ELLIPS, AS A MEANS OF ECONOMY OF SPEECH IN THE GERMAN AND MARI LANGUAGES

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Abstract

In the article analysis of the elliptical sentences are carried out in two languages belonging to different systems. In all modern European languages elliptical sentence refers to the group of incomplete sentences in which there isn’t usually the verb-predicate. Such lack is considered as the linguistic norm. At the same time for understanding of such sentence it is not necessary in any context, in any situation, as completeness of the content is enough expressed with their own lexical and grammatical means of this sentence. In the sentence ellipse acts as a stylistic figure for giving dynamism to saying, intonation to the live speech, artistic expression. The most researchers name the need for economy of linguistic means as the main cause of elliptical sentences in the languages. The aim of the work is to identify ways of differentiation of elliptical sentences from incomplete ones in the German and Mari languages. To achieve the aim, the tasks of disclosure of elliptical sentences’ essence are solved in the analyzed languages; model of the building, differentiation from other types of mononuclear sentence are revealed; the area of functioning is defined in the speech. In the investigation of elliptical sentences, method of synchronous description of the collected material with distributional analysis and the elements of diachronic method are used in the work, the comparative method allows establishing similarities and differences in the analyzed languages. In German, a few models of elliptical sentences exist which are constantly replenished in the modern language. The German elliptical sentence admits the absence of a subject and a predicate in its structure. But in any case, words carry out their functions, to which function of the sentence’s members often is not peculiar. In the Mari language only the loss of the verb-predicate can be in the elliptical sentences and it can belong to mononuclear and two-member sentences. Analysis of theoretical and factual material allows us to conclude that, in spite of the similarities and differences of elliptical sentences in compared languages; the main reason for their use is economy of speech and in some cases the opportunity to attract the attention of the interlocutor and audience, for greater effect.

Keywords: ellipse, German, incomplete sentence, the elliptical sentence, similarities, differences, interference, transfer
1 INTRODUCTION

«Dictionary of linguistic terms» by D.E. Rozental’, M.A. Telenkova defines elliptical sentence as «incomplete sentence in which the absence of the verb-predicate is the norm». In all modern European languages elliptical sentence refers to the group of incomplete sentences in which there isn’t usually the verb-predicate. Such lack is considered as the linguistic norm. At the same time for understanding of such sentence it is not necessary in any context, in any situation, as completeness of the content is enough expressed with their own lexical and grammatical means of this sentence. In the sentence ellipse acts as a stylistic figure for giving dynamism to saying, intonation to the live speech, artistic expression. The most researchers name the need for economy of linguistic means as the main cause of elliptical sentences in the languages.

The aim of the work is to identify ways of differentiation of elliptical sentences from incomplete ones in the German and Mari languages. To achieve the aim, the tasks of disclosure of elliptical sentences’ essence are solved in the analyzed languages; model of the building, differentiation from other types of mononuclear sentence are revealed; the area of functioning is defined in the speech.

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2 OPINIONS AND DISCUSSION

E. N. Ivanilova notes “After analyzing the trends in the development of the linguistic phenomenon as ellipsis, we can conclude that the need for economy of language means - one of the main causes of the elliptical sentences’ emergence” (Ivanilova).

In German elliptical sentences were described in detail in works of V. Admoni and E. I. Shendels. V. Admoni relates to elliptical sentences, those in which the context determines complete or partial absence of the main member of the sentence, its “normal” required member. In the opinion of the researcher elliptical shapes of the sentences are extremely diverse, but they are always based on a full and “normal” sentence structure and through the elliptical sentence, with the ability to adapt elliptically used words, become clear (Admony, 1950). The scientist considers that the forms of words, forming an elliptical sentence, refer to the complete structure of the sentence and they are an integral part of this structure, and he gives the following example: «... Wo ist den die Severin?” – “Zur Apotheke”, sagte Frau Permaneder”. Where are the Severins? - ‘In drugstore, said Frau Permaneder’ (Admony, 1950).

V. E. Shendels believes that some elliptical sentences are built on the same model as complete sentences. The researcher offers five models of two-member sentences, in which there is no verb. The first model is based on the pattern of subject-predicate. Both main members are represented as a noun there. Shendels considers this model is good for proverbs because of its strict symmetry and rhythm, for example:

Träume, Schäume./Ein Mann, ein Wort./Viele Köpfe, viele Sinne."

Viel Stroh, wenig Korn.

‘Dreams, Shame. / Man, the word. / Many heads, a lot of sense. / Lot straw, little grains’ (Shendels, 1988).

The second model as the subject-predicate is represented by two participles as the main members of the sentence, for example: Gesagt, getan. ‘Said than done’ (Shendels, 1988). If in the model 1 and 2, as Shendels notes, it is impossible to change the word order because of changing of statements’ meaning, the model 3 allows such changes.

The scientist notes that the first member of the sentence is represented by a noun or pronoun in the third model, the second is represented by adjective, an adverb, or a participle, for example: (Das graue Gebäude liegt tot.) Verödet die Korridore, leer die Zimmer. Alles leer, ausgestorben. Alles umsonst. ‘(Gray building is dead). Emptied corridors, empty rooms. Everything is empty, died. Everything is in vain ‘(Shendels 1988). The model 4 consists of subject any member of predicative group; this is often participle, as part of the verbal group, which is a part of the predicate, for example: Er aufgesprungen und hinausgeeilt. Ich raus aus dem Bett und ans Fenster. ‘He jumped up and hurried outside. I got up and to the window. “Er immer fort. Ich rasch hinterdrein. Alles gut verlaufen. Neue Fälle vorgekommen. He is always strong. I am quickly back. Everything went well. The new case happened ‘(Shendels 1988).

In the dialogue model 5 is used mainly which implies the existence of subject and negation nicht, as predicative member of the group, for example: (Aber ich bin sehr gern in der Schweiz. – So?) Ich nicht!
'And I visit Switzerland very willingly – So?) I do not!' "Ich weiß es schon", erwiderte sie. "So? Ich nicht!" 
"I have already known this", he answered. "So? I have not!" (Shendels, 1988).

In addition to these five models Shendels distinguishes a few ones. Elliptical sentences are often found in the question-reply unity, in the so-called partner conversation. Questions and answers in a dialogue follow independently each of other, it is possible an iteration of previous sentences. The possibility of repetition of any member of the sentences, except the question word, is typical for this model. Under all these conditions, the conversation may not be initiated but only be continued in a dialogue, also patterns that consist of interrogative words are common, for example: "Spatz: Verhaftet .../Nachbar: Wo?/Spatz: In den Lindenstraße./Willi: Wann?/Spatz: Vor einer Stunde". "Spatz: Arrested.../Neighbor: Where?/Spatz: Lindenstrasse./Willie: When?/Spatz: an hour ago" (Shendels, 1988).

In advertising texts it can be omission of the subject expressed by the pronoun, for example: Suche Kleinkühlschrank. Looking for a small fridge. Kaufe Schrankwand. 'Buy a set of furniture'. Bitte Zweizimmerwohnung. 'Please, one-bedroom apartment'. Bin 24/1,70, unternehmungslustig, möchte auf diesem Wege netten jungen Mann kennenlernen. '24/1,70, enterprising, would like to meet a nice young man' [6, p. 271].


The desire to save the speech creates additional models of elliptical sentences, but their construction is not purposefully. One example of such model is a model which is built by using intonation, for example: Das Holz, er sagte, ich muß ja das Holz holen. Für uns. Für morgen... Hier unten mußten die Lampen brennen. Jeden Tag. Alle Tage. 'Firewood, said he, I must bring firewood. For us. For tomorrow.... Down here needs to burn the lamp. Every day. All the days’ (Shendels, 1988).

E. I. Shendels continues that another area of application of elliptical sentences is journalism, for example: "Zonen des Lebens" auch in Ozeanen. ... Theater heute und morgen. 'Areas of life also in the ocean. Theatre today and tomorrow'. Forms of polite address represent a special kind of elliptical sentences, for example: Guten Tag! Alles Gute! Guten Appetit! 'Good day! All the best! Bon appetit!' (Shendels, 1988).

In the Mari language, the elliptical sentence is less studied than in German. There are no separate works devoted such type of sentences. L. P. Vasikova and V. T. Timofeeva mentioned elliptical sentences in their works of the same name "Kaside Mari yilma. Simple sentences of syntax".

L. P. Vasikova notes, describing an elliptical sentence in her study that there is no a verb or a predicate, expressed by impersonal predicative word in this type of sentences, for example: Пызлер ден куэрла лоҥаште Чепишын илемже.Тудын воктене Тойки илем. Вара Ипон Эшплатын пуста верже. 'Farmstead of Chepisha between thickets of wild cherry and birch. Next to the farmstead of Toiki. Then pustsh Ip on Isplata' (Vasikova, 1987). The scientist notices that the missing member of the sentence can often be added only approximately, for example: Мый (Патай Сопром) пайремлан огыл, сомыллан каем. Молан, манам, пинчакше. 'I (Patai Soprom) not on holiday, on business is going. Why, say, a jacket (Vasikova, 1987).

Both in the German and in the Mari languages it is not necessary to add the verb into the elliptical sentence, it is clear without this main part of the sentence. Speaking about the elliptical sentence, L. P. Vasikova draws attention to the fact that such sentences can be both two-member and mononuclear ones, for example: Вичияшым пызлер ден куэрла лоҥаште Чепишын илемже.Тудын воктене Тойки илем. 'Five years – over five years! All – work! TV – in every house' (Vasikova, 1987).

Many linguists include the elliptical sentences in the incomplete sentences. L. P. Vasikova considers the elliptical sentences as "the most complete" of the incomplete (Vasikova, 1987). She points out four main differences between the incomplete sentences and the elliptical in her work:

1. It can be omitted any part of the sentence in the incomplete sentence. In the elliptical sentence it can be omitted only the predicate or the predicate expressed by the impersonal predicative word.
2. In the incomplete sentence the missing part of the sentence is clear from the context but in the elliptical sentence the context is not needed, its absence is unnoticed.
3. In the incomplete sentence it is clear what member is missing but in the elliptical sentence the predicate can only be added by guess.
4. In the elliptical sentence, in comparison with the incomplete, the absence of a predicate does not feel and in speech it is taken as the language norm (Vasikova, 1987).

In the work of T. V. Timofeeva it is noted that because of absence of the predicate in the elliptical sentence, the meaning of the words including in the sentence is intensifying and the idea is transmitted precisely and clearly, for example: Ик уремыште – кум окнан орол пӧрт 'In one street – three-windows lodge'. Ончылно кутгырно ярымалтеш. Умбалне – олкь, чодыра. ‘The road sweeps ahead. Beyond – a field, forest’ (Timofeeva, 1968). To the elliptic sentences the researcher adds the periodicals, in particular, newspapers, for example: Юбилейлан – чапле пӧлекым. Наука – производствылан. ‘To the anniversary – a good gift. The science – to industry’ (Timofeeva, 1987). To build this type of the elliptic sentence the scientist uses nouns in the different grammatical forms. In conclusion, the author makes a valuable comment that the elliptical sentence helps to describe profound idea with a small number of words.

3 CONCLUSION

The analysis of the theoretical and the factual materials allows to conclude that it is possible the omission of the subject and the predicate in the elliptical sentence of the German language. In the Mari language the elliptical sentence shows the loss of the verb-predicate. In both languages the main reason for the using of the elliptical sentences is to save speech and, in some cases, attract an attention of the interlocutor and audience for achieving greater effect.

In the Mari philology, in spite of low knowledge of this type of sentence the principles of the differentiation from the incomplete sentences are clearly made by L. P. Vasikova.

REFERENCES LIST


