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# Incomplete Sentences as a Unit of Speech

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**ABSTRACT:** Incomplete utterances are units of speech that are created in the process of speech activity, in accordance with the law of economy of linguistic means and are used to actualize, highlight information that is important from the point of view of communicants. The practical significance of the article lies in the fact that the results of the work can be used when giving lectures on the modern English language, when developing a special course on the problems of text linguistics and the functioning of an utterance, as well as methodological recommendations.

**KEYWORDS:** definition, incomplete sentence, internal, incompleteness, situation, complete, speech factor.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The modern approach to the analysis of syntactic units of different levels is characterized by the desire for a comprehensive description of their structural organization, semantic content and patterns of functioning. All these aspects have traditionally been a point of view of linguists, but the leading position in this triad was occupied by the structural organization. Linguistic pragmatics has created conditions for the study of various units of the language from the standpoint of a functional approach, taking into account the peculiarities of the speech activity of communicants. With the new approach, an inextricable link between language and linguistic personality is presented, which manifests itself in texts and through text.

The semantic load of syntactic units in a literary text is less noticeable than the significance of linguistic means of other levels (for example, vocabulary). At the same time, the conscious use of individual syntactic units in a certain context, and especially in convergence with other syntactic units, is an effective means of both expressing the author's intentions and the formation of additional author's conceptual meanings.

## II. RELATED WORK

Over the past century, incomplete sentences have repeatedly been the subject of special research. In linguistics, the concept of a structural scheme of a sentence, questions of structural and semantic sufficiency or insufficiency were developed, factors influencing the appearance of incomplete predicative units were also touched upon. This problem has received wide coverage in the works of I.A. Popova [1954]; EAT. Galkina-Fedoruk [1959]; A.P. Gvozdev [1961]; A.P. Skovorodnikov [1966]; P.A. Lecant [1966]; A.L. Faktorovich [1989]; A.A. Chuvakina [1973], E.N. Shiryayeva [1970], L.V. Lisochenko [1992] and others, but it is too early to speak about the completeness of the study and the exhaustion of the subject, since a number of issues remain unresolved, connected, *firstly*, with paradigmatics, syntagmatics and semantics of incomplete sentences, and *secondly*, with their paradigmatic potential, *thirdly*, with the specifics of "behavior" in discourse (the process of generating speech) and in the text. The question of the criteria of incompleteness (formal and semantic) also remains open. If the criterion of incompleteness of an isolated sentence considered is its semantic incompleteness, then almost all of our speech will be composed of sentences "incomplete in meaning". Even a significant part of formally complete sentences of coherent speech taken out of context do not express the completeness of thought that they possess in context. On the other hand, many types of formally incomplete statements. Thus, the relevance of our research is determined by its focus on the analysis of the functioning of an incomplete statement in the text.

**For example:** *Tatiana into the forest, the bear is behind her.*

*Татьяна в лес, медведьзаней.* (А.С. Пушкин)

The analysis of constructions with unsubstituted syntactic positions convinces us that they are typical of the modern English language and are widely used in English literature. For works of art of the early 20th century, constructions are characteristic that create a ragged syntax of the "stream of consciousness". Its main features are "lapidity, laconism, compressedness, condensedness of thought, disharmony, intonation arrhythmia, illusion of conversationality, orality, spontaneity of speech, dynamism, fragmentation and dismemberment" [Pokrovskaya E.A. 2001, p-119]. Meanwhile, in modern texts of different styles, the use of incomplete predicative constructions has become more active. "Syntactic incompleteness," notes E.A. Pokrovskaya becomes again (after a surge at the beginning of the century) an active syntactic phenomenon "[ E.A.Pokrovskaya.2001.p-221].As a result of the rupture of grammatical ties and relations,

which is a formal indicator of syntactic incompleteness, the structure of the utterance is dismembered. Violating the harmony of the classical sentence, incomplete models act, on the one hand as constructions of actualizing syntax, on the other hand they take part in the expansion of the colloquial-speech element become a specific feature of the “*stream of consciousness*” syntax.

### III. METHODOLOGY

In accordance with the main goals and objectives of the study, the article uses the following methods and techniques of linguistic research:

- the method of linguistic observation and system description, which allows to analyze the form and semantics;
- stylistic and compositional role of the units under consideration; a semantic-contextual method that determines the features of the syntagmatics of the analyzed units and their linguistic environment in a literary text.

### IV. RESULTS

English linguistic science has made significant progress in the study of such a widespread phenomenon (both in colloquial speech and in literary works of the 20th century) as incomplete sentences. The use of an integrated approach made it possible to highlight the main features of an incomplete sentence both in the formal-semantic and functional-communicative terms. The concept of syntactic incompleteness includes incomplete contextual, incomplete situational and elliptical sentences, despite the fact that the latter are capable of acting in isolation. In the text, incomplete contextual and situational sentences are delimited by the amount of context required to make up the meaning. Incomplete statements, characterized by syn-semantics and traditionally considered a feature of dialogical speech, are widely represented in different types of text in monologue speech. The main reason for their use is the actualization of current information, drawing the attention of the recipient to the actions of the hero, which creates a dynamic progression of the text.

The role of incomplete statements in the actual division of the text and the formation of its communicative orientation is significant. When an element of a sentence is omitted, its actual division changes. Functioning not only as an independent unit, incomplete predicative units can be a component of a complex sentence. In it, they act as an additional means of communication, since their incompleteness is a way of entering a predicative unit into a statement. Here we can generally talk about the incompleteness specified by the conditions for the functioning of the predicative unit in the statement. An incomplete utterance that functions in dialogue is always syn-semantic, but unlike an incomplete sentence in a monologue speech, the means of semantic replenishment is not the context, but the speech situation, discourse. When creating a dialogue, the most informative and expressively colored models are used, replenished with the help of paralinguistic and extralinguistic factors. Incomplete sentences are used in both stimulating, cues, and reaction cues. Formal incompleteness organizes dialogue, acting as a means of connecting elements. The dialectical nature of the phenomenon of syntactic incompleteness is manifested in the fact that, incomplete sentences also perform a number of text-forming functions. We saw that sentences with an unsubstituted syntactic position constitute an utterance capable of moving the text, actualizing information, linking parts of the text, introducing subjectively modal coloring into it. One of the most important aspects of our work was the consideration of syntagmatics: direct and distant environment of the investigated units. Interacting with other syntactic units (full sentences, parceling, improperly direct speech), incomplete sentences significantly expand the boundaries of their functioning. Thus, acting in convergence with the above-mentioned constructions (in the function of actualization), they realize the textual categories of continuum, prospectus, retrospection and integrity.

The prevalence of constructions with unsubstituted syntactic positions in literary works is explained by the high level of their expressiveness. They give the text dynamism, fragmentation, laconicism, disharmony, intonational arrhythmia, and also create the illusion of colloquiality, spontaneity of speech, combined with compressed, condensed thought. But the expressiveness of the text increases when several structures that are structurally and communicatively different in terms of structure appear in identical functions. Skillful combination of complete / incomplete, parceled and truncated constructions, as well as sentences of different purpose, leads to the complexity and syncretism of functions. Using the language of M.A. Bulgakov, we can note that the convergence of expressive syntactic structures in the author's speech serves the intonation-rhythmic organization of the text, the convergence of different types of speech (author's, direct, improperly direct), as well as artistic-figurative concretization of the depicted.

***Incomplete utterances are units of speech that are created in the process of speech activity, in accordance with the law of economy of linguistic means and are used to actualize, highlight information that is important from the point of view of communicants.***

Considering the correspondence of incomplete imperative sentences to certain speech acts, we take as a basis the classification of J. Searle and refer incomplete sentences of imperative semantics to directives. At the same time, the tasks of our research cause the need to distinguish among the directive speech acts their particular varieties: directives proper, voluntatives and emotives. Their illocutionary power is not the same, therefore, they have different effects on the listener, and also differ in the degree of categoricity, communicative intention, reflection of the psychological state of the communicants, as well as in the nature of the relationship between them. Incomplete sentences of imperative semantics correspond to certain genres of speech and certain speech acts. Speech act - proper to connect directives with the relations of the social hierarchy of the interlocutors, which follow Genres of Speech, presented in the form of incomplete imperative sentences: words, sentences. According to Yanru Commands, or orders refer to incomplete cliché sentences used by representatives of certain professions or other social status, are recognized as a result, renounce the consequences. Incomplete imperative sentences-directives correspond to the scripts of the speech behavior of commanders in the army and navy, police officers:  
 “-To fight! Prepare pomegranates!” (V. Karpov. Take it alive.)

This sentence expresses the semantics of motivation for action and allows expressing the dynamism and authoritarianism of the constructs under consideration. The absence of a verb designating an action to be performed is not an obstacle to understanding and correct execution of the order due to the background knowledge of the communicants. In the context of direct, personal communication, such constructions are natural and normal, their use does not contradict the principles of Russian speech etiquette, they have semantic fullness, since their meaning is replenished by a situation of a certain type and the available background knowledge of the speakers. Incomplete imperative sentences – emotives serve the genre of an extreme situation. This can be, for example, cries for help (in case of an attack, fire, etc.), when a person begs for support: “-Help! - Vasisaly said in a whisper.” (Ilf and Petrov. Golden calf) The situation of using such an incomplete incentive remark in this case is determined by the fact that the desired action of the addressee - the incentive is dictated not so much by the intention of the will-make, but by the extremeness of the circumstances that have forced the communicants to act as little as possible. The examples given show a fairly wide scope of use of incomplete imperative sentences - voluntatives and emotives in colloquial speech in various situations of everyday and professional communication, as well as with a special emotional state of the speaker.

During the research, the studies on incomplete sentences theory and practice were investigated. The fallacy of the position expressed by A.I. Nazarov is also proved by the fact that, taking the sentence out of context (and in the analysis, as a rule, each sentence is considered in isolation, outside its context), we can hardly talk about any semantic completeness of the sentence. It was on this basis that I. Popova came to the conclusion that **“if the criterion for determining incompleteness is an isolated consideration of proposals to consider its semantic incompleteness, then almost all of our speech not only oral, dialogical, but book-written, will be composed of incomplete - according to the meaning of the sentences. Indeed, a significant part of formally complete sentences of connected speech taken out of context, does not express the fullness of thought that they possess in context”**. The semantic connection of context sentences and the relative ambiguity of an isolated sentence finds its expression in various means: in the use of pronouns (personal and indicative), allied particles, conjunctions at the beginning of the sentence, introductory words and other means. For example, sentences: *His political work is smaller in volume and narrower in range than that of his two great contemporaries, but it reflects more clearly than the poetry of either, the collapse of faith that was a tragedy in many sincere lives of the period.* /G. Sampson. The Concise Cambridge History of English Literature. The sentence is not only complete, but also complex in structure; nevertheless, it cannot be considered complete in meaning, and even generally clear in terms of content without a sentence preceding it, which reveals the substantive relevance of personal pronouns in this sentence: Eminent alike as poet and critic, Matthew Arnold holds a place of singular distinction among Victorian writers. But even this later does not bring complete clarity without a more extensive previous context, since the content of the group *two great contemporaries* remains unclear. When the proposal is in context and the researcher considers it as a particle of the whole, it acquires a fullness of meaning.

## V. CONCLUSION

In our opinion, the results of the work open up further prospects for studying the problem of syntactic incompleteness, taking into account syntagmatics (interaction with border structures) and the communicative division of the sentence, in which we see one of the confirmations of the theoretical value of our article.

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