THE BASIC APPROACHES TO THE STUDY
OF METACOMMUNICATION IN LINGUISTICS

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Abstract. The paper provides the study of the phenomenon of metacommunication that had attracted the researchers' attention even before this term appeared in linguistics. The article introduces four basic approaches to the study of the concept of metacommunication, examines various definitions of this term, and adopts a broad understanding of metacommunication as communication that accompanies communication. The paper outlines the analysis of the terms that start with the prefix "meta-" and highlights the concepts that set the categorical apparatus of metacommunication. It was stated that by virtue of its characteristics, metacommunication performs vital functions in social interaction. The conducted research helps to acknowledge the relationship of metacommunication with such concepts as metadiscourse and metatext. The interactive nature of discourse allows us to interpret metadiscourse and metacommunication as phenomena occurring in one social context, one communicative situation. When treating metatext as a static formation that emerges as a result of language interaction, we consider it appropriate to relate it to metalanguage. The prospects for study consist in further in-depth synthesis of practical material, investigation of the function of regulation of the emotional tone of conversation via metacommunicative utterances in mass-media discourse.

Keywords: metacommunication, metatext, metalanguage, metadiscourse, phatic communion

Introduction. Topicality of this scientific paper is determined by the fact that today more and more researchers are turning to the problems of verbal interaction due to a growing interest in the study of functional and communicative aspects of language and extralinguistic information that accompanies the utterances. In the theory of verbal communication, based on socio-psychological and pragmalinguistic features of human communication, the scientists distinguish communication, i. e., means of receiving and transmitting information, and metacommunication – means of ensuring the effectiveness of transmitted information as well as other acts of verbal communication in the aspect of interlocutors' communicative contact. Communication is the most important component of human existence as it is a two way process of using language for interaction and information exchange, which ensures the balanced life of society and satisfies the psychological need of a person to socialize with other people. Metacommunication is an integral part of communication. The importance of metacommunication in the process of communication is undisputed, since metacommunicative utterances perform vital functions in everyday communication [2; 4; 5; 7; 8], i. e., to ensure mutual understanding, build rapport to achieve effective interpersonal interaction.

The purpose of this research is to investigate the phenomenon of metacommunication as one of the types of human communication via identifying the basic approaches to its definition.

The methods of investigation are the following: the studying and critical analysis of the literature on the problem, methods of deduction and synthesis.

Results. The term "metacommunication" was introduced into the scientific circulation by the researchers [8, pp. 158, 209] who highlighted a) the aspect of content (communication) and b) the aspect of human relationship (metacommunication) in each act of spoken interaction. For the first time metacommunication was defined by the American scholars – the psychiatrist Jurgen Ruesch and the philosopher, ethnographer Gregory Bateson as "communication about communication". Researchers argued that the act of communication consisted of the content of the message and the instructions for interpreting the message. They called such instructions metacommunication, in other words, it is a message about the relationship between the interlocutors and the interpretation of the message.

Gregory Bateson [1, p. 153-154] directed his further efforts to explore other aspects of metacommunication and concluded that communication could occur at a lot more abstract levels than a simple descriptive level. The scientist identified two types of messages. The first type of those messages he called metalinguistic and they focused on language. Messages that formed a different level of abstraction he called metacommunicative and they revolved around the relationship between the speakers. The similar view is expressed by other researchers who consider metacommunication as means that allows the interlocutors to correct the perception of speech behaviour and is a prerequisite for a successful social interaction, which can be achieved both on verbal and non-verbal levels [10, p. 44, 46, 49-50]. For instance, the smile ensures the effectiveness of the communicative process and is connected with the problem of human awareness in various communicative situations – "this is how I see myself in our relations with you in this situation" [10, p. 82]. The ability to self-reflection, i. e., the activity of thinking about your own feelings and behaviour, and the reasons that may lie behind them [3], is one of the manifestations of metacommunication. The metacommunicative axiom of pragmatics of human communication, formulated by the researchers, proves that a person cannot communicate without establishing a positive attitude towards other members of society.

Informativity and metacommunication coexist in different amounts in a communicative act as a set of speech acts of the speaker and the listener. So, even a scientific public speaking, which is designed to send new information to the listeners, contains such contact-maintaining utterances as *Let's change the topic of our talk, We would rather not touch upon the subject, It's high time we asked our speakers to proceed with ...* that are used in order to help the addressee to receive the message, attract the attention of the listener, bring the conversation to a logical conclusion.

Active searches for a concept that explains the patterns and conditions for a successful communication, as well as verbal means of its implementation, led to the emergence of a number of approaches to the definition of metacommunication. Having analysed the scientific papers devoted to metacommunication, we distinguish four approaches to the definition of this notion.

Communicative-functional approach to the definition of "metacommunication" is based on the identification of metacommunicative and phatic speech functions [2; 7]. In linguistics the term "phatic communion" was introduced by the ethnologist Bronislaw Malinowsky [6, pp. 302-303, 305] and identified as a kind of speech in which social interaction occurs through a simple exchange of words, while the interlocutors do not aim to report meaningful information. Phatic expressions include phrases of courtesy, questions about health issues, weather comments, statements about the most obvious things, and greetings like *"How do you do?" "Ah, here you are," "Where do you come from?" "Nice day today".*

Roman Jacobson [5, p. 198-204] expanded greatly the concept of a phatic function, the main purpose of which is to establish contact, check whether the communication channel works, attract the attention of the interlocutors and make sure that they listen carefully. He was the first scientist who emphasized that the phatic function is directed to communicative contact as a physical aspect and the psychological connection between the addresser and

the addressee, which predetermines the possibility of establishing and maintaining communication. It should be noted that at the same time, under a communicative contact, he understood the state of communication, spending time together and the cultivation of friendly relations.

It is obvious that metacommunication implements a phatic function, which allowed some researchers to distinguish the phatic metacommunicative function of language [2, p. 11; 7 p. 444], aimed at refocusing the attention of the addressee to the message, maintaining the attention of the addressee at the required level during the period of the message transmission and terminating the communicative contact.

Metacommunication is associated with a metalanguage function in the classification of speech functions by Roman Jacobson [5, p. 198-204]. The metalanguage function contains messages about the lexical language code. In linguistics the use of the term "metalanguage" relates to the distinction of two levels of language: the "object language" speaking of objects and "metalanguage" speaking of language itself. Metalanguage reflects one of the most important properties of the language – its reflectivity, i. e., the ability of language to describe its own structure and use. R. Jacobson suggested that in the case when the speaker and listener need to check whether they use the same code, the subject of the message becomes the code itself: the language performs a metalanguage function, i. e., the function of interpretation. The scientist noted that the metalanguage function is updated by means of the use of the metacommunicative utterances of the following type: *I do not understand you – what do you mean? Do you know what I mean?* and therefore plays an important role in our everyday communication.

Another understanding of metacommunication is observed in Ervin Hoffman's investigation [3, p. 35]. The scientist defined metacommunication as a feedback, which indicates that the recipient received the message and understood it correctly. The feedback channel signals the active participation of the listener, expresses the consent, acceptance, understanding of the statement of the interlocutor. Back channel messages are vocalizations of the listener, aimed not at the interception of the initiative in conversation, but in support of the speaker. Feedback signals are represented by verbalized replicas of the following type: *Yes? Huh? You did? Really? Indeed?*

Within **the lexical-semantic approach**, metacommunication is characterized by desemantization of lexis, the presence of clichés, stylized formulas, stereotyped expressions of the sphere of speech etiquette [3; 4; 7; 12], which are constantly reproduced in the speech and characterized by automation of use.

We regard clichés as stable, grammatically heterogeneous (from a word to a sentence), regularly reproduced at the level of automatism, clustered (representing ready-made blocks), standard replicas in typical communicative situations, reflecting the stereotypical mindset of the interlocutors, allowing the speaker to reach the communicative purpose of a conversation successfully, promoting comprehension and informativeness of a text, organizing dialogic discourse and in many cases maintaining their expressiveness (social significance).

Metacommunicative utterances are speech clichés that perform a phatic metacommunicative function, i. e., they carry out a real, active regulation of the communicative process at three stages of its evolvement – establishment, maintenance and termination of the communicative contact.

The genre-stylistic approach to the study of metacommunication implements the phatic function in the texts of various speech genres of small talk [9]. The genres of phatic metacommunication are a system (typology) in which small talk occupies a central place in the aspect of interpersonal relations. Small talk is an indirect planned or unplanned phatic metacommunication, which is based on preservation of neutral interpersonal relations.

Text analysis of metacommunication emphasizes the accompanying, commentary nature of the phenomenon and proves that metacommunication is the author's commentary

on the text or "metatext in the text" in terms of Anna Wierzbicka [11, p. 404, 421]. Metatext is a text about a text that converts a text into two-voice polyphony. The main purpose of metatext elements in discourse is to manage the mental activity of the speaker and the listener. The metatext elements clarify the "semantic pattern" of the main text, combine its various elements, amplify, and bind the text. Metatext functions include analysis, commenting, structuring, description or representation of the main text. Elements of the metatext nature can be removed from the text without compromising the contents of the message.

In the framework of **the discursive approach** metacommunicative discourse or metadiscourse is generally understood as discourse about discourse; speech moves that comment on the main information presented in the text, representing attempts of the author or the speaker to control the process of reception of the text by the recipient [4; 6]. It is argued that any discourse simultaneously contains information about objective reality and the discourse itself, i. e., how to interpret discourse, taking into account the context and social relations. Metadiscourse is a kind of discourse, which allows the readers or the interlocutors to look at the discourse "from the other side" and analyze it. In the study of the discourse organization related to the implementation of phatic metacommunicative function, the primary attention is paid to its various elements (sounds, intonation, words, particles, exclamations, etc.), designed to realize the main function – to promote interpersonal communication.

Conclusions and research prospects. In recent years, the key problem of linguistic studies with a communicative-pragmatic orientation is to describe some aspects of the theory of speech communication. In particular, it concerns the metacommunicative aspect of communication and metalanguage function. Up to now there is no single approach that would make it possible to describe metacommunication in its complexity. Metacommunication is defined in modern linguistics ambiguously: as communication about communication; as a continuous sequence of utterance exchanges that contribute to establishing a positive interpersonal relationship; as an author's commentary on a text; as a feedback, which indicates that the addressee received the message and understood it correctly; as a message about lexical language code; as communication that regulates communication by means of language. In our study, metacommunication is defined as communication that regulates the process of interaction via verbal and non-verbal means, the main purpose of which is to implement the phatic function – to facilitate the deployment of the communicative process at all its stages.

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ОСНОВНІ ПІДХОДИ ДО ВИЗНАЧЕННЯ ПОНЯТТЯ МЕТАКОМУНІКАЦІЇ В ЛІНГВІСТИЦІ

І. В. Грабовська

Анотація. Аналітичний огляд наукової літератури показав, що явище метакомунікації привернуло увагу дослідників ще до появи цього терміна в лінгвістиці. На основі критичного аналізу наукової літератури ми виділили чотири базових підходи до визначення феномена метакомунікації, розглянули різні дефініції цього терміна і прийняли широке розуміння метакомунікації як комунікації, що супроводжує комунікацію. Було досліджено низку термінів, що починаються з префікса «мета-», і виділено поняття, які становлять категоріальний апарат метакомунікації. Було встановлено, що завдяки своїм властивостям метакомунікація займає важливе місце у соціальній взаємодії. Розглядалося співвідношення метакомунікації з такими поняттями, як метадискурс і метатекст. Інтерактивний характер дискурсу дозволяє інтерпретувати метадискурс і метакомунікацію як явища, які відбуваються в одному соціальному контексті, одній комунікативній ситуації. Розглядаючи текст як статичне утворення, що виникає внаслідок мовленнєвої взаємодії, ми вважаємо за доцільне співвіднести його з метамовою. Перспективами нашого дослідження можуть бути узагальнення практичного матеріалу, вивчення функції регуляції емоційної тональності спілкування за допомогою метакомунікативних висловлень в англомовному мас-медійному дискурсі.

Ключові слова: метакомунікація, метатекст, метамова, метадискурс, фатичний дискурс

ОСНОВНЫЕ ПОДХОДЫ К ОПРЕДЕЛЕНИЮ ПОНЯТИЯ МЕТАКОММУНИКАЦИИ В ЛИНГВИСТИКЕ

И. В. Грабовская

Аннотация. Аналитический обзор научной литературы показал, что явление метакоммуникации привлекло внимание ученых еще до появления этого термина в лингвистике. На основе критического анализа научной литературы мы выделили четыре базовых подхода к определению данного феномена, рассмотрели различные дефиниции этого термина и приняли широкое понимание метакоммуникации как коммуникации, которая сопровождает коммуникацию. Был исследован ряд терминов, начинающихся с префикса «мета-», и выделены понятия, которые составляют категориальный аппарат метакоммуникации. Было установлено, что в силу своих особенностей метакоммуникация занимает важное место в системе социального взаимодействия. Рассматривалось соотношение метакоммуникации с такими понятиями как метадискурс и

метатекст. Интерактивный характер дискурса позволяет трактовать метадискурс и метакомуннникацию как явления, происходящие в одном социальном контексте, в одной коммуникативной ситуации. Рассматривая текст как статическое образование, возникающее в результате речевого взаимодействия, мы считаем целесообразным соотносить его с метаязыком. Перспективами нашего исследования могут быть обобщения практического материала, изучение функции регуляции эмоциональной тональности общения с помощью метакоммуникативных высказываний в англоязычном масс-медийном дискурсе.

Ключевые слова: метакоммуникация, метатекст, метаязык, метадискурс, фатическое общение

ЗВ'ЯЗАНІ ФОРМИ РОДОВОГО ВІДМІНКА МНОЖИНИ ЯК НОВІ ГРАМЕМИ СЛОВОЗМІННИХ ПАРАДИГМ ІМЕННИКІВ

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Анотація. *У зв'язку з активним розвитком морфологічної парадигматики в українському мовознавстві не згасає інтерес до формотворення змінних частин мови. Зокрема процеси уніфікації та перебудови в середині іменникових парадигм мають тенденцію до продовження. У «Граматичному словнику української літературної мови. Словозміна» (2011) до субстантивних зразків словозміни включено словоформи так званого обмеженого числа, або limited number. Категорією цього числа марковано грамеми трьох відмінків: називного, родового та знахідного. На нашу думку, до цього переліку варто додати форми кличного відмінка, які формально тотожні словоформам називного та знахідного. У своїх дослідженнях послуговуємося терміном «зв'язані форми», які функціонують унаслідок дії синтагматичного чинника, зокрема в сполученні із числівниками два (дві), обидва (обидві), три, чотири. Зв'язані словоформи родового відмінка множини раніше взагалі не зараховували до словозмінних парадигм іменників. Існування зв'язаного, або синтагматичного, значення в генітивних формах характерне переважно для іменників I відміни, рідше II з різним наголошуванням в однині та множині в сполученні із числівниками п'ять і більше. На появу зв'язаних словоформ у родовому відмінку множини додатково впливають словотвірний та семантичний чинники. Якщо в словоформах родового відмінка множини засвідчено дублетну акцентуацію, то у зв'язаній формі генітива наголос збігається з формою родового відмінка однини.*

Ключові слова: *морфологічна парадигматика, обмежене число, limited number, зв'язані форми генітива, номінатива, акузатива, вокатива, синтагматичний, акцентуаційний, словотвірний, семантичний чинники*

Актуальність. У вітчизняному мовознавстві наразі засвідчено активний розвиток морфологічної парадигматики. Основними завданнями цієї галузі сучасної української мови є вивчення системи формотворення флективних частин мови; класифікація за видами, типами, зразками словозміни; виокремлення, типологія та характеристика релевантних чинників, від яких залежить репертуар елементарних парадигматичних