

INFINITIVE AND ITS SYNTACTIC FUNCTIONS IN THE MARI, GERMAN AND FRENCH LANGUAGES

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Abstract

This article is devoted to the comparative analysis of infinitive and its syntactic functions in the Mari, German and French languages. Today, great interest in linguistics is caused by research and comparative analysis of the languages of different language families. The Mari language is a representative of the Altaic language family, German and French belong to the Indo-European languages. Interest in this work is not just finding similarities and differences between different linguistic families of languages, but also within one language family, in particular between German and French. The aim of the work is to reveal the features of infinitive and its syntactic functions in Mari, German and French. The aim assumes the solution of certain tasks among which there is a disclosure of the nature of infinitive, definition of types and characteristics of infinitive and its syntactic functions in the compared languages. To solve the tasks set in the study the method of the synchronous description of collected material with the use of the distributive analysis and elements of diachronic method is used. The comparative method makes it possible to establish similarities and differences in the analyzed languages. Infinitive is one of the oldest grammatical forms of language, but its development in different languages took place in different ways. Today infinitive is a form that exists in almost every language. In modern linguistics, infinitive is defined as a form formed from the verb. Infinitive indicates action without connection with its subject, i.e. regardless to the person, number, time and mood. In its origin, the infinitive is the verbal noun with the meaning of the action. The fulfilled analysis shows that the syntactic functions of infinitive in Mari, German, and French are mostly the same. The difference is that in German and French, infinitive is more complex in its structure than in the Mari language. In German, it is manifested in the fact that infinitive has not lost its close connection with the noun and can be substantiated quite easily. Also infinitive with the particle zu is widely distributed and in combination with the verbs haben, sein and the same particle zu. In French, a special kind of infinitive is the prepositional infinitive, which is connected with the analytical structure of the language. The obtained results can be used in the process of teaching German and French for the audience for which the Mari language is native.

Keywords: syntax; Mari language; German language; French language; infinitive

1 INTRODUCTION

Today, great interest in linguistics is caused by research and comparative analysis of the languages of different language families. The Mari language is a representative of the Altaic language family, German and French belong to the Indo-European languages. Interest in this work is not just finding similarities and differences between different linguistic families of languages, but also within one language family, in particular between German and French.

The aim of the work is to reveal the features of infinitive and its syntactic functions in Mari, German and French. The aim assumes the solution of certain tasks among which there is a disclosure of the nature of infinitive, definition of types and characteristics of infinitive and its syntactic functions in the compared languages.

To solve the tasks set in the study the method of the synchronous description of collected material. To establish similarities and differences in the analyzed languages the comparative method is used.

2 OPINION AND DISCUSSION

Infinitive is one of the oldest grammatical forms of language, but its development in different languages took place in different ways. Today infinitive is a form that exists in almost every language. In modern linguistics, infinitive is defined as a form formed from the verb. Infinitive indicates action without connection with its subject, i.e. regardless to the person, number, time and mood. In its origin, the infinitive is the verbal noun with the meaning of the action. The fulfilled analysis shows that the syntactic functions of infinitive in Mari, German, and French are mostly the same.

The category of the infinitive in the Finno-Ugric proto-language, which includes the Mari language, has not existed yet, Finno-Ugric scientists think that it began to develop much later, in the separate languages. The meaning of the infinitive was mostly given by the form of aditive, that showed the action. Today, therefore, the infinitive is often a sustainable form of *lativa*. For example, in the Mari language the infinitive ending in – ш occurred from the ending of *lativa* (олаш кыяш). Suffixes of infinitives -ман, -мыла, showing the necessity, were formed from the suffixes *lativa*.

The infinitive in the Mari language was studied by Yu.V. Anduganov (Anduganov, 1991), G. N. Valitov (Valitov, 1978), L.P. Vasikova (Vasikova, 1987). I.S. Galkin, E. N. Mustaev (Galkin, 1986, Mustaev, 2005), G. I. Lavrentiev (Lavrentiev, 1970), V. T. Timofeeva (Timofeeva, 1987), G. M. Tuzharov (Tuzharov, 1987), Z. V. Uchaev (Uchaev, 1994). The infinitive in the modern Mari language was studied in detail in the thesis by T. A. Amelchenko (Amelchenko, 1996).

T. A. Amelchenko in his work gives the following definition of the infinitive: "the Infinitive in the Mari language is a system of impersonal forms of the verb indicating the process of action regardless of person, number, time and mood, but in some forms (ending in -аш), indicating the person and number of the doer of the action expressed by the infinitive and having some possessive forms" (Amelchenko, 1996, p. 19).

In the grammar of modern Mari language it is considered that there are two forms of the infinitive, which are distinguished by their indicators and differ in the way they are formed and used: 1) with the index -аш; 2) with the index -ман. In her research TA Amel'chenko writes in detail about the syntactic properties of the four types of infinitives in the Mari language and identifies two more forms. It is the infinitive with index – мыла and the infinitive with index – шаш. The infinitive with ending – аш is in the Mari language the main one and as Amel'chenko notes, "the idea of the process in this form is expressed in the purest form" (Amelchenko, 1996, p. 21). The scientist notes that this infinitive can take some grammatical formants, for example, the forms of certain cases with possessive suffixes (Amelchenko, 1996, p. 26).

In our study, we will focus on the syntactic functions of this infinitive form. YU. V. Anduganov (Anduganov, 1991), G. N. Valitov (Valitov, 1978), L. P. Vasikova (Vasikova, 1987), I. S. Galkin (Galkin, 1986), E.N. Mustaev (Galkin, Mustaev, 2005), G. I. Lavrentiev (Lavrentiev, 1970), V. T. Timofeeva (Timofeeva, 1987), G. M. Tuzharov (Tuzharov, 1987), Z. V. Uchaev (Uchaev, 1994) described in their works the basic syntactic functions of the infinitive in the modern Mari language. New for Mari linguistics in T.A. Amelchenko's work is the fact that she, in her study on the syntax of the infinitive, emphasizes the fact that its functions can differ depending on the position in the sentence. The researcher identifies the dependent and independent position of the infinitive. "The infinitive is called dependent, when in a formal and semantic sense it depends on another word that dominates over it." The independent infinitive, in her opinion, "does not depend on any other word in the formal and semantic sense and is used independently in the sentence" (Amelchenko, 1996, p. 75).

One can distinguish the following syntactic functions of the infinitive in the Mari language:

- grammatical predicate, for example: «Осып але рвезе, илаш опытшо шагал, тудлан шуко тунемашыже күлеш». 'Osip is still young, he has no life experience, he has to learn a lot' (Vasikova, 1987, p. 63);
- complex predicate, for example: «Эре йўр, эре йўр. Йўрым ончыде ўден пытараш». 'It rains. It rains all the time. In spite of the rain we have to finish sowing' (Vasikova, 1987, p. 63);
- adverbial (circumstantial, prosecutive) modifier, for example: «Шемер калык верч йоктараш Эчан вўржым ок чамане». 'Echan does not regret shedding blood for all the people' (Timofeeva, 1987, p. 116);
- object, for example: «Меранг покташ Сакар пеш йўратен». 'Sakar was very fond of chasing rabbits' (Timofeeva, 1987, p. 116);
- attribute, for example: «Пу ямдылаш полшаш шонымыжымат (Сакар) каласыш». 'Sakar expressed his opinion to help to lade firewood' (Timofeeva, 1987, p. 116).

In an independent position, the infinitive plays the role of: - the subject, for example: «Илаш – нурым вончымо гай огыл. Колаш неле огы, шочаш неле. Илаш – эллан служитлаш». 'Life to live is not a field to cross. It is not difficult to die - it's hard to be born. To live is to serve the Motherland' (Timofeeva, 1987, p. 116);

- predicate, for example: «Ўпкелаш ом өпкеле: шоналтет, да чонлан йёсын чучеш». 'I do not take offense: one will think, and it becomes hard on the soul' (Timofeeva, 1987, p. 116);
- the principal part of the infinitive sentence, например: «Купым кошташ, купым йомдараш, куп вўдым йоктарен колташ, куп йымач шудылык верым шупшын лукташ». 'To drain the swamp, to lose the swamp, to drain swampy water, from the swamp get a place suitable for grass' (Timofeeva, 1987, p. 116).

The following definition of infinitive is given by E.I. Shendels in German: "Infinitive is one of three main forms of a verb. It is included in a verbal system because of: 1. Infinitive represents itself the name of an action; 2. Infinitive is a component of some analytical forms (future tense, conditional mood); 3. Infinitive has certain verbal meanings" (Shendels, 1988, page 171).

V.G. Admoni notices that infinitives of I and II express the process of action, but at the same time they don't call the performer of this action and almost have no contact with communication process (Admoni, 1960, page 146). Further the researcher continues that these infinitive forms have no categories of a person and voice, the category of tense doesn't appear at them at the time of speech but while the finite form is defined (Admoni, 1960, page 146).

According to B.A. Abramov, six infinitives are presented in the system of the German verb forms: "1. Infinitive of the I Active voice (Infinitiv I Aktiv): arbeiten, kommen, sprechen, lernen; 2. Infinitive of the II Active voice (Infinitiv II Aktiv): gearbeitet haben, gekommen sein; 3. Infinitive of the I Passive voice (Infinitiv I Passiv): gebaut werden; 4. Infinitive of the II Passive voice (Infinitiv II Passiv): gebaut worden sein; 5. Infinitive of the I category of state (Infinitiv I Stativ): gebaut sein, zerschnitten sein; 6. Infinitive of the II category of state (Infinitiv II Stativ): gebaut gewesen sein, zerschnitten gewesen sein (Abramov, https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infinitiv_v_nemetskom_yazyke).

Further B.A. Abramov continues that the most used form of infinitive is infinitive of the I Active voice which usually is called "clean" (Abramov, https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infinitiv_v_nemetskom_yazyke). It is specified by E.I. Shendels who considers that Infinitive I has the greatest lexical and syntactic freedom and it can be met almost in all sentence parts except as predicate, but only if infinitive isn't a part of a complex verbal predicate (Shendels, 1988, p. 104). E.I. Shendels considers that nominal peculiarities are inherent to Infinitive of I Active voice, and writes: "It expresses the action which isn't connected with the concept of a person that brings together Infinitive with the noun expressing action. Therefore Infinitive is substantivized easily, e.g.: leben – das Leben; sein – das Sein ..." (Shendels, 1958, p. 172). In this article the authors consider the form of Infinitive I. "Syntactic use is defined by the meaning of infinitive", – E.I. Shendels considers and notes that "it can be not only a part of a predicate, but also a subject, an object, an attribute, an adverbial modifier and a predicative adjunct. It can form sentences" (Shendels, 1958, p. 173). If the German infinitive acts as any article of a sentence, it can be followed by particle zu, and it can be used without this particle. V.G. Admoni emphasizes that in the system of non-finite forms of the verb special position is held by a so-called "prepositional infinitive" (zu + Infinitiv), and further the author adds that in many cases the particle zu appears at infinitive only by the means connecting infinitive with words from which it syntactic depends (Admoni, 1960, page 148). In modern German grammar there are strict rules of use and non-use of the particle zu before infinitive after certain verbs and expressions. It should be followed strictly

these rules by learning German. The German infinitive with particle *zu* can be carried by analogy with the Mari language to a dependent infinitive, and without particle *zu*, respectively, to independent one.

In modern German it is possible to distinguish the following syntactic functions of infinitive in the German sentence:

– subject, for example: “Lieben und Singen läßt sich nicht zwingen”. ‘To love and sing it is impossible to force’ (http://sayings.ru/world/german/german_2.html). “Das viele Sprechen hat viele Gebrechen”. ‘To say much – to do much harm’ (http://sayings.ru/world/german/german_2.html). “Sich regen bringt Segen”. ‘The movement brings grace’ (http://sayings.ru/world/german/german_2.html);

– object, for example: “Ich bin ein unzuverlässiger Mensch, obwohl ich es verstehe, den Eindruck von Biederkeit zu erwecken”. ‘I am an unreliable person, though I am able to inspire trust’ (Böll, <http://www.mediasprut.ru/grammatik/anhang/boell.html>). “Sie fang an, Geschirr zu spülen”. ‘She has begun to wash the dishes’. (Hahnfeld, 1988, page 25). “Er lernte sie Klavier spielen”. ‘He teaches her to play the piano’ (Shendels, 1958, p. 174);

– part of a complex verbal predicate: infinitive is the second component of a complex verbal predicate, for example: “Die Raben müssen einen Geier haben”. ‘For ravens it is necessary to have a kite’ (http://sayings.ru/world/german/german_2.html).

The constructions *haben* + Infinitiv with particle *zu* and *sein* + Infinitiv with *zu* represent one of the options of complex verbal predicate, for example: “Niemand ist zu sehen, nichts zu hören, nicht einmal ein ferner Motor, ein Wind, ein Vogel”. ‘It is visible nobody, nothing is heard, neither far noise of the motor, nor wind, nor a bird’ (Schlink, <http://www.mediasprut.ru/grammatik/anhang/boell.html>). “Damit hatte es viel zu tun”. ‘There were many problems with it’ (Böll, <http://www.mediasprut.ru/grammatik/anhang/boell.html>);

– adverbial modifier. The independent infinitive can stand both with and without particle *zu*, for example: “Eines frühen Abends im Februar hörte ich eine Amsel singen”. ‘Somehow in the early evening in February I have heard as the thrush sings’ (Schlink, <http://www.mediasprut.ru/grammatik/anhang/boell.html>).

E.I. Shendels notes that infinitive phrases can perform the function of adverbial modifiers (Shendels, 1958, page 175), for example: “Drei Monate hat er in dem Sanatorium verbracht, ohne einen einzigen Brief von seiner Frau zu bekommen”. ‘He has spent three months into sanatoria, without having received any letter from the wife’ (Hahnfeld, 1988, page 19);

– attribute (obligatorily with *zu*) is used after some nouns with an abstract meaning, for example: “Ich habe Angst, zu spät zu kommen, und fahre schneller”. ‘I’m afraid of being late, and I’m going faster’ (Hahnfeld, 1988, p.19).

In the French grammar there is no common opinion about the infinitive nature. One group of linguists considers infinitive as a verbal noun. Absolutely opposite point of view unites linguists who set infinitive in a verbal paradigm. Other group of linguists believes that infinitive holds intermediate, transitional position between a noun and a verb. The authors of this work adhere to the definition of infinitive, given by V.G. Gak who gives the following characteristic: “Infinitive is the most distracted verbal form by the meaning. It combines properties of a verb and a noun. But verbal marks prevail in it, according to this point it represents a verbal form and enters a verb paradigm” (Gak, 1986, page 256).

Infinitive in French has the form of the present tense (*infinitif présent*) and past tense (*infinitif passé*). The first form is infinitive in pure form (*parler, se lever, finir, voir, prendre*) and denotes simultaneous action or the subsequent to other one expressed by a verb in a personal form. For example: “Il lui arrive de remarquer un autre phénomène”. ‘He manages to notice other phenomenon’. “Ils cherchent ceux qui pourront les relever”. ‘They are looking for those which will be able to replace them’ (http://ksana-k.narod.ru/Book/FR/Grammaire/6_1.htm).

Infinitif passé is formed by means of auxiliary verbs *avoir* or *être* in the indefinite form (*infinitif présent*) and the past participle (*participe passé*) of a conjugated verb: *avoir parlé, être entré, s’être levé, avoir fini, avoir vu, avoir pris, être venu*. *Infinitif passé* designates the finished action, preceding other action. For example: “Elle croit avoir remarqué une erreur d’expérience”. ‘She thinks that she has noticed the error in experience’ (http://ksana-k.narod.ru/Book/FR/Grammaire/6_1.htm).

One of peculiarities of the French infinitive is the use of prepositional infinitive constructions that connected with the analytism of French and due to lack of the system of declension. S.G. Saenko’s thesis “Functional and equivalent peculiarities of a prepositional infinitive in modern French” is devoted to the prepositional infinitive (<http://www.dslib.net/roman-jazyki/funkcionalno-jekvivalentno-stnye-osobennosti-predlozhnogo>).

infinitiva-v-sovremennom.html). In the work the researcher comes to the following conclusions: prepositional infinitive constructions are an effective means for elimination of redundancy of the sentence and the text by condensation or a compression; the prepositional infinitive complicates the sentence and carries out distribution of sentence structure, participates in development of communicative process; the prepositional infinitive concentrates in itself the characteristics peculiar to a noun and a verb. Prepositional infinitive constructions in modern French are characterized by considerable polyfunctionality and ample equivalent opportunities. The prepositional infinitive is capable to act as functionally equivalent element to any sentence article.

V.G. Gak distinguishes the main and secondary syntactic functions of infinitive. He carries to the main functions the following:

- subject and predicative so as the infinitive expresses the action in the most general form, and in the first function infinitive is used without preposition, for example: “Elire l’une d’elle c’est choisir entre deux gouttes d’eau”. ‘The choice between one of them is the choice between two drops of water’. V.G. Gak notes, the preposition is often used as the predicative, for example: “Son rêve est d’avoir une voiture”. ‘His dream is to have a car’ (Gak, 1986, p. 259).
- designation of the accompanying action showing the purpose, the condition, the circumstance of the main process designated by personal form, for example: “Il se leva, alla vers la porte, l’ouvrit pour me montrer que l’audience était terminée”. ‘He got up, came to the door, opened it to show that the audience had been finished’ (Gak, 1986, p. 259).

The secondary functions of indefinite form of a verb, the researcher has distributed as follows:

- predicate, for example: “Et lui de rire”. ‘And he has burst out laughing’ (Gak, 1986, p. 259).
- main member of mononuclear sentences with value of a question, exclamation, order, advice, reference, for example: “Moi? Epouser qui?” ‘Me? In marriage for whom’ (Gak, 1986, p. 259). “Moi, mentir!” ‘Me to deceive!’ (Gak, 1986, p. 259).
- infinitive is a part of a predicative complex where the personal verb is deprived of predicative independence, and infinitive is necessary for completion of an utterance, for example: “Il peut répondre”. ‘He can answer’. “Il a commencé à lire”. ‘He has begun to read’ (Gak, 1986, p. 259).
- adverbial modifier of the action, for example: “C’était un garçon blond ... qui travaillait peu, lisait beaucoup, choisissait à ravir ses poètes et ses cravats”. ‘He was the blond young man ... who worked a little, read much, had chosen between joy of poetry and ties’ (Gak, 1986, p. 259).
- attribute, provided that it is introduced by prepositions *de*, *à*, *pour* and at the same time it acts as a component of predicative complex, for example: “On a donné l’ordre de se disperser”. ‘Have given the order to dissipate’ (Gak, 1986, p. 259).

3. CONCLUSION

Thus, the authors can conclude that in the compared languages infinitive is a verbal form, in German it hasn’t lost communication with a noun that it is observed in its substantivization. In the Mari language compound nominal predicate, complex predicate, adverbial modifier of a cause and a purpose, object, attribute are syntactic ways of expression of infinitive in dependency. In the independent position infinitive acts as a subject, a predicate, a main article of the infinitive sentence. The presence of some case forms and the suffix of possessiveness is a peculiarity of infinitive with *aw* in the Mari language.

In German infinitive as a part of the sentence is a subject, a part of predicate, an object, an attribute, an adverbial modifier of purpose. In construction *haben* + Infinitiv with particle *zu* and *sein* + Infinitiv with *zu* the infinitive is a part of a predicate, infinitive turns are adverbial modifiers. Thus, in German infinitive is more complex in its structure than in the Mari language. We can notice it on examples of the use of infinitive both with a particle *zu* and without it and in infinitive combinations with the verbs *haben*, *sein* and the same particle *zu*.

The syntactic ways of expression of infinitive in French are a subject, a predicative, designation of the accompanying action, a predicate, a main article of mononuclear sentences, an adverbial modifier of action, an attribute. At the same time one of these functions are defined as the main ones, and others as secondary. A special kind of infinitive is a prepositional infinitive.

The results received in this work will contribute successful studying of the German and French languages and deeper understanding of native Mari language.

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