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IS DUMMY "IT" DUMMY IN DISCOURSE?

The substitution words like one, do, and it, etc. are frequently used in Modern English. The corpus analysis based on the BNC has registered 1045013 cases of "it" (the total –100mln) in Modern English. These units are traditionally considered semantically bleached, but they fill the position of the original units and corefer with them, accordingly, they are easily decoded from the semantics of the sentence or discourse. David Crystal also calls them prop words or dummy words and specifies that in the grammatial classification into parts of speech they refer to one or two of the postulated major classes classes. Empty words are said to refer to the words which have no lexical meaning and whose function, is solely to express grammatical relationship.This is also known as a syntactic expletive or a dummy subject. Whereas the following article is an attempt to prove the opposite.

The fact is that "it" synthesizes preceding textual information in order to contribute to the cohesive construction of texts" (Ariel, 1999), then the question of the status of "it" is rather debative and needs a thorough investigation. We can't find an antecedent in thevsentence of the type It's spring as well

as in It's snowing. Traditionally, the scholars state that referential pronouns must have an antecedent. But what is the antecedent of "it" in the given sentences – we believe in this case "it" represents the situation preceding, present or fututure based on our life and language experience.

Further studies may discuss several issues: the representation of this kind of pronoun on the syntactical, semantic, pragmatic and discourse levels within a contrastive framework.

Key words: pronoun, dummy word, prop word, sntence, discourse, contextual meaning.

Основним доробком даної роботи є емпіричний аналіз речень та текстових фрагментів з різними типами займенника «it» : вказівний, емфатичний, ввідний, безособовий, вказівний тощо. (Thomson, 1986). Дослідження зосереджено на смислових типах ситуацій із займенником та його залежності від інтенції мовця та структури речення. Автор у пошуках доказів того, що «it» має три типи значення у структурі дискурсу

Ключові слова: займенник, слово-субститут, десемантизований, речення, дискурс, контекстне значення

PRELIMANARIES. Sweet defines a prop word as the word when used as a substitute for a noun, his definition coincideswith the definition of the pronoun [29;18], see its etymology: mid-15c., from pro- and noun; modeled on Middle French pronom, from Latin pronomen, from pro "in place of" + nomen "name, noun" (from PIE root *no-men- "name". A loan-translation of Greek antonymia. We sometimes use substitutional words like one, do, and it, etc. They are traditionally considered semantically bleached, but they fill the position of the original units and co-refer with them, therefore they are easily decoded from the semantics of the sentence or discourse. David Crystal calls them prop words or dummy words and specifies that in the grammatial classification into parts of speech they refer to one or two of the postulated major classes. Empty words are said to refer to the words which have no lexical meaning and whose function, is solely to express grammatical relationship. This is also known as a syntactic expletive or a dummy subject. The dummies fill a syntactic position that has been left empty after the transformation [16, p.9]. The following sections of the article will reveal their contextual semantics.

DISCUSSION. W come across dummy pronouns, as they're called, all the time. They're those pronouns [18, p.389] that exist only because the English language demands that each sentence contain a subject: the it in 'It's raining.' In psycholinguistics the singular, third person personal pronoun is also the most well-studied referential form. [25, p.922; see also 17] The recurring claim one encounters in the literature is that pronoun use requires a high degree of activation of the referent in the cognitive state of the comprehender, a concept variously referred to as being prominent, salient, accessible, in focus, or the centre of attention, among other characterizations [see 7, p. 601; 4; 13; 12; 5]. Speakers produce pronouns to denote referents that they believe to be prominent in the comprehender's mental model of the discourse at the time of utterance, and, correspondingly, comprehenders interpret pronouns referring them to such entities. In the case of reference, the meaning of a dummy word can be determined by what is imparted before or after the occurrence of the dummy subject [2, p.20]. In some cases we need to use a 'dummy' or 'empty' or 'artificial' subject when there is no subject attached to the verb, or where there is a subject somewhere else in the clause. It and there are the two dummy subjects used in English,e.g.:

It was interesting to find out about the history of your family To find out.

However, "it synthesizes preceding textual information in order to contribute to the cohesive construction of texts" [4, p.217], then the question of the status of "it" is rather debative and needs a thorough investigation. Newson and Szécsényi (2012, p. 80) state that "dummy, is a meaningless element which serves only for grammatical purposes". Similarly, Aarts (2013, p. 247) defines dummy elements as "lexical elements without semantic content, i.e., they are meaningless".

Newson and Czecsenyi share the opinion of most of the schorlars on semantic emptinessof the dummy subjects [19, p.80; see also11, p.247]. In the the process of corpus analysis we shall give some evidence of the significant distribution,contextual meaning and dummy subjects dependency [cf Newson and Czecseny who point to a small semantic content of the dummies [19, p.85].

The functional paradigm of it:

1. "It" -anticipatory. With verbs such as find or consider, it + adjective + that clause or it + adjective + to infinitive, are commonly used to anticipate an subject [8, p.260]. We also use it to introduce or 'anticipate' the subject or object of a sentence, especially when the subject or object of the sentence is a clause. Most

commonly, such clauses are to + infinitive a or that-clause. We also call this use of it a 'dummy' subject, since the real subject is another part of the sentence .

2. "It" – introductory. Although it is asubject, it does not contribute to the meaning of the clause, and is often known as a 'dummy' subject. English prefers to have old, or shared, information at the beginning of a clause and new information at the end of a clause. If a clause does not contain any old information, having it as Subject allows all the new information to be placed at the end of a clause [see also 12, p.4].

3. "It" -dummy subject or object. We can use it as an 'empty' subject or as an 'empty' object. It is 'empty' because it doesn't refer to anything in particular. We do not share Carter's opinion [8, p.260] because there is a transformation of pro-nominalization: when the referent was last mentioned in the previous clause, the pronoun use is also sensitive to syntactic prominence. Pronouns are more likely to be used for reference to something last mentioned in the subject position [see also 15, p.922-3]. In transformational grammar substitution is considered to be Transformation of Prominalization – I have read the book   It is an interesting book which required by the discourse cohesion rules [see 20; 9]. "Since it is the most neutral and semantically ummarked of the personal pronouns, "it" is used as an   empty or 'prop' subject [22, p.348-349, see also1, p.193-4]. The interpretation of "it" can be ambiguous: whether it refers to the book itself or to reading the book. "Each of these interpretations can be assumed to be in speaker`s focus of attention" [see 13, p.132].

4. "It"-demonstrative (introductory it). Leech writes that it and there are used as introductory subjects in special kindsof sentence pattern [16, p.58]. We use it, this, that to introduce further information about the item already mentioned [8, p.261]. In most cases this and it are interchangeable. The speaker can choose either pronoun from the three it, this, that according to his/her strategy: This is your book : It is your book. Eastwood admits that "it" can substitute the demonstrative 'this' when we mention something the second time [11, p.175].

5. "It" -hedging. The verbs appear, seem, look, occur as hedge together with "it" or soften the statement, making it less direct. Hedging is a common linguistic phenomenon present in both written and spoken speech. It is a communicative strategy that results in the weakening of the illocutionary force of the statement that otherwise makes it sound rude, impolite or straightforward [8, p.258-9]. The term hedge was introduced by G. Lakoff (1972). He characterizes hedges as words or expressions which are used to "make things fuzzier or less fuzzy" [15, p.195] and claims that they are used to attenuate the meaning of an expression (sort of, a little bit), or, on the contrary, to reinforce its certain characteristics (very, really, extremely [15, p.458-9].

6. "It"-cleft sentences: We use it in cleft sentences. It emphasizes the subject or object of the main clause. It introduces new information. Quirk et al. consider "the so-called cleft sentence a grammatical device", though the scholars add that "it enables the user to select which element of the sentence will be highlighted" [22, p.89], e.g.: It is the University of Gibraltar that attracts young people. A cleft sentence is a complex sentence in which a simple sentence is expressed using a main clause and a subordinate clause. In English the prototypical cleft sentence has the following form: it + be + X + subordinate clause, where X can be a constituent of one of many varieties. X and the subordinate clause together carry the same meaning as their corresponding simple sentence. However, the primary focus of the cleft construction is on an element, often marked by intonation that introduces new information. This element appears either as X or in the subordinate clause [22, p.1383–1384] Eastwood stresses that the given structure mirrors the speaker's emphasis, his/her emotional state [11, p.50].

7. "It" –passive. The construction with anticipatory it + the passive voice co-occurs with the infinitive clause [22, p. 164]. For instance, in the sentence: 'Thus it is believed that the King's University is the centre of innovative technologiesi, the subject is not identified, as the emphasis is on the action of "believing." This leaves the question of who believes and whether the King's University is the centre of innovative technologies open.

8. "It"-hedge. Prokofieva and Hirschberg define hedging as a phenomenon in which a speaker communicates a lack of commitment to what is being said [21, p.1].

Reference concerns the relation between a discourse element and a preceeding or following element. Reference deals with a semantic relationship, whereas substitution and ellipsis deal the relationship between grammatical units: words, sentence parts and clauses. In the case of reference, the meaning of a dummy word can be determined by what is imparted before or after the dummy word. The most frequent dummy word is a pronoun [23, p.104]. Renkema in his next book specifies that the pronoun can be used as a means of grammatical substitution, i.e replacement of a constituent with a'dummy' word.

to express the discourse cohesion (or connectivity) and this substitution can be expressed via constituent with which it has a referencerelation [24, p.29].

Our tentative conclusion is that the use of "it" is primarily marked by the addressor's dependence, while its structure dependence is a secondary one.

CORPUS ANALYSIS. Dummy is a term used in linguistics to refer to a formal grammatical element introduced into a structure or an analysis to ensure that a grammatical sentence is produced. In English the requirement that finite clauses have a preverbal subject is very strong. Therefore, even in contexts where the subject occurs late in the clause English makes use of dummy pronouns in subject position. The initial subject, the dummy, takes part in syntactic operations characteristic of subjects in general. The second subject, the postponed subject, also has subject properties, in particular it agrees in number and person with the predicate verb. A part from their formal role 'dummy elements" have no meaning – they are semantically empty – persistently repeat the scholars [27, p.218]. The function of the transformations used in the text fragments is to organize sentences so that the important material comes last.

Frequency of it-cases in the BNC is 1045013 (the total –100mln)

(i)   Most of it-cases are used in the function of a dummy-subjects [see 3, p.383]. e.g.:

It was technical jargon about his physique, state of health.

It was a disappointment.

(ii)   It + verbs of the seem-type

It seems curious to look at the stars.

Here we can differentiate between it+time:

It's five o'clock in the morning!

Do you know what time it is?

It's a little past 1 P.M. here.

It-place:

It's home.

It can't be more than a yard in diameter.

"It"-weather (It'sunny).

    (iii) "It"-+ adjective + that clause or infintive.

it may be possible to settle costs advantageously on this basis.

It is significant that, as Brooke-Rose elsewhere notes.

it is important to interview both (or more) parties.

    (iv) Or a pronominal object, e.g.:

I was passing it over to to Steve

It's not just because of promises either, you know, not generally.

Now I mean it, I mean.

Like it?

The driver swung the car around and brought it to a stop.

    (v) "It"-Passive, when the agent of an action is not disclosed.

It's buried six stories below the earth.

It was not included in the original estimate.

It is then followed by a' latent' period during which time the virus appears.

 It's supposed to be at the far end."

The passive transformation is sometimes said to emphasize the underlying object of a sentence, presumably because it is placed in the initial position by the transformation.

    (vi) "It"-ntroductory it in the cleft sentences. Let's consider now sentences with derived dummy subjects. The derived subject is also a dummy one. Indirectly the dummy subject emphasizes the topic NP, by postponing yet anticipating it. [27, p.231], e.g.:

It is only two years since the League turned to a three-division format

It was Max who made a report.

(vii) It+tag:

I could only find one, so. In the briefcase weren't it?

It doesn't taste nice, doesn't it?

Flying's not a problem for you, is it, sir?

Particle physics is the study of atoms, isn't it

    (viii) it + Veb [hedge] +clause.

The initial phrases in the sentences can reveal that the speaker is conscious of the quantity maxim. It is considered to be hedging which is a behavior wherein speakers or writers attempt to distance themselves from the proposition they are communicating [21]. Boncea gives a list of language meanswhich can express hedging: modal auxiliaries, lexical-modal verbs, adjectival, adverbial, and nominal phrases, approximates of degree, quantity, frequency and time, discourse epistemic phrases, if clauses, negative constructions, compound, and multiple hedging [6, p.10]. We would add one more means 'it+ verb (of theseem/believe type, e.g.:

It seems he is not right. In the given construction the speaker hedges against an unpleasant statement or unwanted that might affect th eaddressee protecting him/her from it.

Studies on expletive subject pronoun representation have focused on its semantic emptiness and its non-referential (non-endophoric) status. The construction including an expletive subject pronoun governed by finite verbal clause is commonly identified as impersonal construction.

To prove that an approach to the initial "it"-construction is rather traditional and avoids new trends in linguistic analysis we shall consider the following two text fragments [cf 5, p.137] from the novel "Angels&Demons" by Dan Brown:

(1) Your father has told me only two things about your current project. One, that it has the potential to bring CERN millions of francs in licensing contracts in the next decade. And two, that it is not ready for public disclosure because it is still hazardous technology.

The correlation of these three chains "Project it; project it; project it" helps the addressee (1) decode one and the same referent; (2) fix its distribution, and comprehend the contextual meaning of it.

(2) Langdon bought his father a tiny blown-glass rose for Christmas. It was the most beautiful thing Langdon had ever seen... the way the sun caught it, throwing a rainbow of colors on the wall. "It's lovely," his father had said when he opened it, kissing Robert on the forehead. "Let's find a safe spot for it."

The referent rose it it it it it correlates 5 times with it: the close correlation of the referent and the unt it supports the text fragment cohesion [26, p.217]; due to this chain the reader keeps in mind the referent and its distribution in the text and reveal the cotextual

FINDINGS AND PERSPECTIVES. We can't find an antecedent in It's spring as well as in It's snowing. Traditionally, the scholars state that referential pronouns must have have an antecedent. But what is the antecedent of it the given sentences – we believe in thiscase it represents the situation either preceding, or present, or fututure based on our life and language expererience.The definition of a dummy word as a grammatical unit that has no meaning, but completes a sentence to make it grammatical is not clear because it does not include its contextual meaning, its distribution, and sentence/discourse cohesive function which help the hearer/reader decode the author's intention meaning.

Further studies may discuss several issues: the representation of this kind of pronoun on the syntactical, semantic, pragmatic and discourse levels within a contrastive framework.

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ЗВУКОСИМВОЛІЧНІ ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ФОНЕСТЕМНИХ ДІЄСЛІВ МОВЛЕННЯ НІМЕЦЬКОЇ МОВИ

У статті досліджено символічні властивості початкових сполучень приголосних (фонестем) у сучасній німецькій мові на прикладі аналізу фонестемної лексики на позначення лексем «мовлення», що за морфологічною структурою виступають дієсловами. Початкові звукосполучення фонестемної лексики досліджено за допомогою компонентної та статистичної методики, а саме: компонентного аналізу словникових дефініцій; критерію χ-квадрат та коефіцієнта взаємної спряженості.

Ключові слова: дієслова мовлення – VERBA DICENDI, фоносемантика, фонестема, фонестемна лексика, звукосимволічне значення.