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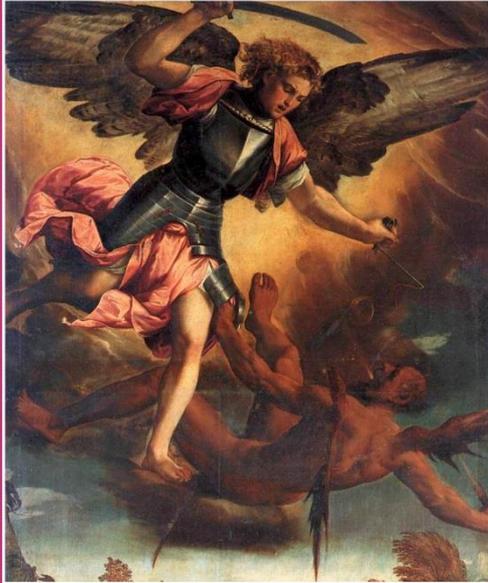
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# Functional Modulates Derived From Short Adjectives and Predicates in the Russian Language

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## Abstract

The article presents the results of a comprehensive analysis of the short adjectives and predicates' functional modalisation, denoting assessment of visual and auditory perception or the level of knowledge about an object. As a result, in the Russian language there is a considerable amount of parenthetical modal words derived from adverbs and adjectives and preserving, with a few exceptions, live semantic correlation to the original lexemes. In conclusion, the linguistic transposition of short adjectives used in predicative and impersonal-predicative positions into the category of parenthetical modal words is a very complicated process.

**Keywords:** Grammar, Modalisation, Parenthetical Modal, Syncretism.

## *Modulados funcionales derivados de adjetivos cortos y predicativos en el idioma ruso*

### **Resumen**

El artículo presenta los resultados de un análisis exhaustivo de los adjetivos cortos y la modalización funcional de los predicativos, que denota la evaluación de la percepción visual y auditiva o el nivel de conocimiento sobre un objeto. Como resultado, en el idioma ruso, hay una cantidad considerable de palabras modales entre paréntesis derivadas de adverbios y adjetivos y que conservan, con algunas excepciones, la correlación semántica en vivo con los lexemas originales. En conclusión, la transposición lingüística de adjetivos cortos usados en posiciones predicativas e impersonales-predicativas en la categoría de palabras modales entre paréntesis es un proceso muy complicado.

**Palabras clave:** Gramática, Modalización, Modal Parentético, Sincretismo.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The most important task of the theoretical grammar of the Russian language is a comprehensive study of the mechanism of gradual transposition of linguistic units within the system of parts of speech and the cross-part-of-speech semantic-syntactic categories (nominalisation, adjectivisation, numericalisation, pronominalisation, conjunctivisation, particulation, prepositionalisation, interjection, predicativisation), providing for the laconic and condensed presentation of certain information and conveying of a

complex of human thoughts and feelings in their multifaceted interaction and intersection (Peshkovsky, 1938; Shakhmatov, 1941; Vinogradov, 1986; Kubryakova, 2004; Shigurov, 1993; Marandi & Mohammadi, 2017). The types of interaction between linguistic units belonging to different parts of speech were considered within the framework of the theory of transposition (translation, conversion) by the leading foreign scholars (Tesnière, 1988; Kuryłowicz, 2000; Yerizon et al., 2018).

We would like to focus on two transposition processes – predicativation and modalisation, i.e. linguistic transposition of different parts of speech into cross-categorical semantic-syntactic classes of predicatives and parenthetical modal words. Research into the dynamic and static aspects of the modalisation of various parts of speech still remains highly relevant, which is related to the high productivity of subjective-modal meanings in the modern Russian language and increased importance of personal components in utterances (Orekhova, 2011; García-Díaz et al., 2016).

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

The methodology of research into the mechanism of gradual transposition of linguistic units within the system of parts of speech and the cross-part-of-speech categories of modal words and predicatives has been presented in detail and tested on a large corpus of examples in a series of monographs by Shigurov on the

transpositional grammar of the Russian language. Here are just a few of the considered subjects:

(1) stages of nominalisation, adjectivisation, averbialisisation and conjunctionalisation of participle forms of negative verbs (Shigurov, 1993); (2) stages of pronominalisation of lexical units belonging to different parts of speech; (3) stages of interjectivisation of lexical units belonging to different parts of speech and accompanying transposition processes of verbalisation, particulation, etc.; (4) stages of predicativisation and accompanying processes of adjectivisation, averbialisisation, modalisation, etc. The scholars created a prospectus of the transpositional grammar of the Russian language and developed a programme for the research into syncretic lexical units and units of the speech within the system of parts of speech and the cross-part-of-speech semantic-syntactic categories (predicatives, modal words) with the use of the methods of oppositional analysis and indexation;

### **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Based on the analysis of the process and results of the modalisation of the lexical unit, we can state that in the Russian language there is a considerable amount of parenthetical modal words derived from adverbs and adjectives and preserving, with a few exceptions, live semantic correlation to the original lexemes. Such transposition type is characteristic of several groups of adverbs and

adjectives, including those used in specific functions of predicatives with meanings of the state and/or assessment. Among them:

(1) Such adverbs as *kstati*, *naprotiv*, *naoborot*, *vdobavok*, *naprotiv*, *navernjaka*, *voobshhe*, *nikak* and some others, which are not correlated to any short adjectives or predicatives with meanings of the state and/or assessment: And, generally speaking, it is a great achievement to be able to deceive what you call yourself, because it usually happens the other way round (*naoborot*) – it deceives you (V. Pelevin. *The Yellow Arrow*) (an adverb in the function of an adverbial modifier) --> with age, the contradictions do not get smoothed out, but, on the contrary (*naoborot*), become even more aggravated (*One's Own Truth*) (an adverb in the function of a parenthetical modal word and a conjunction in the syncretical context of modalisation and conjunctionalisation);

(2) Short adjectives ending in *-o*, *-e*, such as *dejstvitel'no*, *konechno* and some others, which are not correlated to any adverbs or predicatives (except for cases of verbal adverbialisation in a position between the subject and the predicate): The certificate is valid (*dejstvitel'no*) only in the presence of a photo. Signatures: Reichsführer SS (Himmler), Gestapo Chief (Müller), OKW Chief (Keitel), SO Chief (Kaltenbrunner) (*Kozhevnikov. The Shield and the Sword*) (a short adjective in a predicative function) --> actually (*dejstvitel'no*), is not freedom of speech too much of a luxury in a totalitarian society? (*Poor People*) (A short adjective in the function of a parenthetical modal word and an affirmative particle in the syncretical context of modalisation and particulation);

(3) Short adjectives ending in -o, such as *vidno*, *izvestno*, and some others, correlated to predicatives (i.e. they can be used in an impersonal-predicative position) but without correlates among adverbs: The lake is visible (*vidno*) – white specks mingled with the blue ones... (The Commission) (a short adjective in a predicative function); It is late evening, dusk is ripening and thickening, but it is not yet dark, and everything can be clearly seen (*vidno*) in minor detail (A New Profession); (a predicate adjective in the function of the main member of an impersonal construction); -->Even the cold Parnassian bird-catcher, who had been emphatically echoing each stanza of Anna Snegina, lowered his shaggy head and uttered a sad mooring sound through his nose: obviously (*vidno*), even he was struck by these very simple but such truthful lines... (My Diamond Crown) (A short adjective / predicate adjective in the function of a parenthetical modal component of an utterance with assumption meaning in the syncretical context of predicativation and modalisation);

(4) Short adjectives ending in -o, such as *stranno*, *udivitel'no*, *porazitel'no*, *zhalko*, *slyshno*, *ochevidno*, etc., correlated to adverbs and predicatives: It was not her grief that seemed strange (*stranno*) to him, but the fact that she believed in her doomed loneliness... (Dzhan) (a short adjective in the position of a predicate of a two-member predicative construction); Heartlessness, indifference – how strangely (*stranno*) they get along with the literary work (The Bison)(an adverb in the function of an adverbial modifier); It was so strange (*stranno*) to hear duck quacking from above, from the sky that I could not stand it anymore, leaped to my feet, knocking down the hut, and shot at the

bird in flight (Forester Bulyga) (a predicative with the semantics of effective evaluation of an action) --> Strangely enough (Stranno), he has never loved any child in his life (The Pheasant) (a parenthetical modal component of an utterance with the subjective-modal semantics of effective evaluation of the message in the syncretical context of predicativation and modalisation);

(5) Short adjectives ending in -o, -e, such as *bezuslovno*, *pohozhe* and some others, correlated to adverbs, but without correlates among predicatives: The meat of caught donkeys is similar (*pokhozhe*) to the deer meat, but it is tenderer (Venus's Hair) (a short adjective in the position of a nominal predicate of the two-member sentence); Mitya was also good at drawing, especially when depicting his favourite toy soldiers; moreover, he portrayed their nanny, deacon's father on the name day, a peddler and the bear who had gorged itself on honey with an exceptional likeness (*pokhozhe*) (M. Kucherskaya. Aunt Motya) (an adverb in the function of an adverbial modifier) --> It looked as if (*pokhozhe*) the stranger was understanding English better and better every minute (The New Sweet Style) (a parenthetical modal word with the meaning of problematic certainty in the context of modalisation);

(6) Short adjectives in masculine, feminine and plural forms, such as *vinovat*, -a, -y, correlated to etiquette interjections, but without any correlates among adverbs and predicatives: It was actually his own deputy who was guilty (*vinovat*), as he did not want to learn how to communicate with the press... (A Personal Angel) (A short adjective in a predicative function) --> Pardon (*Vinovat*), who is saying that?

What's the surname? (Time, Forward!) (The word from *vinovat* in the syncretic subjective-modal, contact-establishing and etiquette-interjectional functions in the context of modalisation and interjectionation).

(7) Neuter long adjectives in the positive and the (analytic) superlative forms, such as *glavnoe*, *samoie glavnoe*, *samoie bol'shee*, *samoie men'shee*, *samoie khudshee*, *samoie luchshee*, *samoie vazhnoe* and some others, correlated to abstract nouns derived from adjectives, or nominalized adjectives: And when they start letting in, you will enter the door, and you will be still walking along the foyer, for the umpteenth time looking at the paintings by a local artist depicting scenes of Pushkin's fairy tales, wonderful in their colourful awkwardness, and enjoying the knowledge that these small pleasures are free, that the most important (*glavnoe*) pleasure is still ahead (My idol) (Yang et al., 2019; Soo et al., 2019);

(8) Adjectives and /or adverbs, including those in predicative functions, in the synthetic and analytic comparative forms (*vernee*, *tochnee*, *skoree*, *proshhe*, *koroche*, *luchshe*; *boleie strogo*, etc.) and the analytic superlative forms (*vernee vsego*, *tochnee vsego*, *skoree vsego*, *verojatnee vsego*, etc.): And, by the way, who did not recommend it? – We did not even know the name of the person, through there were some hints and rumours, or, simply put, it was the usual hushing-up practice, but that worked most effectively (*vernee vsego*) (The Keeper of Antiquities)(an adverb in the superlative form in the function of an adverbial modifier of manner and degree); And then this crowd, so far unarmed – they have nothing, except for boards and long butcher's

knives – would get weapons, and this would make the situation even more complicated (Indriastuti, 2019).

We will further consider only group (3), including short adjectives ending in -o (vidno, slyshno, izvestno), correlated to predicatives (i.e. they can be used in an impersonal-predicative position) but without correlates among adverbs. According to our observations, their linguistic transposition into the cross-part-of-speech semantic-syntactic category of parenthetical modal words and expressions is gradual and limited to the formation of grammatical and /or lexical and grammatical homonyms. The main stages of modalisation of the lexical units in typical contexts can be presented graphically in the transition scale: S (hort) a (dject.) / P (red.)

(The core of short adjectives used as predicatives or impersonal predicatives (4)) --> S (hort) a (dject.) / P (red.): m (OD) (periphery of short adjectives (5)) --> S (hort) a (dject.) / P (red.): M (OD) (the area of hybrid modal structures of predicate adjectival nature (6)) --> S (hort) a (dject.) / P (red.): M (OD) (periphery of adjective-based parenthetical modal words (7)) --> M (OD) (the core of adjective-based parenthetical modal words (8)) See the typical contexts:

(4) A distorted woman's face was visible (vidno) through the slot (The Ninth Day Remembrance in Karaganda, or Tales from the Last Days); ...Outside the window, an apple-tree branch is almost imperceptibly swaying, and, visible (vidno) through it, there are oat fields of the neighbouring Peredovik collective farm, the high bank of the Volga... (Village Diaries);

(5) It was obvious (*vidno*) that not so long ago the picture passed a delicate and very professional restoration due to minor losses of the paint layer (A White Dove of Cordova);

(6) Apparently (*po vsemu vidno*), this student of Victor Andreyevich is a nice young man... (The Chair).

(7) Apparently (*po vsemu vidno*), it is going to rain.

(8) It is sure (*vidno*) to rain.

Our study of the modalisation limits of short adjectival forms *izvestno*, *slyshno*, *vidno* shows that the extent of their closeness to parenthetical modal words and expressions varies in the Russian language: while the first two of them reach only the periphery of modality, staying within the limits of the adjectival lexemes *izvestnyj* and *slyshnyj*, the third modulate (*vidno*) moves further towards the core of the modal words, with the lexical bifurcation caused by the development of an antonymic meaning (enantiosemia) in the semantic structure and the formation of not only the functional homonym *vidno* (with the meaning of categorical probability (9)) but also a functional-semantic homonym (with the meaning of problematic probability (10)); compare:

(9) It is clear (*vidno*) that the spring will be early;

(10) He, apparently (*vidno*), did not even anticipate such a development of events.

The stage S(hort) a(dject.) / P(red.) : M(od) in the transition scale is explicated by the contexts of using modalised peripheral impersonal predicate adjectives *izvestno*, *vidno* and *slyshno*, functioning in simple expanded sentence (or in predicates of complex

sentences) in pre-position, inter-position and post-position with the subjective-modal meaning of categorical probability and, sometimes, authorization (references to the source). In the periphery of modal words in the modalisation scale, the complex sentence is replaced with a simple sentence expanded with a parenthetical component. Compare the following contexts of using peripheral modalates:

(11) Certainly (*izvestno*), the dog sometimes wants to do some naughty things, trying to catch the swan's tail with its teeth but the swan pecks it on the muzzle... (The Foster Child); Many poisons, as is well known (*izvestno*), have healing properties (The Aconites); Second, as is now well known (*horosho izvestno*), the contribution of the summarised combinational scattering to the total flow of scattered light in liquids is as low as only a few percent of the contribution of the Rayleigh light scattering. The peripheral parenthetical modal words preserve their semantic correlation to the original adjectival lexemes, being grammatical homonyms of short adjectives and predicatives; compare:

(12) As is well known (*izvestno*), anything can happen during military exercises (a peripheral modalised predicate adjective);

(13) This is well known (*izvestno*) (a short qualitative adjective);

(14) This is known (*izvestno*) to everybody (a predicate adjective with the semantics of evaluation).

Such functional modalates as *izvestno*, *slyshno*, *vidno* are characterized by a certain number of specific features: 1) subjective-modal semantics of categorical probability (speaker's /writer's

assurance in the reality of the conveyed information) and sometimes also references to the source (authorization); 2) impersonal-predicative semantics of visual and auditory perception of an object (*vidno*, *slyshno*) or the level of knowledge about an object (*izvestno*); 3) unchangeability, i.e. absence of grammatical categories and paradigms of gender, number and degrees of comparison of a short adjective; complete isolation of modalates from all adjectival paradigms; 4) suffix -o, formed on the basis of a syncretic morpheme – for example, an inflection suffix in a hybrid *izvestno* (see above); 5) used in the syntactic function of a parenthetical modal component of a simple expanded sentence;

Pre-, inter- or post-position of such modalates in the structure of an utterance does not have a substantial influence on the expressiveness and character of their impersonal-predicative and modal properties.

The fact whether a short adjective ending in -o (like *izvestno*) is used in isolation or within a parenthetical expression does not affect the degree of the functional modalisation. According to our observations, two types of modalates are identified in the periphery of the studied modal words.

First, these are peripheral modalates syntactically related to other words of the parenthetical construction, including a relationship with the lexeme *kak* (*kak slyshno*; *kak vidno iz...*; *kak vidno na...*; *kak vidno po...*):

(15) The state, as is well known (*kak izvestno*), is a tool of class interests (The Future Belongs to us!); Moreover, as seen (*kak vidno*) in

the interrogation records, none of the witnesses felt any fear at the sight of the unknown devices or expressed a special interest in them (The Enemy Sent a Fireball); As seen (*kak vidno*) from the graph, here is no rebound (widely advertised by a number of experts and analysts) (Will the Snake Bite its Tail?).

(16) But we – you and I, the director waved his hand, we, as well known (*izvestno*), is pure gold! (The Department of Unnecessary Things); As known (*izvestno*), Lanet is a coward, Lanet is a self-seeker, Lanet is Caliban (The Monkey Comes for its Skull.); As known (*izvestno*), everyone tries to settle closer to work (The Broad Shoulder); Finally, on 25 July she received a letter at the post office – it was from her stepfather and mother, informing that they are alive and settled in the town of Sofia, near Petersburg, at the state-owned suede factory, since her stepfather is skilful in this craft, and her brother Ivan works as an assistant for the English architect and is heard (*slyshno*) to have a good rank and high salary (The Notes); The commanding officers, as they say (*slyshno*), are pleased with him; and Vasilisa Yegorovna treats him like her own son (The Captain's Daughter).

In such sentences, as stated above, peripheral modalates combine functions of an impersonal predicate and a parenthetical word. In this case, the parenthetical function is characteristic of either the modal word only or the whole isolated impersonal construction with a modal word as its structurally organizing centre – the main element (predicate). Not only individual words, but also word combinations, collocations and sentences can be parenthetical.

We should add that the preservation of impersonally-predicative function with the peripheral parenthetical modal words can be partially explained by the necessity to express additional predicativity of the utterance, i.e. meanings of time and mood, in the position of the main element of a one-member impersonal parenthetical construction with an abstract or semi-autonomous link verb, compare: In hope that it would be easier for me if I left Gel-Gyu, in the evening I took the 6 o'clock train and never again met Cook, who, as it became known (*kak stalo izvestno*) later from newspapers, was shot during the attack on the house of Gras Paran (*She Who Runs the Waves*).

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

The findings of the presented analysis let us conclude that the linguistic transposition of short adjectives used in predicative and impersonal-predicative positions into the category of parenthetical modal words is a very complicated process, which is related to the interaction of one part of speech (an adjective) with two cross-part-of-speech semantic-syntactic categories of words – predicatives with the valuation meaning and parenthetical modal words with the semantics of persuasiveness and authorization in the structure of modalates, explicating, in particular, the area of the peripheral parenthetical modal units. In this connection, such word forms as *vidno*, *slyshno*, *izvestno* in the parenthetical modal position cannot be adequately described as grammatical categories according to the principle either... or, i.e. as

only short adjectives, predicatives or parenthetical modal words. In different utterances with varying stages of modalisation, they would demonstrate different sets and ratios of distinctive features of the initial and final steps of the cross-part-of-speech lexical transposition.

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