

THE CATEGORY OF TEXT RETROSPECTION IN ARCHITECTURAL ACADEMIC WRITING IN ENGLISH

Nowadays well developed skills to write journal articles in English is a part of a scientist's qualification. Successful teaching academic writing should be based on a detailed knowledge of stylistics and taking into account the language peculiarities of academic writing in every field of science as the studies show that there are some differences in linguistic tools usage among the fields. Thus, a detailed study of the tools is of great importance now.

We believe that text linguistic categories can be a very useful thing in these studies. Therefore, the aim of the paper is to make the list of linguistic tools used to provide the category of retrospection in journal articles on architecture. The main scientific objectives of our study are as follows: to analyze the approaches to studying text structure; to identify the tools to study text retrospection; to find out the the linguistic tools of retrospection in architectural articles. To provide the study the following methods were used: the descriptive method and the quantitative analysis method to find out the most typical tools of retrospection.

The results show retrospection is considered as author's «returns» to previously reported facts to which he attaches special significance and attracts the reader's attention forcing him to retain certain moments of the message in his memory. Text retrospection can be of two types: the intratextual and extratextual ones. Each plan is materilized through a set of linguistic tools. The quantitative analysis show that all the types are actively used in journal arcticles on architecture, though to a different degree. The most common types are the referencial ones. It is due to communicative goals of any scientific text – to present new scientific ideas that are based on existing scientific experience and knowledge, i.e. to show the scientific validity of a new idea. Another important result of the study is making the list of the most frequent linguistic tools of retrospection used in the articles of the field. It showed that using statictical method is very helpful to find the rules in using linguistic means when writing an article. Further studies of the linguistic tools throught the text categories will make it possible to create a textbook on academic writing to develop skills on academic writing on architecture for training young researches at the stage of master's studies.

Keywords: text retrospection, text categories, text linguistics, text structure, academic writing on architecture.

Skills to write scientific articles in English is an important thing for every scientist these days. Statistically, almost 90 % of all the academic publications annually adited are in English [14]. Therefore, teaching academic writing should become a common practice. However, analyzing the literature on methods of teaching academic writing shows that recommendations are just a set of general rules without any language specifics of this or that field. As our detailed analyzing shows, the set of linguistic tools used in scientific articles varies in different fields. For example, the use of linking phrases that indicate the type of subsequent or preceding information is used with varying frequency in every scientific field. Particularly, the linguistic journal articles in English use the tools 1.5 times more often compared to the fields of education and construction, and three times more often than the energy field [22]. Thus, studying the peculiarities of using linguistic means in a particular field is of great importance to develop academic writing skills [12].

We believe that text linguistics provides a set of effective approaches and methods to study linguistic tools used in the texts of different genres including the academic writing ones. It focuses on the insight into speech systematicity, i.e. features of the linguistic tools organization and interrelations in a text that belongs to a particular speech style [1, 9, 13, 24]. In this case, a text is considered as a communicative system. Theoretically, this system works through a number of text categories, each of which is materialized with a certain set of linguistic tools that depend on the extralinguistic background of a text [10, 16], i.e. is largely determined by the genre and style of the text [7], and also, which is especially important for our research, by its language culture [2, 8, 11, 15, 23, 25].

An important element of this system, as well as a tool for studying text structure in terms of text linguistics, is the concept of "text category", which is considered as one of the communicative lines of the text system materialized with the help of linguistic tools [5]. Text linguistics represents the following essential categories reflecting fundamental text properties: integrity, coherence, modality, time, space, etc. [4, 7, 10].

The purpose of the present paper is to identify and describe the peculiarities of using linguistic tools that realize the text category of retrospection in the English language scientific articles on architecture.

The main scientific objectives of our study are as follows:

- to analyze the approaches to studying text structure;

- to identify the scientific tools to study text retrospection;

- to study the linguistic tools of retrospection in architectural articles.

The following methods were used during the study: descriptive method, including techniques for observing linguistic means and a quantitative analysis method that provides an evidence base for generalizing the findings.

The study of text categories in scientific articles on Architecture is a continuation of our research on identifying and systematizing the set of linguistic tools used in writing scientific articles on architecture in English. In our previously published papers, we examined the categories of cohesion, temporal relations, emotional and evaluative features, authority, compositional structure [18, 19, 20, 21].

Theoretically, retrospection is defined as a break in narrative continuum to update what was previously stated and to add some substantive conceptual information to the substantive factual one. Retrospection is manifested in the author's «returns» to previously reported facts to which he attaches special significance and attracts the reader's attention forcing him to retain certain moments of the message in his memory [7].

According to I. Galperin, retrospection integrates time lines of the text to indicate its close connection with other essential categories of the text and, particularly the category of cohesion. It contributes to a deeper understanding the interdependence of individual parts of the text, thereby ensuring the process of integration in the perception of the whole text idea.

The main functions of text retrospection are as follows:

- a) restoring previously presented information necessary for the further development of the narrative in the reader's memory;

- b) creating the opportunity to restore this information in a different context taking into account what was said earlier;

- c) updating individual parts of the text related to content conceptual information [7].

T. Matveeva classifies text connectors with retrospective meaning as a group of structural connectors that are located at a distance from the previous fragment (retrospection). According to her, such connectors are among the most frequent connectors in a scientific text, along with connectors located at the beginning, middle or end of a text.

The peculiarity of such connectors is the synonymy and variability of forms, which give the author of a certain freedom, but their set precisely corresponds to a certain language type and is easily reduced to a standard [10]. The

studies show that there is a difference in the variety of language means of prospection used in different literary styles [3, 17].

Ya. Chigovskaya believes that there are two levels in the structure of text retrospection: the surface level, which explicates the author's text creative activity, and a deep level associated with the reflection of a scientific concept in the course of text creating. The former level can be presented in the forms of the author's retelling, summation, links, references, tables, diagrams etc. The latter is expressed in the form of bibliographic references, indications of authorship, and an indication of presenting the previous information [6].

Based on the study of retrospection in scientific texts, Ya. Chigovskaya suggests the following types of retrospection:

I. Intratextual (surface) level:

- exact retrospection (exact reference to the location of the previously presented information);
- inexact retrospection (inexact reference to previously presented information);
- referential retrospection (links, footnotes, paraphrasing of information previously presented in this text);
- summative retrospective (generalizing statements);

II. Extratextual (deep) level:

- exact retrospection (references to the precise time indication of previous studies);

- inexact retrospection (an approximate indication of previous studies that are not presented in the text);

retrospection – historical review;

- retrospection – reference to the author's previous researches or papers;

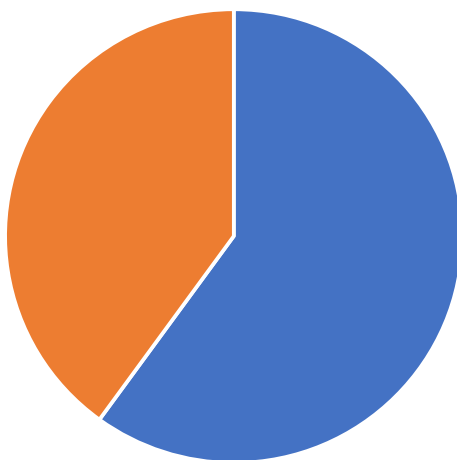
- retrospection – reference to the research of other scientists.

We believe that the types of textual retrospection identified by Y. Chigovskaya can be used as a plan for our studies of retrospection in journal articles on architecture as her approach is diversified and covers both text levels: the linguistic and extra linguistic ones [6].

In the course of the study we analyzed about 20 articles on architecture on the basis of a continuous sampling method from a number of journals in the field indexed in the Web of Science.

The analysis showed that articles on architecture use all the types of textual retrospection: intratextual and extratextual ones. The largest number of frequently used phrases that can be considered as genre cliché in scientific articles on architecture, These are the tools of intratextual retrospection. The tools of extratextual retrospection are characterized by great creativity of the authors, especially retrospection – a historical review (Diagram 1).

As we noted above, we observed all types of intratextual retrospection: exact, inexact,



■ Intratextual retrospection ■ Extratextual retrospection

Diagram 1. The correlation of using the tools of intratextual and extratextual retrospection

referential and summative ones. Statistics show that the most common is the referential retrospection, and the least common is the inaccurate retrospection. The diagram below shows the correlation of quantitative using the markers of retrospection (Diagram 2).

The most frequent markers of referential

retrospection are: “due to”; “based on”; “according to”. One can also find expressions: “providing.”; “following...”; “with understanding...” These markers represent references to theories, facts, and results previously discussed in the article. These markers are always found at the beginning of a sentence.

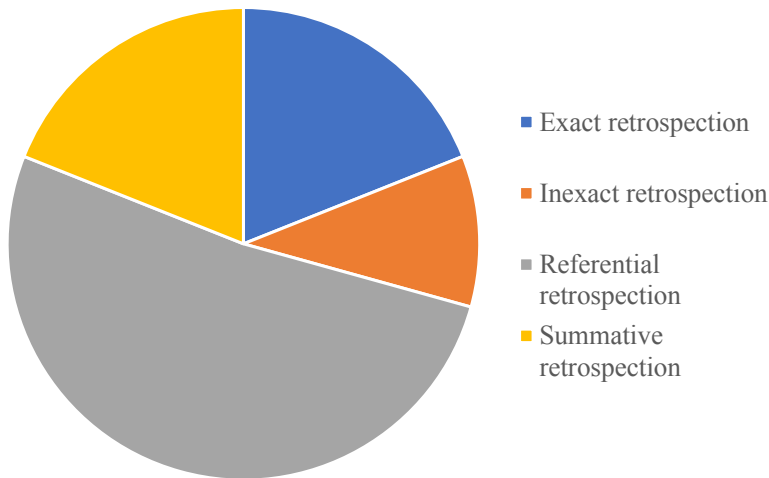


Diagram 2. The correlation of quantitative using the markers of intratextual retrospection

Markers of references to tables, graphs, diagrams, diagrams, drawings, etc. are also often used, for example: “as shown (illustrated, presented in Table 1)”; “... (see Table 5)”; “Table 1 shows (illustrates, demonstrates, indicates, presents)”; “as you see un the table”, etc.

Markers of summing up and generalizing are widely used. We observed the following phrases: “let’s summarize”; “in summary”; “the study (paper) investigate (indicates, discusses, reports)”; “we have seen”; “the literature review shows”; “the research has classified.”

Markers of exact intratextual retrospection are represented by the following expressions: “see section 2”; “is/are represented in Section (1)...”; “as (suggested discussed, pointed) in Section 4”, etc. Markers of inexact retrospection are represented by similar phrases: “as (stated, shown, mentioned) before (previously, earlier)” or “based on ... above”.

The most frequent markers of extratextual retrospection are referential markers (Diagram 3). These markers can be divided into two groups: markers of reference to other authors and

reference to the previous works of the article author. The first group is the most common and is represented by the following phrases: “according to, experts report...”; “the author (the name of the author) distinguishes, reports, reveled, represented”; “the findings indicated”; “observational studies reveal”; “previous servey have shed light in earlier works.” The second group is not so common; its main goal is to advertise the previous works of the authors and demonstrate the significance of their achievements. These are the following phrases: “as agreed in previously performed research by the author”; “in previous publications author elaborated”, etc.

The other types of extratextual retrospection are used to a much lesser degree and can not be considered as speech clichés. These are mainly the tools of inexact retrospection: “over the last few decades”; “in recent years”. As for retrospection – historical review and exact retrospection, we have observed these types only several times, mainly in articles thematically related to the history of the scientific problem.

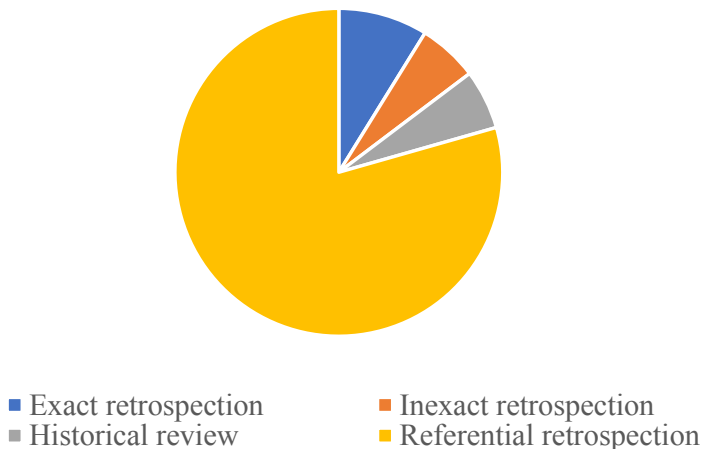


Diagram 3. The correlation of quantitative using the markers of extratextual retrospection

Conclusion

To sum up, we can conclude that the use of text linguistics methods provides a detailed and systemic study of the linguistic tools used in academic writing. The classification of textual retrospection, proposed by Ya. Chigovskaya, allows us to identify not only the intratextual, but also extra-textual links of the semantic elements of a scientific text. As the analysis showed, almost all the types of textual retrospection are used in journal articles on architecture. The most common types are the referential ones. This is due to the fundamental communicative goals of any scientific text – to present new scientific ideas that are based on existing scientific experience

and knowledge, i.e. to show the scientific validity of a new idea.

Another important conclusion of the study is the fact that the using the statistical analysis allows us to identify the most typical language tools that can be considered speech clichés typical to academic writing on architecture. Statistics helps to create an inventory of the tools that provide an opportunity to develop guidelines on academic writing for scholars in architecture.

Further studies of the linguistic tools through the text categories will make it possible to create a textbook on academic writing to develop skills on academic writing on architecture for training young researchers at the stage of master's studies.

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