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Types of Information-Scientific Texts and their Research Tools and Procedures

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We consider that there are four types of semantic information: factual information, conceptual information, evaluative information and inferred information. We describe the very procedure of scientific text analysis, the final aim of which is thesaurus representation of its conceptual information, i.e. reconstruction of the cognitive model of the text. (Author)

We could define a text as a coherent sequence of utterances, which are well-formed in terms of language as well as in terms of text systems. There also are the features characteristic for this discourse sequence:

(a) certain information capacity;

(b) relative completeness of meaning;

(c) relative autonomy ;

(d) wholeness of perception;

(e) intertextuality;

(f) extralinguistically, linguistically and pragmatically determined systematic character.

Every text contains a certain quantity of information. We take the concept 'information' as an increase of organized knowledge about any subject. We limit our research to clarifying the problem of different types of scientific text semantic information, without going into the problem of its quantity.

We distinguish the indication "explicitness/implicitness":

(a) factual information, which is always explicitly expressed; (b) inferred information, which is always *screened* under the surface text structures; its drawing out is connected with a complicated procedure for elimination of pre-suppositions; (c) evaluative and

(d) conceptual information, the phrasing of which may be explicit and implicit. Referring to I.Galperin's theory (1), we also argue with him in two major issues:

(a) with respect to the number of types of information contained in a scientific text;

(b) with respect to defining these types.

Furthermore, we describe the very procedure of scientific text analysis, the final aim of which is thesaurus representation of its conceptual representation, i.e. recon-

struction of the cognitive model of the text. This procedure includes the following basic moments:

(1) Text division in its sense units (microtexts).

(2) Revealing the explicitly expressed factual information.

(3) Revealing the inferred information. This stage of text analysis is especially important: for partially implicit character of the evaluative and conceptual information; their analysis is possible just after the verbalization of the specific pre-suppositions.

(4) Revealing the evaluative information contained in the scientific text, by which we ultimately define the intertextual connections of this text. We have to pay attention to statements by others which are considered as true by the author.

(5) Analysis of conceptual information. This is realized in two stages:

5.1 The first stage is a revealing of the conceptual information along the horizontal line of the text (microtext by microtext)

5.2 The second stage is connected with the construction of the model of the individual (author's) scientific world picture by means of the particular thesaurus of the analyzed text. The thesaurus consists of two parts: a systematic index of the key words in the text, which has a glossary entrance, and the thesaurus itself. This stage of conceptual information analysis actually is directed to paradigmatic representation of semantic relations between the scientific concepts which are in the author's intellectual space, to a representation, which we can take up as a reconstruction of an author's scientific paradigm (or of a part of it).

Our corpus is drawn mainly from articles on linguistics by Russian authors, the article being the basic genre of scientific prose.

Reference
(1) Gal'perin I.R.: Text kak obekt lingvisticheskogo issledovanija. (Text as an Object of Linguistic Research). Orig.ru. Moskva, Nauka 1981. 139p.