AUXILIARY SUBJECT COMPLEMENT[1] CONSTRUCTIONS IN THE FRENCH LANGUAGE AND THEIR EQUIVALENTS IN THE MACEDONIAN LANGUAGE[2]

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Abstract

In this thesis we analyze the auxiliary subject complement constructions in the French language, comparing them to the adequate constructions in the Macedonian language. In doing so, we focus on the differences in the metalanguage used to describe them in the two languages, as well as on the similarities and differences regarding some of their main characteristics.

Keywords: auxiliary subject complement, French language, equivalents, Macedonian language

INTRODUCTION

Under the title *Auxiliary Subject Complement Constructions*, ASCC, in the French grammar we analyze the constructions in which the complement, from a syntactical point of view, does not have an obligatory function. This kind of constructions are also found in the Macedonian language, but there is a difference in the terminology which is used to describe them:

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[1] In French, the subject complement is named subject attribute.
[2] original scientific paper

(1) Il *est rentré* **ivre** hier. (F)[3]
(1a) Вчера (тој) *се врати* **пијан**. (нп)[4]

According to Le Goffic, the adjectives have a function of an auxiliary subject complement when they are found in an integrated postverbal position where they are semantically integrated with the verbal predicate and refer to the subject with which they are in morphological agreement as well (Le Goffic, 1993: 360).

Taking into consideration that in the ASCC, the connection between the adjectival constituent and the subject is established through the verb element, the adjective has a primary function. However, this is not an obligatory, but an auxiliary primary function because the sentence structure maintains its morpho-syntactic stability even in the absence of the adjective[5]:

(2) Il *est rentré* hier.
(2a) (Тој) *се врати* вчера.

The adjective function in the Macedonian equivalent constructions, in the Macedonian linguistic researches is most often described as an *integrated predicative attribute*. According to Cvetkovski and Gjurkova, the adjective receives this function due to the process of omission of the copula, after which, it, as a predicative nominal phrase, is integrated with the verb (Cvetkovski, 1988: 64-65, Minova-Gjurkova, 2000: 220-22).

A precise description of the mechanism of creation of such statements and the omission of the copula in the deep structure is found in the works of Topolinjska. According to her, these *derived* or *condensed structures with a nominal predicate*, as it is named by her, in a more developed, more explicit form, would be comprised of two sentences:

(3) Il est rentré. Il était ivre.
(3a) Тој се врати. Тој беше пијан.

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[3] The abbreviation refers to an example taken from the phrase manager Fraze.it:http://www.fraze.it./n_index.jsp?l=1

[4] (нп)- our translation

[5] Beside the term *auxiliary complement*, the adjective function in the example above, in the French researches, is terminologically defined also as an *attributive expansion with regards to the subject* (Riegel, Pellat&Rioul, 1994: 235, Goes, 2008: 25), *an appositive integrated construction* (Van Den Bussche, 1988, in Muller, 1998: 1), *an adjective with a function of an adverb determination of manner* (Arrivé, Gadet&Galmiche, 1986), *a facultative expansion* (Wilmet, 1997 in Goes, 2008: 24).

The copula, as Topolinjska states, can be omitted in the second statement because it does not carry a real predicative meaning. Its omission leads to the independence of the nominal part from the predicate which is further integrated in the other sentence which is based on a verb predicate with a full meaning and thus functions as a *secondary predicate*. This nominal part which gained independence, in the surface structure, from a syntactic aspect will have a function of a *predicative attribute* (Topolinjska, 1991: 116).

According to Subotic and Petrovic who use the same metalanguage for the adjective function in such constructions in the Serbian language[6], the predicative attribute is: *"the member* (in our case, an adjective) *of the surface sentence structure which is placed in it through the predicate of the second consecutive, copulative, coordinated sentence from the deep structure.* They also add a very important characteristic of this attribute, the fact that it changes the meaning of one of the nominal arguments *in the frame and during the realization of the verb predication* (Subotic and Petrovic, 2000: 1158).

Thus, the predicative attribute signifies a double syntactic relation, with the subject on one hand, and with the verb predicate on the other, presenting a condenser of the parallel deep structure.

The condensation based on the independent nominal part of the predicate, according to Topolinjska, is one of the simplest condensation mechanisms enabled by the semantical emptiness of the copula: *"the category meaning carried by it* (the auxiliary verb) *can easily be delegated to any finite verb form in the function of a constitutive part of the native sentence"* (Topolinjska, 1991: 117).

In Kovacevic, who uses the term *predicative appositive* for this function in Serbian, we can find a sublimation of the most important characteristics of the adjective in this kind of constructions, regardless of the terminology with which it is formally named. Namely:

- it presents a formalization of the condensed (shortened) dependent clause in which it performed the function of a lexical part of the nominal predicate, due to which the adjective appears in an indefinite form,

- it displays a double syntactical and semantical dependence, towards the subject and the verb predicate,

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[6] Many other names are provided in the thesis of the authors, used in the Serbian researches concerning this function: *complement of the predicate, additional predicate, predicate complement, shortened predicate, temporary complement, complementary-predicative determination, non-obligatory predicative expansion, appositively used adjective, modifying addition, actual qualifier* etc.

- the characteristic it provides is current only during the realization of the verb's action,

- it is not semantically marked: "*its form suggests only that this is a characteristic which has a meaning for the realization of the thing marked with the sentence predicate regardless of whether this characteristic adds to the information which is carried by the predicate or whether it influences the realization of what the predicate informs about*"[7] (Milosevic , 1987: 177, in Ковачевић, 2013: 244-245).

CHARACTERISTICS OF ASCC IN FRENCH: COMPARAISON WITH THE EQUIVALENT CONSTRUCTIONS WITH INTEGRATED ATTRIBUT IN MACEDONIAN

Beside the primary characteristics which are common for the primary[8] and auxiliary subject complement constructions, such as grammatical gender and plurality agreement of the complement with the subject and the answer to the partial question: *Comment* SN1-V*?,* ASCC are also characterized by several other traits such as: *complement removability,* i*rreplaceability of the complement with the pronominal form le, influence of the statement's modal transformations on the complement, emphatic separation of the complement, appositive separation of the complement* and *fixed word order.* These characteristics are described in detail by Riegel.[9]

a) Complement Removability

The most important syntactic trait of ASCC, according to which they differ from the primary subject complement constructions is the non-obligatory presence of the attributive element. In other words, its removal does not influence the syntactic stability of the sentence structure:

(4) Ibrahimovic *était sorti* **furieux** du stade. (F)

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[7] "*Његова форма сугерира само то да је особина која се приписује лицу, предмету или појави – од извјесног значаја за реализацију онога што означава реченични предикат – било да та особина – као паралелна предикација – у неком смислу употпуњава информацију коју предикат носи – или да утиче на саму реализацију онога о чему реченични предикат информише*"

[8] *Primary subject complement* constructions are those in which the complement from a syntactic aspect has an obligatory function, i.e. is necessary for the syntactic sustainability of the construction.

[9] The characteristic which refers to the word order is given by us, since we consider that it reveals interesting differences concerning the adequate Macedonian constructions.

(4а) Ибраимовиќ *излезе* **бесен** од стадионот. (нп)
(4') Ibrahimovic *était sorti* du stade.
(4'а) Ибраимовиќ *излезе* од стадионот.

As it can be noted in the examples (4'), (4'а), the sentence structures in both the French, and the Macedonian constructions can function even after the removal of the subject complement without interrupting the relations between the remaining sentence members.

b) Irreplaceability of the Complement with the Pronominal Form *le*

From the examples illustrating the second syntactical trait, one can notice that these constructions, unlike those with a primary complement, do not allow replacement of the complementary element with the unchangeable pronoun *le*:

(5) La jeune femme *était revenue* **malade** de ces expéditions hasardeuses. (I)[10]
*(5a) La jeune femme **l'***était revenue* de ces expéditions hasardeuses.

The inability to have that kind of a replacement is due to the fact that in the ASCC, the verb does not have a copulative function. This is a verb with full lexical meaning, which does not allow addition in the meaning through the unchangeable pronominal form. Leeman considers this criteria as "weak" because it is not fulfilled even by some constructions in which the adjective undoubtedly has a primary attribute function, regardless of the fact that it cannot be replaced with this pronoun (Leeman, 1996: 190):

(6) Son épouse l'a soutenu dès qu'il est tombé malade. (F)
*(6') Son épouse l'a soutenu dès qu'il est **l'**est tombé.

c) Influence of the Statement's Modal Transformations on the Complement

Concerning ASCC, the negation refers to the trait predicated by the complement and not the verb predicate:

(7) Il est *n'est pas arrivé* **décent** à Rome. (I)

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[10] (I)- exemple from Internet

(7a) Тој не *стигна* **пристоен** во Рим.

In the example (7), the negation in *ne pas arriver décent* refers to the adjective and does not mean *ne pas arriver à Rome,* but *ne pas être décent en arrivant à Rome*. This means that although speaking of syntax, the predicate does not have an obligatory function in the French ASCC, semantically speaking, we could say that it carries the new, essential information which has a value of a comment.

Leeman questions the adequateness of this criterion as well, due to the fact that according to the author, it does not have an optimal and exceptional application only regarding the subject complement (Leeman, 1996: 188). Thus, in the following example, the negation does not refer to the verb predicate, but to the adverbial addition:

(8) Il *est sorti* **tranquillement**. (I)
(8') Il *n'est pas sorti* **tranquillement.** (нп)

When we are talking about the Macedonian condensed constructions with a predicative complement, we want to point at one trait which, above all, is characteristic for the conversational style, i.e. in the everyday language. Namely, certain prosodic means play an important role in the Macedonian constructions, such as intonation which in the Macedonian language is dynamic. This dynamic signifies that the intonation can "move" in the statement and reach culmination on the place of the logical accent of the thought (Jordanoski, 1996: 87). In accordance with this trait, in the following examples, the negation can refer either to the adjectival element (9) or to the verb predicate (10), depending on where the intonation accent is placed:

(9) Детево не излезе **голо** од дома. (нпр)[11] (*Беше убаво облечено, зошто сега е голо?*)
(10) Таа вчера **не излезе** (*туку се врати*) пијана. (нпр)

Due to the greater freedom in the linearization of the Macedonian language compared to the French language, the examples above can receive a different order where in combination with the intonation, it becomes even clearer what the negation refers to, i.e. which element has a role of a commen in the construction:

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[11] (нпр)-our exemple

(11) Реков **пијана** да не доаѓаш на работа. [*А не воопшто да не доаѓаш*]. (нп)

d) Emphatic Separation of the Complement

The auxiliary complement in the French language allows emphatic separation through the expressions *C'est ....qui / c'est ...que.* In the Macedonian equivalent, the effect of this separation is achieved through the placement of the intonation peak over the adjective which can be placed in various places in the construction, as seen above:

(12) **C'est malade** que Joseph Micquel est rentré de sa détention. (I)

(12a) Жозеф Микел **болен** се врати од затвор. (нп)
(12b) Жозеф Микел се врати **болен** од затвор. (нп)
(12c) **Болен** се врати Жозеф Микел од затвор. (нп)

i) Appositive Separation of the Complement

Another significant syntactic characteristic is that the attribute can be found in a separated position, at the beginning, in the middle and at the end of the construction. This separation in the oral form of the language is marked with a pause, while in the written form, a comma is used:

(13) En mai, 2009, un homme de 41 ans, **ivre**, est conduit a l'hôpital de Lannion. (F)
(13a) Во мај 2009, еден 41 годишен пијан човек беше однесен во болницата во Ланион. (нп)

(14) Ce dernier était assis à ses côtés, **ivre-mor**t. (F)
(14a) Тој беше седнат до неа, **камен пијан**. (нп)

(15) **Malade**, ce dernier a dû être brièvement hospitalisé dans la soirée du mercredi. (F)
(15a) **Бидејќи беше болен**, мораше итно да биде однесен во болница во средата навечер. (нп)

According to Le Querlé, with the separation, the adjective receives a function of a *separated entity*, while Korzen considers that in these cases we are talking about a *describing indirect complement in a separated position*, which provides a description on the subject which is valid only in the time interval in which the verbal action takes place.

On the other hand, with the separation of the complement in the starting position of the statement, it often receives an adverbial meaning and then, according to Korzen, we are talking about *indirect adverbial complement* constructions in which a logical relation between the two statements is established.

In the Macedonian equivalent constructions, the adjectival constituent in such a separated position has a function of an *unintegrated predicative attribute* (Minova-Gjurkova, 2000: 221) which according to the French terminology would be a *separated* entity, or as a *predicative nominal syntagma* in a function of a sentence determination as a whole or as another noun, in the this case of the subject (Minova-Gjurkova, 2000: 221, Cvetkovski, 1988: 65).

f) Fixed Word Order

Regarding the French ASCC and the French sentence in general, a fixed word order is characteristic (Subject-Verb-Object) and there is rarely a possibility for certain changes. Thus, in ASCC, in the non-separated position, the subject complement cannot assume another position except the one behind the verb:

(16) Il est *revenu* **malade** hier.
*(16') **Malade** il *est revenu* hier.
*(16'') Il est **malade** *revenu hier*.

Unlike the French language, the word order in the Macedonian language is considered relatively liberal. Namely, certain words have greater of lesser freedom to change their place in the sentence, of course, without interrupting the information in doing so, while other words have a fixed place. The adjectival element in the constructions we analyze is one of the elements which has greater freedom and can be found in any place in the sentence:

(17)   Тој *се врати* дома **болен**.
(17') **Болен** *се врати* тој дома.

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(17'') Тој **болен** *се врати* дома.
(17''') **Болен** тој дома *се врати*.

The word order in the example (17) is considered regular or neutral in the Macedonian language, while in all the remaining examples, we are dealing with marked or irregular word order. The word order in the Macedonian language is one of the primary means for the realization of the actual division in the sentence and plays a key role in determining the topic and the comment in the sentence. Changing the place of the words in the Macedonian sentence signifies a change regarding the actual information, as well (Venovska-Antevska, 1995: 63).

In the examples with an objective word order, the known information, i.e. the topic is placed on the initial place, followed by the new information, the comment which here carries the adjective. The comment can also be positioned in front of the topic (17'), most frequently in emotionally charged statements, in the colloquial style. According to Gjurkova, the speaker then first says what he/she finds most important and then adds it with other information. In such cases we are talking about *psychological motivation for the position of the comment in front of the topic* (Minova-Gjurkova, 2000: 226).

FINAL REMARKS

When we compare the French *auxiliary subject complement* constructions with the respective constructions in the Macedonian language, we can notice the difference, above all, regarding the terminological solution for their naming. Namely, in the Macedonian grammar, the term *integrated predicative complement* is used for this function of the adjective, but we need to take into consideration that the adjective function which is named as *complement* in the Macedonian grammar, corresponds to *entity* in the French language.

Concerning the syntactic traits, the adjectival constituent in both the French and the Macedonian constructions has a facultative function. From a semantic aspect, due to the fixed word order, in the French language, the auxiliary complement almost always has a role of a comment, i.e. carries the new information. In the Macedonian language, due to the liberal linearization and the dynamic intonation, in the equivalent constructions, the predicative complement does not always need to have the role of a comment, i.e. the accent can be equally carried by the remaining sentence members.

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