

Доронкіна Надія Євгеніївна

Старший викладач

Кафедра англійської мови технічного спрямування №1

Факультет лінгвістики

Київський національний технічний університет

м. Київ, Україна

FUNCTIONS OF ARGUMENTATION

The article describes argumentation with regards to functional linguistics. Argumentation functions are considered from different points of view depending on interpretation of the term. Much attention is given to the functions corresponding to the components of S. Toulmin's model.

Key words: explanation, function, communication, relationship.

The concept of function is known to have several explanations. Firstly, it is a role of object within the scope of its system. Secondly, it is a sort of link between objects. Thus, a changing object depends on another object. Thirdly, a function is referred to as correlation between two elements of structure supporting its existence.

Functional linguistics considers language as a communicative system and tool to perform its functions. Our representation of this linguistic sphere relies upon the explanation of function. The first of them is dealt with when the functions of language as a whole are mentioned. The textual function enables to generate texts [5, c. 326]. The interpersonal function reflects the interaction between the speaker and recipient.

The second explanation is illustrated by a type of pragmatic function in terms of mutual distribution of form and in relation to context because all changes of form examples result in changes in others and context.

The grammatical function towards such components of verbal structures as agent, object, theme, rheme etc. reflects the third explanation since it is referred to both the role of elements in higher level structures and relationships creating it [2].

Verbal argumentation takes part in language operation partially sharing its functions. It includes both logical and communicative aspects. The former describes argumentation as a process of finding a statement base i.e. in terms of Toulmin's model the conclusion results from the ground fairness. That way of argumentation is often used in scientific sphere.

Communicative aspect of argumentation is shown due to the process of reproduction, explanation and suggestion a certain piece of information to the recipient, the function thus manifested being both communicative and cognitive. It serves the criterion for classification the argumentative type of speech.

Besides, argumentation is involved in other language functions to be performed. The personal function means the speaker's ability to explain the flow of one's thought. The interpersonal function enables the speaker to come into contact with the recipient. The textual function mentioned above is performed due to the process of text generation in the course of argumentation. The directive function is used in order to offer, persuade or blandish. The referential function involves spatial, temporal and verbal surrounding. The imaginative function reflects creative potential of the speaker [2]. The instrumental function helps to motivate the recipient to do some actions. The cognitive functions is a set of such processes as acquisition, drawing attention, perception, preservation of knowledge, concept generation etc. The identifying function is necessary to reason information since the procedure of identification assign a specific meaning to information due to the recipient's intellectual, social and cultural, world view beliefs [4, c. 215].

Among the language functions there is the argumentative one. Naturally it is performed by argumentation in the language system.

If argumentation is considered as a mental process it performs such functions as explanation, confirmation, correction, negation etc. [1, c. 10].

In the process of argumentation the speaker conveys information for the recipient mostly through verbal means. So, changing the pattern of argumentation one can vary the corresponding fragment of speech. So, the argumentative function of speech accord with the second explanation.

According to the third explanation the process of argumentation is a functional entity [3, с. 335-336]. It unites six functions being coincident with the components of Toulmin's model: the ground, the conclusion, the warrant, the rebuttal, the backing, the qualifier. So, each of them performs its own function in the system of argumentation although usually most of those functions are absent. From that point of view the concepts of argumentation and structure complement each other.

In the face of the first explanation semantic relationships within a text are also taken into consideration. They serve as functions of verbalisms in a text which qualify argumentative status of the fragment.

That type of functions is a sort of the illocutionary functions which answer the question concerning the way of the purpose achievement with the help of texts. By the agency of those functions the text fragment, which are perceived by the recipient are interpreted again. Among them are such functions as the condition, the implication, the causality, the diagnosis, the concession, the consequence, the contrast, the correction.

References

1. Белова А. Д. Лингвистические аспекты аргументации / А. Д. Белова. – К. 1997. – 300 с.
2. Демьянков В. З. Интерпретация политического дискурса в СМИ / В. З. Демьянков // Язык СМИ как объект междисциплинарного исследования. – М.: Изд-во МГУ, 2003. – С. 116-133.
3. Ельмслев Л. Прологомены к теории языка / Л. Ельмслев // НВЛ. – М.: ИЛ, 1960. – Вып.1. – С.264-389.

4. Кузьмина Н. Е. Идентификационная функция аргументации в науке / Н. Е. Кузьмина // Вестник Поволжской Академии государственной службы им. П.А. Столыпина. – Саратов, 2010. – № 1 (22). – С.214-220.
5. Halliday M.A. Linguistic function and literary style: an inquiry into the language of William Golding's «The inheritors» (1971) / M. A. Halliday // Essays in modern stylistics. – L.; N.Y.: Methuen, 1981. – P. 325-360.