

## **THE CONCEPT OF "COMPLEX SENTENCE" IN MODERN SYNTACTIC SCIENCE OF THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE**

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**Annotation:** A complex sentence is one of the basic syntactic units, representing a unit of a higher level than a simple sentence. This article explores the concept of complex sentences within the framework of modern syntactic science in the Russian language. It examines definitions, classifications, and the structural properties of complex sentences, emphasizing their role in conveying complex ideas and relationships between clauses. The study also highlights recent advancements in syntactic theory and their implications for understanding complex sentence construction in Russian.

**Keywords:** Complex sentence, syntax, Russian language, subordinate clauses, coordination, linguistic structure.

### **Introduction**

A complex sentence is made up of a main clause and a subordinate clause connected to each other with a subordinating conjunction. Subordinating conjunctions are common in academic writing, and they are extremely useful for indicating sophisticated connections between ideas. The study of syntax has long been a central focus in linguistic research, particularly in the context of complex sentences. A complex sentence is defined as a sentence that contains at least one independent clause and one or more dependent (or subordinate) clauses. In the Russian language, the complexity of sentence structure allows for nuanced expression and intricate relationships between ideas.

A complex sentence in Russian is characterized by the presence of multiple clauses, where at least one clause is dependent on another. According to contemporary linguistic theories, a complex sentence can be defined as follows: it consists of an independent clause that can stand alone as a complete thought and one or more subordinate clauses that provide additional information but cannot stand alone.

### **Methodology and literature review**

Modern scientific and educational sources contain various definitions of a complex sentence. In the 1980 Russian Grammar we read: "A complex sentence is a combination of two or more simple sentences, grammatically formatted" [1].

The university textbook edited by P.A. Lekant gives the following definition: "A complex sentence is a structural, semantic and intonational combination of predicative units, grammatically similar to a simple sentence" [2].

The following definitions are presented in school textbooks on the Russian language: "A complex sentence is a sentence consisting of two or more sentences that do not have intonational completeness and are combined in meaning and pronunciation into a single whole" [3] and "A

complex sentence is a syntactic unit consisting of two or more simple sentences, each of which has its own grammatical basis" [4].

In a Russian school textbook, the definition is as follows: "A complex sentence is a sentence that consists of two or more parts that are connected in meaning and intonation. A complex sentence has several grammatical (predicative) bases." [5]

This is explained by the fact that in Russian linguistics the question of the nature of this syntactic unit remains debatable. The complex sentence as a special syntactic unit was recognized by scientists relatively recently in the 20th century. Let us briefly consider the history of the study of the complex sentence. In Russian linguistics, the theory of the complex sentence is characterized by different interpretations of its grammatical nature. The contradictions in views are explained by the fact that for some linguists the formal-grammatical aspect of this unit was essential, for others its communicative aspect.

In the works of A.A. Shakhmatov and A.M. Peshkovsky, a complex sentence is considered as a combination of several simple sentences [6]. Scientists do not use the term "complex sentence", each offers his own, so A.A. Shakhmatov "a concatenation or combination of simple sentences", A.M. Peshkovsky "a complex whole". They consider the components of a complex sentence to be simple sentences that undergo some structural transformations within the complex sentence.

In the works of V.A. Bogoroditsky and N.S. Pospelov, the idea of the semantic integrity of a complex sentence is put forward [7]. In its function, a complex sentence is a holistic communicative unit, the components of which are not separate messages, separate sentences.

Active study of complex sentences began in the second half of the 20th century, primarily in the works of N.S. Pospelov, then in the works of L.Yu. Maksimov, E.N. Shiryaev [8], V.A. Beloshapkova [9] and other researchers. In the works of these scientists, complex sentences are considered taking into account three aspects: formal-grammatical, semantic and communicative. From the point of view of structure and semantics, parts of a complex sentence are predicative units with independent formal and semantic organization, and the entire complex sentence is a polypredicative unit. From the communicative point of view, a complex sentence is a single message, a single sentence, the parts of which are not sentences, since they do not act as independent units of communication. That is, parts of a complex sentence are considered as its predicative parts.

## Results

Therefore, a complex sentence is a polypredicative unit consisting of several predicative parts connected by a certain syntactic connection and expressed by this connection of syntactic relations performing a communicative function.

Description of the structure of a complex sentence is based on the following constructive features:

- 1) type of syntactic connection and means of its expression;
- 2) characteristics of predicative parts of a complex sentence by their structure, semantic content, and in phraseological constructions by lexical composition;
- 3) the order of parts of a complex sentence in relation to each other.

Syntactic connection in the composition of a complex sentence is expressed, first of all:

- conjunctions (coordinating and subordinating) and union words (relative pronouns and pronominal adverbs), pronominal correlates, various kinds of concretizers in coordinating

- conjunctions of broad semantics;
- some morphological and lexical indicators;
- the order of parts of a complex sentence,
- intonation [10].

In compound and complex sentences, the main means of connecting predicative parts and expressing semantic relationships are conjunctions. According to their syntactic properties, they are divided into coordinating and subordinating. They differ in their areas of application. Coordinating conjunctions express relationships between homogeneous members of a simple sentence: *Наташа вернулась с букетом цветов и со свертком* and parts of a compound sentence: *Наступил вечер, и на небе загорелись звезды*. Subordinating conjunctions express relationships between parts of a complex sentence: *Когда стемнело, все разошлись по домам*.

In compound sentences, along with conjunctions, there are various kinds of concretizers (but, therefore, only, nevertheless, therefore, and many others), which are used when it is necessary to concretize the semantic relations between parts of a compound sentence. In the case of omission of a coordinating conjunction, concretizers (or what they call the second conjunction elements) take on its functions. Let's compare: *Отец рыбак, и дети в воду смотрят (посл.) Отец рыбак, и поэтому дети в воду смотрят. Отец рыбак, поэтому дети в воду смотрят.*

## Discussion

Complex sentences in Russian can be classified into several categories based on the relationship between the clauses:

Subordinate clauses are introduced by conjunctions (e.g., что "that," когда "when," если "if") or relative pronouns (e.g., который "which"). These clauses function as noun clauses, adjective clauses, or adverbial clauses.

- ✓ Noun Clauses. Function as subjects or objects (e.g., Я знаю, что ты пришёл. "I know that you came.")
- ✓ Adjective Clauses. Modify nouns (e.g., Человек, который пришёл, мой друг. "The person who came is my friend.")
- ✓ Adverbial Clauses. Modify verbs (e.g., Я уйду, когда ты вернёшься. "I will leave when you return.")

In contrast to subordination, coordinated clauses are linked by coordinating conjunctions (e.g., и "and," но "but"). Each clause has equal syntactic status and can stand alone.

- ✓ Example: Я пошёл в магазин, и она осталась дома. "I went to the store, and she stayed at home."

The structure of complex sentences in Russian exhibits specific patterns that reflect the relationships between clauses. The order of clauses can vary, influencing emphasis and meaning. For instance, placing the subordinate clause before the main clause can create a sense of anticipation or conditionality.

Modern syntactic theories, such as generative grammar and functional grammar, have provided new insights into the analysis of complex sentences. Researchers have focused on the hierarchical structure of sentences and the role of movement and binding in understanding clause relationships. Recent studies have also examined how discourse context influences the interpretation of complex sentences.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the concept of complex sentences is fundamental to understanding the syntactic structure of the Russian language. By analyzing the definitions, classifications, and structural properties of complex sentences, we gain insights into their role in communication and expression. As linguistic research continues to evolve, further exploration of complex sentence structures will enhance our comprehension of Russian syntax and its intricacies. Future studies may focus on cross-linguistic comparisons and the implications of digital communication on sentence complexity.

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