

### III. КОГНИТИВНОЕ И ЯЗЫКОВОЕ МОДЕЛИРОВАНИЕ ДИСКУРСА

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#### **A FEW NOTES ON ANALYSIS OF WORD DEFINITION**

The author presents and analyses eight concepts of word as known to the structural linguistics. Every concept is demonstrated on an example to support the author's findings.

*Keywords: word, controversy, morphological word, structural linguistics*

#### **Introduction**

*Word* has become a source of controversy in linguistics since the beginning of an academic debate on this topic. One has to admit that other scientific disciplines have problems to define a word properly (philosophy, psycholinguistics). Saussurian dichotomic perception, however, is clear since 1916: every single word represents a linguistic sign comprised of significant/signifié. Other linguists develop this idea further claiming a word being an elementary unit of language [compare Böhmerová 2015, Kačmárová 2013, Katamba 2005, Plag 2003, Štulajterová 2014 and others]. This idea was already supported by Bloomfield in 1926 who described words as minimal free forms understood in terms of utterance (or Saussurian parole) as the smallest meaningful units of speech.

#### **Aim and method**

The objective of this article is finding an answer to a question *What is a word?* To achieve this goal, the concept of *word* has been investigated by analysing various definitions of word known in structural linguistics.

Papers and books by Böhmerová [2015], Hladký – Růžička [1996], Jesenská [2008, 2013, 2015], Plag [2003], Štulajterová [2014] and others have been found helpful and inspiring.

### **Nearly no problem with identification of written signs**

There is no doubt that word is «intuitively known to native speakers» [Hladký – Růžička 1996: 131] who can identify it in written text as well as in spoken discourse. However, written words (called orthographic words) are easily to identify compared to spoken ones. When anyone asked to count words written on a piece of paper and/or whiteboard, it is done without any complications. E.g. the following sentence *I do not like this* consists of five words. The things complicate, for example, at the moment when contractions are used, e.g. *I don't like this*. Does the sentence have four or five words? And what about nonce-words and neologism (e.g. *glamping, splunch, taputer*) whose form and meaning is has not been fixed yet?

There are over 2,280,000,000 results of *word* on Google and over 1,380,000,000 results linked to a question *what is a word* which is no help at all. Etymology of English term/naming unit *word* goes before 900 and cognates with Dutch *word* [Skeat 1994 and SOED6 2007]. Cognates of *word* in other languages are Afrikaans *woord*, Danish *ord*, French *mot*, German *Wort* (word), Greek *weirein* (speak), Latin *verbum* (word), Sanskrit *vrátam* (command), Spanish *palabra*, and Swedish *glosa* or *ord* [Jesenská 2008, Jesenská 2013].

### **Word in structural linguistics**

In linguistics there are usually two, three, or four kinds of words identified, such as orthographic, phonological, grammatical, and lexical words [e.g. see Hladký – Růžička 1996:131, Plag 2003:4-6 or others].

However, in structural (i.e. systemic) linguistics there are at least eight kinds of word recognized: 1) the orthographic word, 2) the phonological word, 3) the morphological word, 4) the lexical word, 5) the gram-

matical word, 6) the onomastic word, 7 the lexicographical word, 8 the statistical word [see Jesenská 2008 or Jesenská 2013].

1. The orthographic word is a kind of word understood in terms of spelling, i.e. alphabetic writing systems. In other words, it is a graphic sign with an empty space around it, and so one can see its beginning as well as its end, e.g. *do, I, like, this*. All words are orthographic, because they all may be written down by means of graphemes (letters).

2. The phonological word, on the other hand, is the word understood in terms of phone, i.e. sound. Spoken words usually become parts of longer utterances and they are scarcely ever uttered in isolation (e.g. *laik, pis*), which means that they are subject to rhythm, assimilation, elision, and other key phonological factors. Spoken English represents a series of stressed and unstressed syllables which behave in more or less predictable ways. But where an English native speaker or an experienced listener hears *It's no good at all* being pronounced in a relaxed, informal way, a foreigner may hear *Snow good a tall* [both instances taken from OC 1996]. Troublesome feature in the flow of speech is that words do not have such distinct shapes as on paper, and syllable boundaries do not necessarily reflect grammatical boundaries: the phrases *a notion* and *an ocean* are usually homophonic and only context establishes which has in fact been said. All words in language are phonological because one can pronounce them.

Orthography and phonology represent written and spoken forms of words. Spoken and written form of a word becomes conventional for all speakers who are obliged to respect it.

3. The morphological word is the word in terms of word-form, i.e. morphemic structure. For example, word *discoloured* consists of three morphemes, out of which two are bound (*dis-*, *-ed*) and one is free (root morpheme *colour*). Every word has its morphemic structure as the morpheme is the smallest meaningful unit of language. Meaning in this context is not limited to lexical meaning only, but it covers also grammatical meaning (i.e. function).

4. The lexical word refers to the word whose content (i.e. full/content/lexical meaning) relates to things, actions, and states in the

world. It is usually realized by one or more morphological words, as when *do, does, doing, did, done* are taken to be five word-forms of the one verb *do*. Lexical words are generally fitted into the flow of language through such mechanisms as affixation, suppletion, stress shift, and vowel change, all of which have morphological and other effects. The set of such words represents an open system, which means that new members do appear, e.g. in English these are nouns, verbs, and adjectives, and other parts of speech when they behave like nouns, full verbs (except auxiliaries and modals), and adjectives, as in *But me no buts*. Lexical words may have simple morphemic structure (*cat, mouse*), or more complex (*blackbird, incomprehensible, put up with, stamp collector, teapot, etc.*). Logically, only nouns, full verbs, adjectives, and adverbs respectively, may become members of this system.

5. The grammatical word is the word understood in terms of its function in a sentence and it contrasts with the lexical word. In other words, it serves to link lexical words. In English, conjunctions, determiners, interjections, particles, and pronouns are grammatical words. They occur frequently and have their own semantic systems, as which such particles as *up* and *down*, which relate to position, direction, space, and time. In principle, such words are a closed set to which new items are seldom added.

6. The onomastic word is the word in terms of naming because it establishes special and/or unique reference, e.g. *Hudson* (river), *New York City*, or *Smith*. Names may be motivated, like *Sitting Bull* (a Sioux name derived from an omen involving a bull buffalo) or conventional, like *Smith* today (though not in the Middle Ages, when the name was occupation-based). Although such words are lexical, they are not usually listed in dictionaries and may or may not be relevant in encyclopaedias. They are often regarded as apart from so-called normal vocabulary, though they also ought to be learned. Majority of them are nouns or adjectives respectively and they are usually capitalized.

7. The lexicographical word is the word in terms of dictionary entry. Every single word becomes lexicographical at the moment when it serves as a dictionary entry/lemma. Logically, not all words are lexicographical,

but they have potential to be used this way. Entries are usually presented in an alphabetic setting. Many dictionaries have an entry, for example *did* as the past of *do*, an entry *them* as the object form of *they*, and so on, with cross-references to the representative form. The conventional citation form for nouns is the singular (unless a word is always plural as in *news*) and for the verb is the bare infinitive (unless the verb only occurs as a participle, or is a modal verb).

8. The statistical word is the word in terms of occurrences in texts. It is embodied in such instructions as *Count all the words on the page* (see above). This instruction may or may not include numbers, codes, names, and abbreviations, all of which are not necessarily part of the everyday conception of *word*. Whatever routine is followed, the counter deals in tokens or instances and as the count is being made the emerging list turns tokens into types: for example, there could be 42 tokens of the type *the* on a page, and 4 tokens of the type *dog*. Both tokens and the types, however, are unreflectingly spoken of as words. Logically, a word becomes statistical when it is subject matter of statistics.

### **Conclusion**

There are different points of what a *word* is (or means). Eight kinds of word have been presented in this article perceived in the context of structural linguistics, i.e. orthography, phonology, morphology, lexicology, grammar, onomastics, lexicography and statistics. The main aim of the article was to illuminate definition of word in regard to its semantics. The article is a compilation of various characteristics and definitions of the *word*. The aim of an author was to bring a complex point of view by analysis of existing and accepted ideas about the *word* in terms of structural linguistics. The greatest help were publications recorded in *bibliography* below this article.

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## **К ВОПРОСУ ОБ ОПРЕДЕЛЕНИИ СЛОВА**

Автор представляет и анализирует восемь определений слова, относящихся к области структурной лингвистики. Каждое определение подкрепляется примерами, подтверждающими точку зрения автора.

*Ключевые слова: слово, противоречие, морфология, структурная лингвистика*

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## **MODELS AND FUNCTIONS OF ELLIPSIS IN SPOKEN AND WRITTEN DISCOURSES**

The main objective of the article is to analyse the stylistically significant use of ellipsis as a stylistic device at the syntactical level in English written and spoken discourses. The objective of our stylistic research was to examine what types of elliptical gaps are usually employed in the written and spoken texts in order to create a certain degree of stylistic significance.

*Keywords: ellipsis, spoken discourse, written discourse, stylistics*

### **General Remarks on Ellipsis**

One of the most obvious characteristics of the way humans interact using languages is the tendency to convey a considerable amount of information by saying as economically as possible. When using language, most of the time, we neither say nor write everything explicitly, we tend to leave out information we think our recipients are already aware of, or information that can easily be recovered from the context – linguistic or situ-