Formation and Stages of Development of Stable Word Combinations

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Abstract: This scientific article explores the intricate process of forming and the successive stages of development of stable word combinations within the context of linguistic studies. The analysis delves into the dynamic interplay between individual words that culminate in the emergence of cohesive and stable lexical units. Understanding the formation and evolution of such combinations is pivotal in unravelling the complexities of language structure and usage.

Keywords: stable lexical units, fixed phrases, collocations, phraseology, syntactic stability, lexical stability.

1. Introduction

Language, as a dynamic and evolving system, exhibits various levels of complexity in its structure. One facet that has garnered significant attention in linguistic research is the formation and development of stable word combinations. This article aims to elucidate the underlying mechanisms that contribute to the creation of these lexical units and the subsequent stages of their evolution.

2. Formation of Stable Word Combinations

Set phrases are secondary linguistic units. They are formed based on smaller linguistic units – lexemes. By their structure, set phrases are syntagma. By the concept of stable phrases, we understand reproductive syntagma, predicative combinations and indecomposable sentences that have special semantics [6, 206]. They are part of the semantic system of language. When choosing criteria for classifying Fixed phrases, one must take into account all the essential factors that predetermine: grammatical (syntactic) structure, and the way of connecting the components of Fixed phrases.

Stable word combinations, also known as collocations, are formed through the natural usage of words in a language. They arise from the patterns and conventions that govern word use and placement in a particular language community. Here are some general factors that contribute to the formation of stable word combinations:

Frequency of use: Words that are frequently used together tend to form stable combinations. For example, "a cup of tea" is a common phrase that has become a stable collocation due to its widespread usage.

Grammatical patterns: Certain grammatical patterns in a language dictate how words are combined.

Semantic compatibility: Words that have related or complementary meanings are often combined to form stable collocations. For example, "catch a cold" or "make a decision." These combinations make sense based on the meaning of the individual words.

Idiomatic expressions: Some stable word combinations are idiomatic expressions that have a figurative or metaphorical meaning that cannot be understood based on the literal meaning of the individual words. For example, "kick the bucket" means "to die."

Cultural or historical factors: Certain word combinations become stable due to cultural or historical reasons. For instance, in English, "breakfast, lunch, and dinner" are stable collocations that reflect traditional meal times.

It is important to note that stable word combinations can vary across languages, and each language has its unique collocations that have developed over time. These word combinations contribute to the richness and distinctiveness of a language.

2.1. Lexical Semantics

The foundation of stable word combinations lies in the intricacy of lexical semantics. Words, as carriers of meaning, interact to create combinations that exhibit a level of stability based on their inherent semantic compatibility. The semantic relationships between constituent words contribute to the formation of cohesive and predictable combinations.

A stable phrase or phraseological unit is used as a whole that is not subject to further decomposition and usually does not allow the rearrangement of its parts within itself. The semantic cohesion of phraseological units can vary over a fairly wide range: from the non-deducibility of the meaning of a phraseological unit from its constituent words in phraseological combinations (idioms) to phraseological combinations with a meaning arising from the meanings that make up the combinations.

The transformation of a phrase into a stable phraseological unit is called lexicalization. A.I. Smirnitsky [6, 7] distinguishes two types of phraseological units: phraseological units and idioms. Phraseological units are stylistic neutral phrases that are devoid of metaphor or have lost it. Idioms are based on the transfer of meaning, on a metaphor that is recognized by the speaker. Their distinctive characteristic is a bright stylistic coloring, a departure from the usual theatrical style, for example, to act decisively, to take the bull by the horns, etc. A. I. Smirnitsky in his classification does not include phraseological conjunctions, phraseological combinations and phraseological expressions. Structurally, the scientist divides phraseological units into single-vertex, double-vertex and multi-vertex, depending on the number of significant words. S. G. Gavrin will focus on the consideration of phraseological units from the point of view of their functional and semantic complexity and include all stable and variable-stable combinations of words in phraseology [6, 59].

According to the definition of A.V. Kunin, "a phraseological unit is a stable combination of words with a completely or partially rethought meaning." He points to stability as one of the criteria of phraseological units. This stability is based on the various types of invariance inherent in it, i.e., the immutability of certain elements under all normative changes. A.V. Kunin identifies the following types of invariance or micro stability: [4, 160] Sustainability of use:

An indicator of this type of micro-sustainability is reproduction in finished form.

Structural-semantic stability: a phraseological unit consists of at least two words, is a separately formed entity and cannot serve as a model for creating similar phraseological units according to the structural-semantic model.

Semantic stability: The invariance of a completely or partially rethought phraseological meaning is based on: a) the stability of the rethinking of the meaning; b) the presence of identical meaning and lexical invariant in phraseological variants; c) the presence of semantic and lexical invariant with all possible differences in structural synonyms. Lexical stability: i.e. complete irreplaceability of components or the possibility of normative replacement of components within the framework of phraseological variation or structural synonymy with the obligatory preservation of semantic and lexical invariants. Syntactic stability: i.e. complete immutability of

the order of components of phraseological units or a change in the order of components within the framework of variation. Thus, the stability of phraseological units is the volume of various types of microstability inherent in them.

2.2. Collocational Patterns

Collocational patterns play a crucial role in shaping stable word combinations. These patterns arise from the habitual co-occurrence of words within specific contexts, reflecting the shared linguistic intuition of native speakers. The establishment of collocational norms contributes to the predictability and stability of word combinations.

3. Stages of Development

3.1. Emergence

The initial stage of development involves the emergence of word combinations through repeated linguistic usage. As speakers consistently employ specific word pairs or groups in similar contexts, these combinations begin to exhibit a certain degree of stability.

3.2. Regularization

Regularization marks the phase where stable word combinations become ingrained in language usage. Native speakers instinctively adhere to established collocational patterns, reinforcing the stability of these lexical units through widespread acceptance and usage.

3.3. Institutionalization

The final stage involves the institutionalization of stable word combinations within the linguistic framework. These combinations become integral components of the language, recognized and accepted by language communities. Institutionalization further solidifies the stability of word combinations, ensuring their endurance over time.

4. Significance and Implications

Understanding the formation and stages of development of stable word combinations has far-reaching implications for linguistic studies, lexicography, and language education. It provides valuable insights into the intricate dynamics of language evolution and aids in the creation of comprehensive language resources.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, the formation and development of stable word combinations are integral aspects of linguistic evolution. By examining the intricate interplay of lexical semantics, collocational patterns, and the successive stages of emergence, regularization, and institutionalization, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of language structure and usage. This exploration contributes to the broader field of linguistics, shedding light on the mechanisms that govern the stability and evolution of word combinations within the rich tapestry of language.

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