Original Research Paper

Theoretical Overview of the Structure and Development of Collocations

Dardane BOJAXHI[*]

ABSTRACT

The object of this paper are the collocations in the historical view and the Albanian-German approach. Linguistic practice has proven that words in relation to each other are often a choice of the individual, always relying on the purpose and needs that arise in human communication. When it comes to learning a foreign language, we need to be aware that it is not enough just to know the meanings of words to be appreciated and speak and understand that language. As part of our efforts to teach a foreign language, which in our case is German, we come across a group of words that are known in German linguistics by the name collocations. Collocations can be approximated or equated with idioms, phrases, or phraseological Units. They can be treated from a semantic point of view (as an idiomatic or semi-idiomatic unit) in terms of lexical-semantic compatibility. In linguistic studies, in the last 50 years, special attention has been paid to collocations, especially in German-speaking countries.

Keywords: Collocation, Albanian, German, structure, criterion.

1. INTRODUCTION

The term collocation is used in several ways and describes various linguistic phenomena. In the narrow sense, collocations are linguistic phenomena that play an important role in syntagmatic studies of the lexical level and are related to the combination of vocabulary elements. In a broad sense, collocations are seen as combinations (connections) of words formed in syntactic and semantic compatibility. The word collocation is derived from the Latin collocation, which means agreement, as well as distribution,

---

[*] 0000-0003-4699-5202, Assist. Prof. Dr., Universiteti "UKSHIN HOTI" Prizren, Kosovo, dardanebojaxhiu@hotmail.com

companionship, compatibility, selection. To demonstrate this term, Firth (1957) gives the following examples: Hund-bellen; dunkel: Nacht (dog-barks; dark-night). In European phraseology collocations are typical, specific, and characteristic combinations of two words (Hausmann 1985:118), which may not always have semantic explanation, e.g.: phraseological combinations Bett and machen, Zähne and putzen, Tisch and decken (Hausmann 2003, p.311). (Bet machen- make the bed-fix the bed; Zähne putzen-brush my teeth; Tisch decken-cover the table-set the table). In the context of studies related to this field, one of the biggest problems or difficulties in determining collocations, mainly for analytical languages, lies in setting boundaries between collocations and compositions. The criteria proposed for solving this problem can be divided into approximately two groups:

-Semantic criteria (Darmestetter, 1874, p.1967)

-Formal criteria (Mitterrand, 1976)

Semantic criteria begin from the date of French linguistics (Darmestetter, 1874), which were later developed and elaborated by Breal (1897), Bally/ Brunot/Bruneau (1949), Grevisse (1969), Marouzeau (1961). Even today, in German linguistics it refers to semantic criteria for defining compositions. According to Schafroth (1995) semantic autonomy of constituent parts is the essential feature of non-lexical compositions. He also counts them as collocations (phases de lune/Phasen des Mondes-phases of the moon; clair de lune/Licht des Mondes-the light of the moon). Otherwise, a lexicalized composition would be lune de miel/Monat des Honigs - the honeymoon, which has nothing to do with the root of the lune/Mond-moon composition. The development of formal criteria for determining collocations is linked to well-known names in French linguistics, such as Benveniste, Mitterrand, and Martinet. For Martinet, the main feature is that none of the collocation components can be spread further on their own/individually, but only the collocation as a whole can be expanded. On the other hand, Mitterrand (1976) uses a combination of criteria to separate collocations:

-morphological criterion

-functional criterion

-frequency criterion

According to Mitterrand, compound words function in speech as a morphological whole: either one of the components does not accept its corresponding free grammatical forms, or the order of the components is fixed and contradicts the normal order. In terms of functional criteria, Mitterrand agrees with Martinet. He states that the composition is distinguished from the locution, since it in its connections with other linguistic elements behaves like a simple word, this means that simple compositions and words are presented to us in the same syntactic environment.

2. METHOD

No special object of study has been taken for this study. The materials found was analyzed and classified and divided according to certain criteria by different German linguists. The materials found dates back from the beginning of the study of this field of grammar and from it is extracted only the part on the structure of collocation in the syntactic and semantic aspect, as well as the equivalence of collocation. Their structure is also described in 6 separate types and examples for each type.

3. FINDINGS

3.1 Predominant Parts of Collocation

According to Hausmann (1985, p.401), a collocation is comprised by the base of the collocation, which is semantically autonomous, and the collocator, which depends on the base. Therefore, between the value and the asymmetric relationship (Zähne (base) putzen (collocator), when translated literally comes out: clean the teeth, while in Albanian there is the expression pastroj dhembët). The main component is the base, the collocator indicator. The two components of collocation are part of the primary class of words (subject, adjective, verb, and adverb), while other words may be part of collocation, but cannot function as the basis of the collocator.

3.2 Structural-Syntax Aspect of Collocation

A structured description of collocations in German is usually done by Hausmann's typology (1985, p.99), according to which there are 6 types of collocations:

1. Substantiv (Subjekt)+Verb: Suppe kocht über, Glocken läuten

2. Verb+Substantiv(Objekt), concretely: Substantiv(Objekt)+Verb ein Pferd striegeln, ein Formular ausfüllen.

3. Adjektiv+Substantiv: eine herbe Enttäuschung, schütteres Haar.

4. Substantiv+(Präposition)+Substantiv: eine Prise Salz, eine Tafel Schokolade.

5. Adverb+Adjektiv: hoch überlegen, bitter enttäuscht.

6. Verb+Adverb, konkretisht: Adverb+Verb -   sich heftig sträuben, scharf kritisieren.

Hausmann (1985, p.401) starts from the two-part collocation structure and gives the terms BASIC and COLLOCATOR, which were then used continuously in collocation studies. He later expanded the possibilities of creating collocations and the types of collocation structure (2004). Two collocations can be extended to a new constituent structure, e.g. scharfe Kritik üben. However, even after this separation the main terms are BASIC and COLLOCATOR.

3.3 Semantic Aspect of Collocations

The base of the collocation is semantically autonomous, while the collocator more defines the meaning of the base. In contrast, the role of the collocator is important, as it changes or modifies the meaning of the base in different ways. Thus, meaning is specified, expanded, or narrowed, to a lesser degree, but can also be metaphorized. In linguistic comparisons, attention must be paid to the constituent parts of a collocation (Gladysz, 2003, p.68). The adjective distinguishes blond (blonde) and scharf (sharp) in the connections they create. While the adjective scharf is combined with a large number of nouns, for example: Messer, Klinge, etc., the noun blond is combined only with the noun Haar. The scharf collocation field is much wider than that of blond:

Since we are talking about the semantic aspect of collocations, it is worth noting that Lengert (2001, p. 819) distinguishes three types of degree (degree) and radius (ray) of collocation:

a) High-level collocations

b) Limited level collocations

c) Collections with unique level

The first type appears in a large number of colloquial connections; the second type appears in thos e circumstances when there are synonymous relations; the third type focuses on tekomponents which appear only in isolated collocations.

3.4 Interlingual Equivalence of Collocations

In contrastive studies of collocations, due to their semantic and syntactic specifications, an extended contrast model is used (Gladysz, 2003, p.88; Reder, 2006, p.93). This model, first of all, should treat the external and internal meaning of the colloquialists, as well as the colloquialism as a connection between the base and the collocator, which determines the general meaning of the word. Then there are other types of interlingual colloquial equivalence:

-Complete equivalence: collocation fits in both languages, both in content and in form, i.e. both collocations show the same fact in the same register and the two constituent parts of collocation are correct in contrasting languages. Understanding in both languages may not be metaphorical, e.g. eine beträchtliche Summe- a considerable sum, or in both languages may be metaphorical, e.g. kühle Atmosphäre-cold atmosphere. The connection type in both cases is the same.

-Partial equivalence: equivalence is only in one direction, content or form. In the content level we distinguish four types of divergences:

a) The colloquialist in the external aspect is not equivalent, the meaning in both languages is not metaphorical, e.g. sich die Zähne putzen –laj dhëmbët „sich die Zähne waschen"

b) The collocator in the external aspect is not equivalent, the meaning under the collocation is not metaphorical, e.g. Applaus ernten-applause "-marr duartrokitje "Applaus bekommen"

c) The collocator in the external aspect is not equivalent, the meaning below the collocation is metaphorical, e.g. Schmerz stillen-lehtësoj dhimbjen "Schmerz lindern"

d) The external collocator is not equivalent, the meaning in both collocations is metaphorical, e.g. mit bloßem Auge me sy të lirë/ simple „mit einfachem / schlichtem Auge

-Lexical equivalence:

a) a collocation corresponds to a lexeme, e.g .: Aufnahme machen-bëj regjistrim; pritmen - - përtyp dhuhan; b) a collocation corresponds to a composition, e.g .: Nadelstich-shpim me gjilpërë; c) a collocation of one language can be transmitted in another language only through description, e.g.: a house choked in debt mit Schulden belastetes Haus/ein Haus, das unter Kredit steht.

4. RESULTS, DISCUSSIONS SUGGESTIONS

The field of study of collocations is a relatively new field, which has attracted the attention of language researchers in the last 50-60 years. Hausmann (1985) was the one who devoted himself most to the study of collocations and managed to identify the components of collocation, which he named as BASIS and COLLOCATIONIST. Also, after an intensive work, he managed to classify collocations into 6 types. Also, another researcher, Mitterrand, was able to propose criteria for allocating collocations: the morphology criterion, the functional criterion, and the frequency criterion.

Given that collocations are similar to idioms, phrases, and phraseological units, Gross (1988) proposed the semantic criterion and the formal criterion for solving this problem. As you can see, this is a broad and very interesting field of study, which, in my opinion, in the coming years will attract even more attention. So, collocation is a connection of 2 words, which are named as the basis and collocationist. The collocation structure can be noun+verb, verb+noun, adjective+noun, noun+noun, adverb+ adjective and verb+adverb (respectively adverb+verb). From the above, we conclude that collocations are an important part of grammar, which also play a special role in translation and especially in language learning. There are no studies in the Albanian language in this regard. There are linguists who have dealt with the study of idioms, phrases and phraseological expressions and I think that very soon studies in this field will deepen and then we will be able to make accurate comparisons between the two languages. So far, the materials in the Albanian language are deficient compared to that in German.

REFERENCES

Bally, C. (1951). *Vertrag der französischen Stilistik [Treaty of French Stylistics]*. Band 1. 3. Auflage Paris, Klincksieck.

Darmestetter, A. (1874). *Deals with the formation of compound words in the French language compared to other roman languages and Latin*. Paris, Frankreich.

Firth, J. R. (1957). *Modes of meaning. Papers in Linguistics 1934-1951*. London, New York, et al, 190, 215.

Gladysz, M. (2003). *Lexikalische Kollokationen in deutsch-polnischer Konfrontation* [Lexical collocations in German-Polish confrontation]. Frankfurt am Main: PeterLang.

Hausmann, F. J. (1984). Wortschatzlernen ist Kollokationslernen. Zum Lehren und Lernen französischer Wortverbindungen [Vocabulary learning is collocation learning. For teaching and learning French word combinations]. *Praxis des neusprachlichen Unterrichts*, *31*(4), 395-406.

Hausmann, F. J. (1985). Kollokationen im deutschen Wörterbuch. Ein Beitrag zur Theorie des lexikographischen Beispiels. In H. Bergenholtz and J. Mugdan (Eds.). *Lexikographie und Grammatik. Akten des Essener Kolloquiums zur Grammatik im Wörterbuch. Tübingen [Lexicography and grammar. Files from the Essen Colloquium on Grammar in the Dictionary. Tubingen.]*, (p.118-129).

Hausmann, F. J. (2004): Was sind eigentlich Kollokationen? Oder: Wie pervers ist der wissenschaftliche Diskurs? [What are collocations actually? Or: how perverse is the scientific discourse?] In S. Kathrin (Eds.), *Wortverbindungen-mehr oder weniger fest [Phrases-more or less fixed]*. Berlin: de Gruyter, (p.309-334).

Lengert, J. (2001). Phraseologie. In G, Holtus et al. (Eds.), *Lexikon der Romanistischen Lingusitik* [Dictionary of Romance Linguistics], Band I/1, Artikel 31. Tübingen, Niemeyer (p. 802-853).

Reder, A. (2002). Substantiv-Verb-Kollokationen im deutsch-ungarischen Kontrast. R, Reinhard (Eds.). *Sprachwissenschaft auf dem Weg in das dritte Jahrtausend [Linguistics on the way into the third millennium]*. Frankfurt am Main, PeterLang, (p.451-458).

Reder, A. (2006). *Kollokationen in der Wortschatzarbeit [Collocations in vocabulary work]*. Wien: Praesens Verlag.

Schafroth, E. (1995). Lernerwörterbücher im Vergleich: Empirische Untersuchungen zu vier einsprachigen französischen Wörterbüchern. In K, W, Hempfer and P. Blumenthal (Eds.). *Zeitschrift für französische Sprache und Literatur (Sonderdruck)* [Magazine for French Language and Literature (special edition)]. Band CV, Heft 2. Stuttgart, (p.113-136).