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Predicative Category and Verb Part of Speech

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Abstract: This article discusses the predicate category, which, like grammatical categories, has its own valency potential and is an independent grammatical category. At the same time, it is stated that the predicate category is a superparadigm formed by a combination of several categories, such as affirmation-negation, mood-modality, tense, person-number.

Keywords: Predicate category, verb, valency, affirmation-negation, mood-modality, tense, person-number, superparadigm, Turkic languages, functional-syntactic category, grammatical forms, morphological forms, comparative-historical linguistics.

Introduction: The relationship between parts of speech and sentence components has been one of the most important issues in comparative-historical linguistics. In this field, representatives of historical linguistics, including the “Young Grammarians,” conducted extensive research and proposed the idea that one of the key factors in the emergence of parts of speech is the specialization of certain semantic groups of words in specific syntactic functions, which leads them to adopt particular morphological forms. I.I. Meshchaninov further developed these ideas in his research on the relationship between sentence components and parts of speech, as well as in his monograph dedicated to the verb.

According to these scholars, the development of verb morphological forms—particularly the formation and evolution of the finite verb (*verbum finitum*) used as the predicate—is closely linked to the fact that the finite verb consistently functions as the predicate. Specifically, Meshchaninov defines finite verb forms as follows: “A verb is conjugated not because it is a verb, but only when it functions as a predicate,” and he emphasizes that conjugation is not a property of the verbal nature itself, but rather a characteristic of predicativity.

Therefore, conjugation, mood, and tense are not classificatory grammatical categories that define the

essence of the verb as a part of speech, but rather functional-syntactic categories related to sentence components. The tradition of associating affirmation-negation, mood, tense, and person-number forms with the verb part of speech, and analyzing them within the verb system, is due, firstly, to the fact that the verb as a part of speech frequently serves as a predicate and has developed an extensive system of forms to fulfill this function. The second reason lies in the fact that, in Western European languages, the function of the predicate is inseparable from the verb.

It is well known that in Western European languages, a predicate cannot be formed without the participation of a verb. For this reason, V.G. Admoni emphasizes the absolute necessity of a verb in the predicate structure as one of the general features of sentence construction in Western European languages. The close connection between the predicate and the verb in these languages and the inseparability of the predicate from the verb have led Western European linguistics to avoid classifying predicativity as a separate functional category, analyzing it instead within the framework of the verb.

Since even nominal predicates in these languages are formed with the help of auxiliary verbs, the principle of the inseparability of predicativity from the verb in Western European languages was transferred to the interpretation of morphology and syntax in Turkic languages as well. As a result, in Turkic linguistics, predicativity has also been consistently described in connection with the verb.

Many Turkologists, based on the idea that the suffix *-dir*, one of the predicate formants, historically derives from the verb *turmok* (to stand) in the form *turur* (*-durur*), have evaluated the form *Talaba tururman* ("I am a student") as the original one, and forms like *Talabadirman* and *Talabaman* as derivative. This led to the proposition that nominal predicates in Turkic languages were historically also verb-based. As a result, in Turkic languages, the category of predicativity has been closely associated with the verb part of speech. However, the internal characteristics of Turkic languages indicate that nominal predicates in these languages are not inherently related to the verb (i.e., the verbal part of speech). This is because the elements commonly referred to as auxiliary verbs, such as **-e** and **-er**, are not true verbs in the literal sense—they lack the defining feature of the verb part of speech, namely the category of voice (which determines its essence as a part of speech). Instead, these elements serve as tools that convey the form and meaning of the predicative category within the structure of the predicate. Therefore, in Turkic languages, the category of predicativity should not be analyzed within the

system of verbal morphological forms, but rather within the framework of functional-syntactic forms that arise from the Turkic nature of these languages. The category of predicativity is not a verbal category, but a syntactic component of the sentence. However, due to the fact that the verb frequently functions as the predicate, its specialized forms for expressing affirmation-negation, mood, tense, and person-number have developed significantly within this part of speech. This naturally raises the following question: if the predicative category is specific to sentence components, but the expression of its meanings and forms relies on a specialized system of verb forms, should this category be studied within the framework of the verb part of speech or within that of sentence components?

In Uzbek linguistics as well, under the influence of Western European linguistic traditions, the grammatical forms of affirmation-negation, mood-tense, and person-number have traditionally been studied within the framework of the verb part of speech. However, in more recent times, particularly in textbooks and manuals written from the perspective of functional grammar—such as those developed under the leadership of H. Nematov—these grammatical forms have been removed from the domain of the verb part of speech and are now studied as part of relational-functional forms.

Thus, an approach based on the functional capacities of these categories has begun to emerge in the interpretation of their essence.

In the system of syntactic relational-functional forms, the category of predicativity is considered alongside possessive and case forms and is separated from the verb part of speech. This approach is undoubtedly correct for the purpose of analyzing the essence of the predicative category. However, from an educational and pedagogical standpoint, it presents certain challenges. When teaching topics such as verb tenses or conjugation of predicates, one inevitably has to refer back to the verb part of speech.

Nominal predicates, except for forms expressing certainty, intention, or present-future tense, are generally formed with auxiliary elements, and their lexical basis still traces back to the verb. Therefore, in new curricula and textbooks, it cannot be deemed entirely correct to separate the categories of mood, tense, and person-number from the verb. In our opinion, it is more appropriate to retain these forms within the domain of the verb and classify them as the verb's predicative forms.

For example, in the 7th grade "Mother Tongue" textbook (Nematov H. et al., Tashkent, 2001, pp. 55–58), while predicative forms are separated from participles,

adverbial participles, and verbal nouns under the classification of verb functions, these predicative forms are not analyzed under the section on verb forms, but rather redirected to the "Relational Forms" section. Undoubtedly, this creates difficulties in the educational process.

In conclusion, like all grammatical categories, the predicative category has its own valency and should be regarded as an independent grammatical category. At the same time, it is a superparadigm composed of several interrelated categories such as affirmation-negation, mood-modality, tense, and person-number. Accordingly, the predicative category has its own valency.

Research into the personal actant and its manifestation in speech reveals that the personal actant and the grammatical subject are related but not identical. The personal actant may or may not coincide with the subject, and in some cases, the personal element may be null. It is also plausible that similar relationships exist between the actants of affirmation-negation, mood-modality, tense, and the various sentence extensions. Naturally, in order to elevate this hypothesis to a scientific truth, it is necessary to study in detail the relationships between affirmation-negation, mood-modality, tense actants, and sentence extensions. This represents one of the important unresolved tasks facing our field.

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