

VERB PREDICATES IN THE SPEECH OF FAMOUS POLITICIANS

ДІЄСЛІВНІ ПРЕДИКАТИ В МОВЛЕННІ ВИДАТНИХ ПОЛІТИЧНИХ ДІЯЧІВ

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The political interview is considered in the article as a special genre of political discourse. Political discourse is an object of interdisciplinary research. Speech itself, according to a number of domestic and foreign researchers, is initially "politically loaded", since it is a sign of solidarity with other members of society who use the same language. Interest in studying political discourse has led to the emergence of a new direction in linguistics – political linguistics. In linguistic literature, there is a broad and narrow understanding of political discourse. Scholars interpret political discourse as a set of discursive practices that identify participants in political discourse or form a specific topic of political communication. A narrow definition of political discourse has been defined by the Dutch linguist T. van Dijk. He considers political discourse to be a class of genres limited to the social sphere, namely politics. Government discussions, parliamentary debates, party programs, speeches of politicians are those genres that belong to the sphere of politics. The following typical properties of political discourse are distinguished: 1) ritualism and informativeness, 2) institutionality and personal character, 3) esotericism and accessibility, 4) reductionism and completeness of information, 5) standardness and expressiveness, 6) dialogicity and monologue, 7) explicit and hidden evaluativeness (category of qualitiveness), 8) aggressiveness and tolerance.

The material of the political interview text allows us to obtain a three-dimensional image of the described object, to better understand the peculiarities of functioning of the word and image in the media-political space, to reveal the mechanism of influence on the mass audience. By choosing verb predicates in their remarks, the respondents of the political interview pursue their active goal – influence on the audience that has been carried out both implicitly and explicitly. The proposed transitive analysis reflects the speech image of politicians, which is embodied in a socio-psychological portrait with a number of certain characteristics that allows voters to see their point of view, internal experiences and determine their position in the pre-election process.

Key words: political discourse, political interview, transitivity, media space, verb predicates, politics.

Політичне інтерв'ю розглядається у статті як особливий жанр політичного дискурсу. Політичний дискурс є об'єктом міждисциплінарних досліджень. Інтерес до вивчення політичного дискурсу призвів до появи нового напрямку мовознавства – політичної лінгвістики. У лінгвістичній літературі існує широке та вузьке розуміння політичного дискурсу. Вчені трактують політичний дискурс як сукупність дискурсивних практик, що ідентифікують учасників політичного дискурсу чи формують конкретну тематику політичної комунікації. Вузького визначення політичного дискурсу дотримується, зокрема, голландський лінгвіст Т. ван Дейк. Він вважає, що політичний дискурс – це клас жанрів, обмежений соціальною сферою, саме політикою. Урядові обговорення, парламентські дебати, партійні програми, промови політиків – це жанри, які належать сфері політики. Вирізняються такі типові властивості політичного дискурсу: 1) ритуальність та інформативність, 2) інституційність та особистісний характер, 3) езотеричність та загальнодоступність, 4) редукціонізм та повнота інформації в політичному дискурсі, 5) стандартність та експресивність, 6) діалогічність та монологічність, 8) агресивність та толерантність.

Матеріал тексту політичного інтерв'ю дозволяє отримати тривимірне зображення описуваного об'єкта, краще зрозуміти особливості функціонування слова та образу в медіа-політичному просторі, розкрити механізм впливу на масову аудиторію. Обираючи дієслівні предикати у своїх репліках, респонденти політичного інтерв'ю переслідують свою активну мету – вплив на аудиторію, який здійснюється як імпліцитно, так і експліцитно. Запропонований транзитивний аналіз відображає мовленнєвий образ політиків, який втілюється у соціально-психологічному портреті з низкою певних характеристик, що дозволяє виборцям побачити їх точку зору, внутрішні переживання та визначити позицію у передвиборчому процесі.

Ключові слова: політичний дискурс, політичне інтерв'ю, транзитивність, медіа простір, дієслівні предикати, політик.

At the present stage of development of society, the mass media play a significant and very important role, shaping global culture and global information space. Many scientists, politicians and journalists call the mass media the fourth power, because it is a mechanism of influence on public opinion. Therefore, politicians use the mass media to realize their goals during

the election race. Political interview is the best way to understand the essence of politicians' motivations, to reveal their image, features of speech, strategies and tactics of behavior, the set of verbal units that reflect their worldview, point of view, the influence of their non-verbal communicative behavior, the actualization of implicit and explicit intentions, and so on.

Analysis of major research and publications.

Currently, many researchers are comprehensively studying the issue of various types and forms of discourse, in particular, special attention is focused on the study of media discourse [6; 5; 12; 13; 15], political discourse [1; 2; 3; 4; 7; 8], and their synergetics [9; 10]. The numerous characteristics of the interview as a special form of media text have been studied by a large number of linguists [14; 15]. The study of mental processes that occur during the perception, awareness and cognition of reality by consciousness, as well as the types and forms of their mental representations, that is what cognitive linguistics deals with, are reflected in the works of such scholars as A. O'Keeffe, N. Fairclough and others.

The relevance of the choice of the research topic is explained by the fast development of the process of studying and interacting with different genres of media discourse, namely the political interview as a pragmatic type of text, focused on influencing the audience through various communicative strategies and tactics.

The purpose of this work is to present the results of transitivity in a political interview. Achieving this goal involves solving the following tasks: to highlight some features of a political interview, which is one of the genres of media discourse; to clarify the essence of the concept of transitivity; to illustrate and analyze the set of verb predicates that construct respondents of a political interview.

The object of the study is the speech of the respondents-politicians, which is actualized in the texts of a contemporary English political interview. and the subject of study is the peculiarities of the choice of verb predicates, carried out by male and female politicians. The material of the study is the texts of the political interviews made by James David Vance, Donald Trump, Kamala Harris, Patricia Murray.

Scientific novelty is determined by the study of the choice of verb predicates by male and female politicians, which reflect their worldview, and thereby actualize their main goal – influence, control and management of mass consciousness.

Political interview is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon of modern media discourse. It is used as a tool that influences real and potential recipients in order to form the linguistic political consciousness of an individual. Political interview is a special form of media text, "the concept of media text goes beyond the sign system of the verbal level, representing a sequence of signs of various semiotic systems – linguistic, graphic, sound, visual, the specifics of the combination of which is determined by a specific mass media channel" [14, p. 156].

The participants of a political interview are three parties: the respondent – a politician (the one who reports information, answers journalist's questions), the recipient – the audience (the one to whom the information is reported, the listener), the interviewer – a journalist (the one who asks the question). The respondent of a political interview, answering the journalist's questions, reports information using certain linguistic units. Taken together, these linguistic units constitute politician's worldview system, reflect his/her point of view, worldview, and in a certain way form his/her image in the system of connections and relations with the outside world [15].

The selection of linguistic units, in our case verbal predicates, is called transitivity. In the grammatical system of M. Halliday, the concept of "transitivity" is an effective and efficient means of analyzing the meanings of words in statements. This term has broad and narrow meanings. In the broad sense, the transitivity system consists of various types of processes together with the structures that implement these processes.

Transitivity in this case is not equivalent to the category of transitivity in traditional grammar, although, touching on the linguistic manifestations of the roles of participants and the ways in which they interact, it inevitably focuses on agentivity [11, p. 476].

The key principle in this model of analysis is the idea that the speaker and writer always has a choice which verb to use and, accordingly, how to describe (present) a particular event. The study of transitivity in this sense is an analysis of the worldview or "reality" that is constructed in the text. Linguistic analysis of transitivity involves considering the nature of actions: what actions are presented in the text? Who is the subject, that is, who performs them? Who is the object, in relation to whom are they performed? Where / to whom are the actions directed?

The transitivity analysis model divides verbs into categories depending on the activity performed and the role of the participant in that activity. In general, M. Halliday distinguishes six types of processes: material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal and existential [11, p. 480]. We are interested in two main processes that are expressed by verb predicates, material and mental. These types look as follows: a material process is divided into an action and an event; an event, in its turn, can be intentional and forced (a consequence of another process). A mental process is divided into closed and outwardly directed. In this case, material processes are actions that people perform (they can be represented by transitive and intransitive verbs) and events. Events can be intentional or unintentional, that is, a consequence of another action or process. Mental verbs mean actions

that belong to the thoughts, emotions or feelings of the subject. Such processes can be closed within the individual (internalized), or directed outward (externalized), that is, they mean the results of mental processes. Internal processes are also divided into categories: perception (seeing, listening), reactions (value judgments such as "approving", "condemning"), or cognition ("thinking, being interested") [6, p. 54].

An analysis of the choice of transitivity in Kamala Harris' remarks looks as follows. The almost equal number of predicates in sentences where the subject of speech is Kamala Harris herself, signifies internal mental processes of perception and cognition ("I had an interest in the newsroom; I had ingrained in me an interest; I realized to be really able; I think was more significant; I know the Republican platform; I did want to be; I want to make sure; I hadn't thought of them"), represents not only the internal experiences of the individual but also provides information about the interests, education, and some moments from the life of the Democratic Party candidate in the presidential race in 2024.

There are 46 verb predicates in the text that denote material processes, 26 of which denote intentional action ("I studied politology and economy; I ran for president of the USA; I would use them as an advantage; I've totally ignored; I would use in a campaign; I decided that; I will be in as long as"), a 20 – unintentional ("I've certainly never been part; I am the first woman, the first African-American politician to serve as vice president in U.S. history"), because they are a consequence of other actions or processes because it is a consequence of other actions or processes. Only two verb predicates denote a mental process of influence directed outwards, mostly these are verbs of speech ("And I say this; I talk about the plan").

As an object of action, a female politician is presented in 10 sentences ("I've got great help there; I've got great assistance; I have a greater respect; I was baptized").

The nature of actions and processes expressed by verb predicates is quite diverse. In most cases, where Kamala Harris uses the subject "I" in her speech, she communicates a lot of information about her personal life, political career, hobbies, election program and aspirations. In the text of the political interview, Kamala Harris acts as the main character in her remarks. Although she lacks experience and proper education, she is positioned as an active and purposeful politician, a conservative, her caring and traditional values are emphasized.

As to James David Vance, the 50th vice president of the United States, predicates prevail in his speech. There are about 60 predicates that mean internal mental

processes: processes of cognitive activity ("I think it's mostly humbling; I think the important thing; I think people"), perception ("I see there's stirrings; I open my eyes and stare at wonderment; I watched excerpts") and reactions ("I admire and respect; I'm glad she took; I'm proud of her vision; I'm very excited").

Verbal predicates that denote mental processes of influence – 10 ("I am telling you; I said that he didn't; And I'm telling you; I'm saying that"). There are also verbal predicates where the politician is presented as the subject of intentional action – 25 ("All I wanted to do was; who I competed against; I put my country first; I can create jobs; I've commanded; I do and can lead") and unintentional – 5 ("I was not the most stellar graduate; I've had so many close calls").

James David Vance is not at all an object of external actions or processes. Thus, this politician positions himself as a purposeful, confident, sometimes self-confident person ("I do and I can and I'll secure the peace; I can restore our economy; I will convince a lot of Americans"), as a politician who has experience and knows his job. Also, the subject in James David Vance's speech is his party member Donald Trump ("He understands that; He's responsible for; He's the commander of; He has been in charge; He knows the surge"), whom he is very proud of, shares his point of view, supports and creates a positive image of him. And therefore, in the text of the interview, there are two semantic centers – he and Donald Trump.

A similar picture is observed in the text of Donald Trump's interview. The number of sentences where he himself acts as a subject is almost the same – 90, but unlike James David Vance, Donald Trump is the main and only actor and semantic center in his statements. First of all, the large number of predicates that express mental internal processes – 56 ("I mean...; I suggest that; I do believe"), of which the predicate "I think" is used 46 times ("I think that what we saw; I think that's where the Democratic Party; I think Democrats still dominated; So I think it is very important; I think that he recognized"), in these cases Donald Trump clearly states his life and political position, and his personal beliefs. Also, a small number of predicates that denote mental processes of influence are represented in his speech – 10 ("I've said very clearly...; I was talking to mothers; I was talking to veterans; I tell people..."). The material processes of intentional action are represented by 24 verbal predicates ("I am not going to continue; I travelled around world; I was working as; I was making; I've written in my book; I wouldn't be running; I have actually provided"), which influence the surrounding environment. The material processes of unintentional action are not recorded at all in the text

of Donald Trump's interview, and he does not act as the object of external actions and processes. Such an analysis of the transitivity of Donald Trump's speech positions him as a decisive, stating and confident politician who directly participates in all the events he speaks about, has an impact on the political situation, is concerned about the future of the country and tries to solve the problems of ordinary Americans.

Another representative from the Democratic Party, like Donald Trump, Patricia Murray, has the following indicators of speech transitivity analysis: she acts as a subject 96 times, the largest number of verb predicates that mean mental internal processes of cognition, perception and reaction – 49 (“I think it's pretty significant; I appreciate that; I was thrilled; I am sorry about; I feel Cynthia ..; But I believe..; I am proud when...”), there are no mental processes of influence; sentences with predicates of intentional action – 39 (“I'll be there...; I intend to do; I've won four of them; I will do as president; I take responsibility; I was sitting there; I stood with him”), unintentional – 8 (“I got such a big vote; I have to bear; I've been living with; I grew up in”). The president pro tempore of the United States Senate does not act as an object of external actions and processes. Although her husband acts as a subject – 9 times (“...my husband gets very passionate; ...he thinks I would be; he feels that way; what he said”), Patricia Murray is still the main actor in the text of the political interview. Using the predicates of material intentional / unin-

tentional action and mental processes, she reports information about the presidential campaign, some moments from life, her husband, internal experiences and hopes. Thus, a positive image of a female politician is represented, who has a strong and strong-willed character, takes a clear political and leadership position, is socially active, pragmatic and cares about the interests of her compatriots.

Conclusions. In general, the material of the political interview text allows us to obtain a three-dimensional depiction of the described object, to better understand the peculiarities of the functioning of the word and image in the media-political space, and to reveal the mechanism of influence on the mass audience. By choosing verb predicates in their remarks, the respondents of the political interview pursue their active goal – influence on the audience, which is carried out both implicitly and explicitly. The intentions of politicians are to effectively build communication, which promotes mutual understanding and trust on the part of the recipients, therefore they use predicates that mean material processes, intentional / unintentional and mental processes of an internal and manipulative nature, taking into account the ideas and preferences of the target audience. The proposed transitivity analysis also depicts the speech image of politicians, which is embodied in a socio-psychological portrait with a number of certain characteristics, which allows voters to see their point of view, internal experiences, and determine their positioning in the pre-election process.

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