

Comparative analysis of the Perfect in German, English and Chechen languages

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Abstract. Recently, a lot of research has been devoted to the typological analysis of languages. The article examines the functional features of the Perfect in German, English and Chechen languages. A comparative analysis shows that these three languages have many similarities and differences in the formation and use of tense forms. The Perfect forms of the three languages differ in grammatical tenses in exactly the same way as the non-perfect forms. In addition to effective action, Perfect tenses are used in colloquial speech and denote action in the Past. The Perfect (Present Perfect tense) in German is more flexible, whereas in English and Chechen it is necessary in some situations to be expressed in other tenses. These differences and the reasons behind them attract the attention of many researchers to a comparative analysis of the category of time, in particular the Perfect.

1 Introduction

Linguistic typology is the study of different types of languages, established through their comparative analysis. First of all, this is classification science - a section of linguistics that studies the principles and methods of classifying languages [2, p. 476]. Often, common structural features appear in languages that have no genetic relationship. This is due to the fundamental reason that all languages reflect the same objective reality. They serve for communication and have sound matter. These and other manifestations of the fundamental homogeneity, the fundamental similarity of different languages make it possible to compare them regardless of the fact of kinship or non-kinship. Famous linguist I.I. Meshchaninov noted in this regard that a typological comparison is intended to cover all the distinguished systems of languages that are grouped, and from them to establish what separates them and what unites them. These will be, on the one hand, those concepts that are conveyed by the corresponding lexical and grammatical units, and on the other hand, these will be the same units in all their diversity [4, p. 5].

In a broad sense, language typology is a field of linguistics that compares languages in order to identify their general patterns in the structure of language. This is how the typology

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is interpreted by representatives of the Prague linguistic school. They believe that typology takes into account the general structure of the language: avoiding reference to isolated features of similarity and difference, typology considers all the features of the language in their hierarchy.

In this study, we conduct a comparative analysis of German, English and Chechen languages. The first two are related to each other, unlike the Chechen language. With any comparative study, scientists face many difficulties in terms of the comparability of certain linguistic phenomena. The concept of “category of time” can be applied to all languages under study, but despite this, a number of issues have to be resolved.

We consider the functional features of Perfect in German, English and Chechen languages. This tense form, and the category of tense of the German and English languages in general, has been studied many times, unlike the Chechen language. We are faced with a number of questions that need to be addressed in the course of the study. Is there a Perfect form in the Chechen language, or an equivalent to this tense form? If so, does the Perfect serve the same functions as in the two related languages?

The purpose of the study is to describe the functional features of the Perfect in German, English and Chechen languages, as well as to compare this tense form in the languages under study.

2 Methods for studying differently structured languages

To study both related and differently structured languages in order to identify common and distinctive properties and features, the comparative method is used. Comparing the phenomena of one language with the phenomena of other languages helps to eliminate the possibility of the threat of pressure from the native language system on a foreign language. In typological comparison, other given facts are interpreted and described by other scientists. Languages can be compared regardless of whether they are related to each other or not, or whether there is a historical connection between them. Scientists have identified a number of identical properties, identical changes, and identical historical processes between them. In any language one can find features that are inherent in all languages of the world, in each language there are some features that are characteristic of all languages of the world (universal features), features that connect this language with individual languages, or features that are individually characteristic only of this language [1].

3 Analysis of the Perfect form in the languages under study

The Perfect is a combination of aspect and tense that draws the listener's attention to an outcome at a particular point in time caused by a preceding situation, rather than just to the situation itself.

The Perfect in German is the analytical past tense. Perfect is used mainly in dialogical speech and questions. Perfect is formed using the auxiliary verbs *haben* or *sein* and the participle II of the main verb. Most verbs form the Perfect with *haben*.

Wir haben in der Mensa gegessen.

Er ist nach Moskau gefahren.

Hast du dieses Buch gelesen.

Perfect with the verb *sein* form verbs denoting:

- movement: *gehen, fahren, laufen, etc.*;

- verbs denoting a change of state: *aufstehen, sterben, einschlafen, etc.*;

- verbs such as: *sein, werden, bleiben, begegnen, passieren, folgen, gelingen, misslingen, geschehen.*

The Perfect's ability to depict events of the past in connection with the present has made it an almost indispensable form for conducting conversation. Therefore, it is not by chance that the Perfect was called "past narrative" in classical grammars. Relevant examples can be found in any literary text:

„Wann bist du nach Hause gekommen?“
 „Hast du noch davon nicht gewusst? Gestern.“
 „Nein. Ich bin froh, dich wiederzusehen.“
 „Ich habe eine gute Erholung gehabt. Und wo hast du deine Ferien verbracht?“
 „Leider bin ich zu Hause gewesen!“
 „Warum?“
 „Ich habe keine Möglichkeit gehabt, ins Urlaub zu fahren.“
 „Es tut mir leid!“

In dialogical speech there is no such close connection between individual events as in narration, where past events are depicted mainly in the preterite.

The Perfect is rarely used in stories. The Perfect is unsuitable for long-term use, firstly, because of the bulkiness and some formal heaviness of its structure; secondly, because of its emotional coloring (while preterital forms contribute to the transmission of smoothness and sequence of events, as if opening up new opportunities for stringing together various kinds of details so necessary for a smooth narrative, the Perfect chain introduces fragmentation and excitement into speech and tension); and thirdly, the narrator cannot report events from the point of view of the present for a long time. In many cases, the Perfect only states that this event happened in the past (individual details and details of the past are not touched upon):

Sie hat den Gipfel erreicht, ist aber bereits von ihm heruntergekommen, es gibt «Erfahrung», aber es gibt kein direktes Ergebnis.

Er ist schon früher so spät gekommen.

Sie haben viel Zeit im Kreis ihrer Familie verbracht.

According to some linguists, the Perfect can also express the meaning of Futurum - futural Present [12, p. 232]. G. Helbig / J. Busha talk about three meanings of the Perfect: Vergangenheit, Präsensperfekt, Futurperfekt. Most researchers believe that the Perfect signifies completion, completeness of an action, but they have a continuous connection with the present (V. Flemig, G. Koyler, etc.). The Perfect, according to its formation, is complete in nature: "The Perfect indicates that the action denoted by the verb is considered "Perfect," "completed." An event is characterized as having occurred without a clear link to a specific stage in the flow of time." The Perfect form itself does not indicate when an event should be considered Perfect.

The Perfect can also be used to convey completed actions that precede other actions in the future tense, thereby acting as a synonym for Futurum 2.

Mein Vater hat in der Schule nicht besonders gut gelernt. My father didn't do particularly well at school.

Mein Bruder hat den Kindergarten seit drei Jahren besucht. My brother went to kindergarten from the age of three.

Sie hat die medizinische Hochschule absolviert. She graduated from medical university.

Ich habe in der Schule Probleme mit der Mathematik gehabt. I had problems with mathematics at school.

Unser Lehrer hat uns von der politischen Lage in Europa erzählt. Our teacher told us about the political situation in Europe.

Am Montag ist meine Tante für einen Monat nach Deutschland geflogen. On Monday my aunt left for Germany for a month.

Otto hat seinen Onkel bis zum Bahnhof begleitet. Otto accompanied his uncle to the station.

Wir haben mit unseren Kindern im Cafe Platz genommen. The children and I took a seat in the cafe.

Zum Geburtstag hat das Kind viele Geschenke bekommen. The child received many gifts for his birthday.

Das Publikum hat den Saal nach der Vorstellung verlassen. The audience left the hall after the performance.

Die Kinder haben sich sehr gut benommen. The children behaved very well.

Niemand hat die Hausaufgabe erfüllt. Nobody did their homework.

Present Perfect. In Old English, constructions were used to convey the past action in the same way as in German. Auxiliary constructions were used with a verb without the accusative case, in contrast to modern English, in which they are used with transitive and non-ergative verbs [5]. Most domestic and foreign linguists such as V.D. Arakin, B.A. Ilyish, L.V. Kuznetsova, Yu.S. Maslov, who believe that the Perfect developed from a possessive construction like “to have something done”. All grammarians pay attention to the change in the meaning of the elements of a possessive construction, the change in the order of words in it, and, finally, the change in the meaning of the entire construction. However, as scientists note, it is difficult to judge with great historical certainty the paths of development of the Perfect using this construction, since already in Old English a construction of this kind was a relict phenomenon [13].

In English, unlike languages such as German, Dutch and Italian, only the construction with the auxiliary verb have is used in the Perfect, and the construction with be disappeared by the end of the 19th century. The Present Perfect in English is formed using the present tense have + Participle 2:

They have washed their hands.

She has written shopping list.

The negative form is formed by adding not to the auxiliary verb. The interrogative case is formed by rearranging the auxiliary verb and the subject.

I have read.

I have not read.

Have you read?

This tense form is a kind of mixture of present and past tense. It always implies a close connection with the present and is mainly used in spoken language, letters, newspapers, television and radio reports.

There are five different uses of the Present Perfect:

a) result:

We have read two books.

He has done his homework.

b) an action that is still ongoing:

Work has not started yet.

He has lived in Germany since two months and he love it.

c) an action that has recently ceased:

They have cooked breakfast.

I have already listened to it.

d) a completed action that affects the present:

My brother has lost his key.

e) the action occurred once, never or several times before the moment of utterance:

She has never been to England.

My friends have not this film.

Mike hasn't played the violin.

With the Present Perfect, adverbs that refer to a specific time period, for example, yesterday, are not used, unlike the German Perfect:

Ich habe gestern meinem Bruder geschrieben.

But not I have yesterday my brother written.

I wrote yesterday my brother.

Present Perfect must be considered as an independent meaning, distinct from Past Perfect. An analysis of this kind is presented in the work of Declerk [8], where it is argued that the Past Perfect defines a situation in the “sphere of the past tense” (which is conceptualized separately from the present), while the Present Perfect defines a situation in the “sector of the present tense” of the “sphere of the present.” time.” In this analysis, the use of the Present Perfect means that the speaker is referring to a time that is perfect to the present time, but has a direct connection with the present, while the use of the Past Perfect means that the speaker is referring to what was. then. The speaker's interest in the present moment in many cases implies actuality at the moment (retrospective). Thus, actualization in the present tense is an implicature that arises as a result of the particular way in which the Present Perfect describes a situation in time.

The category of tense in the Chechen language, unlike the German and English languages, has not been sufficiently studied. In the Chechen language, the Past Perfect tense (Perfect) denotes an action that occurred in the past, but may have a direct connection with the present [1, p. 21]. Yu.D. Desheriev calls this form the recently Past Perfect tense [3, pp. 201-202]. The Past Perfect tense is quite close in meaning to the Perfect tense in German and English. This tense form is formed using the endings *-ina*, *-na*, which are added to the stem of the verb:

Цо дукха болх бина тахана. – He worked a lot today.

Сан ваиша школе вахна. – My brother went to school.

Дадаc шен кIантана абат эцна. – The father bought his son the alphabet.

Иза шен веишица уйтIахъ буьрканах левзина. – He played ball in the yard with his brother.

The Past Perfect is the most common tense form in the Chechen language.

We conducted a small experiment: the informants received 7 sentences in Russian for translation into different languages. Some of the informants are native speakers:

1. *Я только что закончила всю работу.*

Ich habe gerade die ganze Arbeit erledigt.

I have just done all the work.

Аса тоххарехъ бина и болх.

2. *Я ездила к родителям.*

Ich bin zu meinen Eltern gegangen.

I have gone to my parents.

Со сайн да, нани долче йахна.

3. *Он написал эту работу.*

Er hat dieses Werk geschrieben.

He has done this work.

Цо йазбина и болх.

4. *Она быстро решила эту проблему.*

Sie hat dieses Problem schnell gelöst.

She has quickly solved this problem.

Цо сикха чекдаьккхина и гIуллакх.

5. *Они помогли своей матери убрать в доме.*

Sie haben ihrer Mutter beim Aufräumen des Hauses geholfen.

They have helped their mother clean the house.

Цара шайн нанна гIо дина чуьра гIуллакх деш.

6. *Мой отец помог многим бедным людям.*

Mein Vater ist vielen armen Menschen geholfen.

My father has helped many poor people.
Сан дас духха мискачу адамана з1о дина.
7.Юсуп рано встал.
Jusup ist früh aufgestanden.
Yusup has gotten up early.
Юсуп хьалххе хьалаз1аьттина.

As we can see from the examples, in English sentences most of the informants used the Present Perfect, in German sentences - Perfekt, in Chechen sentences - the Past Perfect tense.

4 Conclusions

The Perfect is typical of many Indo-European languages and has similar origins. The Perfect in English and German has both certain common features and differences. Common features include the communicative orientation of this grammatical tense. Typically, the Perfect in both comparable Germanic languages is widely used in dialogues and quite rarely in monologue speech. In German and English, the Perfect is an analytical form and is constructed using the verbs “to have” and “to be”; in the Chechen language, the Past Perfect tense is a simple form.

It has been established that the German Perfect is used more widely, while the English Present Perfect and the Chechen Past Perfect are used more strictly. The Present Perfect and the Chechen Past Perfect can only be used to refer to past events related to the present, while the German Perfect can convey past events or future events, and the addition of time adverbs is allowed.

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