

LEXICO-SEMANTIC SURVEY OF FUTURE TENSE VERBS IN ENGLISH

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Abstract:

This article deals with detailed research of various forms of the future tense have their own semantic features and are used to express different meanings.

Since the future tense in English is a key aspect that is studied not only from the point of view of grammar, but also vocabulary. It is a complex and multifaceted grammatical category that not only reflects temporal relations, but also conveys various shades of meaning associated with the prediction, intention, possibility, obligation, or conditionality of events occurring in the future. While semantic studies of future tense verbs are an important part of lexicology and syntax, as they help to distinguish and interpret all the nuances of future events expressed using verb forms. Lexical studies of future tense verbs are aimed at identifying the semantic nuances that they convey depending on the context, as well as studying their interaction with other lexical units of the language.

Keywords. Future tense, grammar, vocabulary, semantic studies, lexical units.

Introduction

In English, various lexical and grammatical forms are used to express the future tense, such as will, be going to, present continuous, future continuous, future perfect, and others. Despite the fact that all these forms denote actions taking place in the future, they can have different semantic shades depending on the context of their use. Lexical research, unlike grammatical research, focuses on the meaning of words and their interaction in a sentence, identifying various aspects of future tense meanings such as prediction, intention, plan, commitment,

and others. They also explore how verbs expressing the future tense relate to lexical units that can change their meaning depending on the situation.

- **Will:** The most common form for expressing the future tense, designates an action that will occur in the future, but does not specify its condition or probability.
- **Be going to:** Used to indicate a future action that has already been planned or is a logical consequence of the current situation.
- **Present Continuous:** Often used to indicate a future action that is pre-planned or organized.
- **Future Continuous:** Indicates an action that will occur at some point in the future, or an action that will continue at a certain point.
- **Future Perfect:** Used to express an action that will be completed before a certain point in the future.

The verb *will* is one of the most common forms for expressing the future tense in English. It is used to denote actions that are expected to occur in the future, or to express a volitional decision.

- **Prediction:** The will form is often used to express a prediction or prediction that has no explicit confirmation in the present moment, but is assumed based on the speaker's opinion.
- **Strong-willed decision:** At the same time, will can indicate the decision made by the speaker at the time of the speech, that is, to express the intention to act.

The *be going to* form is used mainly to express an intention or a pre-planned action, as well as to make a prediction based on current circumstances.

- **Intention and Plan:** Be going to expresses actions that have been planned in advance and have some intention.
- **Prediction based on the current situation:** This form is also used to predict events based on facts or the current situation. The use of present continuous in the context of the future tense is associated with the expression of pre-planned or organized actions. Unlike will or be going to, which can be used for more general predictions, present continuous conveys clear information that an action has already been planned or organized.

The future continuous form is used to express an action that will occur at a certain point in the future or will last in the future. It can also convey the meaning of an action taking place in parallel with another action.

The future perfect form is used to express the completion of an action at a certain point in the future.

Lexical studies of future tense verbs in English show that the choice of the future tense form may depend on many factors, including the type of action, the speaker's confidence, the degree of his involvement in the event, and others. In some cases, *will* is used to express an action that does not depend on the speaker's intentions (for example, prediction), while *be going to* often emphasizes that the event is the result of a pre-conceived intention or plan.

In the context of lexical research, it is also important to take into account the influence of context on the choice of the form of the future tense. For example, in more formal situations, *will* can be used, while in more colloquial speech, *be going to* is often used.

Research on the semantics of the future tense shows that the English language uses various forms of the future to denote not only temporal characteristics, but also additional meanings such as confidence, assumption, intention or commitment. Verbs expressing the future tense are often used to predict events. In this context, the forms *will* and *be going to* are used. Studies conducted by authors such as Quirk et al. (1985) and Leech (2004) show that the *will* form is often used to express uncertainty or prediction, which is a consequence of the speaker's subjective assessment. The *be going to* form is often used to express more confident or logically sound predictions.

In addition, lexical studies of the future tense are also related to pragmatics — the study of how the choice of the form of the future tense may depend on the communicative goals of the speaker. This includes using the future tense to express:

- Polite requests or suggestions:
- Commitments:
- Matching the listener's expectations: The choice of the future tense form may also depend on what the listener expects. In some cases, the use of *will* may imply a greater expectation on the part of the speaker regarding the execution of the action.

Theoretical approaches and research

One of the classic theoretical approaches to the study of time is the work of Benjamin Comrie. In his book *Tense* (1985), he considered the category of time

in language through the prism of three aspects: type, time and modality. According to Comrie, time in a language can be represented in three aspects: present, past, and future. It is important that the future tense in a language is not necessarily associated with a specific moment in the future, but rather with the possibility or probability that an action will be performed.

Within the framework of time theory, Comrie identifies two types of tenses: the past tense (to express completed actions) and the future tense, which in some languages, including English, has more flexible forms to express uncertainty about the time of action.

Cognitive grammar, proposed by Ronald Langacker, considers the future tense as a conceptual representation in the speaker's mind. According to Langacker, the future tense does not always express a strict linear movement of time, but rather reflects the speaker's perception that an event or action will occur after a certain time. The future tense is the result of cognitive activity related to planning, expectation, or prediction. In this context, forms such as *will* and *be going to* are used to express different levels of confidence, intention, and prediction.

The cognitive approach emphasizes that the choice of the form of the future tense in English is related to the speaker's perception of possible future events, as well as his cognitive expectations. For example, using the *be going to* form suggests the presence of harbingers or signs in reality that make a future event more likely. In the pragmatics of the future, the influence of context and communicative goals on the choice of form is considered. Brown and Levinson (1987), in their work on the theory of politeness, argue that the choice between the forms of *will* and *be going to* depends on what role the speaker plays in communication: whether he states something as a fact, or simply reports some planned action. Their theory emphasizes that the use of *will* may be associated with greater confidence or the will of the speaker, while *being going to* is often perceived as less categorical or more related to planning.

One of the important aspects of theoretical research is the connection of the future tense with modality. Modality in linguistics refers to the expression of a speaker's attitude to an action: its obligation, probability, possibility, or necessity. The future tense in English is often expressed through the verbs *will* and *shall*, but these forms can have different modal shades depending on the context.

Studies such as the work of Leech (2004) demonstrate that the choice of the form of the future tense also depends on what exactly the speaker wants to express:

prediction, plan or intention. Be going to is more often used to express predictions based on observable signs (for example, clouds that may portend rain), whereas will is used for more general predictions that do not necessarily have specific factual grounds.

Some studies, such as de Saussure (1916) and Haiman (1983), emphasize the importance of differences in the expression of the future tense in different languages. In English, as in other Germanic languages, the future tense is expressed not through verb form changes (as, for example, in Latin), but through auxiliary verbs such as will or be going to. This makes the future tense in English more flexible and context-sensitive than in some other languages.

Conclusion

Theoretical approaches such as cognitive grammar, theory of time and aspects, as well as pragmatic research, help to better understand how and why we use various forms of the future tense in English, which allows us to more accurately interpret the meaning and role of these forms in everyday speech. At the same time, the semantics of future tense verbs in English is multilevel and diverse, encompassing meanings such as prediction, intention, commitment, plan, and convention. These verb forms play a key role in conveying differences in meanings related to future events, and are often closely related to the context and personal assessments of the speaker. Semantic studies of these forms continue to develop, which allows us to better understand not only the structure of language, but also the psychological, cultural and social aspects that influence the choice of certain forms of the future tense. In turn, lexical studies of future tense verbs in English play an important role in understanding how different forms of the future tense are used to express different semantic shades.

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