



Grammar-Semantic Structure of Sentences of Causal Constructions in Korean language

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ABSTRACT

This article reveals the semantics of the structure of sentences, in which constructions are presented that express a causal relationship. This is due to the fact that there are a lot of such constructions in Korean language. However, in the research area of linguistics of Korean language there is no clear system for distinguishing between cases of using one or another construction. This complicates the task of understanding, interpreting, translating, teaching the Korean language

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Introduction

The ability of a language to perform various functions in a variety of communicative conditions is ensured by the complexity and flexibility of its structure. In particular, in the process of functioning of the language system, it is found that the units and their classes, allocated by consciousness at one level, are connected by diverse internal connections with the units and their classes at the adjacent level. The simplest case: we regularly see how vocabulary “grows” into grammar, and vice versa. As N. Yu. Shvedova rightly noted, “the grammatical structure of the language is permeated with vocabulary. There is almost no grammatical rule that would not require the inclusion of the “lexical part” in its formulation” [Shvedova, 1984, p.11].¹

Theoretical materials for studying the grammatical-semantic structures of sentences

Semantics is the content side of language units, their meaning. Each of the language units has its own semantics: the semantics of morphemes is the most elementary, it is recognized in the composition of the words that include them (affix -생(生) means "student, teaching": 대학생 (大學生) - student; 유학생(留學生) - foreign student; 졸업생 (卒業生) - graduate). The semantics (meaning) of the word is more informative and heterogeneous. The semantics of the sentence is even more complicated: it includes an event element and its evaluation from the standpoint of the author; cf.: 할아버지께서 오셨다— Grandfather has arrived (statement of a fait accompli); 할아버지께서 벌써 오셨나요? Has your grandfather arrived yet? (fact question) and 할아버지께서 오셨으면 좋겠어요—I wish my grandfather would come! (a wish). Semantics is inherent not only to linguistic units; gestures, postures, social actions matter.

¹ Siberian Philological Journal. 2018. No. 3 © B. Yu. Norman, M. Yu. Mukhin, 2018

Modern semantics involves not only the description of the meanings of individual words (lexicography), sentences, but also the identification of the linguistic picture of the world, the laws of reflection of ideas about the world in the language and the possibilities of the language in this regard².

Grammatical semantics is a set of grammatical meanings, integral meanings. For example, predicativity, which is characteristic of all structural and semantic varieties of a simple sentence, is considered as the most general grammatical meaning, although it does not always have clear formal indicators. Predicativity includes syntactic categories:

- 1) modalities;
- 2) time;
- 3) faces.

The question of the number of components of predicativity is debatable, however, everyone unconditionally introduces values into the meaning of predicativity:

- 1) modality (real and unreal);
- 2) syntactic time.

Main characteristics of causality constructions in sentences

The Korean language has a considerable number of grammatical forms expressing reason: -(으)니까, -어서/-아서, -기에, -기 때문에, -(으)므로, -느라고 and others. However, among all these forms, the affixes -아서/-어서 and -(으)니까 are the most similar and widely used. Students start learning these forms from the very first level, but many still do not see a clear difference in the use of these two forms.

First, -아서/-어서 and -(으)니까 are the so-called "participle affixes", and in the original they are called "연결어미", literally translated as "connective ending". These participle affixes are needed to express various relationships between the verb and the subsequent predicative. They can express a wide variety of relationships: conventions, concessions, causality, and others, thus performing approximately the same role as conjunctions in other languages.

Let's take a closer look next:

1. Verb or adjective stem + 아서/어서
Noun + 이어서/여서, 이라서/라서

아서/어서 is used to indicate that information in the first sentence is the reason for the subsequent sentence. This corresponds to the prepositions "because of", "since ..."³.

기분이 좋아서 춤을 댔어요. - I danced, because the mood is good.

이번주는 바빠서 시간이 없어요. Due to the fact that this week is busy, there is no time.

This construction cannot be used in incentive, interrogative, imperative sentences. Instead, a similar construction is usually used - (으)니까:

오늘 약속이 있어서 내일 만날까요? (X)

오늘 약속이 있으니까 내일 만날까요? (o)

Since I have a meeting today, can we meet tomorrow?

There are two other special uses 아서/어서 that are extensions of this indirect meaning.

First, -아서/어서 often occurs with 좋다 "good" in the second sentence. Such sentences literally mean "[So-and-so is happening], so it's good", but a better translation would be "I'm glad (that)" or "It's good (that)". For example,

새 바지를 사서 좋아요. I'm glad I bought new trousers.

² Literature and language. Modern illustrated encyclopedia. - M.: Rosman. Edited by prof. Gorkina A.P. 2006.

³ Ahn, J. Korean grammar in use: Beginner / J. Ahn, K. Lee, H. Han. —: Darakwon, 2010. — P. 188

수진 씨가 와서 좋아요. I'm glad Soojin came.

Secondly, -아서/어서 occurs with expressions of gratitude and apology. Such sentences literally mean ". . . so thank you" or ". . . , sorry", but more naturally can be translated as "Thanks for", "I'm sorry (it)". Consider the following examples:

만나서 반갑습니다. - Nice to meet you. (lit.: "Joyful, because of the fact that we met").

늦어서 죄송합니다. - Sorry for being late. (lit.: "Sorry for being late").

2. Verb or adjective stem + (으)니까

• 길이 막히니까 지하철을 탑시다.

There are traffic jams on the road, so let's take the subway.

• 샤워를 하니깐 기분이 좋아요.

I took a shower, so I'm in a good mood.

Unlike -아서/어서, you can use the tense suffixes after this construction - 었으니까 (past tense) and - 겠으니까 (future tense):

하다 (to do) – 하니까 – 했으니까 – 하겠으니까

먹다 (to eat) – 먹으니까 – 먹었으니까 – 먹겠으니까

However, the forms of the future tense listed here are rare in modern Korean. More often, instead of - 겠, the future form -을거- is used to form -을 거니까:

할 거니까 – I will do, therefore... 먹을 거니까 – I will eat, therefore...

After -으니까, you can add the accent particle -은/는, which is most often written and pronounced as with -으니까. Again, this is not possible with -아서/-어서.

• 밖에 추우니까 옷을 따뜻하게 입고 가세요.

Because the weather is cold, dress warmly.

As a cause-and-effect relationship, -으니까 is used to express the cause of a certain state or action. The reason is expressed in the first sentence, and the state or action to which the reason refers is indicated in the second sentence. Unlike -아서/어서, which denotes a natural consequence, -으니까 is used to express a subjective reason that depends on the speaker's own judgment, or how the speaker gives justification (according to Lukoff and Nam 1982 and Sohn S. 1999)⁴. Compare:

• 물가가 비싸서 살기가 힘들어요.

Life is hard because the prices are high.

(Life is hard as a natural consequence of high prices.)

• 물가가 비싸니까 살기가 힘들어요.

Life is hard because the prices are high.

(In my opinion, the reason why life is hard is because the prices are high).

Because -아서/어서 denotes natural consequence and -으니까 denotes subjective reasoning, -아서/어서 is a more natural choice in sentences expressing causation based on common human knowledge of the world around us:

• 싱가포르는 적도에서 가까워서 날씨가 일년 내내 더워요.

Singapore is close to the equator, so it's (naturally) hot all year round.

Alternatively, when you're expressing something that doesn't make sense (or seems to go against common sense), the best choice is -으니까:

• 눈이 오니까 포근한 느낌이 들어요.

Due to the fact that it is snowing, there is a feeling of softness and warmth.

⁴ Sohn, H. M. The Korean language / H. M. Sohn. — Cambridge: Cambridge university press, 1992.

Also, when you draw a conclusion based on assumptions and circumstantial evidence, you should use -으니까.

- 민호가 잘생겼으니까 여자친구가 있을 것 같아요.
Minho is handsome, so he probably has a girlfriend⁵.

3) Exist. + 때문에, Verb stem/adj. + 기 때문에

This construction is used to express an objective reason and is translated into Russian as “due to”, “because”, “because”. Unlike constructions -아서/어서, - (으)니까 is a more literary way of expressing reason⁶.

- 눈 때문에 길이 미끄러워요.

The road is slippery due to snow.

- 가: 토요일에 만날 수 있어요? – Can we meet on Saturday?

• 나: 토요일은 친구 생일이기 때문에 만날 수 없어요. It's my friend's birthday on Saturday, so we can't.

- 가: 방학에 여행할 거예요? - Are you going on holiday?

• 나: 아니요, 가고 싶지만 아르바이트를 하기 때문에 못가요. - No, I would like to, but because I got a part-time job, I can't.

The -기 때문 pattern can be used with any verb and can be followed by a past tense suffix (-았/였기때문에) as well as a future tense suffix with -겠 (-겠기 때문에), although the latter is uncommon. The most common form of the future tense is -을 거 (-을 것이기 때문에). Here are examples that show time markers:

- 불어를 몰랐기 때문에 문제를 많이 겪었어요.

Because I didn't know French, I ran into a lot of problems.

Like the reason construction -아서/어서, -기 때문에 cannot be used when the second sentence contains a command, sentence, suggestion, invitation, or request. In such cases, -(으)니까 is used. While -기 때문에 usually works similarly to -아서/어서, note that only -아서/어서 can be used with thanks, apologies, and excuses.

4. Conclusion

A study of the literature on the topic of the article showed that this is a huge, interesting area of science: even a thorough description of the cause-and-effect structures in the Korean language that appear in the construction of a complex sentence gives an idea of the importance of a detailed study of this issue.

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⁵ Yeon, J., Brown L. Korean a Comprehensive grammar. — New York: Routledge, 2011. — P. 264.

⁶ Ahn, J. Korean grammar in use: Beginner / J. Ahn, K. Lee, H. Han. —: Darakwon, 2010. — P. 188