

## Pleonasm as a Phenomenon of Speech Redundancy

Artikova Shakhnoza Mahamadovna

Lecturer at the Department of Foreign Languages Fergana State University

**Abstract:** The article examines such a linguistic phenomenon as pleonasm - an ambiguous figure of speech, which is often regarded as a stylistic error, but often performs important communicative functions. The research material was speech facts extracted from the texts of the media - the World Wide Web, since this source is constantly updated by native speakers of the Russian language and therefore reflects the real use of speech units at the present time. The author of the article comes to the conclusion that a fairly large number of phrases, which in classical stylistics manuals refer to pleonasms, have quite firmly entered the modern language and have become widely used. It is necessary to pay attention to such phrases when teaching Russian to future translators.

**Keywords:** speech redundancy, pleonasm, function in communication, informal and formal speech, stylistic effect, necessary redundancy.

Language as a means of communication arises and develops in society. He cannot exist outside of society. V. Humboldt in his work “On the difference in the structure of human languages and its influence on the spiritual development of the human race” wrote: “Language always develops in society, and a person understands himself insofar as experience has established that his words are also understandable to others” [Humboldt, 1984].

The development of language occurs under the influence of political, economic, cultural and other socially significant phenomena. To be convinced of this, it is enough to recall the changes that occurred in the Russian language as a result of the socio-economic reforms of Peter I, the social upheavals caused by the revolution of 1917, the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945, and in the last period - “perestroika” the last years of the past century.

The social essence of language does not deny the fact that it, being a living organism, is capable of developing according to immanent (its own) laws. The language itself determines what can exist in it, what is necessary for its development, and what, on the contrary, is redundant and contributes to clogging.

It is well known that many foreign borrowings introduced into the Russian language in the era of Peter the Great are still actively used, despite the fact that the normalizing activities of the Slavists of the post-Petrine period (V.K. Trediakovsky, M.V. Lomonosov, “Shishkovists” etc.) sought to rid the Russian language of these foreign words [see: Serman, 1963].

One cannot but agree with the opinion that the language system

“is created and modified by the collective efforts of those who use it... New things in speech experience that do not fit into the framework of the language system, but work, are functionally appropriate, lead to restructuring in it, and each successive state of the language system serves as a basis for comparison in subsequent processing of speech experience. Thus, language develops and changes in the process of speech functioning, and at each stage of this development the language system inevitably contains elements that have not completed the process of change. Therefore, various fluctuations and variations are inevitable in any language” [Sokolova, 1995].

One of the interesting examples of the collision in speech of borrowed and original forms (although it is worth making a reservation here, since original forms can also be understood as those forms that were borrowed and assimilated by the language in earlier periods) is pleonasm - an ambiguous figure of speech, which is often regarded as a stylistic error, but often performs important communicative functions.

The term “pleonasm” (Greek *pleonasmos* “excess”), which came to us from ancient stylistics and grammar, means verbosity, the use of words that are superfluous not only for semantic completeness, but also for stylistic expressiveness; duplication of some senses or the presence of several linguistic forms with similar meaning.

Ancient authors assessed the communicative significance of pleonasm differently: Quintilian, Donatus, Diomedes define pleonasm as an overload of speech with unnecessary words, and therefore as a stylistic defect. On the contrary, Dionysius of Halicarnassus defines this figure as the enrichment of speech with words that at first glance are superfluous, but in reality give it clarity, strength, rhythm, persuasiveness, and pathos, which are not possible in laconic speech.

From the point of view of communication theory, pleonasm is one of the manifestations of a necessary property of speech, namely its redundancy (Yu. Naida, G.V. Chernov, etc.). If speech were not redundant to some extent, it would be incomprehensible and would not be perceived. As noted by O.S. Akhmanova, despite the fact that the level of redundancy in different languages fluctuates within very small limits (60-70%), redundancy can be considered a universal property of language in general [see: Akhmanova].

Redundancy reduces the “information load” of the message, which has a beneficial effect on the possibilities of its perception. The less informatively loaded the text, the easier it is to understand.

Quite often in real communication they resort to pleonasm in order to convey a thought to the interlocutor. It is known that oral speech is not fully perceived. Pleonasm, as a form of speech redundancy, can contribute to more complete perception. Therefore, it is impossible to make a final decision regarding the advisability of using certain pleonastic expressions.

Pleonasm represents one of the implementations of the tendency towards message redundancy (manifested in multiple encoding, duplication of blocks of information during transmission, signal amplification, etc.), common to various communication systems, which include natural language. Redundancy is a means of overcoming interference that occurs in the transmission channel or at reception and does not allow the recipient to adequately and completely decode (understand) the message. Such interference in oral speech communication may include noise (for example, a conversation taking place in a subway car), distraction of the listener's attention, and other factors. In a written text, interferences include, among other things, illegibility of handwriting, insufficient print quality, distraction or reduction of the reader's attention [see, for example: Encyclopedia around the World].

In language there is an eternal struggle between its informational and expressive functions, between the desire for accuracy and ambiguity and the desire for an expansive and non-trivial use of words. This causes instability of language norms, sometimes even the loss of some words' original meaning, pronunciation and spelling.

The reasons for the functioning of pleonastic constructions in speech are very diverse. Among them are:

- Following tradition. Thus, pleonasm is common when expressing certain types of quantitative and spatial meanings in colloquial and clerical speech (*час времени, сто рублей денег, в апреле месяце, спуститься вниз с горы*);

- the desire for completeness of the reported information, coupled with a lack of linguistic competence, in particular, a misunderstanding of the meaning of terms or foreign words and expressions (*мы должны быть толерантными и терпимыми; этот навильон предназначен для отдыха и рекреации; актуальное сообщение на злободневную тему; у нас есть свободные вакансии*). This kind of pleonasm is characteristic of common speech;
- Creating a certain stylistic effect. This kind of pleonasm is characteristic primarily of artistic speech. For example: *Я буду помнить... тебя в своей голове; ответил... из своего высохшего рта (А. Платонов); Начал отдыхать. И сразу, знаете, об- наружилась очень чрезвычайная скука (М. Зощенко)*.
- Pleonasms are also different in their composition. Among them are:
  - a combination of an adjective and a noun in which the meaning of the adjective to a certain extent duplicates the meaning contained in the noun (*наступил тёмный мрак*);
  - a combination of two unambiguous (synonymous) nouns, perceived as designations of different, although homogeneous concepts (*слышались брань и ругательства*);
  - a combination of two synonymous adjectives (he lived in a small little room);
  - a combination of a verb and an adverb (we were getting closer and closer);
  - a combination of two unambiguous (synonymous) verbs (*мы помнили и не забывали его советов*).

Pleonastic combinations are also formed as a result of ignorance of the exact meaning of a foreign word or its careless use next to Russian: *криминальное преступление, движущий лейтмотив, гуманность и человеколюбие и т.д.*

From the point of view of semantic structure, two large semantic models can be distinguished among pleonasms, in which there is a repetition of some differential semes:

- complete coincidence of semes, when there is no clarification (not necessary): *ареал обитания, биография жизни, своя автобиография и т.д.*;
- Partial coincidence of semes, when the clarification carries additional information, expands the content of the concept: *ведущий лидер, безопасное укрытие и т.д.*

It is the clarifying pleonasms (i.e., the pleonasms of the second model) that, as a rule, gradually enter the language and are no longer perceived as erroneous. An example of the loss of speech redundancy is the combination «*период времени*» (foreign language Russian word). In the past, this expression was considered tautological, since the word “period” means “time” in Greek in origin. However, the word “period” gradually acquired the meaning of “a period of time”, and therefore the expression “period of time” became possible.

For the same reasons, combinations such as «*реальная действительность*», «*экспонаты выставки*», «*букинистическая книга*» and some others, because in them definitions have ceased to be a simple repetition of the main feature already contained in the word being defined.

Pleonasm is a common phenomenon in translation. In translation, there are two opposite poles: the necessary redundancy, which facilitates the perception of speech, since “when translating, it is necessary to create additional redundancy in the translation text itself in order to balance the lack of it in the translation receptor and thus avoid excessive information load” [Komisarov, 1999, p. 53]. On the other hand, translation verbosity is a drawback of translation. In this regard, it is interesting to recall the examples of translation verbosity given by K.I. Chukovsky in his “High Art” [see: Chukovsky, 1968].

Thus, training future translators in the norms of using the Russian language requires a careful attitude towards pleonasms. In order to understand how pleonasms function in modern Russian speech, a small study was conducted.

The purpose of this study was to identify and display trends in the use of pleonasms in the modern Russian language, i.e. an attempt to understand how common pleonasms are in speech and whether the number of errors of this type is critical.

The research material was speech facts extracted from the texts of the media - the World Wide Web, since this source is constantly updated and supplemented by native speakers of the Russian language (meaning the Russian-speaking part of the Internet) and therefore reflects the real usage of speech units at the present time.

The study was carried out as follows: in one of the most popular search engines on the Russian-language Internet, twenty-three examples of pleonasm, which are most often given in various textbooks on stylistics in the section “Speech redundancy,” were tested for usability in turn.

The study was carried out as follows: in one of the most popular search engines on the Russian-language Internet, twenty-three examples of pleonasm, which are most often given in various textbooks on stylistics in the section “Speech redundancy,” were tested for usability in turn.

## References

1. Ахманова О.С. О точных методах исследования языка. М., 1961.
2. Вильгельм фон Гумбольдт. Избранные труды по языкознанию / Пер. Г.В. Рамишвили. М.: Прогресс, 1984.
3. Комиссаров В.Н. Общая теория перевода. М., 1999.
4. Ожегов С.И., Шведова Н.Ю. Толковый словарь русского языка. М., 1999.
5. Серман И. Русская литература XVIII века и перевод // Мастерство перевода. М., 1963.
6. Соколова В.В. Культура речи и культура общения. М.: Просвещение, 1995.
7. Чуковский К.И. Высокое искусство. М., 1968. Энциклопедия Кругосвет. [http://www.krugosvet.ru/enc/gumanitarnye\\_nauki/lingvistika/PLEONAZM.html](http://www.krugosvet.ru/enc/gumanitarnye_nauki/lingvistika/PLEONAZM.html)