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Morphology and linguistic interpretation

This paper proposes a cognitive account of the English progressive aspect forms on the basis of the theory of interpretation worked out by N. Boldyrev (see Boldyrev 2010).

The following points provide the cornerstones for the analysis. Firstly, linguistic meaning, being conceptual by nature, is treated as an interpretation within the framework of the conceptual system as a whole. Secondly, interpretation as the most important function of human consciousness and as a cognitive operation is directed to the obtaining of a new knowledge of a collective level. Thirdly, interpretation as linguistic cognition of an individual reveals its subjective understanding of the interpreted object. Fourthly, drawing on the proposal of linguistic interpretation as contextually construed meaning, the meaning potential of *to be + Ving* forms will be examined in detail.

The present paper illustrates the main features of the cognitive-linguistic framework by analysing of the mentioned forms, including a description of their basic semantic configuration and the range of senses which they are commonly associated with and found in discourse.

Conventional knowledge which forms the basis of progressive semantics (continuous actions going on at the certain moment or at the moment of speaking) in (1) *Look! She is using my phone!* (2) *Don't take that ladder away. Your father is using it.* is configured into individual construal of the situation which repeats too frequently and provokes emotions and evaluations in the speaker (3) *She is always using my things!* The speaker expresses certain criticism and gives an appraisal of the action characteristic of a certain person within more or long periods basing on individual knowledge and experience.

Boldyrev N. N. (2010) *Categorial level of knowledge representation in language: the modus category of negation* In: *Cognitive Studies of Language*. Vol. VII. *Types of categories in Language: collection of papers*. Moscow; Tambov, 2010. P. 45-59.

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A cognitive view of linguistic interpretation

Linguistic interpretation is a cognitive process of world representation by means of language semantics which involves both conceptualization and categorization of objects and events and their interconnections. It can be observed at two levels: the level of interpretation of a collective knowledge of the world and its component structure, and the level of individual knowledge exemplified in judgments, which represent appraisal and evaluation of things.

The first type of linguistic interpretation is realized through the lexical and grammatical categories implementing collective schemas of knowledge, e.g.: different colour terms or names of objects in various languages, or different points of reference in event representation: *The cat jumped on the*