

THE RELATION BETWEEN SYNTACTIC SUBJECT AND PREDICATE: CONCEPTUAL CHANGES

Summary

The article reviews the development of the concept and classification of the relation between syntactic subject and predicate during the last seven decades in Lithuanian linguistics. This type of syntactic relations was singled out only in the Soviet period, its separation was influenced by the works of Russian syntax. Initially, its concept did not clearly distinguish between the semantic and syntactic levels of sentence analysis, it was called a predicative relationship. Later, terms more syntactic by nature (mutual dependency, interdependency) were proposed. Attempts were made to explain this type of relations, but it failed to do this on the basis of one criterion. Both the direction of relation and its morphosyntactic notation have been relied upon, often without proper distinction between these criteria.

At the beginning of this century, with the rapid renewal of Lithuanian grammar theory, there was a come back to the dual division of syntactic relations based on one feature – syntactic equivalence. The term interdependency was abandoned; its cases were interpreted as subordination, marked at morphological level by the selection of case of the argument word. The semantic relation between the verb and its argument is also marked on the verb that is agreed in person (and number) with his argument.

At the end of the article, it is shown how several examples of the relation between syntactic subject and predicate are interpreted in the *Lithuanian grammar* and how they could be interpreted on the basis of the theoretical grounds common to Western linguistics.

KEYWORDS: syntactic relations, relation between syntactic subject and predicate, interdependency.

ARTŪRAS JUDŽENTIS

Vilniaus dailės akademija

Maironio g. 6, LT-01124 Vilnius

arturas.judzentis@gmail.com