



Формы Present Progressive и Present Simple. Два способа описания непосредственного опыта наблюдателя

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Present Progressive and Present Simple Tense. Two ways to express the direct experience of the observer

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Аннотация

Формы Present Progressive и Simple осмысляются в холистическом подходе к языку как когнитивной деятельности человека, направленной на адаптацию. Сокращенная форма Present Progressive и форма Present Simple передают непосредственный опыт наблюдателя.

Abstract

Present Progressive and Simple Tense are examined in the holistic approach to language as a cognitive activity of a person orienting to the adaptation. Reduced Present Progressive and Present Simple express the direct experience of the observer.

Ключевые слова: когнитивная лингвистика, наблюдатель,

восприятие, Present Progressive, Present Simple

Key words: cognitive linguistics, observer, perception, Present Progressive Tense, Present Simple Tense

Introduction

The holistic approach to language [Sharov 1992] differs from the 'traditional' analysis of language [Zelenschikov 2015] in the following way. First, language is not the self-sufficient system of symbols independent of people. It is a cognitive activity of a person orienting to the adaptation to the environment in the communicative time trouble. Second, knowledge represented in language is the direct or indirect experience of the observer. Third, the source of knowledge given in language



is always the observer. Fourth, the context of the situation is crucial to the understanding of language as a system of symbols. Fifth, the environment where people incorporate themselves consists of two parts- outer and inner niche. The former includes both people and objects with which the speaker coordinates. The latter- mind of the speaker. Effective adaptation to the environment in the communicative time trouble is adequate description with verbal forms of the outer and inner niche of the observer.

It is proposed that the observers choose reduced **Present Progressive** forms and **Present Simple** forms in the context of self-commentary to express their direct experience and thus to adjust to the environment.

Materials and methods

The material of the research is the records of the culinary and DIY TV shows since only the context of self-commentary gives the necessary conditions: the description of one's own actions in the communicative time trouble. Cognitive analysis of the language suggested by M. Lewis [Lewis 1991:34] is applied. The method is built on the understanding that verbal forms in English language should be examined as the sum of separate, complete parts. In other words, according to the laws of perception of the world by the observer.

Results

Within cognitive linguistics of 'the first generation' the context is considered as the important factor in the analysis of the **Present Progressive Tense** in two cases. First, to understand the reason for choosing of the verbal form by the speaker to comment on sport events. Second, to depict activity of other people or objects which is being observed from

outside and perceived as the process developing through time. It is emphasized that it is impossible to start and to finish the description of the action simultaneously with the beginning and the end of the action itself. In other words, only the outside observer can use **Present Progressive Tense** to express own direct experience in the communicative time trouble.

Yet to ask somebody to spell their name one should use only **Present Progressive Tense**. It is underlined that one should take this form irrespectively whether the speaker sees how the person writes the name or not. The observers, describing their very existence (the name), always express their own direct experience.

The reduction of the auxiliary verb **be** often explains only from the point of pragmatics. It is employed as a stylistic device, not to add emotions to the utterance, to demonstrate the principle of economy in language, etc. However, M. Lewis [Lewis 1991:178] notes that use of the reduced verbal form means that the speaker sees the object and thus there is no need in choosing the full form to underline its existence.

In self-commentary unlike other types of commentary the observer and the doer is the same person. The observer/speaker can start to describe the situation from the very beginning.

The direct experience of the observer comprises not only the field of vision of the observer, but also the state of mind. As L. S. Vygotskiy [Vygotskiy 1934:362] points out "the reduction of the utterance to the predicative only starts to exist in outer speech in two main cases. Either the speaker gives the answer, or the subject of the statement is known both to the speaker and the listener in advance".

The observer analyzing the phrase *I'm whipping myself. I'm grating butter now. Here I'm putting some flour and I'm*



adding some crumbs in the bowl sees the sequence of his own actions. He is preparing whites, he is grating frozen butter, he is putting down flour and he is adding several crumbs. That is why he chooses reduced verbal forms **'m whipping, 'm grating, 'm putting, 'm adding**. Since the moment of perception is very short, the observer to adapt to the environment effectively, as in cases with other people, uses the shortest possible forms that help him at the same time to preserve the idea of process. Before the beginning of any activity, a person recognizes what he is going to do the next moment. Thus these verbal forms as the closest to the simple predicative depict both the consciousness of the observers and their actions looking from the outside. The form **'m** as a form of the verb **be** expresses the psychological and the physical presence of the person whom it refers to. This person is the observer who does not doubt his existence here and now. Hence he takes the reduced form **'m**. Present Participles **whipping, grating, putting, adding** describe dynamics of the action that can only be seen. The personal pronoun **I** is the most precise way to indicate to the observer. The reciprocal pronoun **myself** confirms that the observer depicts his own actions. The adverb of time **now** and the adverb of place **here** show that the action is being watched at the moment of speech. The definite article **the** emphasizes the immediate presence of the observer at the time of speaking. The preposition of place **in** conveys the position of the bowl relating to the observer's place and such comparison can only be seen.

The **Present Simple Tense** with the 'instantaneous' meaning is explained in two variants. First, to denote action only by convention. Since the form is short and basic, it is very convenient to use it in the communicative time trouble. For instance, to give sport commentary, or

step-by-step instruction. Second, it is suggested that Present Simple form expresses only the indirect experience, experience of the speaker, not the observer [Kravchenko 2013:137]. However, it remains unclear why it is impossible using this verbal form to present the observer's actions as he himself sees them.

Studying the utterance *Now I take this board, the piece of lament floor. I cut it into huge pieces and put it instead of this floor. So I put the board on the top of others* the observer sees the sequence of his own actions. He is taking a board, cutting it into pieces, putting glue and laying it on the prepared floor. Since the observer has in the mind the certain picture of the situation 'covering the floor', that is the character of the action is already known to him, he chooses the shortest verbal forms to describe his inner niche to adapt to the environment efficiently. These are **take, cut, put**. The adverb of time **now** points to the observer at the moment of speech. Demonstrative pronoun **this** indicates that the objects of perception are in the sphere of his direct experience. Locative phrase **on the top** can be chosen only if the speaker sees all the parts of the situation – the old floor and new boards.

The results are applied in cognitive linguistics, cognitive grammar, cognitive analysis of discourse, literary criticism.

Conclusions

Reduced Present Progressive form and Present Simple form express the direct experience of the observer in two ways to adjust to the environment. The former describes both inner condition of the observer and his actions as the process developing through time. The latter depicts primarily his consciousness.



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