

Abstract

Graduation Level of Proficiency Paper

(Bachelor's degree)

Title: Functioning of the quantifier “all” in postverbal nominal group in English and Russian existential sentences

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Topical Importance: In this paper we examine the possibility of universal quantifier functioning in postverbal nominal group in English and Russian existential constructions. Topicality of the theme is supported by attention of foreign linguists to the field of definiteness effect. While writing the paper we met a lot of foreign publications and works on the topic, however there are a few Russian publications. That is why the importance of our diploma paper is reasonable. We have spread the light on the structure of English and Russian existential sentences and types of code.

Goals: The main goal of the diploma paper is to reveal the conditions of interaction of quantifier all with postverbal nominal group and coda.

Tasks: to establish the concept of definiteness effect, to identify the semantics and structure of existential sentences, to conduct a corpus study of English and Russian existential constructions “there are all N”, to conduct linguistic experiments.

Theoretical value and practical applicability: We offer a detailed analysis of the existential constructions and definiteness effect in both English and Russian languages. The findings of this qualification work can serve as a basis for further study of the definiteness effect in the Russian language. The results of this study can be used as a pedagogical material on foreign language classes (English and Russian).

Results: We identified the structure of existential sentence and types of code both in English and Russian languages. As a result of corpus investigations and linguistic experiments we found out some licensing constraints on the types of nouns used. Emergence of the noun in Russian existential construction (EC) with quantifier “all” depends on its compatibility with predicate, on the type and semantics of the noun. There are no restrictions on type on the noun in English EC. *All* functions only in constructions like “all kinds/sorts/types/grades/varieties of N”, “all the N”, “all these N” etc. In coda of Russian ES can be only localizer, infinitive or preposition “for” and noun. Coda can have only semantics of purpose. In English ES besides common types of codas with Russian ES there are defining, characterizing and describing types of codas. Existential sentences can't be generic.

Implementation advice: the theoretical and practical material of the paper can be applied while studying or teaching grammar, i.e. the use of quantifiers in existential constructions, while working at related scientific topics.