

РОЗДІЛ 3 ПОРІВНЯЛЬНО-ІСТОРИЧНЕ І ТИПОЛОГІЧНЕ МОВОЗНАВСТВО

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SEMANTIC ASPECTS OF CAUSATIVE POSSESSIVE VERBS IN ENGLISH СЕМАНТИЧНІ ОСОБЛИВОСТІ КАУЗАТИВНИХ ПОСЕСИВНИХ ДІЄСЛІВ В АНГЛІЙСЬКІЙ МОВІ

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The article considers causative possessive verbs (hereinafter – CPVs) in English with a semantic feature of the quantitative characteristic of an object. The material underlying the study of the semantic structure of causative possessive verbs, their semantic co-occurrence includes the examples of their use in the English fiction and publicistic texts, search system resources in the Internet, databases of electronic English dictionaries. The analysis is performed based upon the interpretation formulas.

Key words: causative possessive verb, interpretation formula, subject in the situation, possessive object, semantic feature.

У статті розглядаються каузативні посесивні дієслова (далі – КПД) в англійській мові з семантичною ознакою кількісної характеристики об'єкта. Матеріал, на якому вивчається семантична структура каузативних посесивних дієслів, їх семантична сполучуваність, – це приклади їх вживання у текстах художньої літератури та публіцистики, ресурсах пошукових систем в мережі Інтернет, бази даних електронних словників англійської мови. Аналіз у статті проводиться на основі формул тлумачення.

Ключові слова: каузативні посесивні дієслова, формула тлумачення, суб'єкт даної ситуації, посесивний об'єкт, семантична ознака.

В статье рассматриваются каузативные посессивные глаголы (далее – КПГ) в английском языке с семантическим признаком количественной характеристики объекта. Материал, на котором изучается семантическая структура каузативных посессивных глаголов, их семантическая сочетаемость, – это примеры их употребления в текстах художественной литературы и публицистики, ресурсах поисковых систем в сети Интернет, базы данных электронных словарей английского языка. Анализ в статье проводится на основе формул толкования.

Ключевые слова: каузативные посессивные глаголы, формула толкования, субъект данной ситуации, посессивный объект, семантический признак.

Formulation of the problem. The paper focuses on the peculiarities in semantics of causative possessive verbs (CPV) in English having a semantic feature of the quantitative characteristic of an object. The analysis is performed based upon the interpretation formulas. The general interpretation formula is represented as follows: “X by the action V causes Y to have Z // as a result // Y has Z”, where X is a subject in the situation; Y is a recipient; Z is a possessive object; V is an action. Description of the specific character of the CPVs' semantic co-occurrence enabled to identify the features that define in particular the semantics of the verbs under study, as well as to determine the types, subtypes and methods of the possessive object expression. The study shows that two groups can be distinguished among these

verbs: (1) those with a semantic feature of the quantitative characteristic of an object ‘a part of Z’ and (2) those having a semantic feature of the quantitative characteristic of an object ‘a great quantity of Z’. The meanings of CPVs in the distinguished groups based on the interpretation formulas, types of possessive object and specifics of their semantic features have been described and patterned. Analysis of the CPVs' co-occurrence with different semantic types of possessive object demonstrated a leading role of the unanimated terms as possessive objects.

The urgency of this study stems from the absence of any detailed analysis of causative possessive verbs (CPVs) based upon the material of the English language. The purpose of this article is to identify the peculiarities in semantics of causative possessive

verbs in English with a semantic feature of the quantitative characteristic of an object. The object of the study is English CPVs. The subject of the study in this paper is the semantics of these verbs.

Analysis of recent research and publications.

The categories of “possessiveness” and “causativity” are the important language categories. There is a lot of research devoted to the said categories based upon the materials of different languages (see Degand, Levshina, Geeraerts, Speelman, Livitz, McGregor, Nakamoto, Niu, Seiler, Seržant, Taylor, Ziegeler, Vermeulen, Zamaletdinov, Galieva, et al.). These and other studies are focused on the units of different language levels (morphological, lexical, syntactical). Special consideration is given to the verbs (Apresyan, Mirokhina, Onozuka, Krasnova, Zamaletdinov, Galieva). Study of semantics of the verbs combining these two categories seems to be even more relevant.

Presenting main material. The material underlying the study of the semantic structure of causative possessive verbs, their semantic co-occurrence includes the examples of their use in the English fiction, search system resources on the Internet, databases of electronic English dictionaries.

The analysis is carried out based upon the interpretation formulas (hereinafter – IF) using the structural semantic language [1; 3], and also according to the three-stage valency model of G. Helbig developed in reliance upon the “semantic fields” of V. Porzig and “semantic agreement” of E. Lazy [4]. Semantics of causative possessive verbs has been analyzed by means of the interpretation formulas (hereinafter referred to as the IF) using the semantic language worked out in the studies of Yu. D. Apresyan [2], A. Wierzbicka [5] et al.

The general IF is represented as follows: “X by the action V causes Y to have Z // as a result // Y has Z”, where X is a subject in the situation; Y is a recipient; Z is a possessive object; V is an action. The IFs are based upon the semantic information put into the underlying structure of verbal meanings including general and concrete characteristic of an action.

The general characteristic can be demonstrated as an example by the sentence: *I tell you that I would give one of the provinces of my kingdom to have that photograph.* [6, p. 25], in which the causative possessive verb (hereinafter referred to as the CPV) *give* expresses the action without any concrete semantic features of its nature.

The concrete semantic information is represented by the two kinds: 1) predicate – means the nature of an action (temporary / forever, legal / illegal, which is evaluated positively / negatively, purpose of the action); 2) argument (quantitative characteristic of

the object and subject of the action, nature of the possessive object).

In accordance with the purpose, objectives and characteristics the material, the following research methods are used in the work: componential analysis – for the selection of lexical material that is the object of research, as well as the establishment of common and specifying semantic features of CPVs; descriptive method – for a comprehensive analysis of selected linguistic units, their inventory and systematization; transformation method – for the description of verbs and quantitative analysis – to clearly identify the composition of particular semantic groups of CPVs.

In this paper we consider the verbs (1) with a semantic feature of the quantitative characteristic of an object ‘a part of Z’ and (2) with a semantic feature of the quantitative characteristic of an object ‘a great quantity of Z’.

The meanings of the first group verbs can be expressed by such IT: ‘X performs an action V over Z in respect of Y, having divided Z into parts // as a result // Y has a part of Z’.

The verbs of this group in English include such CPVs as *to share*, *to distribute*, *to divide*, *to impart*, *to dole* and derivatives of the verbs *to divide*, *to share* and *to dole* formed by postpositive method, the lexical items *to divide up*, *to share out*, *to dole out*. The meanings of these verbs in English are interpreted as follows: *to share* – 2) to let someone have or use something that belongs to you [7]. For example:

As a kid he'd never shared his toys [7].

In the sentence (1), the optional and covert is the Y, a recipient in the causative possessive situation. However, as has been demonstrated by the life experience, Y can be used with this verb both in the singular and in the plural.

The composite verb *to share* in its third meaning corresponds to the aforesaid interpretation formula: *to share out* – 3) to divide something between two or more people:

(2) *At his death, his property was shared out between his children [7].*

The semantics of the CPV *to share out* provides for using the Y in the plural. In the example (2), the Y means the children of the X, which is expressed by the possessive pronoun *his* three times.

The verb *to share* also can have the similar meaning, which is proved in the following context:

(3) *Yet it is from their houses that the reigning dynasties which have shared between them the waters of the earth are sprung [7].*

The examples (1-3) demonstrate the difference in the quantitative characteristic of the recipients. While

the CPV *to share* can add a noun expressed by Y both in the singular and in the plural, the verb *to share out* is specific for co-occurrence with a noun only in the plural for explication of the Y.

The verb *to distribute*, as opposed to the foregoing CPVs, has an additional specifying semantic characteristic of the manner of an action “planned” – 1) to share things among a group of people, especially in a planned way. In this meaning this verb has a synonym *to give out*:

(4) *A handout or employee brochure with the basic facts can be distributed [7].*

(5) *Medical supplies have been distributed among families affected by the epidemic [7].*

(6) *It lessens a woman’s opinion of a man when she learns that his admiration is so pointedly and generously distributed [6, p. 285].*

This group includes one more CPV of this verb interpreted as follows: 2) to supply goods to shops and companies so that they can sell them.

As for the verb *to divide*, as well as its synonym *to divide up*, their meanings in this group are conveyed as: (3) to separate something into parts and share them between people [7]:

(7) *There was no trouble in this, in so far as Cowperwood was concerned, except that it divided the stock very badly among these various individuals, and left him but a comparatively small share <...> [9, p. 416].*

(8) *You are to pay all expenses, and any ivory or other valuables we may get is to be divided between Captain Good and myself [10, p. 48].*

Alike the other CPVs of this group, the verbs *to divide* and *to divide up* have a quantitative characteristic of the possessive object Z (several parts) and of the recipient Y. In the example (7) Z – *the stock, a comparatively small share* expresses a part of the whole.

The verb *to impart*, which also has semantic features of the CPVs of this group, has two meanings. The meaning of the first thereof is 1) to give a particular quality to something [7]:

(9) *With just that extra pinch of shrewdness and decision imparted by long residence in a new country, Val had seen the weak point of modern breeding [11, p. 25].*

The explanatory dictionary defines the semantics of the second meaning as: 2) to give information, knowledge, wisdom etc. to someone [7]:

(10) *He gave vent to a prodigious whistle, as I imparted the news [12, p. 324];*

(11) *Yet the knowledge imparted to him by the chambermaid was rankling in his mind [6, p. 594];*

(12) *Stires had called only a few days after he*

closed his doors and imparted a significant bit of information [9, p. 730].

The CPV *to impart* is peculiar for its co-occurrence with a possessive object expressed by abstract nouns. This is proved by the definition of the verb containing specifying semantic features in respect of the possessive object *information, knowledge, wisdom, etc.* This is evidenced by the examples of use of this verb (10) – (12), where Z – *the news, the knowledge, a significant bit of information.* The CPV *to impart* does not express the semantics of the verbs of the said group in all cases, but only when the PO expressed by abstract nouns becomes singular due to combination with such phrases as *a bit of, a piece of, etc.*

The synonymic row of these verbs includes the CPV *to dole* – to give something (esp. money and food in small quantities) to more than one person [7]:

(13) *Its board has adopted a streamlined procedure for doling out emergency loans [7].*

The specifics of the meaning of the verb *to dole*, according to its definition in the dictionary and use in the context, demonstrates additional concrete semantic features (hereinafter referred to as the SF): of the object nature: “money or food”, quantitative characteristic of the object: “in a small quantity” (example 13). The presence of the said components in the meaning of the CPV *to dole* distinguishes it from the other verbs in this group. Other verbs with a semantic feature of the quantitative characteristic of an object ‘a part of Z’ may not be used in this lexico-semantic context, since the relations expressed by these lexical units are different by the nature of the objects, as well as by their quantity.

The results of study of the CPVs from this group are represented in Table 1.

According to the analysis of the semantic co-occurrence, only the unanimated terms, with a majority of concrete terms among them (95 units, or 85% in English) are used as PO with the verbs of the group with a semantic feature of the quantitative characteristic of an object. The abstract terms have a substantially smaller share (18 units, or 15%). The quantitative distribution in the group of concrete terms shows the following gradation: collective (56 units, or 46%), common (36 units, or 29%) and material (3 units, or 10%). Abstract terms include abstract notions (10 units, or 8%) and qualities, properties (8 units, or 7%).

Analysis of the CPVs’ co-occurrence with different semantic PO types demonstrated a leading role of the unanimated terms as the PO. For the CPVs without semantic features of nature of an action, the predominant are the concrete common nouns.

Table 1

Subtypes of the possessive object with a semantic feature ‘a part of Z’ in English

Ser. No.	Subtypes of PO	Causative possessive verbs
1.	‘anything’	<i>to share, to distribute, to divide, to impart, to dole, to divide up, to share out, to dole out</i>
2.	‘quality’	<i>to impart</i>
3.	‘information, knowledge’	<i>to impart</i>
4.	‘money’	<i>to dole, to dole out</i>
5.	‘food’	<i>to dole, to dole out</i>
6.	‘substance’	<i>to share, to divide</i>
7.	‘small quantity’	<i>to dole, to dole out</i>

The second group includes the CPVs with a semantic feature of the quantitative characteristic of an object ‘a great quantity Z’.

The meaning of the verbs in this group is expressed by such IF: ‘X performs an action of V over a great quantity of Z in respect of Y // as a result // Y has the whole quantity of Z’.

The CPVs of this group in English include the following verbs: *to lavish, to shower (on/ upon), to pour (out)* [13, p. 298].

According to the definition, the meaning to lavish is ‘to give someone or something lot of love, praise, money, etc.’ [7]. The definition of the verb to lavish includes the characteristic of the PO ‘love, praise, money’, which demonstrate the positive connotation of the CPS component. The analogous PO characteristic is shown in the context:

(14) Local officials traditionally lavish entertainment on national officials who dole out money for public works and other local projects [7].

The positive connotation in the example (14) is demonstrated by the PO – entertainment. This component is expressed in the sentence explicitly.

The definition of the CPV to shower (on/ upon) in the dictionary does not contain any qualitative PO specification: ‘to give someone a lot of things’ [7]. But the contextual usage of this verb is indicative of its co-occurrence with the PO of positive semantics:

(15) He was showered with medals, gifts, money and jewels [7].

The meaning of the CPV to shower (on/ upon) (example (15)) delivers a quantitative characteristic of the PO – ‘a lot of things’.

As for the phrasal verb to pour (out), the LDCE determines: if you pour out your thoughts, feelings, etc., you tell someone all about them, especially because you fell very unhappy [7]. For example:

(16) For months, she and Tom had written all those letters, poured out all that love [7].

In the example (16), the quantitative characteristic of the PO ‘a great quantity of Z’ is conveyed attributively ‘all that (love)’.

According to the definition, the PO is expressed by abstract nouns. This fact is proved by the context (example 16), where Z is ‘love’.

The results of study of the CPVs from this group are represented in Table 2.

The study of the CPVs with a semantic feature of the quantitative characteristic of the object ‘a part of Y’ and of the CPVs with a semantic feature of the quantitative characteristic of the object ‘a great quantity of Z’ allowed modeling the meanings of the CPVs based upon the interpretation formulas, types and subtypes of the possessive object (PO) and concrete semantic features (CSF) of the nature of an action. The relations of the CPVs with a semantic feature of the quantitative characteristic of the object ‘a part of Y’ is conveyed by the IT: ‘X distributes the possessive object Z into the parts Z. X causes a certain quantity of Y = Y to have a part of Z’, where n is a certain quantity of recipients, $n > 1$. The meaning of the second group verbs is expressed by the following IF: ‘X performs an action V over a great quantity of Z in respect of Y // as a result // Y has the whole quantity of Z’.

According to analysis of the first group CPVs, this relation in English is expressed by 10 meanings of the verbs *to share, to distribute, to divide, to impart, to dole, to share out, to dole out*. The meanings of the verbs *to distribute* and *to impart* are conveyed by 2 CPVs each, others have one CPV each, which convey the relations specific for the verbs of this group. These verbs are distinguished by the CSF

Table 2

Causative possessive verbs with a semantic feature ‘a great quantity of Z’ in English

Ser. No.	Subtypes of PO	Verbs
1.	‘a lot of things’	<i>to lavish, to shower (on/ upon), to pour (out)</i>
2.	‘love, praise’	<i>to lavish</i>
3.	‘thoughts, feelings’	<i>to pour (out)</i>

specifics of a nature of the object. The total quantity of CSF of a nature of the object is 8. Those are the 'goods', which is expressed in the semantics of the verb *to distribute* (see the example (5)); 'quality', which is included into the meaning of the CPV *to impart* (see the example (9)). The meaning of this verb also includes the CSFs of the nature of the object 'information, knowledge' (see the examples (10) – (12)). Those are such CSFs of the nature of the object as 'money, food' and of the quantitative characteristic of the object 'a small quantity' (CPV *to dole*) (see the example (13)). The verbs of this group are peculiar for their neutral stylistic characteristics.

The second group of the CPVs in English is represented by 3 meanings of the verbs *to lavish*, *to shower (on/ upon)*, *to pour (out)*. The CSFs of the nature of the object for these verbs has a quantitative character, which is conveyed in the semantics of the verbs by the incorporated component of the PO meaning – a great quantity of something. The analysis

of the semantic co-occurrence of the CPVs showed that only the unanimated terms are used as PO among the verbs of this group, particularly the concrete collective terms (13 units, or 43% in English), with a smaller percent falling on the abstract terms (9 units, or 30%).

Findings. The results of this study are a part of the semantic classification of the CPVs in English.

The meanings of CPVs in the distinguished groups based on the IF, types of PO and specifics of their semantic features have been described and patterned.

Description of the specific character of the CPVs' semantic co-occurrence enabled to identify the features that define in particular the semantics of the verbs under study, as well as to determine the types, subtypes and methods of PO expression.

In order to proceed with a comprehensive survey of CPVs, their semantic specifics and combinability characteristics it is necessary to carry out further studies into semantic modelling taking into consideration typological aspects.

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