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## BASIC GENERAL MEANINGS AND PATTERNS OF PREDICATE VERBS OF THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DISCOURSE

**Summary.** The article provides the results of linguistic analysis and revealing semantic meanings of the basic concepts of the English-language discourse as the most adequate and capable to recreate, to code any human's thought (idea): Proposition and Predicate as Implicit Proposition. The work discusses a series of issues concerning the semantic concept Proposition – the propositional structure – “Subject+Predicate” as the basic sign or code reflecting and recreating the people's knowledge of the world. The article proves the algorithmic structure of any English Proposition (Sentence), and this fact may be confirmed by the presence of such types of Propositions (Sentences) as Impersonal sentences and the Constructions “There is / are”. It's just the Algorithm of any English Proposition (Sentence) that is the reason of the progressive tendency of constant appearing “ready-made up” sentences – so-called “cliché”. The deductive, inductive, discovery, heuristic methods have resulted in deducing the key, generalized “atomic” Subjects (I/We/You/He/She/They/It/There) and threegeneralized in their meanings Main Verbs “TO DO” / “TO BE” / “TO HAVE”. The generalized meanings of all the Main Verbs are Action and State: “TO DO” means Action; “TO BE” – State and “TO HAVE” has got two meanings – Action/State. The same verbs “TO DO” / “TO BE” / “TO HAVE” are meaningless Auxiliary Verbs and can be regarded as Homonyms of the appropriate Main Verbs but together they are the generalized basis of most Predicate Patterns. It's just the Predicate Pattern that is in the basis of any Proposition (Sentence), that is capable to construct any Proposition (Sentence) itself with the help of the implicit “atomic” Subjects and that is the basic code of recreating any human's thought (idea). The article confirms the main discourse code of recreating any human's thought accepted in linguistics, that is, Proposition (Sentence). Also the article reveals the actual minimal basic constructive sign of coding any thought and that is the Explicit Predicate Pattern according to the idea that a person cannot think a thought without the Predicate.

**Key words:** proposition, cliché, “atomic” subjects, homonym, “atomic” verbs, predicate patterns, algorithm.

**Problem statement.** The most important characteristics of the English-language discourse is its modern validity, perfect communicative abilities, possibilities and force, which have resulted in its wide spreading all over the world. That's why the English-language discourse is to be mastered by most population in the world, and studying English needs further deep linguistic investigations in order to reveal its basic peculiarities, specific features and regularities. A lot of linguistic discoveries have been made and the state of modern linguistic researches in the spheres of grammar, lexicology, semantics, pragmatics, cognitive linguistics, etc. have been proving that. Thus, the picture of functioning the English-language discourse has been successfully determined and interpreted. For instance, the nature of the semantic concept Proposition

(the equivalent of the grammatical concept Sentence) containing its basic constituents – “Subject+Predicate” has been acknowledged as the basic integral explicit (S+P) unity, which is the major means of any human's reflection of the knowledge about the world in the English-language discourse. But the notions Subject and Predicate in the frames of the Proposition need further clarifications and generalizations, especially – the Predicate as the essential constituent creating a human's thought (idea).

**Analysis of recent researches and publications.** The notions “atomic” subjects and “atomic” predicate verbs are investigated in modern linguistic researches such as “Two-component complex nouns as models of representation of knowledge about human and artifacts in the modern English language” (A. Fedenko, 2015), “Issues of Key Words in Philology” (M. Potekhina, 2017), “Method of historical and onomasiological analysis of prefixal neologisms in the modern English language” (E. Tulup, F. Ismailova, 2017), “Dissected and undifferentiated ways of expressing an action and its characteristic characteristics in English” (I. Keller, 2015), “Prospects for a holistic approach and the theory of gestalt in the study of verb categories” (T. Dyachenko, 2015) and some others. But the Generalized Predicate Verbs Patterns as Implicit Propositional Signs aren't considered by contemporary scientists. Nevertheless this concept is essential for understanding the basic sign of recreating and coding of any human's thought in the English-language discourse.

**The purpose of the article.** The Purpose or Target of our research is to establish the basic signs (codes) of the English-language discourse, which are capable and adequate to recreate any human's thought (idea).

**Research.** The English-language discourse needs constant, thorough and deep investigation in all the aspects of the linguistic science (syntax, semantics, cognitive linguistics, pragmatics, etc.) for its better mastering.

In contemporary linguistics Discourse as “(a) serious conversation or speech” is identified with the Text (monologue or dialogue) and regarded in the quality of the living, direct, spontaneous communicative act in the oral or written form (Brown in 1983, Fillmore in 1985, van Dijk in 2008, Cameron in 2015).

The participants of Discourse are the Speaker (the Coder of Discourse) and the Listener (the Decoder of Discourse). Discourse is identical to intercourse, verbalizing (expressing something in words), the explicit communication that is quite clear and fully expressed by its participants. Communication is the act of communicating (to communicate is to make news, opinions, thoughts, feelings, ideas, etc. known; to share, to exchange opinions, news, information, knowledge, etc.).

The central formal element of the English-language discourse is recognized to be a Sentence. According to the Syntax definition

the Sentence is a unit of speech, which expresses a more or less complete thought and has a definite grammatical form. The sentence is regarded as a genuine, real sign [8, p. 120]. In modern linguistics Sentence as a grammatical syntactic notion is identified with the semantic concept Proposition. Proposition as an utterance, opinion, statement judgment corresponding to an elementary Sentence is considered as a tool, an apparatus of revealing, identifying the semantic or informative content of the sentences (utterances) of any text. Proposition – the “Subject+Predicate” unity (hereinafter – S+P) is regarded and considered in the quality of a “germ” (a “core”, a “nucleus”) of any sentence forming on the syntactic level. Proposition is acknowledged as the main communicative unit of any text (discourse), an elementary unit of any person’s consciousness and the basic unit of acquiring, exchanging information and knowledge. Proposition is the means of expressing any person’s thoughts and feelings, which arise as a result of his contact with the outside world. In this sense the elementary Proposition (Sentence) appears as the main carrier of the content transmitted with the help of the language forms [2, p. 107–110].

Thus, in the English-language discourse the Proposition as the leading code has become a major syntactic, semantic, pragmatic and cognitive notion denoting any person’s complete thought (idea).

Subject (in Grammar) includes a noun, a pronoun, a numeral, a substantivized adjective or participle, an infinitive, a gerund, any other word (construction or complex) when it is substantivized, which is most closely related to the verb in forming a sentence. Owing to the scantiness of inflexions for person and number in the verb, the subject is, as a rule, expressed (explicit) in the sentences (propositions) in the English-language discourse. Depending on the character of the subject, sentences are classified into Personal and Impersonal. A Personal sentence contains a subject, which denotes a certain person or thing or some abstract notion. An Impersonal sentence is a sentence, which predicate does not refer to any person or thing. In English the pronoun “It” is used as Subject in Impersonal sentences, but this “It” is practically meaningless, it has become impersonal, it does not indicate any person or thing and is a purely grammatical formal subject.

It is necessary and important to emphasize that the explicit “S+P” unity is obligatory and fundamental propositional sign recreating any human’s complete thought (idea).

The fact of using the word “It” as one of the formal elements of discourse in the position and function of the Subject in different meanings and in cases of being absolutely meaningless give us the opportunity to suggest the idea that “It” may be qualified as a polysemantic word or even a homonym.

Homonyms (from Greek *homos* – identical, the same + *onyma*, *onoma* – name) are the words belonging to one and the same part of a speech and sounding alike, but absolutely different in their meaning. [9, p. 176]

In the English-language discourse there are a lot of words that could be added on to the category of homonyms. But such a strict conclusion is hypothesis that needs further linguistic investigations as there is another concept of “polysemy”, which means the availability of polysemantic words. [1, p. 81–118] Polysemy (from Greek *poly* – a lot (of) + *sēma* – sign) is identical to the notion “having a lot of meanings”. The concept “polysemy” means that one and the same word has got some meanings which are rather connected in their essence. These meanings have appeared as a result of developing the first original meaning of this word. [9, p. 129]

The same idea of being a homonym arises concerning the word “there” in the construction “There is / are”. The word “there” (formerly the adverb of place “there”) has lost its local meaning, which is shown by the possibility of combining it in the sentence with the adverbs of place “here” and “there”. “There is a book there.” “There” is a word that can be used: a) as an adverb meaning “in that place”; b) as an introductory particle in sentences beginning “There is / There are / There seems / There might be / etc.” When we tell people “that something exists (in affirmative sentences) or does not exist (in negative sentences) we usually begin the sentence with “there is” / “there are” (with plural subjects) and put the “real” subject after the verb. According to linguistic investigations it is more expedient to regard the so-called “real” subject in the quality of: a) the predicative, namely its nominal part in the structure of a compound nominal predicate; b) the part of a compound verbal predicate.

Thus, the construction “There is / are” used as a code for expressing a human’s thought (idea) of existing or not existing somebody or something is identical in fact to Proposition (Sentence) itself, which means the algorithmic inseparable unity of two principal elements (main members) of any Proposition (Sentence): “S+P”.

The fact of appearing the words-homonyms like “It” and “There” in the quality and function of the Introductory Subjects, which are absolutely meaningless in isolation (outside the context – Proposition) is a straightforward confirmation of the availability, necessity and validity of the English specific code.

We’d like to suggest the most generalized picture of the English Subjects, so-called “atomic” subjects (“Atomic” is from the physical concept “atom” meaning the most minimal particle of any substance). The list of possible Subjects could be limited to the quite adequate and sufficient set and reduced to “I/We/You/He/She/It/They/There”. These words as formal elements of the English-language discourse hierarchy are quite capable to perform the function of the Subject, to substitute any other Subject in the structure of English Propositions, for instance, any gerund or infinitive in the function of the Subject can be replaced by the personal pronoun “It” as the Subject: “Singing is wonderful. To sing is wonderful. Yes, it is wonderful!”

“Atomic” Subjects include a definite sufficient set of English words, which are capable to be / to substitute any Subject of a definite English proposition depending on the meaning to be revealed by its predicate.

Predicate serves to assert something about its Subject denoting either an Action performed or undergone by the Subject or the State in which the Subject is/was/will be/etc. Predicate appears as the main principal basic link and it occupies the central position in any English Proposition according to its Word Order algorithm: I Subject + II Predicate + III Complement (Object). According to most linguistic investigations all the Predicates fall under two main divisions: simple (verbal) predicates and compound (nominal/verbal) ones. All the Simple and Compound Verbal Predicates denote Action; all the Compound Nominal Predicates denote State.

The Simple Verbal Predicate, which denotes an activity (Action), performed (or suffered) by the Subject (Active / Passive Voice) is expressed by a finite verb (in a simple or compound form): “She reads well.”; “I have been working since the morning.” The compound verbal predicate is expressed by two verbs: one verb is in the finite form, the other is in the form of an Infinitive or Gerund. The choice depends on the first verb.

There are predicates that may be called the Double Predicates. In the sentence "The moon rose red" there is a special type of predicate (double predicate), which presents two predicates – a verbal predicate and a nominal predicate: "The moon rose red" = "The moon was red when it rose". The verb "rose" performs here the role of a link-verb connecting the subject "moon" with the predicative "red" in the general meaning "Action+State". In Modern English there is a strong tendency towards the development of Double Predicates.

Predicate is regarded as a central element of a propositional structure (Proposition), it determines the structure of Proposition, and it holds within itself, contains the essence of state of affairs. And in this sense Predicate is defined as a propositional function, that is the form of judgment or Proposition, and this form is equivalent to the content of Predicate or Sentence. Thus, the concept of Predicate is defined as a special semantic essence of Language, which is typified in the form of propositional functions (not in the form of vocabulary units) and the semantic structures of the Proposition (Sentence), which correspond to these functions. Predicate occupies a dominant position in the hierarchical system of "Predicate – Arguments", Predicate stands out as the peculiar constructive nucleus specifying its environment composition, which can consist of a certain number of its members (arguments). Arguments or non-Predicate signs include Subject and Complement (Object) expressed not only by nouns (common nouns and proper nouns) and substantival pronouns (substantival – from Latin substantivum – noun), but also by almost all the parts of speech in English. That's why Predicativity is interpreted as functional, not as a substantival category of words [8, p. 77–78, 81].

The Proposition itself is understood as a certain element of thought, that is to say a relevant predicate, which "places" are filled with signs, and the mental (mind) process (the process of thinking) shown, displayed in the Propositions is that which psychologists call our inner speech. Thus, the Predicate or Predicate code (sign or symbol) may be regarded as a central, main, basic component of the English Proposition as the basic code recreating our thoughts in the form of the Predicate expressing Predicativity, which is the key concept of reconstructing the human's thoughts by the variety of the appropriate codes.

In the English-language discourse any Predicate as the code is expressed by the Main Verb first and foremost. The Verb is a word or phrase that tells what someone or something is, does, or experiences. There are two types of verbs: Main Verbs and Auxiliary Verbs.

According to linguistic deductions the most generalized picture of all the Predicate Main Verbs may be represented and reduced to two basic general lexical meanings: Action and State. In fact these generalized meanings: Action and State are presented or expressed by three generalized, basic, key Main verbs: TO DO/TO BE/TO HAVE that may be considered to be the basis of all the existing Real English Predicate Main Verbs first and foremost constituting three basic generalized Predicate Patterns: "TO DO" Predicate Pattern / "TO BE" Predicate Pattern / "TO HAVE" Predicate Pattern.

A human can never think a thought, which wouldn't have Predicate and its referring element Subject. Thus, the fact of the availability of mental predicativity (a propositional structure) is irrefutable as "somebody's Action/ State" or "Action/State of something". The concept "Action/State" goes back to the generalized, "latent" or "atomic" predicate verbs, which point out either the presence

of connection ("copula"), or the most generalized and abstract type of connection, which isn't in need of its being concretized. The "atomic" predicate verbs don't call the concrete type of connection as the real verbs do that. The predicates of such type as "TO BE / TO DO / TO HAVE" can be regarded as "atomic" Predicate Main Verbs. [7, p. 119].

The generalized meanings (Action/State) of the mentioned "atomic" main predicate verbs are as follows: 1. "TO DO" means Action: to speak, to know, to dance, to build, etc.; 2. "TO BE" means State: to be young, to be polite, to be a dentist, to be happy, etc.; 3. "TO HAVE" possesses or takes in two meanings: a) Action: to have a talk, to have dinner, to have a baby, etc.; b) State: to have a sister, to have a car, to have a cold, to have time, etc.

The meaning Action of the verb "TO HAVE" is expressed by the strict Complementation structures (V+C); the meaning State of this verb includes the definite following meanings: ownership or possession; illness/disease/sickness; family relationships.

There is an important fact in English Grammar: the singled out three "atomic" main predicate verbs (DO / BE / HAVE) correspond to the same three auxiliary verbs: "DO / BE / HAVE". Auxiliary verbs have no lexical meanings. They are meaningless. They are called "helping" verbs and they are used together with the main verbs in order to "help" them to express particular grammatical functions and meanings (for instance, to make questions, negatives, or to form tenses, etc.) There are two groups of auxiliary verbs. The first group includes "DO/BE/HAVE". The second group of auxiliary verbs includes so-called "modal auxiliaries" (modal verbs): can/could/may/might/must/will/would/shall/should/ ought to/need.

The fact of full coincidence of three identical words (DO / BE / HAVE) in the quality of the Verb (Main/Auxiliary) gives the possibility to confirm not only their "atomic" status, but also their straightforward belonging to the category of homonyms, that is quite natural for many English words as formal elements of the English-language discourse. Thus, the "atomic" English verbs corresponding to the words "DO / BE / HAVE" are homonyms because they are both Main Verbs and Auxiliary Verbs. These verbs constitute the essence of most predicate structures in the English-language discourse.

The English Code, which is capable to recreate any human's thought is acknowledged to be the propositional sign – Proposition. Proposition is a Sentence – a central formal element of the English-language discourse hierarchy having strict Word Order "S+P", which may be identified with Algorithm.

The English language has lost almost all case inflexions, and the form of the common case of the noun no longer discriminates its syntactical function. As a result of the disappearance of case forms, Modern English has developed a rather fixed and rigid Word Order to indicate the various syntactical functions of words in the propositions (sentences). We suggest the idea that in fact the strict Proposition Word Order (S+P+C) in spite of cases of inversion represents just the Algorithm, and that is very important for realizing the idea, the basic principle of reconstructing any human's thoughts in a proper way in English, that is, with the help of the Main Code – the propositional sign – Proposition (Sentence) or Propositional Structure. Algorithm is one of the most important concepts of mathematics and mathematical logic. It means the exact instructions of executing actions or operations resulting in solving one or other tasks in a definite order. Such exact instructions

are quite natural and specific in the process of making up English Sentences (Propositions). Algorithms of propositions are of great importance in the English-language discourse. As English words have hardly any inflections and their relation to each other is shown by their place in the proposition and not by their form, the algorithm in English is fixed. We cannot change the position of different parts of the sentence at will, especially that of the Subject, the Predicate and the Complement (Object). Algorithm is characteristic for all the kinds of Propositions (Affirmative / Interrogative / Negative).

Thus, algorithms of Propositions may lead to merging of all the members of a sentence into a unified, inseparable unity having some definite, individual, general sense and meaning. It's just the Algorithm of a Proposition that is the Cause of appearing the specific "ready-made up" propositional structure as its Effect (Consequence). This structure is a Sentence (Proposition) which is called " cliché " (from French cliché). Hypothetically, in the future cliché may be regarded as the one and only, the minimum unit of discourse capable of transmitting information. The confirmation of the above opinions can be the fact of the progressive tendency of constant appearing complete set constructions as cliché corresponding to the sentences (propositions). Cliché is a discourse stereotype, a set phrase, which is used in a quality of a standard reproduced easily in definite conditions and contexts. Cliché makes up a constructive unit, which preserves its semantics and expressiveness in many cases [9, p. 108–109].

It's just the Algorithm of any English Proposition as a definite stable code that recreates any human's thought (the notion "human" regularly used in the present article corresponds to a speaker coding discourse and a listener decoding discourse). This conclusion may be confirmed once again by the availability of the algorithmic (S+P) structures such as Impersonal sentences, "There is / are" constructions (propositions) and increasing facts of Complementations (V+C).

The predicate in most cases is expressed by the complementation structure (V+C), which being included into the predication structure, may be considered as structural and semantic basis for rendering both relative and non-relative situations of various semantic content [5, p. 170].

According to the algorithms of the English propositions, such as "Subject+Predicate+Complement" there are a lot of cases of merging the Predicates with their Complements (Objects) into the integral indivisible unity creating Compound Nominal/Verbal Predicates (Verb+Complement) – Complementation structures. This fact also leads to the actual transformation of the Proposition into the cliché and displays another reason of its priority.

Since all the Subjects preceding Predicates strictly may be reduced to the set of so-called "atomic" subjects (analogy with the "atomic" predicate verbs) "I/We/You/He/She/It/They/There" it is just the Predicate that reproduces, reflects thoughts. According to the deduced generalized meanings of all the English Main Verbs – Action/State – it is essential to single out only two English generalized Predicate Patterns widely used:

I "TO DO" Predicate Pattern (Action)/II "TO BE" Predicate Pattern (State).

As to the Main Verb "TO HAVE" meaning Action/State it is impossible to single out this verb as a generalized Predicate Pattern of legal terms, since all the meanings of this Main Verb are rather specific, definite, limited, and they are characteristic only to the Main Verb "TO HAVE" itself (the only exception may be

the meaning "Possession" or "Ownership" referring to State, for instance: "to have power", etc.)

**Conclusions.** According to the given above information it is quite clear and evident that it is just the Predicate that bears fundamental work (load) in the process of revealing, disclosing the primary meaning of any Proposition (Sentence), which is the basic English code reproducing any human's thought. Thus, the main part in the process of creating clichés and all the other sentences (proposition) has been always played by Predicate verb (group of verbs, phrase verbs) as a constructive basic unit.

According to the above given knowledge and contemporary linguistic investigations English Proposition (Sentence) is an integral unit where the fact of obligatory presence of the "Subject and Predicate" structure may be regarded as an obvious algorithm, which definite order and "exact instructions" for expressing a human's complete thought have been depending on the kinds / types of the Proposition itself and the patterns / models of its Predicate, which is most important. All the cases of inversions, exclusions and other violations of the specific Propositions algorithms are quite natural as colloquial variants in the English-language discourse.

It is just the Sentence (the central formal element of hierarchy of the English-language discourse) that is the propositional structure containing its Predicate which is its summit and the main Code, the minimum sign of close, direct, spontaneous connection between the process of thinking and discourse. Predicate is the backbone of any Proposition (Sentence). The quality of being the Backbone is most essential for Predicate. That means that Predicate is the major constructive element, the essence of any human's thought, idea and more precisely any person's code recreating his thought.

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**Маслова С. Б. Основні загальні значення і моделі дієслів-предикатів англомовного дискурсу**

**Анотація.** У статті представлено результати лінгвістичного аналізу та виявлення семантичних значень основних концептів англомовного дискурсу як найбільш адекватних і спроможних відтворювати (кодувати) думку людини: пропозиція та предикат як імпліцитна пропозиція. У роботі обговорюється низка питань, що стосуються

семантичного концепту пропозиція (речення) – пропозиційної структури «Суб'єкт+Предикат» як основного знаку або коду відображення людьми їх знань про світ. У праці наводиться низка доказів алгоритмічної структури будь-якої англійської пропозиції (речення), і це підтверджується наявністю таких типів пропозицій, як безособові речення, конструкції «There is / are». Саме алгоритм пропозиції (речення) є причиною прогресивної тенденції постійної появи «готових» речень – т. зв. «кліше». Дедуктивний, індуктивний та евристичний методи привели до результативних висновків щодо виявлення набору ключових, узагальнених «атомарних» суб'єктів (I/We/He/She/It/You/They/There) і моделей предикатів, в основі яких вживаються три основні узагальнені за своїм значенням головні дієслова «TO DO / TO BE / TO HAVE». Узагальненими значеннями усіх головних дієслів є дія та стан: TO DO – дія; TO BE – стан; TO HAVE – дія та стан. Ці дієслова

TO DO / TO BE / TO HAVE також є допоміжними дієсловами, тобто такими, що не мають самостійного лексичного значення та можуть розглядатися як омоніми головних дієслів. Проте разом із відповідними головними дієсловами вони утворюють більшість моделей предикатів. Саме експліцитна модель предикату виявляється мінімальним кодом відтворення думки людини, бо знаходиться в основі кожної пропозиції (речення) та потенційно спроможна створити нову пропозицію (речення) за допомогою імпліцитних «атомарних» суб'єктів. У статті підтверджується прийнятий у лінгвістиці головний базовий код відтворення думки людини, що дорівнює пропозиції (реченню), а також визначається мінімальний знак кодування думки – експліцитний предикат.

**Ключові слова:** пропозиція, кліше, «атомарні» суб'єкти, омонім, «атомарні» дієслова, моделі предикатів, алгоритм.