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**RESPONSIVE AS REACTION TO THE VERBAL STIMULUS  
РЕСПОНСИВ ЯК РЕАКЦІЯ НА ВЕРБАЛЬНИЙ СТИМУЛ  
РЕСПОНСИВ КАК РЕАКЦИЯ НА ВЕРБАЛЬНЫЙ СТИМУЛ**

Досліджено взаємозв'язок вербального стимулу та вербальної реакції. Розглянуто поняття «стимул», «реакція», «інтенція», «респонсивне речення», проаналізовано специфіку вербальної реакції на висловлювання з різним комунікативним завданням. Вказано, що респонсив – вербальна реакція – є необхідним у тому випадку, коли вербальним стимулом є питальне речення; якщо стимулом є спонукальне речення, то реакція може бути як вербальною, так і невербальною. Розповідне речення, зазвичай, не потребує відповіді на нього Найбільш різноманітними в лексичному, семантичному, структурному, функціональному аспектах є респонсивні речення, що є вербальною реакцією на питальні речення. У запропонованій статті виділено три типи респонсивних речень: контентні – тобто ті, що містять у собі відповідь на поставлене запитання, неконтентні – респонсиви, що не дають необхідної інформації та часто можуть бути не пов'язаними зі змістом самого питання, і латентні – респонсивні речення, які співбесідник повинен проаналізувати для того, щоб зрозуміти відповідь на своє питання, тобто такі речення містять приховану відповідь. Розглянуто різні типи реакції на запитання, наприклад, такі як формальний респонсив, маніпуляція, саботаж, респонсивні речення з референтним індексом, евристичний, змістовний респонсиви і т.п. Робиться висновок про те, що використання тих чи інших респонсивних речень обумовлене лінгвістичними та екстралінгвістичними факторами: прагненням до економії мовних засобів, бажанням чи небажанням відповідати на запитання, намаганням змінити тему розмови і т.д.

*Ключові слова:* респонсивне речення, стимул, реакція, комунікативне завдання, інтенція, розповідне, питальне, спонукальне речення.

Статья посвящена исследованию взаимосвязи вербального стимула и вербальной реакции. Рассмотрены понятия «стимул», «реакция», «интенция», «респонсивное предложение», проанализирована специфика вербальной реакции на выражение с разным коммуникативным заданием. Отмечено, что респонсив – вербальная реакция – является необходимым в случае, если вербальный стимул – вопросительное предложение; если стимулом является побудительное предложение, то реакция может быть как вербальной, так и невербальной. Повествовательное предложение обычно не требует ответа на него. Наиболее разнообразны в лексическом, семантическом, структурном, функциональном аспектах респонсивные предложения, которые являются вербальной реакцией на вопросительное предложение. В предлагаемой статье выделено три типа респонсивных предложений: контентные – то есть те, которые содержат в себе ответ на заданный вопрос; неконтентные – респонсивы, которые не дают необходимой информации и могут быть не связаны с содержанием самого вопроса и латентные – респонсивные предложения, которые собеседник должен проанализировать, чтобы понять ответ на свой вопрос, т.е. содержащие скры-

тый ответ. Рассматриваются разные типы реакции на вопрос, например, такие как формальный респонсив, манипуляция, саботаж, респонсивные предложения с референтной индексом, эвристический, содержательный респонсивы и т.п. Делается вывод о том, что использование тех или иных респонсивных предложений обусловлено лингвистическими и экстралингвистическими факторами: попытками экономии языковых средств, желанием или нежеланием отвечать на вопрос, попыткой изменить тему разговора и т.д.

*Ключевые слова:* респонсивное предложение, стимул, реакция, коммуникативное задание, интенция, повествовательное, вопросительное, побудительное предложение.

The article deals with the research of the interrelation between the verbal stimulus and verbal reaction. We have considered the notions «stimulus», «reaction», «intention», «responsive sentence». We have analyzed the specificity of the verbal reaction to the expressions with different communicative task. It is stated that the responsive – verbal reaction – is integral if verbal stimulus is an interrogative question. There are two sides of the communication: intention – plans, ideas, purpose or aim of the speaker; the act of determining mentally upon some action or result, and the verbal reaction to the utterance, realized with particular intention. In some types of the responsive, the ideas and plans of the speaker, or intention can directly correlate with the aim of the communication (for example, motivating and sabotage responsive sentences). In the other sentences that are also elements of the responsive sentences typology, there is no direct correlation between the responsive and communicative intention of the speaker (for example, emotional reaction to the utterance). The responsive sentences are considered within the communicative tasks system, because the aim of some communicative units under research can be difficult to identify (for example, latent responsive sentences). In case stimulus is an imperative question, the reaction may be verbal as well as non-verbal. A declarative sentence does not demand the answer to it. The most diverse in the lexical, semantic, structural and functional aspects are responsive sentences which contain reaction to the interrogative questions. In the given article three types of the responsive sentences are identified: contented responsive are communicative units, containing the answer to the question; uncontented responsive are sentences, having no needed information, which are not always connected with the question itself; latent responsive are constructions, containing hidden reply to the question and in order to recognize the answer to his/her question, the speaker should analyze the whole verbal expression he/she was given as a reaction from the other participant of the communication. We have considered different types of the reaction to the question, for example, the following ones: formal responsive sentences, manipulation, sabotage, responsive sentences with the referential index, heuristic and informative responsive, etc. It is concluded that the usage of definite types of the responsive sentences is based on different linguistic and extralinguistic reasons, for example, attempts to economize the language means, presence or absence of the desire to answer the given question, and attempts to change the topic of the conversation, etc.

*Keywords:* responsive sentence, stimulus, reaction, communicative task, intention, declarative, interrogative and imperative sentences.

Verbal stimulus of one speaker and verbal reaction of the other conversation partner are represented as two main parts of the process of communication. According to the dictionary, stimulus is any impact on the organism, greatly changing its behavior. In linguistics, stimulus had been investigated by behaviorists and has found its development in the scientific paper by L. Bloomfield «The Language» [6]. The verbal stimulus can be presented as interrogative, imperative or declarative sentence. All the above-mentioned types of the expressions can be followed with verbal reaction: *Do you know that I want to complain about one of your sales staff? – What happened?; Tell me, who was*

*at fault? – Well, if you want me to take this seriously; She will be transferred to another department. – The job here is too difficult for her* [2].

As it is stated in the Linguistic encyclopedic dictionary, the answer, as well as the other types of statements (question, command, a spell oath, the statement of addressing, the order, request), was also described as a separate unit of speech with peculiar communicative task even by ancient philosophers [2, p. 445].

The notion «answering sentence» is found in the Dictionary of linguistic terms by E. Ahmanova in the dictionary entry to the term «answer» [1, с. 668]. However, the notion «responsive sentence» is more relevant for identification of the speech units with the communicative task «verbal reaction to any type of expression» (from English *response – ответ, отклик, реакция, ответное чувство*). According to Oxford Explanatory dictionary of English, the word «*response*» is explained as «verbal or written answer, reaction to something» [10], so the responsive itself represents not only the answer to the utterance, but also the reaction to it.

The term «responsive utterance» with the meaning similar to the definition presented in the given article was used by Charles Fries while introducing the types of sentences according to the purpose of communication: «situation utterance» (eliciting a response) and «response-utterances». Situation utterances are subdivided into 3 groups: 1) utterances that are regularly followed by oral responses only. These are greetings, calls, questions. (Hello, goodbye, see you soon). 2) Utterances eliciting action responding. These are requests or commands (come up to me). 3) utterances regularly eliciting conventional signals of attention to continue discourse. (*I've been taking to him. –Yes.*) [7, p. 116–117] David G. Lockwood, Peter Howard Fries, James E. Copeland explained the notion «responsive sentences» as utterances «*They are, we are, I am, he/she is*» etc [8, p. 112–116] if they are used as answers to the question. Jones Bob Morris appealed to the term «responsive» while describing «*yes-no words and their equivalents*» [9]. We understand the notion of «responsive sentences» as a term with broader meaning, identifying any verbal reaction to any type of utterance.

From our point of view, the term «responsive sentence» can be implemented not only for question-response system, but it also may be used for the nomination of syntactic unit used as a reaction to any expression: interrogative (*And where have you been? – Nowhere. Can you help me? I'm on the phone*), declarative (*There's no way we'll make this plane. It leaves in 45 minutes. Think positive! He thinks I'm guilty. That's not what's important*) and imperative (*Get upstairs now. Why? Do it! Why me?*) [3].

We have made an attempt to classify the responsive sentences according to their structural, semantic peculiarities and lexical units they include. The typology was based on the material of the Russian language [4, p. 98–100]. As for English, to our mind, some other types can be added. First of all, the constructions under analysis can be divided into three main classes: contented responsive – a verbal reaction to the utterance, which satisfies the person who asks something, the answer\reaction, containing the needed information and representing by itself the data necessary for the interlocuter partner. The communicative units, belonging to this type of responsives, can be characterized with different lexical content and peculiar structural features: *What time is it? – Seven o'clock; Had your breakfast? – No*, etc. Uncontented responsive sentences represent a verbal reaction, which is unsatisfied for the conversation partner and gives no information he\she asked for. Such type of responsives is usually present when the speaker does not want to give any answer, tries to avoid an inconvenient question or

even make the asking person answer his\her question by himself\herself: *What could you do? – Sometimes one thing, sometimes another!; Are you going in now? – That depends upon whether you have anything to show me; What is your business, sir? – I am a professional!* The speech units belonging to the uncontented responsives, also include means of communicative sabotage, attempts to manipulate with the information received from the content of the question or statement itself, etc: *Have you got a room to let? – Is it for yourself you ask?; What building is that? – That belongs to me, friend!*

Sometimes the uncontented responsive sentences under review may show the uncertainty of the reacting\answering person in some facts and, simultaneously, pursue the speaker to prove something to his\her conversation partner: *You know I am your real friend! – Do you?; She knows everything about computer software! – Does she?; My sister can bake the best cakes all over the world! – Does she?* [3]. Considering the first situation, it is possible to mark that the answering\reacting person wants to hear some words proving friendly attitude of the speaker and, depending on the situation, proving these words by doing some actions, for instance, *if you are really my friend, you will lend me money, pick me up to my work, help me do any task* etc. so the speaker has no possibility to reject the request of his\her conversation partner. Moreover, the implementation of such a responsive sentence in the conversation will help the reacting person to hide the fact of manipulation. The same with the next example: while introducing the responsive construction «*Does she*» the reacting or answering person makes a speaker prove his\her words about his\her sister and, apparently, the next phrase, which the speaker is made to say, will be something like this «*Really, if you have questions concerning this topic or if you have problems with your computer you can address her*», etc. So, by means of these responsive sentences the reacting\answering person can avoid asking for the help of speaker's sister directly. In the third case (*My sister can bake the best cakes all over the world! – Does she?*) the responsive construction can be implemented for several purposes, such as asking speaker's sister to give the receipt of the cakes or for being welcoming the eating of these cakes, and, continuing the conversation, the reacting person tries to make the speaker say something the reacting person wants to hear.

Communicative constructions, including the positive or negative answer are considered within a lot of typologies of answers. In the given article, dealing with the peculiarities of the responsive sentences in the English language, such constructions are referred to as formal responsive sentences. The formal responsive is the simplest but at the same time one of the most interesting types of the responsive sentences.

The formal responsive is communicatively meaningful in case the question does not include the direct speech unit, for example, question word, which requires to extend the lexical content of the answer: «*Is the runway still blocked?*» – «*Yes*»; «*Have you got any friends there?*» – «*No*» [3].

In the proposed examples, with the help of the responsive sentence the participant of the communication gives only positive or negative answer, but adds nothing and gives no comments. However there is another type of the formal responsive sentences that are accompanied with some modal words or even with the information. Very often besides words *Yes* or *No*, formal responsive sentences include other lexical units because of linguistic or even extralinguistic reasons, for example, grammatical peculiarities of the language, etc.

In the written speech as well as in the oral one, we can find the so called «mixed» responsive sentences that consist of the elements of different subtypes of the responsive sentences including the formal ones.

The formal responsive sentences also include the following lexemes, which show agreement or disagreement of the speaker in the same way as words *Yes* or *No*: *Ok, Certainly, Undoubtedly, good, very well, indeed, I'm for it, I don't mind, I am not against it, of course, that is not true, no go, by no means, I object to that*, etc. The formal responsive sentences first of all contain the meaning of the positive or negative answer, and exist in the dialogical language as its integral part.

The verbal reaction to any kind of the utterance, not only to the question, can be very different: from one word, expressing the agreement or disagreement of the answering person, confirmation or objection of a fact, emotional condition of the speaker etc.: «*Close the window, please! It's too cold. – Ok.*», «*Promise you will never be late for the supper! – Yes, Yes*», «*I hope they accept here a two-dollar bill? – No, only exact change*», «*You can leave her a massage. – No, thanks*» [3] to the extended speech units, where the conversation partner gives all details concerning the subject of the conversation or tries to bewilder the speaker and avoid providing the information needed for the questioner while hiding these intentions with the help of giving a lot of unnecessary facts: «*Tell me please your opinion concerning the newscast this morning? – Have they said something important? I heard they started again working on the solving of the international economy problems*», «*I saw you in the city center yesterday! – What did you do there yesterday? I thought you went on business for this week. Why did you decide to postpone your travel?*» [3], etc.

The responsive sentences, representing the verbal reaction to the interrogative constructions, are the most interesting ones according to their structural, semantic, lexical and functional peculiarities. Verbal response to the message of any type may be dependent on a significant amount of linguistic and extra-linguistic factors. Among linguistic reasons we can primarily single out the following:

- The tendency to the linguistic means economy;
- Construction of the original phrase: the use of different linguistic figures; distortion of the grammatical construction of the statements;
- Lexical material of the original phrase: speech units that are used by participants of communication; the use of clichés;
- Accuracy, pace of speech, clarity of pronunciation of the speaker; the correct interpretation of the lexical units of the original sentence;
- Change of the speech genre, such as the replacement of communication;
- Style of communication, adequacy of the style of communication situations, etc.

As one of the most important linguistic factors determining the nature of responsive sentences in dialogic speech, the lexical content of the original expression should be noted. Lexical material that is used by the speaker largely determines the course of communication and the nature of the response, which will follow this type of statement. The use of different speech units – evaluative vocabulary, emotionally-colored, official ones, etc. – naturally causes different reactions of the interlocutor.

Thus, linguistic factors together with extralinguistic ones influence the verbal response to the statement or question as well as the whole communication itself. Among the most significant extralinguistic factors in the proposed article, the following ones: are considered the emotional condition of the speakers, the relations between speakers,

having or not having an intention to answer the question, a wish to give more information than the speaker asks for, the personality of the individual you ask a question, having or not having information you ask for, the situation itself, an intention to bewilder the speaker, to avoid answering the question and, sometimes, a wish to get some information from the speaker, lack of time for conversation. The responsive sentences are influenced by the extralinguistic factors as well as by linguistic ones during all stages of communication: establishing contact or introducing an issue for discussion, continuation of the conversation and its logical development, concluding the communication, presenting final arguments, drawing the conclusion.

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