UDC: 811.11–112:81'42

SYNTACTIC ORGANIZATION OF GERMAN SMS TEXTS

O. O. Bezzubova
Kyiv, National Technical University of Ukraine
"Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute"
abezzubova@gmail.com

In information-oriented society electronic communication became massively important. SMS communication as a type of electronic communication and the form of technically indirect intercourse is in great popularity with all social strata representatives. SMS communication technical determinants caused the appearance of SMS communication space as well as new text type – SMS text. German SMS text is characterized by specific syntactic structure that depends on the communication channel, technically indirect communication conditions and communication purposes of SMS communicators. The reduction of plane of content and plane of expression in SMS texts occurs due to concise conveyance of information. Simple texts, texts of average complexity and complex texts of SMS messages are distinguished based on the syntactic structure of German SMS messages. The SMS texts of average complexity (925 of texts) that contain from one to five simple, compound and/or complex sentences are of the highest priority among German SMS communicators. The greatest productivity is revealed through average complexity German SMS texts composing of one sentence (42,5 % of total number of average texts).

Keywords: electronic communication; SMS communication; SMS text; syntactic organization.

Introduction. In the XXI century, electronic communication came to dominate in the process of ensuring interrelation and cooperation of social persons. Information communication activity of the modern society is increasingly connected with the system of electronic communication that changed the format, time and space dimensions of social communications. SMS communication that differs greatly from other forms of electronic communication by its way of presentation and expression reflects technological and public processes in their social dynamics. SMS messages embody concise format of information presentation and are the symbiosis of social, cultural and psychological aspects of speaker's vital activity.

Both social significance of SMS communication and the absence of integrated approach to SMS messages determine the need for their complex research. Questions of text status of German SMS messages and absence of theoretical conditions of their structure stipulate the interest to the above-mentioned phenomenon.

SMS messages are studied by national and international linguists as A. Braun, N. Baron, D. Crystal, A. Hallar, E.-L. Kasesniemi, R. Ling, S. Moraldo, M. Poff, Ye. O. Savelyev, O. I. Severska, Y. Segerstad, M. Yu. Sydorova, C. Thurlow, Yu. Venedyctova, V. Zemzereva and others. German SMS communication and SMS messages were the object of investigation of such linguists as M. A. Aakhus, J. E. Katz, P. Schlobinski, J. Schwitalla.

Theoretical value of investigation lies in covering textual characteristics, defining the structure of German SMS messages that contributes to the development of communication theory, text theory, pragmatics and linguostylistics.

It is worth to emphasize that means of communication have a direct influence on message creation. It is hypothesized that SMS message informative value is revealed through the reduction of content plan and expression plan due to concise information delivery, omission of language means, forming consequently, a new type of text – SMS text with inherent criteria, peculiar linguistic and extralinguistic features.

Method. The research is done using hypothetico-deductive method. The first stage was to identify the criteria of object of investigation – German SMS messages as electronic written organized linguistic communication. The information obtained was analyzed and generalized by the method of induction. One of the stages of deduction involved the classification of German SMS texts according to the structure and composition, drawn logically, based on the authoritative scientific theories of text linguistics. The use of descriptive method is determined by the necessity to systematize German SMS messages and establish their organization principle. The following elements of descriptive method were used stage-by-stage identification of units of analysis, their classification and interpretation.

Text phenomenon investigation of German SMS communication was conducted with the help of contextual-interpretative method, thought to be the type of descriptive method. By the use of contextual-interpretative method, the text status of German SMS message, its value in sociocultural context, communicative aims and texts' thematic scope of private German SMS messages are established. The interpretation of information of German SMS text, the establishing of the author's intention and recipient's influence strategies are achieved by contextualization. Elements of quantitative analysis in investigation are involved in establishing German SMS text's organization and compositional structure.

Discussion. The concept of German SMS text denotes thematically and contextually heterogenic texts joined by communicative purpose of information transmission and making some influence on addressee. SMS texts are quite unusual, "strange" from the point of view of "classical" linguistics of text [8, p. 221]. They use intensive way of information organization.

Syntactically text can be composed of one simple or one complex sentence, be equivalent of the sentence, part of sentence, interjection or the chain of interconnected sentences [9, p. 124]. SMS text has specific syntactic structure that depends on the aims and tasks of the author. According to the syntactic structure, the texts of German SMS messages were divided into simple, average complexity and complex ones.

Texts are characterized by informative value. There are no texts without content-related information [11, p. 74]. In the sense of communication, texts are not only coherent sequence of words and sentences but one-word utterances that need to be considered as complex communicative units. Simple German SMS texts are small-sized structures with a total (or almost total) absence of common to norm certain means of cohesion and coherence [8, p. 221]. For example:

– Mittagspause :D
– Feierabend :D

SMS text of the original message serves entertaining communicative purpose of the author and determines the appearance of conversational acts. The addressee in the responding SMS text expresses the advantage over the addresser's situation stating the end of the working day Feierabend compared to the addresser's lunch time Mittagspause.

One-word sentences-texts presuppose the context. The speaker in his internal speech tries to make the sense of situation by including the text into imaginable context [5, p. 99, 105]. The addresse's response testifies to the informative self-sufficiency of one-word SMS texts for their interpretation by communicators. Text units reflect only significant for this text situation-event elements, other elements are omitted [3].

Within the private German SMS communication, these minimal texts are not as frequent conversational forms. They are represented in 116 texts that makes 6 % of the total number of German SMS messages analyzed in the body of our investigation. The most widespread German SMS texts are those, which consist of one word (66 texts, 56 % of simple texts correspondingly). They are followed by the texts-word-combinations or texts-collections of key words (43 texts, 37 % of simple texts correspondingly), that can be realized by the combination of different parts of speech. A few cases of simple German SMS texts (7 texts, 0,4 % of simple texts correspondingly) present the texts that function as a semiotic sign – punctuation mark/punctuation marks. Semiotic system within technically indirect German SMS communication completes the verbal communication process.

The most numerous group of German SMS texts form the German SMS texts of average complexity, they account for 1677 texts, 92 % of the total number of texts. The German SMS texts of average complexity are limited in size; consist of one to maximum five simple, compound and/or complex sentences as was concluded from our investigation. For example:

– [8:57] Motivier mich mal in die Uni zu kommen…
– [9:02] Ich lieg im Bett! :D

SMS texts of the above written dialog consist of one sentence – simple extended sentence. Information in private German SMS communication is often delivered in one and not rare the only one sentence. 714 of German SMS texts of average complexity (42 % of average texts) represent syntactic structures that fully develop and conclude the idea in one sentence [10, p. 160]. Conciseness is an expressive and pragmatically motivated syntactical means that involves condensed expression of speakers' thoughts and emotions. The beginning, end and the information in-between limit the average complexity German SMS texts [6]. The markers of etiquette situations saying "Hello", "Goodbye" can distinguish the beginning and the end of SMS text [4]. In terms of composition, the average complexity German SMS text consists of the following structural-compositional chains as salutation form, address form, the text itself, concluding form and signature. For example, SMS message with the most complete compositional text structure: Hallo Elena, ich stehe morgen um 6 Uhr an der rückseite des bahnhofs beim ZOB. Lieben Gruß. Kirsten

The investigated German SMS messages are characterized by variation of text's compositional structure. The purpose of SMS communication is to transmit maximum of information at minimum language efforts. This determines the simplification of compositional organization of SMS text and leads to mobility of structural-compositional elements in the text. For example: Bin jetzt am hbf. Ost seite Mfg Sebastian.

The explication of adressee's final request and verbal signature can be seen in distanced relations between SMS communicators. According to the results of investigation 461 German SMS texts i.e. 25 % of total number of texts have compositional markers. Complete or partially complete German SMS text's compositional structure is realized in 18 texts of the body (3,9 % of texts). In most cases the following

compositional markers are explicated as salutation form, address form, the combination of them as well as the conclusion form and signature.

Differences in text structure are differences in the pragmatics of the text. They assume different tasks of the sender, duties of the recipient and different operations [7, p. 432]. The average complexity SMS texts are of the highest priority within the private German SMS communication. They usually consist of one sentence and account for 714 texts, 42,5 % of texts from the total number of texts correspondingly. They are followed by 558 average complexity texts composed of two sentences, 33 % of texts correspondingly. SMS texts composed of three sentences make the next numerous group – 235 texts, 14 % correspondingly. Quantitatively, four and five-sentences texts take the last two places of average SMS texts (123 texts, 7,5 % and 47 texts, 3 % correspondingly).

As a specific category of SMS messages, complex texts are differentiated that are the least widespread in German SMS communication. Complex SMS texts make 2 % from the total number of German SMS messages (37 texts). Traditionally, complex texts include big-sized texts as stories, tales, novels etc. They are different in size (extended texts) and word organization [1, p. 46]. In private German SMS communication, complex texts represent extended SMS texts of different degree of complexity [8, p. 228] and contain six or more sentences.

Private German SMS texts with high degree of expressiveness and emphatic positive or negative tonality are syntactically complicated. For example:

– Laura, Karl hat mir gesagt dass er mich immernoch liebt und alles bereut! du weißt doch, der hat doch schluss gemacht weil er meinte es wär ein no-go wenn ich mich mit Marcel treffe! ich hab doch nen monat nur geheult..und jetzt sagt Karl mir dass der mich wieder liebt! weißt du was ich mache? ich werde die große liebe vorspielen und ihn dann so verletzen dass ER mir mindestens 873643 monate hinterherheult und dann werde ich mit seinem bruder rummachen! ahh guter plan oder was? ahahahhaa Karl wird so fertig gemacht!

– schön zu wissen. gruß karl

The detailed sender's description of her relation with her previous love and the description of revenge scheme to the object of conversation influenced the size and complexity of SMS text. The sender/addresser has expressed in written everything she could have told in oral communication. To emphasize the desired result of revenge taking the sender/addresser used exaggeration – hyperbole – mindestens 873643 monate hinterherheulten. The mistake in choice of addressee and sending initiating SMS message to the object of revenge – Karl determined his response: the addressee in the responding text of SMS message expresses joy about the information he got but did not mean to.

According to the investigation conducted the maximum number of sentences of complex SMS texts makes ten sentences. In the majority of cases, SMS communicators appeal to six (18 texts from the total number of investigated German SMS texts, 1 % correspondingly) and seven sentences (11 texts, 0,6 % correspondingly) that are enough to provide with in-depth information. Complex texts that consist of eight, nine and ten sentences are the isolated cases in German SMS communication.

SMS message as a specific text type that does not directly belong to the traditional written communication form has characteristics that separate it from other texts. SMS texts are electronically recorded written information containing material traces of oral culture of interpersonal relations [2]. Special technical determinants of SMS messages as a channel of information transmission realize initially the shortness of the text size and its conciseness. For example: Wir sind fertig und sonja wartet auf deinen anruf :).

Conciseness of the text is determined by speaker's intention to transmit information swiftly and accurately. The restriction of the number of SMS texts' symbols motivates speaker to express thoughts concisely.

Contrary to conciseness peculiarity of SMS text is its redundancy. It is caused by SMS communicators' desire to increase reliability of information. For example: Bitte erschiess mich -.- ich war gestern nacht so betrunken, dass ich ihm ne sms von L's handy aus schicken wollte und als ich gemerkt habe, dass ich seine nummer nicht auswendig kann, hab ich die sms einfach an meinen ex geschickt, weil das die einzige nummer ist, die ich kann -.-

The SMS text sender tells in detail about the disappointing event that happened to her the day before she sent SMS message to her boyfriend and states the reason for this event. Semantic text redundancy is not the violation of SMS communication etiquette however, it contradicts the initial purpose of SMS message as written communication and is subjected to pragmatic-stylistic speaker's purpose – to emphasize and enhance expressiveness of feelings, emotions and impressions stated.

Conclusions. SMS communication space influenced by the technical medial conditions created new type of texts – SMS message text. Simple texts, texts of average complexity and complex texts of SMS messages are distinguished based on the syntactic structure of German SMS messages. Simple texts of

German SMS messages (6 %) include texts-words, texts-word-combinations, different texts-collections of key words and semiotic signs. The average complexity SMS texts are of the highest priority in German SMS communication (92 %). They are limited in size and consist of one to five compound and/or complex sentences. Complex SMS texts take an active role in private German SMS communication (2 %). They are extended texts of different complexity degree that consist of six and more sentences.

German SMS texts of average complexity and complex ones have strict format – the beginning part, the ending part and in-between part. The beginning and ending parts of SMS message formally create markers of etiquette situations saying "Hello" and "Goodbye". In terms of composition, German private SMS texts are formed of such structural-compositional chains as salutation, addressing, text itself, concluding form and signature. The means of expressing the beginning and the ending of German SMS text depend on communicative goal, the relations of SMS communicators and the time the text was written. However, the primary purpose of SMS communication is to transmit maximum of information at minimum language efforts and the tendency to shorten the distance with SMS communicator leads to omission of compositional markers in 75 % of private German SMS texts.

REFERENCES

1. Бабенко Л. Г. Лингвистический анализ художественного текста. Теория и практика: учебник; практикум / Л. Г. Бабенко, Ю. В. Казарин. – 2-е. изд. – М.: Флинта: Наука, 2004. – 496 с.
2. Бондаренко С. В. Особенности культуры текстовой мобильной коммуникации [Електронний ресурс] / С. В. Бондаренко // Известия высших учебных заведений. – Северо-Кавказский регион. Общественные науки. Спецвыпуск, 2006. – С. 7–9. – Режим доступу: http://www.ifap.ru/library/book176.pdf
3. Валгина Н. С. Теория текста: учеб. пособие [Електронний ресурс] / Н. С. Валгина. – М.: ЛОГОС, 2003. – Режим доступу: hhtp://evartist.narod.ru/ text14/01.htm
4. Ерофеева Е. В. К вопросу о соотношении понятий ТЕКСТ и ДИСКУРС [Електронний ресурс] / Е. В. Ерофеева, А. Н. Кудлаева // Проблемы социо- и психолингвистики: сборник статей. – Пермь: Перм. ун-т., 2003. – Вып. 3. – С. 28-36. – Режим доступу: http://psychsocling.narod.ru/erkudl.htm
5. Жинкин Н. И. Речь как проводник информации: монография / Н. И. Жинкин. – М.: Наука, 1982. – 157 с.
6. Кубрякова Е. С. О тексте и критериях его определения [Електронний ресурс] / Е. С. Кубрякова // Текст. Структура и семантика. – М.: Высшая школа, 2001. – Т. 1. – С. 72–81. – Режим доступу: http://www.philology.ru/linguistics1/kubryakova-01.thm
7. Майенова М. Р. Теория текста и традиционные проблемы поэтики / М. Р. Майенова // Новое в зарубежной лингвистике. – 1978. – Вып. 8. – С. 425-441.
8. Сахарный Л. В. Тексты-примитивы и закономерности их порождения / Л. В. Сахарный // Человеческий фактор в языке: язык и порождение речи. – М.: Наука, 1991. – С. 221-237.
9. Сержим К. С. Граматико-семантичний аналіз журналістського тексту (логіко-поняттєвий комплекс і відносно завершений смисл) / К. С. Сержим // Наукові записки інституту журналістики. – К., 2005. – Т. 20. – С. 121-128.
10. Солганик Г. Я. Стилистика текста: учеб. пособие / Г. Я. Солганик. – М.: Флинта: Наука, 2009. – 256 с.
11. Vater H. Einführung in die Textlinguistik. Struktur und Verstehen von Texten / H. Vater. – 3 überarb. Aufl. – München: Fink, 2001. – 221 S.

REFERENCES

1. Babenko, L. G., & Kazarin, Yu. V. (2004). The Linguistic Analysis of the Literary Text: Textbook, Practicum (2nd ed.). Moscow: Flinta: Nauka [in Russian].
2. Bondarenko, S. V. (2006). Special Features of Culture of Text Mobile Communication. Izvestija vysshih uchebnyh zavedenij. Severo-Kavkazskij region. Obshhestvennye nauki. Specvypusk. Retrieved from http://www.ifap.ru/library/book176.pdf [in Russian].
3. Valgina, N. S. (2003). Text Theory: Textbook. Retrieved from http://evartist.narod.ru/ text14/01.htm [in Russian].
4. Erofeeva, E. V., & Kudlaeva, A. N. (2003). To the Question of Interrelation between the TEXT and DISCOURSE. Retrieved from http://psychsocling.narod.ru/erkudl.htm [in Russian].
5. Zhinkin, N. I. (1982). Speech as a Vehicle of Information: Monograph. Moscow: Nauka [in Russian].
6. Kubrjakova, E. S. (2001). About the Text and Criteria of its Definition. Retrieved from http://www.philology.ru/linguistics1/kubryakova-01.thm [in Russian].
7. Majenova, M. R. (1978). Text Theory and traditional Problems of Poetics. Novoe v zarubezhnoj lingvistike, 8, 425-441 [in Russian].
8. Saharnyj, L. V. (1991). Texts-Primitives and Regularities of their Generation. Chelovecheskij faktor v jazyke: jazyk i porozhdenie rechi, 221-237. Moscow: Nauka [in Russian].
9. Serazhym, K. S. (2005). Grammatical-semantic Analysis of Journalistic Text (logical-conceptual complex and relative complete sense. Naukovi zapysky instytutu zhurnalistyky, 20, 121-128 [in Ukrainian].
10. Solganik, G. Ja. (2009). Text Stylistic: Textbook. Moscow: Flinta: Nauka [in Russian].
11. Vater, H. (2001). Introduction to Text Linguistics. Structure and Comprehension of Texts. (3nd ed.). München: Fink [in German].

О. О. Беззубова. Синтаксична організація текстів німецькомовних смс-повідомлень.

В інформаційному суспільстві електронна комунікація набула важливого значення. Смс-комунікація як різновид електронної комунікації та форма технічно-опосередкованого спілкування користується популярністю серед представників різних соціальних прошарків. Технічні детермінанти смс-комунікації зумовили виникнення простору смс-комунікації та нового типу тексту – тексту смс-повідомлення. Текст німецькомовного смс-повідомлення має специфічну синтаксичну структуру, яка залежить від каналу зв'язку, технічно-опосередкованих умов спілкування та комунікативних цілей смс-комунікантів. В текстах смс-повідомлень реалізується скорочення плану змісту та плану вираження за рахунок стислої подачі інформації. На основі синтаксичної структури німецькомовних смс-повідомлень виділено прості тексти, тексти середньої складності та складні тексти смс-повідомлень. Серед німецькомовних смс-комунікантів найбільш розповсюдженими є середні тексти смс-повідомлень (92 % текстів), які містять від одного до максимально п'яти простих, складносурядних та/ чи складнопідрядних речень.

Ключові слова: електронна комунікація; смс-комунікація; текст смс-повідомлення; синтаксична структура.

Е. А. Беззубова. Синтаксическая организация текстов немецкоязычных смс-сообщений.

В информационном обществе электронная коммуникация приобрела важное значение. Смс-коммуникация как разновидность электронной коммуникации и форма технически опосредованного общения пользуется популярностью среди представителей разных социальных слоев. Технические детерминанты смс-коммуникации обусловили возникновение пространства смс-коммуникации и нового типа текста – текста смс-сообщения. Текст немецкоязычного смс-сообщения имеет специфическую синтаксическую структуру, которая зависит от канала связи, технически опосредованных условий общения и коммуникативных целей смс-коммуникантов. В текстах смс-сообщений реализуется сокращение плана смысла и плана выражения за счет сжатой подачи информации. На основе синтаксической структуры немецкоязычных смс-сообщений выделено простые тексты, тексты средней сложности и сложные тексты смс-сообщений. Среди немецкоязычных смс-коммуникантов наиболее распространенными являются средние тексты смс-сообщений (92 % текстов), которые содержат от одного до максимально пяти простых, сложносочиненных и/ или сложноподчиненных предложений.

Ключевые слова: электронная коммуникация; смс-коммуникация; текст смс-сообщения; синтаксическая структура.