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## **THE STRUCTURE OF *APOLOGY* SPEECH ACT IN POLISH AND RUSSIAN**

The rational research of human speech structure assumes its identification by type (Wierzbicka 1983, 125).

The subject of this article is apologies acts of speech existing in today's Polish language in confrontation with Russian. The apology act of speech is understood as a language activity usually performed when a participant of a situation violates general rules of conduct which results in disturbance or break of communication between Sender and Receiver. The communication aim of this act of speech is 'apologizing party's attempt to make their partner not hurt by the apologizing party's action' (Ożóg 1982, 46). The apology is not only a performative formula of a language level or the apology intention implied by the utterance, but also

a whole reasoning accompanying the apologies and a wide language context.

The methodology perspective for the research is semantics and the language pragmatics.

The analysis includes the structure of act of speech related to classic *apology* and expressed explicitly. Such act may be expressed as follows: 'I directly express that I feel sorry for doing something bad to you' (Wierzbicka 1983,125). In this case Sender uses explicit language means to apologize for violating the general rule of conduct, usually social.

A typical feature of the explicit classic apologies is the re-peatability of specific lexical and grammatical forms. That is why they form a specific recognizable structure of apologies in Polish and Russian.

The structure of the explicit classic apology usually includes three components: K1 — apologizing lexeme *przepra-szam, извини/те, прости/те* with additional lexemes K2 — naming a fault and K3 — an excuse.

K1 (*Przepraszam bardzo, Kasiu*) K2 (*że tak się zachowa-łem,*) K3 (*nie wiem co mi strzeliło do głowy.*)

K1 (*Александра Ивановна, я не могу не принести свои глубокие извинения*) K2 (*за то, что не был вчера у вас*) K3 (*в это время у меня было выступление на телестудии.*)

The K1 component forms a basic structure necessary for the identification of the apology act of speech, the following two components K2 and K3 are constitutive

and facultative. Depending on the communication conditions, the realized structure may consist of three components, two components or just a one component. The order of the structure components may differ depending on the communication conditions:

K3 (*Musiłam wyjechać*) K1 (*przepraszam*) K2 (*że nie przyszłam na to spotkanie.*)

K3 (*Я болела*) K1 (*извините меня*) K2 (*что я так долго не возвращала вам книгу.*)

K1 is the only component of the three that may individually constitute the apology act of speech.

K1 (*Strasznie panią przepraszam.*)

K1 (*Приношу свои глубокие извинения.*)

K2 and K3 components usually are not applied individually as an explicit classic apology. They do not have to be present in the apology formula – they may be considered as obvious. However, their presence enhances the illocutionary force of the apologizing utterance. That is why they are often used by interlocutors.

The form of apology act of speech structure and the selection of language means for its realization depend on pragmatic issues.

Within the first component in order to enhance the power of apology utterance, *przepraszam*, *извини/те*, *просту/те* [*I am sorry*] are connected with their equivalents *proszę mi wybaczyć*, *proszę o wybaczenie*,

*wybacz, przebacz, niech mi pan/i wybaczy, chcę przeprosić, chciałam przeprosić, chciałabym przeprosić, daruj, sorry, sorki, soriks, хочу извиниться, хочу простить* (e.g. — *Przepraszam, wybacz mi; — Извините, хочу простить*), or the repetition of the apologizing lexeme is applied within the same apology utterance (— *Przepraszam, naprawdę przepraszam*).

The following persuasion application is the introduction of emotional lexemes to the structure of apology act of speech: exclamations and adverbial modifiers. Apologies including exclamations are usually applied when a defaulting party is surprised by the default. The exclamations increase the illocutionary force of apology by contributing the quality of spontaneousness. Thus they become an element of language persuasion. They are typically prepositioned in relation to lexemes *przepraszam, извини/те, просту/те* or their equivalents. The exclamations used with apologies may be divided into three groups:

- interjections *o!, oj!, a!, ach!, och!, ox!, o!, ax!, ой!*; e.g. — *Och, przepraszam; — Ax! извините я села на ваше место.*
- *nomina sacra* *o Jezu!, o Matko Boska!, Ряди Бога!, Ряди Христа!* — also their euphemisms: *o jeny!, o matko!*; e.g. — *Jezus Maria! Przepraszam najtoscniej, nie zauważyłam; — Ряди Христа, что я натворил! Извините.*

- expressive swearwords *o cholera!*, *o kuźwa!*, *Блин!*, *Чёрт возьми!*; e.g. — *O cholera! Przepraszam;* — *Блин! Извините.*

Adverbial modifiers provide different, stronger quality of apology. They develop it increasing the effectiveness (successfulness) of apology act of speech. They may be both prepositioned and postpositioned in relation to lexemes *przepraszam*, *извини/те*, *прости/те* or their equivalents. They are never adverbs decreasing the feature grade e.g. *trochę*, *odrobineę*, *чуть-чуть*, *немножко*, *слегка*, but always intensifying adverbs: *ogromnie*, *bardzo*, *очень*. They include:

- adverbs in positive degree *bardzo*, *naprawdę*, *ogromnie*, *serdecznie*, *szalenie*, *cholernie*, *uprzejmie*, *модно*, *очень*; e.g. — *Przepraszam bardzo, ale dziś nie przyjdę;* — *Очень прошу прощения.*
- adverbs in superlative degree *najmocniej*, *najserdeczniej*, *najgoręcej*; e.g. — *Najmocniej przepraszam, ale dziś nie mogę.*
- adverbial clause consisting of two adverbial forms: *na-prawdę bardzo* e.g. — *Naprawdę bardzo przepraszam.* The form does not exist in Russian language.

Forms of address constitute a characteristic element of apology act of speech, since this is an act of speech as a rule addressed to somebody, usually a harmed person. The apology is addressed to a defined individual who is

notified about the fact by the form of address. A form of address included in the apology act of speech intensifies its power, which makes it an important persuasion element increasing the effectiveness of the apology act of speech.

On the language level the addressing is usually expressed by:

- direct forms of address, e.g. — *Zosiu, przepraszam;*  
— *Соня, извини.*
- complex forms of address, e.g. — *Przepraszam panie dyrektorze za brak sprawozdania.* — *Виктор Давидович, простите за приход без предупреждения.*
- cuddly expressions, e.g. — *Słoneczko moje, przepraszam;* — *Солнышко, ласточка, извините пожалуйста.*
- compound forms of address, e.g. — *Przepraszam cię Moniko;* — *Наташа, солнышко, прости.*

The way of verbal expression of own fault by the apology's Sender has a huge impact on the course of the interaction and its result. In relation to the above-mentioned, apology's Sender presents own fault in the form of an expression with separate predication. It is worth mentioning that the naming of the fault is not always expressed verbally. Sometimes it is zeroed. It is based on presupposition — interlocutors' knowledge about the fault in this case. An apology act including the

name of the fault being a stimulus for the apology is usually observed when the act of apology does not take place immediately after the stimulus ( e.g. — *Przepraszam za moje wczorajsze zachowanie*; — *Извините, за мои слова.* ) and very often at the beginning of the contact that, beyond the apologizing party's control, does not start according to an agreement or standard ( e.g. — *Przepraszam, że przychodzę o tak późnej porze*; — *Przepraszam, ale muszę wam przerwać*).

The most commonly used forms introducing the name of fault are as follows:

- a form with the preposition *za/ за* [for]; *za to, że/ за то, что*, e.g. — *Przepraszam za wczorajszy wieczór*; — *Я должна извиниться перед Вами за мои слова.*
- a form with the conjunction *jeśli/ если*, e.g. — *Jeśli cię uraziłam, to przepraszam*; — *Извините, если я кого обидела, у всех прошу прощения.*
- a form with the conjunction *ale/ но* [but] — *Przepraszam, ale nie zdążyłam cię wpisać na listę*; — *Извините, но я опоздала.*
- a form without a conjunction, — *Wybacz, nie wzięłam tej pompek do roweru dla ciebie*; — *Простите, я только хотел предупредить.*
- a form — accusative without a preposition, e.g. — *Wy-baczcie mi, jego zachowanie*; — *Простите ему эту грубость.*

- the form «в + объект в винительном падеже». This form exists exclusively in Russian, e.g. — *Простите меня, в чём я виноват перед тобой.*

Sender of the apology act of speech usually makes an excuse in order to preserve good relations with a harmed individual. The excuse explains both indirect and direct causes of the fault. It is excusing oneself for the committed action and a presentation of mitigating circumstances. The apologizing party's strategies of excusing help to identify the party's true intentions, motives of action and relation to a harmed person. The following two types of excuses are the most common with apologies:

- excuses following the word *ale/ но* [but], e.g. — *Przepraszam cię za to, że nie przyszedłam, ale nie mogłam.* — *Извини-те, но я опоздала.*
- excuses connected with an excusing lexeme without conjunctions, e.g. — *Przepraszam, nie taka była moja intencja;* — *Извините за то, что я забыла эту книгу, это по рассеянности.*

Structural features of different realizations of the apology act of speech in Polish and Russian are determined by non-language conditions. The structural differences result from different intentions of Sender and non-linguistic conditions during the creation of the text.



Knowledge of the form of structure of the apology act of Speech in both Polish and Russian languages is extremely important in the process of communication of Poles and Rus-sians. Users of these languages should. Pay their special atten-tion to the differences existing in the structure of the discus-sed act, lack of some constructions in Polish language present in Russian language and the other way round. It would protect the users of the dialogue from the failure of communication and make the dialogue of cultures possible.

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