Polysemy Development Tendencies of Perception Verbs
(On the Material of Western-Romanic Languages)

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Abstract: There has been considered polysemy of verbs of perception in the three Western-Romanic languages French, Italian, Spanish. It is being investigated through the prism of syntagmatics, paradigmatics and epidigmatics. The picture of perception coincides considerably in the languages but the developed polysemantics of perceptive verbs has determined a lack of coincidence of their semantic structure. The semantic evolution of perceptive verbs includes three stages: grammar (desemantization), syncretic and metaphoric stages which have developed divergentically in each of the language under investigation. Thus, polysemantic units with their perceptive and non-perceptive meanings are bearers of idioethnic qualities of semantics of perceptive verbs.

Key words: Perception · Polysemy · Polysemantic units · Semantic structure · Semantic field · Epidigmatics · Syntagmatics · Paradigmatics · Polymodusness

INTRODUCTION

The lexical system of the language is not just a structured set of individual words, but this system presents an organization of interrelated, overlapping classes of words of different size and nature, which are arranged in lexical-semantic groups or lexical-semantic fields. The unit of study in this paper is the verbs of perception [1]. A special feature of perception verbs is their well-developed polysemy. Scholars note that the two most important criteria in determining polysemy is the common origin (etymology) and semantic interconnection of the signified units [2].

Polysemy is "such a combination of numerous meanings of a word that is repeated in many or all of the words of a certain semantic class" [3: 10].

The verbs under analysis are united in a lexical-semantic field (LSF). LSF of perception verbs as a systemic and structural association exists in the form of a logically organized hierarchical structure. It appears in the form of a complex construction, multidimensional composition, including five microfields in accordance with the number of senses: the microfield of verbs of visual, auditory, tactile, olfactory and gustatory perception. The semantic field is hierarchically organized, governed by an identifier; each microscopic field is organized according to hyper-hyponymy principle [4: 110-112].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Due to the fact that the focus of the study is perceptual-cognitive human activity, the fundamental system research approaches may be formulated as centric and anthropocentric. The search of idioethnic features is implemented in the following manner:

- At the lexical level: the identification of specific lexemes by mutual application of vocabulary units.
- At the semantic level: a comparison of lexical-semantic paradigms of prototypical lexemes to identify specific semes.

Regarding the research targets, we used quite a number of research methods: a comparative-typological method, a characterization method, a comparative method, valence identification, distribution analysis, component analysis; we also used the method of comparison of actual meaning with the etymological meaning.

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DISCUSSION

The current state of perception verbs (PVs) of Western Romanic area is a linguistic pattern, consisting of lexical-semantic paradigms of PVs. In the center of the pattern is the lexical-semantic paradigm of prototypical verbs, including polysemy and derivation, indicating five sensory functions, which are the main structure blocks of the field of perception verbs.

The seme "perception" is found in etymons of most principal words. Within the field of visual perception they point to the visible sphere: they either make the subject clear and visible, or place it in sight. Thus, such verbs as French (fr.) *visiter*, Italian (it.) *visitare*, Spanish (sp.) *visitar* derived from Latin (lat.) *visitare*, which in its turn is derived from lat. *viso* (*vedere*). The Latin noun *oculus* can be found in the French adjective *aveugle*, lat. *a(b)oculus*, meaning "no eyes, blind". According to B. Pothier, the development of polysemy goes by in the following areas: space-specific, temporal and conceptual. This discrete model is threefold and it may be as follows: *monde référentiel* (world reference), including *mondes spatial* (spatial) A, *temporel* (temporal) B, *notionnel* (conceptual), ni A, ni B respectively [5]. The identifying semantics is directed to the spatial parameter of the world, it is predicate in nature-it is arranged within the framework of a time axis. Within the area of predicates one differentiates meanings of lexical units and polishes the system of concepts. While analyzing a developed polysemy of perception verbs we apply the term epidigmatics, the term coined within the theory of word formation by D.N. Shmelev, who describes it as the third dimension of the lexical-semantic system of the language, alongside with syntagmatics and paradigmatics. "The semantic structure of each polysemantic word can be regarded as the reflection of relationship type, that can be called epidigmatic or derivational (in a broad sense of the word)" [6, 191-194]. Epidigmatic communication "reflects the ability of the word and due to word-formation processes of its semantic development, simultaneously enters different lexical-semantic paradigms and demonstrates epidigmatic communication connections, which differ from paradigmatic and syntagmatic connections" [7, 366-367]. Lexical units in epidigmatics are presented as a paradigm, as if it were a "stop-cadre" of its deep vertical (polysemy) and horizontal (word formation) development, with associative links among them, allowing you to explore a perceptual lexeme as a dynamic structure

with its semantic "focus" woven into a network of associative links. The epidigmatic image of moving focalization in the semantic structure of the PVs of three languages shows that the focus within this structure is moved, forming the historical trajectory of the semantic evolution of the Latin vocabulary in the vocabulary of the Romanic languages, exposing its national identity. Thus, the trajectory of the Spanish verb *catar* from lat. *captare* "to attempt to perceive the meaning of" (the act of thought) eventually changed to "try to perceive the feelings" (the act of the general perception), the line of similarity is drawn from it to old Spanish verb with the meaning "to see" (visual perception) and to the modern "to taste" (gustatory perception), i.e. was moving the focus from the act of thinking to the act of general perception, then to the visual and, finally, to taste perception, with a return to the visual-thought act; thus, in the derived verb *percatarse* the semes "to notice, to be aware of" appear [8]. The presented trajectory of the Latin verb *saptare* is an example of intermodus intralinguistic polysemy: the thought-perception-vision-taste-thought. The defining character of epidigmatic paradigm is a manifestation of verbs' polysemy with a chain, chain-radial and radial structures, as well as a motivational basis of word formation (with an inner form) and word formation with a non-motivated basis (with an erased internal form).

The identification of polysemy types was carried out according to the criterion of homogeneity/heterogeneity (polyreference) of a polysemantic word, when homogeneous polisemantic members do not go beyond the limits of their sensorial area, whereas heterogeneous polisemantic members relate to the various modi (mental, emotional) and subject areas (financial, legal, medical and others). A direct consequence of the nature of polymodus character of PVs is the phenomenon of syncretism, as human perception is not limited to one type of sensor perception; it is syncretic and combines not only intersensor processes, as well as intermodus types. For example, in the fr. verb *entendre* the following meanings are actualized: 1) "to perceive through hearing" - perceptual modus; 2) "to perceive with mind" - the mental modus and 3) "to perceive somebody" - the ethical act of understanding.

The course of historical development from the Latin words to present-day vocabulary has witnessed the process of semantic "boiling", during which the territories of Gaul, Iberia and Italy pushed out to the surface one

type of semes, while others went deep down. In this process there were very few semes with an identical trajectory of development, which resulted in a diverge character of processes, observed in the studied Romanic languages. The material under study showed that the pattern of perception in the three Western Romanic languages is much the same, which is, first of all, may be accounted for by the universal nature of the real-life process of human perception of reality, the common physiological and psychological foundations of this process and the similarity of the geographical, social and cultural conditions of the Western Roman peoples. The differences that occur at the level of actualization of certain types of transfers are associated with a difference in comprehension and interpretation of sensations received from information media senses. This interpretation is largely determined by the group and personal experience of language speakers, as well as the prevailing language in the group traditions and stereotypes.

Perception verbs are typical of peculiar phenomenon of syncretism - the combination of differential, semantic and structural features of language units, opposed to one another in the language system and connected with transitive phenomena [9]. Syncretism is a phenomenon, where a particular lexical unit of the semantic field takes on a meaning of two or more areas of the field or adjacent fields. Syncretism of lexemes and secondary signification are generated by signal processing from the outside world, which is carried out with the participation of several channels leading to various receptors of the brain, resulting in a transition from one sensor modus to another, or their combination.

So, the French verb, belonging to the microfield "vision", *regarder* in the sentence "*Il regarde enfin la pierre qu'on lui montre*" - he looks at the stone, which is shown to him - manifests syncretism. The verb means "to watch" - regarder "+", "to draw attention to", with the actualized semes "vision" + "attention". In the context of "*regarder la mer*" there is the combination of modi of "perception" + "emotional experience": "to see" and also "to enjoy the views of the sea". Let's consider the most illustrative example of the Italian verb *sentire* in Table 1, it contains Italian examples, which are compared with their French equivalents.

From the above table one can see that the analyzed it. verb *sentire* correlates with all five sensor modi, while the fr. verb *sentir* - only with three. The Italian verb presents an example of extensive syncretism: it. *sentire* corresponds to seven French verbs.

The same verb can combine the meanings of different modi. For example, the Spanish verb *tocar* combines tactile and auditory modi, actualizing the following meanings: 1) "touch" and 2) "to ring, to play a musical instrument". In French and Italian the corresponding verbs observe the same pattern, secondary meanings in fr. *toucher* result in "*sonner, jouer de la guit*" "to ring, to play the guitar"; it. *toccare*: *suonare* ("to ring", *suonare il corno* "to play on the horn").

The behavior of perception verbs must be studied not only in the language system, but in particular speech practice, in syntagmatics, taking into account the important role of speaking individuals in the organization of speech, the role of the situation in the use and analysis of grammatical phenomena [10], referring to the concept of functional interpretation of LSF. Syntagmatic and paradigmatic properties allow units to reveal their dependence and natural connections. Within the syntagmatic aspect the functional hierarchy (core - the center - periphery) is manifested with a consistent restriction of the use of units of fixed, sometimes "harsh" combinability; within paradigmatics it is manifested with a complication of their paradigmatic structures [10].

Table 1: Polysemy manifestation of the verb *sentire*

It.	Fr.
Sentire il caldo	Sentir la chaleur
Sentire un rumore	Entendre un bruit
Sentire: sentimi bene	Ecouter: écoute-moi bien
Sentire: cosa ti è successo, sentiamo!	Qu'est-ce qui t'arrive, nous t'écoutons.
Sentire: sentiamo di che si tratta	Voir: voyons, de quoi il s'agit.
Sentire: senti come è buono questo pane	Goûter: goûte ce pain, tu verras comme il est bon
Sentire: sentir el polso	Tâter: tâter le pouls
Sentire: sentire di chiuso	Sentir: sentir le renfermé
Sentire: dovresti sentire un medico	Consulter: tu devrais consulter un médecin

The fundamental, basic lexical fund sets a classification of situations, namely the types of changes, the types of events, that can occur with objects, just as grammatical fund gives a lot of attributes that can be attributed to that language objects and situations.

In this case we take into consideration two points simultaneously: the meaning change of the verb and change of class referents, to which the meaning is applied. Among the important factors, that affect the semantic changes and the type of the derived meanings, there are:

- the semantic paradigm of the verb and the type of the original meaning (a paradigmatic factor);
- the semantic process (metaphoric and metonymic, expansion and contraction of the meaning) [11].

For example, the verb "to perceive" (sp. *percibir*, it. *percepire*, corresponding to lat. *percipere*) is the identifier of the semantic field of perception verbs. However, the dynamics of the use of the fr. verb *percevoir* in modern French, according to the latest dictionaries, reflects the semantic shift from its perceptual field to the sphere of finance, which lowers its role as an identifier in the structure of the SF. Between the two modern meanings of the verb: 1) *saisir par les sens* "perceived by the senses" and 2) *recueillir de l'argent, les revenus d'une propriété, un impôt* "to levy, collect taxes" polisemantic members (*perceveur* "tax collector") the latest dictionaries put the meaning of "financial value" to the first place. Moreover, in the "pocket" format dictionary "Dictionnaire Poche Français - Italien, Italien – Français", issued by an authoritative publisher Larousse, which takes into account the frequency of word meanings, the perceptive meaning of this verb is not given at all [12]. Spanish and Italian dictionaries, describing the analogues of French verb - sp. *percibir*, it. *Percepire* - keep the meaning of perception in first place; therefore, they retain the role of identity in Spanish and Italian. Note, however, that these verbs also have a "financial" meaning slightly different from the French counterpart, they have updated the seme "to get paid for their work" (esp. *cobrar dinero*, it. *percepire la retribuzione*). Thus, these verbs developed a multidimensional strategy of the Latin etymon in neoromanic languages.

During their development of semantics perception verbs pass through three stages of evolution: pleonastic, metaphorical and grammar. Pleonastic stage is shown in the statement as "redundancy" of expression means used to convey lexical or grammatical meaning. The manifestation of pleonastic stage is observed in the Italian

and Spanish verbs in the semantic field under study. Thus, the Italian verbs *occhiare* and *adocchiare*, dating back to the same root, are complete synonyms; the same pattern is observed with the Spanish cognate, paired verbs of perception: *oliscar = olisquear*, *perfumar = perfumear*, *oler = olorizar*, aromar = *aromatizar*. Obviously, such a synonymy is associated with the processes of relatinization, which has been observed in the Romanic languages, starting ??from the Middle Ages.

The analysis of the manifestation characteristics of the same semantic universalias in different languages can be attributed to the pressing problems semasiology. Language universalia is defined as a certain sign of the law, a trend that characterizes most of the languages. Exploring the function in the language vocabulary relevant to the field of perception, S. Ulmann identifies three semantic processes of forming the language universalias and ranking them to the following semantic laws:

- synesthetic metaphors - associative transfers of attributes from one perception sphere to another;
- transfer from the sphere of physical perception of to the sphere of mental perception;
- transfer from the sphere of perception to the sphere of moral character [13].

Metaphorical stage is especially manifest with the main verbs of basic perception: visual and auditory, as they serve the largest number of communicative situations and would rather fade from constant use, which explains the emergence of a large number of metaphors associated with auditory and visual perception. No wonder that these verbs with resulting semantics dominate throughout the whole perceptual field. Visual and, to a lesser extent, auditory perception are in need of more and more new means of expression.

Consider the following examples where the verb *voir* is used metaphorically: *the proposals Cette hauteur voit la place, voit le rempart de la place. Cette plaine a vu de nombreux combats*. The subject is an inanimate noun, therefore, the verb cannot actualize the perceptual meaning and the narrator uses a metaphor to give the speech a high, poetic style.

Desemantization is one of the stages in the semantic evolution of perceptual verbs. The objective difficulty in studying the semantics of verbs, according to A.A. Ufimtseva, lies in the nature of its logical and objective content [14]. In contrast to a noun, the conceptual basis of a verb is so broad, that a verb can often stand on the

brink of a full desemantization, when in a sentence it takes over the grammatical functions, the role of an order element. The emergence of order functions in many cases does not follow directly from their own meaning of the word, but depends on its position, its lexical and grammatical environment. The specific meaning of the verb may depend not only on the semantics of the words combined with it, but on the syntax: the structural type of the object, or the subject, or the model type. The development of valence capabilities of each verb allows one to set various relations between actants. For example, the change of the animate subject actant to an generalized inanimate one causes the loss of perceptual mode of the verb: fr. *être beau à voir esp. ser digno de verse,* it. *esser bello da vedersi.* This phenomenon is clearly manifested in the French expression *cela se voit tous les jours*, the verb *voir* is desemantised, in its translation equivalents there is no verb of perception: sp. *e una cosa corriente*, it. *è una cosa di tutti giorni*.

The word retains the fullness of its nominative function, if it is determined by the choice of content of the message itself. If its use is optional, it is used as a component or as a combination of idiomatic order element of the structure. The verb *voir* "to see" in French sentence performs an order function when the subject is expressed with an indefinite personal pronoun *on*. For example: *Une petite lampe comme on en voit dans les cuisines de champagne...* [Saint-Exupéry]. The use of the verb *voir* in such constructions is particularly common in journalism. For example: *L'on voit se développer une collaboration étroite entre les deux pays.*

Owning to desemantized lexical items many of the structural problems are illuminated in the languages: special grammatical formants, syntactic means of communication are coined. When the verb "to see" loses its original valence, the base nuclear sema "visual perception" fades away, the conceptual framework that unites all the lexical-semantic variants in a single semantic structure disappears and the verb begins to perform a function of particle or interjection, i.e. structural word (Table 2).

The examples given in the table show that the verb "to see" in each of the studied language is specific. There is no full equivalence in the three languages; in fact, in the last two lines of the table the verb "*voir"* has no equivalents in Italian or in Spanish.

The fr. verb of auditory perception *entendre* "to hear" is also an example of desemantization. French dictionaries [Quillet, Robert, Larousse] point out that this verb, transferring into the field of emotional states can express outrage, irony, threats, challenges, etc.. Thus, a threat can be expressed in the following context *Tu entends?;* an order *Vous entendez*?; the participle of the verb under analysis *Entendu!* expresses an approval "Done!". Grammatical desemantization is an essential feature of the typology of perception verbs of Western Romanic languages. Desemantisized lexical items in the language resolve many structural problems.

CONCLUSION

The paper studies the lexical-semantic paradigm of perception verbs as three-dimensional patterns in paradigmatic, syntagmatic and epidigmatic aspects. In paradigmatic aspect LSF we identify the sector perceptual meanings (a signifying sector) and the sector, including polysemy and derived verbs (a figurative sector). Syntagmatic aspects include the change of prototypical verbs meanings, caused by their valence characteristics.

The epidigmatic aspect deals with the factors of transition of perceptual values ??to non-perceptual: desemantization and syncretism of PVs. The study of these aspects leads to a detailed examination of the functioning of PVs in different speech situations-contexts that have shaped the actual polysemy of verbs under analysis. Syncretic polysemy is manifested in the acts of thinking, emotional attitude, evaluation, desire, as well as aesthetic and ethical acts, in the act of expressing spatial relationships. The result is that there is a close connection between LSF of perception verbs with the relevant semantic fields of verbs, servicing these systems.

Table 2: The verb *to see* as an interjection or reinforcement particle

fr.	Esp.	It.
Voyons un peu	Veremos	vediamo un po'
Voyez-vous, je voudrais le faire mais je ne peux pas	Vera Ud, quisiera ha-cerlo, pero no puedo.	veda, vorrei farlo, ma non posso
Voyons!	Anda! A ver! Como es eso! Vaya!	Ma via! Insomma!
Dis-nous voir! (fam)	Dinos!	Di' un po'!
Allez-voir si j'y suis (fam)	Mire si ya estoy	Ma va' fuori dai piedi!

Perceptual verbs rapidly develop polysemy, which is going on in different directions, resulting in a discrepancy of semantic structures of polysemantic units, which carry idioethnic properties of perception verbs semantics with their transferred perceptive and non-perceptive meanings, the latter is a manifestation of the third component of the cognitive process - the" personal meaning ", actualized at the level of ethnic society. Thus, the differences are caused by the fact that the semantic evolution of the perception of verbal vocabulary, including its three stages (grammar (desemantization), syncretic and metaphorical), has been developed in each language in its own way.

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