

## Illocutionary Functions of Causality

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**Abstract.** The paper explores the features of the implementation of functional-semantic category of causality in categorically different situations of literary texts such as dictum-modus combination with pragmatic illocutionary function. The paper identifies three types of causal relations: subject cause (illocution of messages, information, narration, emotional-evaluative relations); motive to activity-orienting function and communicative pragmatic function (illocution explain their actions); rationale based on the facts and information with communicative pragmatic function of causal explanation i.e. epistemic and reductive explanation, justification of dictum phenomena, detailed reasoning, the explanation of logical conclusions.

### 1. Introduction

The relevance of the article is conditioned by the growing trend of linguistics in turning to the study of really functioning language; there is the need to describe the category of causality as a linguistic phenomenon, with reliance on functional and semantic unity, combining language elements on semantic basis, which can be presented as structural field (nucleus, periphery and zones of their intersection). This paper is a first attempt to present in complex the structure of functional-semantic field based on German language material and to study categorical situation from communicative-pragmatic perspective. The category of causality is one of the fundamental semantic categories. A lot of works of contemporary linguists have been devoted to the study of this category, primarily devoted to the description of the means of category expression in different languages. From our point of view, the most actual disclosure of the essence of this category is in communicative-pragmatic terms, its implementation in speech of the specific material of the German language.

Hypothesis: the category of causality in communicative pragmatic perspective serves as causal explanation, which is one of the ways of reasoning. Causal speech acts are described with the help of functional analysis of different levels of linguistic resources (lexical, morphological, syntactic), with the compulsory account of modus and illocutionary values of specific pragmatic sense. As material of the study served 1551 examples of the use of causal statements, identified by continuous sampling from German language fiction: N. Spark «Wie ein einziger Tag» (204 p.), B. Schlink «Der Vorleser» (207p.), N. Gordimer «Der Inbegriff des Erfolgs» (124p.), M. Ryan "Lied der Gezeiten" (525 p.).

Methods and techniques of research are chosen according to the object and purpose of the present work. For full disclosure of communicative-pragmatic category of causality we used descriptive-analytical, statistical methods, transformational, contextual analysis and speech analysis (the description of the characteristics of pragmatic statements) as well.

## 2. Causality as functional semantic category. Subcategories of causal relations

The subject of our study is linguistic category of causality. The problem of language causation has been sufficiently investigated in the linguistic literature: Komarov [1], Redder [2], Schmidhauser [3], Pasch [4], Blühdorn [5], Pickering& Majid [6], Breindl&Walter [7], Moeschler [8], Girdeniene [9]. Causality is a universal and mental category that allows us to describe it as the functional-semantic category in our study [10, 11, 12]. Causal relations are differentiated on the basis of specifically reflected communicative and pragmatic sense, the ramifications of which are manifested in the categorical causal situations.

Causal relationship can be observed both in nature and in human relations. Analysis of causal research [13, 14; 3] revealed three semantic subcategories of causality in German: the real reason, motive and cause:

1. Substantive reason (the real reason) is a physical phenomenon that causes natural conditions (rain, frost) as well as the conditions of the human environment (stuffiness in the house), the state of the social environment (fuss, bustle). Consequence is carried out for objective reasons beyond the control of intellectually-speaking practice. Real events (subject reasons) are also based on the objectively existing laws and regulations (in nature, in society, in law).Forexample: *«Die Bauarbeiten wurden eingestellt, weil ein frühzeitiger Kälteeinbruch erfolgte. (G. Zifonun 1997, 2296-2297).*
2. Motive. Motive has subtypes: the theme, subject, stimulus, grounds, argument, justification, etc. Motif called internal excuse i.e. a reason for certain actions of people, motive or cause of action. This type is also called moral, ethical, intentional reason, since it is due to symptoms, conditions and subject's actions. For example: *«Weil Inge Lehrerin werden möchte, hat sie sich um ein Studium an der Universität beworben» (G. Zifonun 1997, 2297).*
3. Cause. In this case it is a "justification of events" or the basis of logical reasoning, when the scope of the substantive causes expands. Being actually important, pragmatic sense of reasons goes beyond the explicitly defined denotations. Causality does not reflect the specific cause-and-consequence relationship between objects and phenomena of reality, it shows the relationship between thoughts in reasoning, thinking about this or that situation, and its application to the study of certain events, for example, to justify the idea of subjective opinions, approval, human characteristics. For example: *«Weil seine Lampe noch brennt, arbeitet er wohl noch». (G. Zifonun 1997, 2296).*

In the analysis of our material, we were guided by the theory of speech acts, according to which illocution as the action which takes place in the process of speaking, is related to the speaker's communicative intention [15]. The subject correlates causal language means with extra linguistic objects and situations, expressing, at the same time, his attitude to the utterance. Illocution is also determined by this or that proposition, that is, the illocutionary act has a certain power and a certain propositional content. Illocutionary component is a leader in the structure of the speech act that is why it can be characterized as an illocutionary act - the act of speech, which has to determine the effect on the recipient language. Causal relationships in terms of modus are realized in the sentences of causal relevance, in which necessarily presents the speaker's position. In such constructions the subject of speaking is not the causal situation and reasoning, but thinking about this or that event. Following C. Bally we divided the text content into the syntactic and semantic components that is diktum level of text organization and pragmatic component that is modus level text organization, subjective

information about the causal relations [16]. It is this subjective element - the emotions, judgments, various estimates, the subjective interpretation of the objective causal relations that is the object of our study. When analyzing the modus meanings we were guided by N. Arutyunova's classification [17], and Jacobs' theory [18] according to which the semantics of the proposal also includes a modal operator with illocutionary information.

### 3. Results

#### 3.1 Categorical situation of causality in modern German

##### 3.1.1 Categorical situation: objective reason - a physical phenomenon, a condition

*Das Thermostat in meinem Zimmer ist so hoch gestellt wie möglich, und gleich hinter mir befindet sich noch ein kleiner Heizofen. Er knackt und ächzt und speit heiße Luft wie ein Märchendrache, und doch zittert mein Körper noch immer vor Kälte, einer Kälte, die nicht von mir weichen will, einer Kälte, die sich achtzig Jahre lang in mir ausgebreitet hat. (N. Sparks, S. 9)*

The communicative setting of the text is an internal monologue of the man who has lived a long life, the story of how his body is trembling, despite the fact that the room is warm. Verbal prepositional phrase *vor Kälte zittern* expresses substantive cause, namely diktum causal relationship between natural phenomenon (*Kälte*) and physical condition of the hero (*zittern*), indicator of causation is the pretext *vor*. The reason of hero's tremors is coldness. Lexeme «*Kälte*», causing the physical condition of the hero, creates internal cohesion of the text and also characterizes his life. Modus level appears in the text using a modal verb *wollen*, which semantically specifies the character of the reason and also expresses a subjective attitude of the hero. Cold, as the external cause, determines not only the physical state of the character, but also his inner world. Modus is updated by the category of modality and time by which the speaker correlates the text from objective reality. The author goes into temporary plane in postpositive modal propositions, characterizing keyword *Kälte*: *einer Kälte, die sich achtzig Jahre lang in mir ausgebreitet hat*. Modalrelation *tot* he cold as the internal state of the hero expressed modus *wollen* (*einer Kälte, die nicht von mir weichen will*). Communicative-pragmatic function of causal text is the author's intention to induce the reader to reflect on the long life of the hero, the emotional and physical state of the hero.

##### 3.1.2 Categorical situation: motive

*Er erinnerte sich daran, mit Gus über sie gesprochen zu haben. Als er sie das erste Mal erwähnte, schüttelte Gus lachend den Kopf. "Das also ist das Gespenst, von dem du wegläufst. Du weißt schon, das Gespenst, die Erinnerung. Ich sehe doch wie du arbeitest, Tag und Nacht, wie du schufftest, dir kaum Zeit zum Atmen lässt. Dafür gibt es nur drei Gründe: Entweder man ist verrückt, oder man ist dumm, oder man will etwas vergessen. Und bei dir wusste ich gleich, du willst etwas vergessen. Ich wusste nur nicht, was." (N. Sparks, S. 21).*

In this text, we are interested in direct speech addressee, who consists of six SA (speech action), third and fourth include cause-and-consequence complex. Addressee analyzes the situation and comes to the conclusion that the recipient works day and night, which is the result of three reasons (*Dafür gibt es nur drei Gründe: Entweder man ist verrückt, oder man ist dumm, oder man will etwas vergessen*). Causal formant *Grund* explicates the function of motivation recipient's behavior. The function of the SA to the next SA is illocution explanation. Subjective relation to the addressee's conduct identifies mode of ignorance of the true state of affairs (*Und bei dir wusste ich gleich, du willst etwas vergessen. Ich wusste nur nicht, was.*)

Text is the direct speech, the communicative setting of which is constative. The main character tries to analyze the situation and gives three possible reasons for the heroine's behavior, or being more

exact motivations of her working (*Entweder man ist verrückt, oder man istdumm, oder man will etwas vergessen*). The author is inclined to believe that motivation is the woman's desire to forget the past. SA illocution expressing motive is to explain the next SA. In pragmatic terms text is motive i.e. an explanation which is explicitly updated with the noun *Grund* and transfers "motivation-explanation" to the end of the text. Thus, the functional feature of the conjunction *denn* is the expression of motive-explanation. Explicit mode is expressed in modal adjectives: *verrückt, dumm* and modal verb *wollen*.

### 3.1.3 Categorical situation: the cause - the justification of logical inference (based on information)

In a situation marked by the cause-and-causality complex with invariant meanings of action justification that are represented by such meanings as a conclusion about the state of affairs on the basis of information received by the senses and knowledge of the situation. Visual, auditory, gustatory, olfactory, tactile, and various internal sensations allow the agent to draw a conclusion about the state of affairs.

*Es herrschte Altweibersommer mit Temperaturen über 26 Grad, und gegen zwölf war er schweissgebadet und erschöpft und freute sich auf seine Mittagspause. Er picknickte am Fluss, weil die Barsche sprangen. Es machte ihm Freude, sie drei- oder viermal hochspringen und durch die Luft springen sehen.* (N. Sparks, S. 29). This text begins by describing the nature and state of the character. The sentence contains two causal structures: a compound word "drenched in sweat" (*schweissgebadet*) realizing the real cause of hero's physical condition and the complex sentence with the conjunction *weil*. Communicative function of the formative *weil* is to express study, based on a substantive cause of explaining the choice of a hero: *Er picknickte am Fluss wegen der Barschen, die er springen sah*.

Transformation with a preposition *wegen* can convey causal semantics. *Er picknickte am Fluss wegen der Barschen, die sprangen. Es machte ihm Freude, sie drei- oder viermal hochspringen und durch die Luft springen sehen*.

Periphrasis with the conjunction *denn* confirms the proposition that the conjunction *denn* expresses justification intentions: *Er picknickte am Fluss, denn die Barsche sprangen. Es machte ihm Freude, sie drei-oder viermal hochspringen und durch die Luft springen sehen*. This example demonstrates that conjunctions *weil* and *denn* are functionally synonymous.

The main semantic meaning of the text has SA, in which the author gives more detailed explanation of the reason, the consequence of which is the hero's joy. Addition of general causal meaning and actualization of the reasons subvariants can be achieved by the semantics modus that expresses a subjective attitude to what is happening: the phrase *es machte ihm Freude* has an emotional reaction as a specific variant of the cause-and-consequence meaning and at the same time it is the modus of emotional state *es machte ihm Freude*. In parallel to this component the modus of sensory perception *sehen* is used. Moduses complicate illocution of causal statements to causal explanation. Means of internal cohesion of the text is the causal conjunction «*weil*».

Our analysis of the causal proposals confirms that the communication process involves not only the exchange of information between the interlocutors, but also the expression of the active attitude of the speaker to the reported cause-and-effect relationship. Activity of the subject can be seen in that it takes away from the arsenal of the causal language means those that are most relevant to the communicative intent, illocution. Within this category motivation statement - a modus of the speaking subject, reflecting the subjective attitude of the speaker to the objective conditions of its activity, interacts with intention of the speech act. One can also state that the category of causality finds its fullest expression in the text environment. Justification in the text are causal explanations, the phenomenon can be interpreted as state, event or activity, psychological or linguistic act.

Our observations suggest that the cause-and-effect relationships, complicated by modus meaning, move the text to the level of causal explanation. Most often we are dealing with a compound sentence with the conjunction *denn* or complex sentences with conjunctions *weil*, *da*. The second part of the compound sentence and subordinate part of the complex sentence have in their arsenal the fact, on which a particular assumption can be built; following a complex construction, simple sentences show the full picture. The detailed arguments are offered at the need to provide the detailed proof. The text may contain a complex cause-and-information component comprising one, two or more causes. To complete the judgments often guessing, assumptions are required, which are based on sentence (utterance) information, as well as related information. At the level of explanation a producer or a subject of speech comes into speech action, i.e. gives information, then explains and reinforces its dominant speech action. Explaining and justifying the author motivates the recipient to the desired response. By acting on the recipient, the subject makes him do verbal or non-verbal action, affects the feelings, thoughts, mood companion. For the explanation an addressee uses a certain event or circumstance to show the reason of a different phenomenon, another situation. Modus actualizes lead to complications at the semantic level of the text, namely, the causal explanation.

The results showed that the language mechanism aimed at implementing the illocutionary function of causal explanation in the German literary text is the use of verbs in it, prepositional modus of thought and feeling, as well as modal words and particles: moduses of doubts and assumptions (*sicher*, *wohl*, *vielleicht*, *annehmen*), moduses of considering and supposing (*meinen*, *scheinen*, *überzeugt sein*), moduses of knowledge (*kennen*, *wissen*, *erfahren*, *aus der Kenntniss*), moduses of sensory perception (*sehen*, *hören*, *empfinden*, *bemerken*), moduses of assessment (*wahr*, *stimmen* / *nicht stimmen*), moduses of general axiological assessment (*gut*, *schlecht*, *besonders schwer*), moduses of volition (*wollen*, *befehlen*, *mögen*), moduses of necessity (*müssen*, *sollen*). The meaning of justification based on the information is introduced by semantics of particle *noch* (yet), *so* (so), *ja* (yes), *doch* (after all), *nur* (only), *nämlich* (in particular) and the moduses of emotional state, assumption.

Causal explanations are the language operation, in which the following text units are involved: diktum proposition (the phenomenon of causality), justification and modus illocutionary act which reflect the attitude to the statement. Thus, we can say that the causal explanation in the text does communicative pragmatic function of causality category. The core of functional semantic field with communicative and pragmatic functions is precisely the justification of inference based on facts and information

Our analysis shows that when the language means of causal illocutionary act representation appears the recipient begins to comprehend, interpret, evaluate submitted causal situation, evaluate their actions, and reflect on the relevant causal situations in their lives. Recipient empathize with the author his/her life situations, looking for reasons, internally justifying and explaining them for himself. Interaction between the recipient and the addressee is achieved through communicative pragmatic functional synonymy of causal language means.

#### 4. Conclusion

Categorical analysis of rational situations on the basis of information revealed the fact that the conjunctions *da*, *denn*, *weil*, lexeme *Grund* and pretext *wegen* are used as a causal markers and causal cohesion. Basic communicative and pragmatic function of the semantic category of causality in these situations is a categorical causal explanation. For the implementation of a categorical situation we have a specific set of standard illocutionary acts. Set of cause-and-effect chains and related modus-pragmatic formants create functional-semantic representation of a particular causal situation. This representation is a kind of inner world of the author of a text as an addressee and a recipient at the same time, interacting within illocutionary potential categorical situation. Illocutionary potential has at the base the general knowledge of illocutionary, background and language order and is marked with



a specific language means. The analysis of literary texts allows us to distinguish the following types of causal relations with a certain communicative pragmatic function:

1. objective reason to subject-oriented communicative pragmatic function (illocution information, stories, messages)
2. motive to activity-oriented communicative pragmatic function (illocution explain their actions)
3. rationale, based on the facts and information communicative pragmatic function of a causal explanation, epistemic and reductive explanations, that not only justifies the phenomenon expressed by a proposition, but also reasons the assumption of a cause existence, provides knowledge of the true state of affairs and a logical conclusion based on information and facts.

The abovementioned types of causality are causal explanations, the purpose of which is to motivate the recipient to the desired responses, to induce him to meditation, contemplation and to convince him of something. A detailed explanation is offered when needed to provide a detailed proof or argue implicitly this or that situation. Causal explanation is a way of reasoning with the help of cause and informative component, containing one, two or more of the reasons that include the need for second-guessing, assumptions, as well as additional information.

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