

ASPECTUAL MEANING OF DURATION IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN

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The purpose of this article is to identify the nouns representing aspectual meaning of duration in English and Russian. The scientific novelty of the study is that temporal and aspectual duration are distinguished at semantic level and at level of expression means. It was proved that in English and in Russian time meaning of duration are represented by corresponding nouns and by nouns implying the time interval. Aspectual nouns of duration indicate the action's duration only if they are combined with verbal nouns or verbals. In English the meaning of continuation not of duration is emphasized. In Russian the nouns of duration demonstrate more significant activity compared to English.

Keywords: *duration, substantive, auxiliary verbs, temporality, aspectuality.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The relevance of the study is due to the need to distinguish between the concepts of time and aspectual duration, which are characterized by morphological and lexical means of representation. It is also of interest to consider the peculiarities of the two languages in the representation of the category of duration. The nouns of the aspectual meaning of duration are difficult to analyze. On the one hand there are deverbal nouns, on the other hand it is necessary to recognize the possibility of expressing duration by abstract nouns. Nouns are lexical means of representing duration but morphological means must also be taken into account. Traditionally time and aspectual meaning of duration are distinguished by Tenses.

To achieve the goal the following tasks were set and solved:

- 1) to make a distinction between the concepts of temporal and aspectual duration;
- 2) to analyze theoretically the quantitative temporal-aspectual meaning of duration realized by Tenses in English and Russian;
- 3) to identify nouns with temporal meaning of duration;
- 4) to make a comparative analysis of the nouns with aspectual meaning of duration in two languages.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The material of the study was the data of linguistic corpus:
for English - British National Corpus (BNC),

for Russian - National Corpus of Russian Language (RNC).

Comparative, structural, descriptive methods were successfully applied. Qualitative and quantitative analysis of linguistic corpus data demonstrates the effectiveness of the use of digital linguistics methods.

The practical significance of the study lies in the fact that the analysis of English and Russian verbal and non-verbal means of representing the duration in makes possible to compare their features in order to prevent linguistic interference. The obtained results can enrich theoretical and practical grammar of the English and Russian languages devoted to temporal and aspectual problems.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Different approaches to duration category

The theoretical basis of the study were researches in the field of temporality and aspectuality [Kobozeva 2000], [Plungyan 2011]. The concept of temporal meaning and temporal duration is described in fundamental work of R. Declerck "The Grammar of the English Verb Phrase" [Declerck 2006] and others [Brinton, D. J. Brinton 2010]. The *situation interval / situation time* is the interval or duration of the actualization of the predicative situation, expressed [Declerck 2006]. R. Declerck considers three means of expressing temporal meanings:

- 1) verbal - Tenses;
- 2) non-verbal - nouns as parts of time circumstances;
- 3) contextual means.

In Russian linguistics, the issues of temporality and aspectuality are analyzed in the work "Time reference in English" by M.Yu. Ryabova, where the problems of chronological sequence and duration are highlighted as a set of meanings for the categories of time, type, taxis [Ryabova 1993]. According to A. Mustajoki, the time phase can be expressed by variant "continuation" not implying the Agent. He explores two aspectual meanings – procedural and dynamic [Mustajoki 2006]. The semantics of duration is reflected in the works of A.V. Bondarko. The following types of duration are distinguished: explicit / implicit, different degrees of duration, extended / closed th, discontinuous / continuous [Bondarko 2002].

3.1.1. A distinction between time and aspectual duration

The category of aspect is considered as a representation of the internal development of an action without reference to time axis. The category of Time presupposes correlation with the time axis. Often, aspectual and temporal meanings are expressed jointly, they can be integrated into the meaning of one Tense. It is necessary to distinguish the qualitative characteristics of the action from the quantitative characteristics.

Qualitative time meaning determines the localization of the action in the past, present or future, that is, determines its location on the time axis [Lutfullina 2016]. In the representation of this meaning, Tenses are involved as morphological means of primary time localization. Nouns are involved as lexical non-verbal means of secondary time localization.

Qualitative aspectual meaning determines such characteristics of an action as its repetition, completeness, phase, that is the whole range of possible features.

Duration is a quantitative characteristic of an action, which can be both temporal and aspectual. Quantitative time-aspect duration can be limited and unlimited. Quantitative time meaning defines the action localization on the time axis relative to two points.

The nunc reference moment is the moment of speech or the moment "now" from the Latin nunc.

A tunc reference moment is an arbitrarily chosen moment "then" in the past or future from the Latin tunc.

Quantitative aspectual meaning determines the presence of an interval of action or the presence of one of the limits.

Quantitative time meaning is a segment of the localization of the action on the time axis, then the quantitative aspectual meaning is the presence of an interval or boundaries for the action itself.

3.1.2. Theoretical analyses of quantitative time-aspect meaning of duration

The morphological representation of the time-aspectual meaning is realized by Tenses.

Present. English Present Continuous, Present Simple Tenses and Russian Present Tense determine the localization of the situation in present, that is nunc simultaneity. The quantitative time meaning of unlimited duration implies the absence of any limits on the time axis, that is localization near "now" moment. The quantitative aspectual meaning coincides with it.

Past. In both languages past Tenses determine the localization of the situation in the past until the moment of speech, qualitative time meanings are the following:

nunc anteriority meaning by English Past Simple, Present Perfect,

tunc simultaneity meaning by English Past Continuous, Russian Past Imperfect,

Tunc anteriority meaning by in English Past Perfect and Russian Past Perfect.

The quantitative temporal meaning of duration is one-side limited on the time axis by the moment "now" for Past Tenses.

The quantitative aspectual meaning coincides with the quantitative temporal meaning only for English Past Simple, Present Perfect and Russian Past Perfect.

For Past Perfect, the one-sided limitation of duration shifts from the moment "now" to the moment "then in the past", this is also noted in Russian Past Perfect.

For English Past Continuous and Russian Past Perfect Tenses the aspectual meaning of duration is not limited.

English Past Perfect Continuous and Present Perfect Continuous require a strict representation of the process interval, they have a quantitative aspectual meaning of limited duration.

Future. In both languages Future Tenses determine the location of the situation in the future after the moment of speech, the qualitative time meanings are the following:

nunc posteriority for English Future Simple, for Russian Future Tenses;

tunc simultaneity for Future Continuous;

tunc posteriority for English Future Perfect and Russian future perfect.

The quantitative time meaning of duration is limited on the time axis by the moment "now". The quantitative aspectual value coincides with the quantitative temporal value only for English Future Simple and for Russian Future Tenses. For Future Perfect the one-side duration limit is shifted and will not be after the moment "now", but after the moment "then in the future", this is also noted in the future perfect.

For English Future Continuous and for Russian Future Imperfect the aspectual meaning of duration is not limited. The quantitative temporal meaning of duration is limited on the time axis by the moment "now". The quantitative aspectual meaning coincides with the quantitative temporal meaning only for English Future Simple and for Russian Future Tenses.

For Future Perfect the one-sided duration limit is shifted and will not be after the moment "now", but after the moment "then in the future", this is also noted in the future perfect. For English Future Continuous forms and for Russian Future Imperfect, the aspectual meaning of duration is not limited.

The quantitative time-aspectual meaning of Tense implies the presence or absence of an action interval and correlates with the meanings of non-verbal means. Neutral adverbs are to biaxial or indifferent to the time localization.

Time nouns of duration are nouns of quantitative time meaning and deverbal nouns, which are characterized by the presence of time limits. Nuclear nouns with a denotative meaning of limited duration in time: *день / day, месяц / month, год / year, etc.* Peripheral nouns *film, lecture* imply the interval of the process of realization - situations of *viewing, listening*.

3.1.3. Aspectual nouns of duration in English

Aspectual nouns of duration are an indicator of an action duration only if they are combined with deverbal nouns or verbals. Consider examples:

(1) ...with the result that the **duration** of each warrant would vary [BNC http].

(2) Teachers' salaries are relatively low compared with those for other professions requiring the same **duration of training** [BNC http].

(3) ... ladder filter is rather a **duration of the signal being handled** [BNC http].

(4) Indeed, when **the duration** becomes infinite [BNC http].

The noun **duration** can be a subject and acts as an abstract expression of duration without reference to a process (4). Of the 50 analyzed examples only one noun is combined with the V+ing form of the deverbal noun

duration of training (2). The most common combinations with the nouns that imply a time interval *warrant, war, storm, lease, term, conflict, election*. It is logical to assume that subject nouns cannot be combined with the concept of duration. The possibilities of expressing the process, the duration of which is emphasized, are extremely diverse - from the deverbal noun *warrant* (1) to the participial phrase *the signal being handled* (3).

(5) The lines of **longitude** are straight lines converging on the north pole [BNC http].

The noun **longitude** functions in only one meaning, which is determined by its status as a geographic term of longitude (5).

(6) ... the audience spent **the interval** walking about studying each other's clothes [BNC http].

(7) ... there is **an interval** during the performance so that the sale of ice-cream, nuts and drinks can take place [BNC http].

(8) Treatment' interval was defined as **the interval** between date of onset and the date therapy [BNC http].

(9) In a brief **interval** between merging The European and the The Sunday Correspondent, addressing sessions on global media the team won [BNC http].

The substantive **interval** in the given examples (6), (7) is translated as an performance break, while the content of the interval is revealed by actions filling it: by verbals (6) and a subordinate clause (7). The combination with the deverbal noun *treatment' interval* can be similar to the combination with the time nouns *four week interval* (8), since in both cases an interval is implied. The noun *interval* is most often combined with adjectives that define it a *brief interval* (9). Sometimes the interval is represented by a pause between actions.

(10) ...ownership has been transferred without **continuity** of management [BNC http].

(11) Any strategy requires far more time and **continuity** of action and work to bear fruit [BNC http].

(12) ...which ensured **continuity** of the education process throughout the years of compulsory schooling... [BNC http].

(13) ... to emphasize the need for **continuity** in their development through school life' [BNC http].

(14) ...which failed to achieve this **continuity** of production [BNC http].

Examples of correlation of an action with an interval are marked by low frequency. Nouns of the aspectual meaning of duration include:

1) deverbial nouns: *to endure - duration, to continue - continuity*;

2) abstract nouns *longitude* and *interval*.

The noun **continuity**, as can be seen from the analyzed examples (10) - (14) functions in different meanings united by one content of the continuation of the process. The meaning of duration is not explicated, but only implied by the continuation meaning. However, it should be noted its high frequency of functioning with the deverbial nouns *production* (14), *development* (13), *education process* (12), *continuity of management* (10), *action and work* (11).

In English, the emphasis is on continuation, not on duration.

(15) *Even going to the **length** of alleging in the public press that it was the Board which was in breach...* [BNC http].

The noun **length** of abstract meaning explicates the length of time, expresses a time interval. This noun is the most common (15). The abstract noun **incessancy** means "the quality of something that goes on without end or interruption." Its synonyms are *ceaselessness, continuousness, incessantness, endlessness*. These nouns express the property of being (or appearing to be) infinite. However, no examples of their combination with deverbial nouns or verbals as an indicator of the duration of action have been found. The distribution of frequency indicators is shown in Diagram 1.

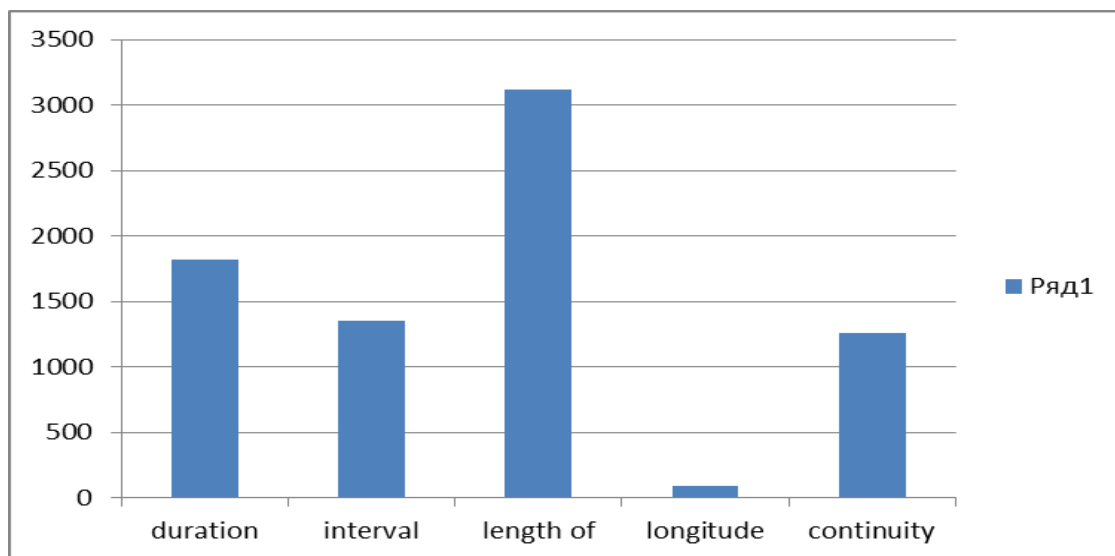


Diagram 1 Frequency of English nouns

3.1.4. Aspectual nouns of duration in Russian

In Russian, the aspectual meaning of duration can be expressed by nouns: *длительность, продолжительность, интервал, долгота, промежуток* / *duration, duration, interval, longitude, interval*. Among them, deverbal nouns can be noted:

1) *длительность* / *duration* from the verb *длиться* / *to last*,

2) *продолжительность* / *duration* from the verb *продолжаться* / *to continue*.

We consider the following examples:

(16) *В качестве таковой был принят параметр **длительности** работы в сфере ИТ* / *As such, the parameter of the **duration** of work in the field of IT was taken* [RNC [http](#)].

(17) *Формально **длительность** обучения в начальной школе не зависит от возраста поступления ребёнка в школу* / *Formally, the **duration** of education in primary school does not depend on the child's school entry age* [RNC [http](#)]. (18) ***Длительность** видеосмотра в интернете растёт с каждым годом* / *The **duration** of video viewing on the Internet is growing every year* [RNC [http](#)].

(19) ***Длительность** первого в истории полёта составила минуту, скорость — больше 40 километров в час* / *The **duration** of the first flight in the history was one minute, the speed was more than 40 kilometers per hour* [RNC [http](#)].

(20) *Какова **длительность** передержки растений в карантинном аквариуме для достижения ими гарантированной «чистоты»? ... без химии* / *What is the **duration** of overexposure of plants in a quarantine aquarium in order to achieve guaranteed "purity"? ... without chemistry ...* ([RNC [http](#)].

(21) *На всех рынках происходит увеличение средней **длительности** использования интернета, в то время как **длительность** потребления телевидения остаётся стабильной* / *All markets are experiencing an increase in the average **duration** of Internet use, while the duration of television consumption remains stable* [RNC [http](#)].

The substantive *длительность* / *duration* is actively combined with deverbal nouns of various morphemic forms (16) - (21).

(22) ***Продолжительность** проживания мигрантов превышает официально разрешённый срок* / *The **duration** of residence of migrants exceeds the officially permitted period* [RNC [http](#)].

(23) *Как изменится **продолжительность** падения, если муравей во время падения переползёт снизу вверх?* / *How will the **duration** of the fall change if the ant crawls from the bottom up during the fall?* [RNC [http](#)].

(24) *Один параметр — **продолжительность** нанесения краски* / *One parameter is the **duration** of paint application* [RNC [http](#)].

(25) ***Продолжительность** несения дежурства стала единой* / *The **duration** of duty became unified* [RNC [http](#)].

(26) *Продолжительность обучения в школе составляет 4 года / The **duration** of schooling is 4 years [RNC http].*

(27) *Продолжительность существования Вселенной конечна / The **duration** of the existence of the Universe is finite [RNC http].*

(28) *Продолжительность расширения и сжатия, разный объём при максимальном расширении и т. п. / The **duration** of expansion and contraction, different volumes at maximum expansion, etc. [RNC http].*

Both nouns *продолжительность / duration* (22)-(28) and *длительность / duration* (16)-(21) are more active in Russian than their equivalents in English. The total sampling method was used to analyze 30 examples with the noun *длительность / duration* and the same number with the substantive *продолжительность / duration*. As a result, examples of indicating the action duration were identified: 6 examples with the first noun (16)-(21) and 7 examples with the second (22)-(28). It can be noted that these nouns are combined with deverbal nouns expressing action, regardless of their form, that is, with derivatives on *-ие* (17), (18), (21)-(28), and on *-а* (16), (20). Their functional equivalence is confirmed by the possibility of combining *продолжительность / длительность обучения / duration of training* with the same deverbal nouns. Based on the number of identified and cited examples, it can be argued that the noun *продолжительность / duration* functions more often.

(29) *В продолжение прощания невесты с подругами звучали песни / In **continuation** of the farewell of the bride with her friends, songs sounded [RNC http].*

(30) *... появился пресс-релиз, подтверждающий продолжение его работы / ... there was a press release confirming the **continuation** of his work [RNC http].*

(31) *...отмена выплат — "логическое продолжение начатой работы/... cancellation of payments - "a logical **continuation** of the begun work [RNC http].*

The frequency of functioning of the noun *продолжение / continuation* is lower than that of substantives explicating duration in 3 examples out of 30 analyzed (29)-(31).

(32) *Интервал покупки не коррелирует с численным составом семьи / The purchase **interval** does not correlate with the size of the family [RNC http].*

(33) *Анализа охватывает временной интервал процесса деятельности / The analysis covers the time **interval** of the process of activity [RNC http].*

(34) *Интервал движения во время Олимпиады составит 10 минут / The **interval** of movement during the Olympiad will be 10 minutes [RNC http].*

The frequency of combinations of the noun *интервал* / *interval* with deverbal nouns to represent the action duration is also 3 examples (32)-(34) out of 30 analyzed. Quantitatively dominates the expression *интервал времени* / *time interval*: 47 tokens out of 555 detected.

(35) Каждый *промежуток* молчания обливал его ужасом... / Each *interval* of silence doused him with horror ... [10].

The functioning of the noun *промежуток* / *time gap* with deverbal nouns to represent the duration of the action is the least frequent - only 1 example out of 30 (35).

The vast majority of combinations were found with the word *время* / *time*, about 3 examples with the meaning of a spatial interval.

The frequency of functioning of nouns is presented in Table 1 in accordance with the equivalence values in the two languages. One noun *duration* in English corresponds to 2 substantives in Russian *длительность*, *продолжительность*. / *duration*. The distribution of frequency indicators is shown in Diagram 2.

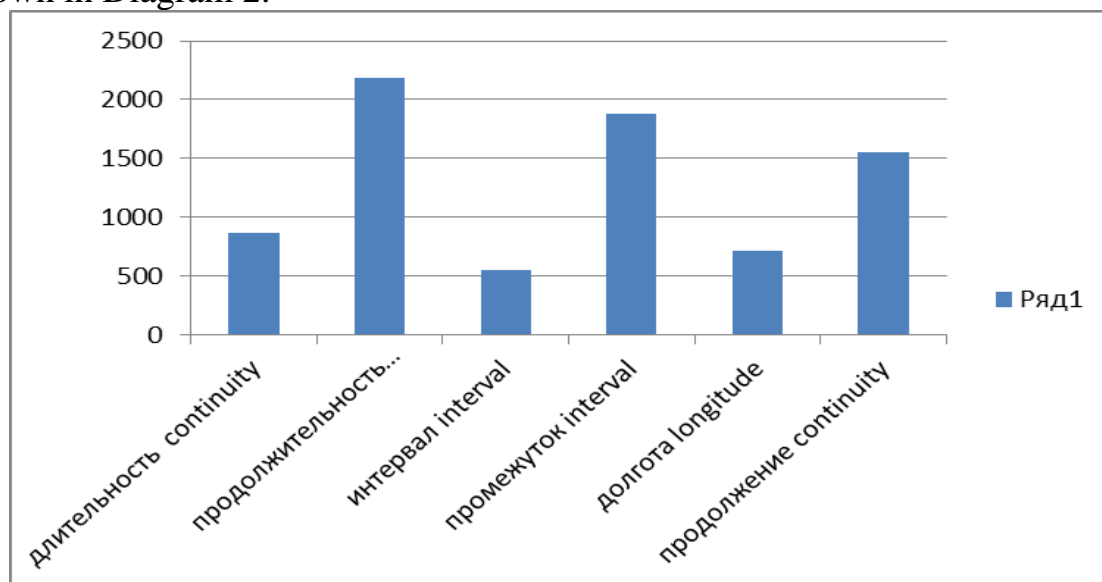


Diagram 2 Frequency of substantives of the Russian language

Table 1. Frequency of functioning nouns in English and Russian.

English language		Russian language	
duration 1818		duration 863	
		length 2187	
interval 1355		interval 555	
length of 3121		gap 1875	
longitude	93	length	717
continuity	1257	continuity	1551

4. CONCLUSION

Thus, as a result of the analysis, we came to the following conclusions:

1. Time duration means an interval of time, aspectual duration implies its being filled with action. The quantitative time-aspectual meaning of the duration of Tenses makes it possible to determine both the localization of the action on the time axis and the presence of its limits.

2. The nouns of time meaning of duration are time nouns and nouns implying the presence of an interval. Aspect nouns of duration are an indicator of the action duration only if they are combined with deverbal nouns or verbals. We have discovered the following nouns of duration *duration, longitude, interval, length, continuity, длительность, продолжительность, промежуток, долгота, интервал, продолжение* which aspectual meaning of duration actively implements *continuity*, while the frequency of the rest is very low: *duration, interval*. In English the emphasis is on continuation, not duration. In Russian these nouns demonstrate significant activity compared to English *длительность, продолжительность / duration*. The frequency of functioning of the rest is distributed in descending order as follows: interval, gap, continuation.

The prospect of further study of this problem may be to identify the conditions for the functioning of the substantives of aspectual semantics.

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BNC – British National Corpus [Electronic source]. URL: <https://www.english-corpora.org/bnc/>

RNC – National Corpus of Russian Language [Electronic source]. URL: <https://ruscorpora.ru/new>