

## ON THE FUNCTIONS OF CONSTRUCTIONS THAT COMPLICATE THE SENTENCE STRUCTURE

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*The article is devoted to the study of the functions of constructions that complicate the sentence structure.*

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A simple sentence may be complicated by words and constructions that, for one reason or another, become included in its structure but do not enter into a subordinating relationship with its members; that is, they do not form word combinations with them and show no grammatical dependence on them. In this sense, parenthetical constructions are considered grammatically unrelated to the members of the sentence. Their main common function is the expression of subjective modality, i.e., the speaker's attitude toward what is being communicated.

Parenthetical and inserted constructions are well known in the Russian literary language. In studying these syntactic units, modern linguists note that parenthetical components do not contain additional information but merely express the speaker's attitude toward the utterance, provide an overall evaluation of the message, and indicate the source of information, its connection with the context, etc. The evaluative, modal, emotional, and expressive meanings represent the leading semantic functions of parenthetical constructions. Inserted components, on the other hand, often carry important information, without which the main sentence would lack a communicative nuance significant to the author [2, p.176].

In The Russian Grammar, the group of parenthetical words and word combinations includes a fairly extensive and easily expandable set of lexico-syntactic units—word forms and, to varying degrees, fixed expressions that convey an attitude toward the content of the utterance or its characteristics: an expressive reaction to the statement; emphasis or highlighting of a particular part of it; characterization of the message in terms of its connections and relations, reliability or unreliability; its temporal aspect; and reference of the statement to its source. The following features are considered characteristic of parenthetical words and expressions:

1. Their composition does not include words with concrete-objective meaning. From a lexico-semantic perspective, this group is limited to verbs, nouns, adverbs, and phraseological units expressing meanings of thought, speech, perception, evaluation,



emotional, intellectual, volitional, and habitual states, as well as various relations, connections, dependencies, measures, degrees, or qualities of quantity.

2. From the viewpoint of grammatical organization, this group is rather diverse. It includes conjugated verb forms, infinitives, gerunds, nouns and pronominal nouns in various case forms (with or without prepositions), adverbs, predicatives, as well as verbal and nominal phraseological expressions. In most cases, parenthetical words and expressions preserve active lexical and grammatical ties with their corresponding notional words and paradigms. Such ties are lost or weakened only in phraseological units (of course, frankly speaking, to tell the truth, by the way, in the end, at least, on the whole, etc.) and in a small number of parenthetical words such as certainly, firstly, secondly, etc. [3, p.218].

A.M. Peshkovsky considers parenthetical constructions to be “foreign elements,” internally alien to the sentence that accommodates them. However, their “alienness” lies only in their isolated position and their intonational and grammatical separateness within the sentence. In terms of meaning, they are closely and directly connected with the content of the utterance.


Inserted constructions contain additional information or incidental remarks. They clarify, explain, or comment on the main sentence in various ways.

Both parenthetical and inserted constructions are intonationally marked within the sentence and separated from it. They are characterized by a special intonation of parenthesis, which is realized either as inclusion or as exclusion intonation. This intonation is typically marked by a lowering of the voice and an accelerated tempo of pronunciation compared to the general intonation of the rest of the sentence. Parenthetical units are usually pre-planned as part of the utterance, whereas inserted ones appear unplanned, giving the impression of spontaneity, which enhances their pragmatic prominence.

There is no strict boundary between parenthetical and inserted constructions. The clearest opposition exists between parenthetical units with modal meanings and inserted constructions semantically unrelated to the main statement. Between these poles lies a transitional zone where, with varying degrees of semantic, structural, and intonational detachment, function parenthetical and inserted words, word combinations, and clauses [1, p.162].

An address is a word (or a group of words) naming the person (or thing) to whom the speech is directed. The main function of the address is to prompt the listener’s attention and to draw focus to the message; therefore, addresses are often expressed by proper names, surnames, kinship terms, and similar forms. In modern Russian, the address may coincide with the subject not only in form but also partially in meaning, since both denote a person. However, while the subject names the doer or the bearer of a feature, the address





serves to attract attention. To distinguish the address from the subject, it is essential to recognize the grammatical relationship of the subject with other parts of the sentence, particularly the predicate. Even when included within a sentence, the address does not become its member—it has no coordinative or subordinative connection with other words and retains its syntactic independence and positional detachment.

Apart from its primary function of attracting the listener's attention, the address may also have an evaluative function, when the named person (or object) is given an emotional or attitudinal characterization.

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