences but hers … [16, p. 68];

Theatre, rehearsals, performances … too much … but it was her life, no one's else [16, p. 93].

Nobody ('not anybody; no person')

It seemed nobody's room without a hint of human existence [16, p. 162].

It is important to mention that the syntactic function of the negative pronouns as predicatives is limited (only 2% of all pronouns under analysis):

Nothing ('not anything')

There was nothing in which he did not think that he knew better than anybody else [16, p. 80];

No ('no one; not any')

He had no fantasy and his ideas were commonplace [16, p. 181].

Proceeding from the pronoun classification principles, their thematic classes according to their main syntactic functions are divided into two groups: pronouns-nouns and pronouns-adjectives. Among the pronouns-nouns in our research we single out thematic sub-classes of speech units, representing mainly animate / inanimate objects. Pronouns-adjectives with negative meaning have no qualitative and quantitative characteristics, and are expressed by determinatives.

The determinatives are marked by the seme of possessive relations absence or point to the falsity of predication for the objects of a certain class. The results of quantitative analysis of negative pronouns functioning as substitutes of different parts of speech in of W. S. Maugham's discourse are represented in Table 2.

Table 2

Quantitative characteristics of the negative pronouns

Pronoun	Part of Speech Substitute	Quantity	Percentage
Nobody	Noun	126	21
	Adjective	12	2
No one	Noun	82	8
	Adjective	14	2
None	Noun	63	10
	Adjective	0	0
Nothing	Noun	132	22
	Adjective	0	0
No	Noun	0	0
	Adjective	145	24
Neither	Noun	38	6
	Adjective	29	5
Total		607	100%

According to the obtained data we have come to the conclusion that the concept of 'negation' can include not only the negative particle *not*, but other word classes such as pronouns (*nothing, nobody*) and adverbs (*nowhere, never*) as well. Even with negation, a fairly well-understood category, the discourse is marked by the negative pronouns, forming the group of nominative parts of speech that makes up 67% of the examples and pronouns-adjectives that make up 33% of their total quantity. We can see that the pronouns were used in the function of noun in 126 instances: *nobody* – 21%; *no one* – 14%; *none* – 10%, whereas *no* is used only in the adjectival function. Evidently, the dominant position of pronouns-nouns may be explained by the substitutional function of the pronouns.

The category of negation, realizing pragmatic characteristics and relations within the act of speech communication, appears to be the important element of discourse. There is no doubt that negative pronouns help to realize the category of negation in discourse.

Discourse characteristics of negative pronouns are studied on the material of the novel by Graham Greene "The Stamboul Train". The results of our investigation prove that the category of negation is mainly represented by the negative pronouns "*no*" (57%) and "*nothing*" (28. 5%).

No

He kept his eyes alert as he went up the steps into the station. He must take no risks [15, p. 105];

She knew that her appearance was against her; she wore no hat, her hare was rumpled, and her breath smelt of drink [15, p. 110].

Nothing

"No", she said, "there's nothing you can do which will harm me" [15, p. 77];

When nothing happened he turned his face from the ladder and the blank wall [15, p. 91];

Less representative is the pronoun "*no one*" – (14. 5%).

A shadow of discontent passed across his features when he thought: But I can tell no one of this [15, p. 103];

… a few hotel porters staggered down the slippery pavement carrying bags; no one stopped, no one heard [15, p. 104];

Negative pronouns *neither, nobody, none* are rarely used in the text under investigation. *Neither* is used mostly in cases when we want to state that not anyone of the group of people did some kind of activity, which is also true with the uses of *nobody*. These utterances are formed with the pragmatic intentions of the interlocutors in mind. *None* is used in an of-phrase to express lack of any positive quality or availability of something or someone who can perform an action.

Neither

Neither of us are beauties, he thought, and the presence of a pink-and-white Madonna gave the whole situation a kind of conscious blasphemy [15, p. 93];

Neither would admit that they were interested in Janet Pardoe's beauty [15, p. 238].

Nobody

"Nobody ran as well as I. Nobody could catch me" [15, p. 115].

None

"It's none of our business what this young lady does" [15, p. 123].

As we see, the distribution of negative pronouns in the discourse is unequal and the dominant usage of the negative pronouns "*no*" and "*nothing*" may be explained by the author's pragmatic intentions.

Thus, on the basis of examples from author's discourse, we can trace the typology of expressive means employed within the category of negation. Each type of negation is used on different language levels. The semantic level is always an opposition of positive and negative. On the lexical level the affix denotes negation. On the morphological level we can trace the most frequent means of expressing negation – the NOT-operator. The analysis on different levels showed that the morphological way is the most frequently used in

negative sentences – 163 units. A negative paradigm in Modern English is constituted by morphological and lexical means.

Further research of the category of negation and peculiarities of its realization in language and speech may be undertaken in connection with its functioning in different literary genres.

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