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**TEMPORAL-CONDITIONAL RELATIONS IN A SIMPLE SENTENCE
IN THE LANGUAGE OF RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH
METEOROLOGICAL SUPERSTITIONS**

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The article investigates temporal and conditional relations in simple sentences in the language of Russian and English folk superstitions. The author elicits that the situation of condition in simple sentences is often represented by adverbial modifiers, expressed by prepositional-nominal forms of nouns in the Russian language and by prepositions in the English language.

Keywords: *simple sentence, temporal-conditional relations, Russian and English meteorological folk superstitions, semantics of prediction, prepositional-nominal form of a noun, prepositional constructions.*

Currently, the need to study folk superstitions is explained by the trends observed in modern linguistics in connection with the processes of globalization and the active interaction of various national cultures, which stimulates research on the peculiarities of the linguistic consciousness of various peoples, the categorization of human experience of interaction with the surrounding reality. At the same time, comparative studies of the works of oral folk art are of particular importance.

Our study of Russian and English meteorological folk superstitions from a syntactic point of view seems relevant for modern linguistics. The aim of this work is to find out the means used to express temporal-conditional relations of simple sentences in Russian and English folk superstitions; to identify the general, universal ways and particular, distinctive features of expression of temporal-conditional relations in simple sentences in both studied languages. The object of our research are Russian and English meteorological folk superstitions.

Folk superstitions are stable constructions that capture the collective experience of interrelations of a certain ethnic group with the natural environment, and prediction based on this experience [Фаттахова 2018: 170]. Folk superstitions belong to one of the small folklore genres. Folk superstitions as works of folk art possess powerful linguistic and culturological potential, representing folklore texts that, in the form of verbal formulas, express certain beliefs of the people, reveal features of the spiritual and physical activity of

culture-bearer, their ideas about the structure of the world, about human interaction with nature [Логутенкова 2018: 163]. According to G.A. Zolotova, basic, primary, model in both analyzed languages is a model that explicitly expresses the semantics of prediction [Золотова 2003]. The test to identify the invariant model of folk superstitions is the presence of the meaning “to predict” – to in advance, what will happen in the future [Ожегов 2006: 581]. The general meaning of this model is – “A” predicts “B”.

In Russian, among the verbs with the meaning of prediction are the following: “foretell”, “foreshow”, “predict”, “smell”, “indicate”. For example: *Крик гагар предвещает дождь - The cry of loons foretells rain [Ермолов 1995: 89]; Крик кукушки предвещает засуху - The cuckoo’s cry foretells drought [Даль 1997: 83]; Кукушка, часто и сильно подающая голос весной, предвещает теплое время - Cuckoo, often and strongly cries in the spring, foretells a warm time [Грушко 2003: 147]; Появление в большом количестве божьих коровок предвещает хороший урожай ржи - The appearance of a large number of ladybirds foretells a good harvest of rye [Грушко 2003: 20]; Сильный треск кузнечиков в поле предвещает сухую погоду - The strong crackle of grasshoppers in the field foretells dry weather [Рыженков 1991: 106]; Прекращение движения муравьев около муравейника предвещает ненастье - Stopping of the movement of ants near the anthill foretells bad weather [Рыженков 1991: 103]; Вой лисиц предвещает дурную погоду - Howling of foxes foretells bad weather [Ермолов 1995: 70]; Ранний прилет журавлей возвещает раннюю весну - Early arrival of cranes foreshows early spring [Лютин 1993: 30]; Грачи, купающиеся в реке, предсказывают скверную погоду - Rooks swimming in the river predict bad weather [Ермолов 1995: 81]; Заяц-беляк шубу сменил: зиму чуёт - The hare white coat changed: winter smells [Рыженков 1991: 108]; Заяц чуёт снег (не уходит далеко от логова перед снегом) - The hare feels the snow (does not go far from the den before the snow) [Рыженков 1991: 91]; Раннее появление змей весной указывает на дождливое наступающее лето - The early appearance of snakes in the spring indicates a rainy summer coming [Грушко 2003: 112].*

In English such verbs as “predict”, “foresee”, “foreshow”, “presage”, “portend”, “foreshadow”, “forebode”, “foretell”, “herald”, “betoken”, are used to express the meaning of prediction. For example: *Much hair on animals predicts a cold winter [Freier 1989: 58]; Magpies flying three or four together and uttering harsh cries predict windy weather [Inwards 1994: 137]; Hedgehogs do foresee ensuing storms [Ермолов 1995: 52]; Moles, plying their works in undermining the earth, foreshow rain [Inwards 1994: 131]; Moles coming into meadows presages fair weather [Inwards 1994: 131]; The unusual howling of dogs portends a storm [Freier 1989: 83]; Cuttle-fish swimming on the surface portend a storm [Inwards 1994: 142]; Hogs crying and running unquietly up and down with hay or litter in their mouths*

foreshadow a storm to be near at hand [Inwards 1994: 130]; The call of the heigh-ho (woodpecker) forebodes rain [Inwards 1994: 136]; The saw-like note of the great titmouse foretells rain [Inwards 1994: 137]; The owl's calling heralds hailstones [Goldsack 1986: 94]; The whooping of an owl betokens a change of weather from fair to wet, or wet to fair [Goldsack 1986: 94].

It should be noted that the most frequent in English is the verb "indicate" (mean, show, serve as a sign) and its synonyms "denote" and "point". For example: *Long and loud singing of robins in the morning denotes rain [Inwards 1994: 138]; Excessive croaking of frogs points to rain [Bowen 1978: 60]; Young asses rolling and rubbing their back on the ground indicates heavy showers [Freier 1989: 49]; Bats flying late in the evening, indicates fair weather [Freier 1989: 38]; Cats with their tails up and hair apparently electrified indicate approaching wind [Freier 1989: 23]; Dogs eating grass in the morning indicate coming rain [Inwards 1994: 126]; Moles, throwing up more earth than usual indicate rain [Bowen 1978: 59]; Porpoises in a harbor indicate coming storm [Inwards 1994: 141]; Field-larks congregating in flocks indicate severe cold [Inwards 1994: 139]; The low flight of rooks indicates rain [Freier 1989: 16]; A screeching owl indicates a storm [Freier 1989: 88]; Parrots whistling indicate rain [Freier 1989: 88]; Turkeys perched in trees and refusing to descend indicate snow [Freier 1989: 88]; Water turkeys flying against the wind indicates falling weather [Inwards 1994: 134]; An early appearance of the woodcock indicates the approach of a severe winter [Inwards 1994: 135]; House flies coming into the house in great numbers indicate rain [Inwards 1994: 148]; Spiders in motion indicate rain [Inwards 1994: 148]; Wasps building nests in exposed places indicate a dry season [Inwards 1994: 146]; Wasps in great numbers and busy indicate warm weather [Inwards 1994: 146]; Black-fish in schools indicate an approaching gale [Inwards 1994: 142]; Tree-frogs piping during rain indicate a continuance [Inwards 1994: 145]; Robins indicate the approach of spring [Inwards 1994: 138]; The low flight of rooks indicates rain [Inwards 1994: 136]; The early appearance of butterflies indicates fine weather [Freier 1989: 59]; Fireflies in great numbers indicate fair weather [Inwards 1994: 149]; The early appearance of insects indicates an early spring and good crops [Freier 1989: 84].*

The optional components of the invariant model in both Russian and English can be various determinants for any of the main components. The situation of condition may have an indication for temporal or diatopical correlation: *Поздний отлет птиц на зимовку предвещает позднюю осень - Late flying away of birds for wintering foreshadows late autumn [Рыженков 1991: 105]; Сильный треск кузнечиков в поле предвещает сухую погоду - The strong crackle of grasshoppers in the field foretells dry weather [Рыженков 1991: 106]; Chickens puddling in the dust predicts rain [Freier 1989: 49].*

The periphery of the constructions under consideration compose models with an improper way of expressing the semantics of prediction. Into such models we include several types of constructions:

a) simple sentences with a verbal predicate, having lexical meaning “to predict”, for example, verbs “bring”, “bring on”: *Журавль прилетел и теплынь принес* - Crane flew and brought warm [Ермолов 1995: 87]; *Трясогузку-ледоломку журавль на хвосте принес* - Wagtail-icebreaker crane on the tail brought [Мустаев 1987: 27]; *Лебедь несет на носу снег* - Swan carries snow on the nose [Коринфский 1901:46]; *A soft dropping April brings milk to cows and sheep* [Dolan 1988: 197]; *Spiders' webs floating at autumn sunset bring a night frost* [Inwards 1994: 148]; *The hooting of the owl brings rain* [Freier 1989: 17]; *A straight line of ants brings on a rain* [Sloane 1963: 29];

b) sentences with a predicate that has the general meaning of “making sounds”: “cry”, “sing”, “howl”, “croak”, “utter”. For example: *Перепела кричат перед дождем* - Quails shout before the rain [Рыженков 1991: 102]; *Дрозд к ненастью кричит редко* - Thrush screams rarely before bad weather [Рыженков 1991: 102]; *The missel-thrush sings particularly loud and long before rain* [Inwards 1994: 136]; *Dogs howl before a storm* [Bowen 1978: 57]; *Frogs croak before a rain* [Freier 1989: 31]; *Pea-fowl utter loud cries before a storm, and select a low perch* [Inwards 1994: 135]; *Gulls will soar aloft and circling around, utter shrill cries before a rain* [Freier 1989: 39]; *The goat will utter her peculiar cry before rain* [Freier 1989: 82].

The inevitability, compulsion, regularity of consequence fulfilment in the Russian language of folk superstitions is often marked by adverbial modifier “always”, and in English the frequent adverbial modifier is “never”: *Ворона всегда садится носом к ветру* - Crow always sits with its nose to the wind [Рыженков 1991: 95]; *A bee was never caught in a shower* [Sloane 1963: 30].

According to our research, in simple sentences with conditional predicates, various aspects of objective reality expressed by the nominalizations of such basic models as the subject's action, the subject's state, the subject's characteristic, or presence/absence of the subject can be used as a condition or consequence. The situation of condition is predominantly represented by adverbial modifiers, expressed by prepositional-nominal forms of nouns in the Russian language and by prepositions in the English language. Constructions with determining modifiers which have the meaning of condition impose such connection of two situations, one of which predetermines (predicts) the fulfilment of the other. Predetermined (predicted) is determinative part of the utterance, which contains an element of hypothetical and implicit character; and forecasted (predictable) is nondeterminant part of the utterance expressing the situation of consequence.

We distinguish four main groups of prepositional constructions typical for both languages:

1. The most frequent construction for expressing syncretic conditional-causal relations is the combination of the preposition “before” with the instrumental case of the noun in Russian and with the noun of the general case in English. The basic meaning of this preposition is temporary meaning. The preposition “before” denotes the preceding of one action or event to another. In folk superstitions, the temporal meaning is complicated by the conditional-causal meaning, since between the determinant and the predicative base there are conditional-causal relations based on a constant, regular, repeated connection of two events, and the meaning of precedence is lost. The semantic emphasis in such sentences falls not on the location of actions relative to each other in time, but on the conditionality of one event to another. The determinant “before” + noun can be in the preposition, as well as in the interposition and postposition.

We have noticed that the most typical for folk superstitions of both languages is its post-positive usage, which is caused by a special actual division of the sentence. It is the order of the sentence parts that actualizes either the condition or the consequence. And usually that part of the statement (sentence) is foregrounded, which is located in the postposition: *Перепела кричат перед дождем* - *Quails shout before the rain* [Рыженков 1991: 178]; *Оводы особенно злы перед дождем* - *Gadflies are especially angry before the rain* [Рыженков 1991: 102]; *Зяблик рюмчит перед самым дождем* - *Spink cries before the rain* [Рыженков 1991: 98]; *Земляные черви выползают на поверхность перед дождем* - *Earthworms creep out to the surface before the rain* [Рыженков 1991: 100]; *Осы и имели сильнее жалят перед дождем* - *Wasps and bumblebees sting more before rain* [Грушко 2003: 235]; *The feathers of the blue macaw turn a greenish hue before rain* [Inwards 1994: 135]; *Pigeons wash before rain* [Inwards 1994: 135]; *Cockles have more gravel sticking to their shells before a tempest* [Inwards 1994: 142]; *Goats leave high ground and seek shelter before a storm* [Freier 1989: 82]; *Land birds bathe before a rain* [Freier 1989: 88] *Flies tend to collect in swirling swarms before rain* [Freier 1989: 85]; *Bats fly close to the ground before a rain* [Sloane 1963: 32]; *Cats and dogs eat grass before rain* [Freier 1989: 48]; *Cats sit with their backs to the fire before snow* [Inwards 1994: 126]; *Flies tend to collect in swirling swarms before rain* [Freier 1989: 85].

The prepositive disposition of the determinant “before” + noun is also often found in the language of both Russian and English folk superstitions. For example: *Перед ненастьем линь начинает беспокоиться* - *Before bad weather, the tench starts to worry* [Рыженков 1991: 102]; *Перед ненастьем пауки прячутся в щели* - *Before bad weather spiders hide in the cracks* [Рыженков 1991: 103]; *Перед дождем пчелы сидят в улье* - *Before the rain,*

*the bees are sitting in the hive [Рыженков 1991: 102]; Перед ненастьем бурундук квохчет - *Chipmunk clucks before bad weather [Грушко 2003: 199]; Перед дождем быки и коровы поднимают морды кверху и жадно вдыхают воздух - *Before the rain, bulls and cows raise their muzzles up and inhale the air greedily [Рыженков 1991: 102]; Перед ненастьем коршуны кружатся беспокойно, протяжно кричат свое: «Пи-и-и-ть» - *Before bad weather, the kites whirl around restlessly, shout protrudingly their: “Driiiiink” [Рыженков 1991: 102]; Перед дождем блохи кусают сильнее - *Fleas bite more vastly before rain [Грушко 2003: 78]; Перед засухой пчелы чаще жалят - *Before drought, bees sting more often [Грушко 2003: 114]; Перед холодом заяц от человека издали убегаем – очень чуток - *Before the cold, the hare runs away from a man from a distance - very sensitive [Ермолов 1995: 70]; Перед ненастьем прыгают лягушки - *Before bad weather frogs jump [Ермолов 1995: 95]; Перед грозным дождем сом из глубин поднимается выше - *Before the thundershower catfish rises above from the depths [Рыженков 1991: 89]; Before a storm, cats resort to an excessive scratching of furniture, including table legs and the backs of chairs [Bowen 1978: 57]; Before high winds leech moves about with much celerity [Inwards 1994: 144]; Before a rain sheep are frisky and box each other [Freier 1989: 37]; Before rain beetles and crickets are more troublesome than usual [Inwards 1994: 149].*********

In the interposition, this construction is rarely used in both analyzed languages, for example: *Рыба перед дождем лучше ловится - *Fish is caught better before the rain [Рыженков 1991: 105]; Черепашки перед суровой зимой глубоко в землю заползают - *Turtles crawl deep in the ground before the harsh winter [Ермолов 1995: 98]; Fall bugs begin to chirp six weeks before a frost in the fall [Freier 1989: 85]. It should be noted that in the language of English folk superstitions synonymous expression “in advance” is often used in the meaning of “before”: *Rooks, ravens and crows are extremely noisy in advance of stormy weather [Bowen 1978: 59].****

2. There are many folk superstitions in English based on a combination of a conditional-causal-space determinant and the main part containing an action or condition, the implementation of which depends on the condition carried out in a certain space. Conditional-causal-space meaning have determinants expressed by a combination of the prepositions “near”, “on”, “under”, “to”, “from”, “in”, “into”, etc., with the general case of a noun. For example: *Cuttle fish swim near the surface before a rain [Freier 1989: 84]; The marsh harriers, alight in great numbers on the downs before rain [Inwards 1994: 140]; Long, single, separate spiders’ webs on grass indicate frost next night [Inwards 1994: 148]; Petrels gathering under the stern of a ship indicate foul weather [Freier 1989: 88]; Pigeons stay close to their quarters before rain [Freier 1989: 39]; Swallows fly close to the ground before a rain [Sloane 1963: 32]; Fish jump upstream and catfish jump from the water before a rain [Freier 1989: 84];*

Sea-gulls in the field indicate a storm from south-east [Inwards 1994: 140]; Ants withdraw into their nests and busy themselves with their eggs before a storm [Inwards 1994: 146].

There are not many such kind of folk superstitions in Russian. For example: *Раки выходят на берег перед ненастьем и дождем – Crayfish go ashore before bad weather and rain [Рыженков 1991: 102].*

3. In Russian folk superstitions, the prepositional-nominal form of noun “on” + accusative case of the noun is used rather actively, both in the conditional-time meaning and in the meaning of prediction. In the conditional-temporal meaning, prepositional-nominal form of noun “on” + accusative case of the noun indicates the time, the observance of which is a condition for the action of the non-determinant part of the sentence. In this meaning it is located in the preposition, indicating either a specific day, or a day associated with a particular saint, or a specific month of the year: *На благовещенье хороший улов рыбы - On Annunciation Day is a good fishing [Даль 1997: 549]; На Ивана Купала появляются светляки - On Ivan Kupala Day fireflies appear [Даль 1997: 334]; На вздвиженье птица в отлет двинулась - On Holly-Cross Day birds start flying away [Даль 1997: 557]; На Артамона змеи уходят в леса и прячутся - On Artamon Day snakes go into the woods and hide [Даль 1997: 557]; На Семен день ужи выходят на берег, ходят по лугам на три версты - On Semen’s Day snakes go ashore, walk on the meadows for three miles [Даль 1997: 557]; На Антина летят свиязи, бекасы, чирки-свистунки - On Antip Day wigeons, snipes, teal-whistlers fly [Лютин 1993: 31].*

In English, the determinant “on” + noun, indicating a particular day, in the preposition is not as frequent as in Russian: *On March 15th come sun and swallow [Inwards 1994: 21].*

4. The next group of determinants is the combination of the preposition “with” and the prepositional case of the noun in Russian and the combination of the prepositions “at” and “on” with the general case of the noun in English. Moreover, such constructions have a conditional-temporal meaning, which is expressed by the lexical meaning of nouns. We have noticed that the most typical in both analyzed languages is the combination “at the approach of”, “on the approach of”; and this construction is more frequent for English than for Russian. The temporary qualification of the non-determinant part is predetermined by the determinant part of the utterance. As a rule, such construction has a nontemporal meaning. The nontemporal connection of events indicates on their repeatedly, regularly recurring character. For example: *При приближении шторма рыба уходит на глубину - At the approach of a storm, fish goes to a depth [Рыженков 1991: 109]; The yaffel, or green woodpecker, cries at the approach of rain [Inwards 1994: 136]; Fishes rise more than usual at the approach of a storm [Inwards 1994: 141]; Mullet run*

south on the approach of cold northerly wind and rain [Inwards 1994: 142]; Sharks go out to sea at the approach of a cold wave [Inwards 1994: 142].

Therefore, we can draw the following conclusions:

1. The center of expression of the temporal-conditional semantics in simple sentences in the folk superstitions of both Russian and English languages are the verbs of prediction in the position of the predicate. The base model in both analyzed languages is the model – “A” predicts “B”. The most frequent in this function are the following verbs: “foretell”, “foreshow”, “predict”, “indicate”, “foresee”, “presage”, “portend”, “foreshadow”, “forebode”, “herald”, “betoken”.

2. The situation of condition in simple sentences is predominantly represented by adverbial modifiers, expressed by prepositional-nominal forms of nouns in the Russian language and by prepositions in the English language. The most frequent construction for expressing syncretic conditional-causal relations is the combination of the preposition “before” with the instrumental case of the noun in Russian and with the noun of the general case in English.

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