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## ZAMONAVIY NEMIS TILIDA TO'SIQ SEMANTIKASIGA EGA BIRLIKLARNING INTRALINGVISTIK TRANSFORMATSIYASI: FUNKSIONAL-SEMANTIK VA DISKURSIV MEKANIZMLAR

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### Annotatsiya.

Ushbu maqolada zamonaviy nemis tilida *Barrierefreiheit* konseptini verbalashtiruvchi to'siqsizlik semantikasiga ega birliklarning intralingvistik transformatsiyasi funksional-semantik va diskursiv jihatdan tadqiq etiladi. Intralingvistik transformatsiya lisoniy birlikning konseptual yadrosi saqlangan holda, muayyan kommunikativ vaziyat ta'sirida uning strukturaviy, semantik va pragmatik xususiyatlarining qayta tashkil etilishi sifatida talqin qilinadi. Tadqiqotda to'siqsizlik semantikasini ifodalovchi birliklarning komponent almashinuvi, atributiv kengayishi, metaforik yangilanishi, kontekstual modifikatsiyasi va intertekstual qayta talqin qilinishi asosiy transformatsiya mexanizmlari sifatida aniqlanadi. Tahlillar *frei, Weg, Brücke, Tür* kabi birliklarning dastlabki jismoniy-makoniy semantikasi diskurs ta'sirida kommunikativ, psixologik, institutsional va kognitiv mazmun bilan boyishini ko'rsatadi. Bunday transformatsiyada birlikning konseptual invarianti yo'qolmaydi, aksincha, yangi referensial maydon va pragmatik funktsiya bilan integratsiyalashadi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** *Barrierefreiheit*, to'siqsizlik konsepti, intralingvistik transformatsiya, verbalizator, konseptual invariant, semantik siljish, pragmatik funktsiya, diskurs, metaforik kengayish, kontekstual modifikatsiya.

## ВНУТРИЯЗЫКОВАЯ ТРАНСФОРМАЦИЯ ЕДИНИЦ С СЕМАНТИКОЙ ПРЕПЯТСТВИЯ В СОВРЕМЕННОМ НЕМЕЦКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ: ФУНКЦИОНАЛЬНО-СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЕ И ДИСКУРСИВНЫЕ МЕХАНИЗМЫ

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### Аннотация.

В статье исследуется внутриязыковая трансформация единиц с семантикой безбарьерности, вербализующих концепт *Barrierefreiheit* в современном немецком языке, с функционально-семантической и дискурсивной точек зрения. Внутриязыковая трансформация интерпретируется как реорганизация структурных, семантических и прагматических свойств языковой единицы под влиянием конкретной коммуникативной ситуации при сохранении её концептуального ядра. В исследовании компонентная замена, атрибутивное расширение, метафорическое обновление, контекстуальная модификация и интертекстуальная реинтерпретация единиц, выражающих семантику безбарьерности, определяются как основные механизмы трансформации. Анализ показывает, что исходная физико-пространственная семантика таких единиц, как *frei, Weg, Brücke, Tür*, под влиянием дискурса обогащается коммуникативным, психологическим, институциональным и когнитивным содержанием. При такой трансформации концептуальный инвариант единицы не исчезает, а интегрируется с новым референциальным полем и прагматической функцией.

**Ключевые слова:** *Barrierefreiheit*, концепт безбарьерности, внутриязыковая трансформация, вербализатор, концептуальный инвариант, семантический сдвиг, прагматическая функция, дискурс, метафорическое расширение, контекстуальная модификация.

## INTRALINGUISTIC TRANSFORMATION OF UNITS WITH OBSTACLE SEMANTICS IN MODERN GERMAN: FUNCTIONAL-SEMANTIC AND DISCURSIVE MECHANISMS

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### Abstract.

This article examines the intralinguistic transformation of units with barrier-free semantics that verbalize the concept of *Barrierefreiheit* in modern German from functional-semantic and discursive perspectives. Intralinguistic transformation is interpreted as the reorganization of the structural, semantic, and pragmatic properties of

a linguistic unit under the influence of a specific communicative situation while preserving its conceptual core. The study identifies component substitution, attributive expansion, metaphorical renewal, contextual modification, and intertextual reinterpretation of units expressing barrier-free semantics as the principal mechanisms of transformation.

The analysis demonstrates that the initial physical-spatial semantics of such units as *frei*, *Weg*, *Brücke*, and *Tür* are enriched with communicative, psychological, institutional, and cognitive meanings under the influence of discourse. In this transformation, the conceptual invariant of the unit does not disappear but is integrated into a new referential field and acquires a new pragmatic function. Consequently, the concept of barrier-freeness emerges not as a static semantic structure but as a dynamic linguistic phenomenon that is continuously reconceptualized across different discourses.

**Keywords:** *Barrierefreiheit*, concept of barrier-freeness, intralinguistic transformation, verbalizer, conceptual invariant, semantic shift, pragmatic function, discourse, metaphorical extension, contextual modification.

**Introduction.** The methodological shift in modern linguistics from studying a linguistic unit as a ready-made and unchanging semantic structure to determining its functional behavior in a real communicative environment allows for a new interpretation of the relationship between language and discourse. In particular, the verbalizers of the concept are not limited to expressing a specific nominative meaning, but can be semantically and functionally reshaped under the influence of the type of discourse, communicative purpose, pragmatic strategy of the addressee, and context. From this point of view, the study of the intralinguistic transformation of units expressing the concept of *Barrierefreiheit* allows us to determine not only the structural organization of the concept, but also its dynamics in speech.

The dissertation, which is the basis for the research, interprets *Barrierefreiheit* as a concept related to accessibility, communicative equality, information openness, and social inclusion in the modern socio-communicative space. Its verbalization at the phonetic-phonological, morphemic-morphological, lexical-semantic, grammatical, syntactic, discursive, and textual levels is noted. Thus, the linguistic representation of barrier-freeness does not remain within the boundaries of a separate lexeme or grammatical construction, but creates a complex conceptual system that unites different levels of language.

The lexical space of this concept is also divided into internal microsystems. In particular, it is shown that *Barrierefreiheit* as a core unit verbalizes accessibility and openness; Inclusion, Participation, and social participation; *Selbstständigkeit*, *Selbstbestimmung*, and *Eigenständigkeit* — independence; Mobility — freedom of movement; Communication — communicative openness; *Leichte Sprache* and *Einfache Sprache* — comprehensibility; and *Gleichberechtigung* and *Chancengleichheit* — equal opportunity.

The presence of a concept in real speech is not equal to the sum of the lexical meanings of these nominative units. As a unit enters discourse, its semantic possibilities are activated, and in this process, the phenomenon of intralinguistic transformation occurs.

The article interprets intralinguistic transformation as a set of changes that occur in the structure, semantics, and pragmatic function of linguistic units based on the internal capabilities of the language. In such a transformation, the basic conceptual core of the unit is preserved, but its discursive function, expressiveness, and interpretative potential acquire new content [1, 42; 2, 117].

In our opinion, assessing this process as a simple “change of meaning” does not fully reveal its linguistic essence. This is because three processes occur simultaneously in the transformation: the semantic core is preserved, the actual feature of the concept changes, and the communicative function of the unit is reorganized. Therefore, it is appropriate to describe the intralinguistic transformation of units with barrier-free semantics on the basis of the following dynamic model: **[conceptual invariant → transformation → semantic shift → pragmatic refunctionalization → discursive value]**. In this model, the conceptual invariant represents the initial semantic base, transformation is the modification that occurs through the internal means of the language, semantic shift is the actualization of another feature of the concept, pragmatic refunctionalization is a change in the communicative function of the unit, and discursive value is the final interpretation formed in a specific context.

In this regard, the main goal of the study is to identify the mechanisms of intralinguistic transformation of units with barrier-free semantics in modern German, to classify them functionally and semantically, and to substantiate the patterns of discursive-pragmatic changes that occur as a result of transformation.

One of the most important issues in the intralinguistic transformation of the concept of barrier-freeness is the relationship between invariant and variant. When a linguistic unit is transferred to a new context, not all its semantic components change to the same extent. On the contrary, the basic component of the conceptual structure is preserved, and one of the peripheral or associative features is actualized in accordance with the discursive need. For example, the primary semantics of the *Weg* lexeme is associated with the concept of “road” in real space, but the functional potential of this unit within the concept of barrier-freeness is not limited to physical movement. The results of the dissertation note the transfer of units such as *Weg*, *Brücke*, and *Tür* from physical space to communicative, psychological, institutional, and cognitive space.

Based on this, the semantics of “the possibility of moving from one point to another” in *Weg*’s conceptual structure can be considered invariant. When the discourse changes, “moving” conceptualizes not physical movement, but the process of reaching an opportunity, solving a problem, establishing a communicative connection, or entering

into social integration.

Similarly, while *Brücke* in the primary nomenclature denotes an object that removes a physical barrier between two spaces, its semantics of “connecting two separated points” are preserved in the conceptual transformation. The referential scope of connection is expanded, and the unit *Brücke* serves to conceptualize the connection between people, cultures, social groups, communicative positions, or knowledge systems. As a result, while its initial semantics of physical connection are preserved, the meanings of communicative rapprochement, social integration, and interaction are activated.

In the process of intralinguistic transformation, the initial spatial semantics of these units are preserved, while their referential and conceptual scope gradually expands. In the *Weg* unit, the image of a road providing physical movement is transferred to the meanings of creating an opportunity, finding a solution to a problem, and entering a social space. In the *Brücke* lexeme, the semantics of physical connection between two spaces are enriched with the meanings of establishing a communicative connection, forming cooperation, and ensuring social integration. In the *Tür* unit, the possibility of entering a physical space is abstracted, activating the semantics of using a specific opportunity, institutional openness, and social participation. Thus, the initial semantic features belonging to physical space acquire communicative, institutional, and social content in new discursive conditions, expanding the referential field of the concept of barrier-freeness.

Such a semantic movement does not lead to the fragmentation of the concept, but rather to its discursive expansion. The article also assumes that the conceptual invariant is preserved during the transformation process, but the pragmatic function, referential space, and discursive possibilities of the units expand in accordance with new communicative situations.

On this basis, we propose to evaluate the intralinguistic transformation of the verbalizers of barrier-freeness not as a “semantic replacement,” but as a “discursive reprofiling of the conceptual invariant.” In this approach, the unit does not lose its original conceptual core; on the contrary, that core is manifested in the new communicative space through a different semantic profile.

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The research material consists of linguistic units that verbalize the semantics of barrier-freeness in modern German and undergo structural, semantic, and pragmatic modification in various communicative conditions. The conceptual connection between the initial semantic structure of the unit and its transformed use was determined as the main criterion for sorting the material. The fact that units with barrier-free semantics undergo functional-semantic changes in the real communicative process under the influence of discourse type, speech situation, communicative purpose, and stylistic factors requires their study as a dynamic linguistic phenomenon [1; 2].

The research used a comprehensive approach involving structural-semantic, component, contextual, pragmatic, and discursive analysis. Structural-semantic analysis served to identify the formal and substantive relationships between the initial unit and its transformed version. Through component analysis, conceptual invariants preserved during transformation and semantic features that become actualized under the influence of the communicative situation were differentiated. While contextual analysis allowed us to determine the functional value of the unit in different discourses, pragmatic analysis was aimed at identifying its functions, such as influencing the addressee, evaluating, persuading, ensuring communicative cooperation, and managing the speech strategy [2; 3].

In the classification of intralinguistic transformation, component substitution, attributive expansion, metaphorical renewal, and contextual adaptation were distinguished as the main transformation mechanisms. In these changes, the conceptual invariant of the unit is preserved, and its pragmatic function, referential space, and discursive possibilities expand in accordance with the requirements of the new communicative situation [1; 3]. In artistic discourse, such methods as reduction, component replacement, metaphorical expansion, contextual modification, and intertextual reinterpretation were considered additional manifestations of transformation [1; 2].

The analysis was carried out in three stages. Initially, the semantic core of the linguistic unit before transformation and the invariant feature related to the concept of barrier-freeness were determined. In the next stage, the transformation mechanism that caused the structural or semantic change of this unit was determined. In the final stage, the referential orientation, pragmatic function, and discursive value of the resulting variant in the new context were compared with the initial state. Such a methodological approach allows us to characterize intralinguistic transformation not as a simple formal change, but as a functional adaptation of a conceptual invariant to new discursive conditions.

#### **RESULTS**

The results of the analysis showed that the principles of stability and variability operate simultaneously in the intralinguistic transformation of semantic units with barrier-free semantics. The structural appearance, referential orientation, or pragmatic function of the unit may change, but its conceptual core associated with reducing barriers, creating access, ensuring connectivity, or creating conditions for free activity is preserved. Therefore, it is appropriate to evaluate intralinguistic transformation not as a loss of the initial meaning, but as a reprofiling of the semantic invariant in new communicative conditions.

The first mechanism is implemented through component substitution. In this case, one of the components in a stable or relatively stable structure is replaced by another lexical unit in accordance with a specific communicative need. As a result of the replacement, the initial figurative scheme is not completely destroyed; the new component connects it with another referent, situation, or evaluative position. Thus, component substitution creates the relationship structural modification → referential renewal → pragmatic adaptation. The expansion of referential space

and discursive possibilities while maintaining conceptual invariance is the main functional feature of this transformation [1; 3].

The second mechanism is characterized by attributive expansion. The introduction of an additional defining component into the initial unit does not cancel its general semantics, but rather communicatively highlights a certain aspect of the conceptual content. As a result, the generalized content of barrier-freeness is directed to a specific social, institutional, communicative, or cognitive sphere. The attributive component thus becomes a means of defining the referential boundary of the unit and controlling its discursive interpretation. This feature gives grounds to evaluate attributive expansion as a mechanism for discursive specification of the conceptual content, rather than a simple structural complication.

The third mechanism — metaphorical renewal — is of particular importance in the referential expansion of the semantics of barrier-freeness. As the physical-spatial semantics of units such as *frei*, *Weg*, *Brücke*, and *Tür* are transferred to communicative, psychological, institutional, and cognitive spatial relations, new interpretative fields arise [3; 4]. In this case, the initial spatial image does not completely leave the semantic structure, but acts as a cognitive support conceptualizing an abstract relationship. *Weg* expands from the direction of physical movement to opportunity and solution, *Brücke* from physical connection to communicative cooperation and social integration, and *Tür* from physical access to the content of institutional openness and social participation.

The fourth mechanism is manifested through contextual modification. In this case, the formal composition of the unit remains unchanged, but its semantic weight and communicative function are reorganized depending on the type of discourse. In artistic, journalistic, official, and Internet discourses, the same verbalizer can activate different referential fields and acquire a new pragmatic value [3; 4]. Thus, the absence of formal change does not mean the absence of transformation. The functional-semantic shift that occurs in conditions of formal stability is manifested as an independent form of intralinguistic transformation.

The fifth mechanism is associated with intertextual reinterpretation. When a familiar figurative or structural model of a stable unit is introduced into a new text, its initial semantic memory is preserved, while the new context loads this unit with additional evaluative and pragmatic content. In artistic discourse, as a result of component replacement, metaphorical expansion, contextual modification, and intertextual reinterpretation, the initial unit performs a new communicative function [1; 2]. The peculiarity of intertextual transformation is that the new interpretation does not break the semantic connection with the initial model, but rather creates additional meaning at the expense of this connection.

A comparison of the identified transformation mechanisms shows that there is a common conceptual regularity in all of them. In component substitution, the lexical content changes; in attributive expansion, the level of semantic accuracy; in metaphorical renewal, the conceptual field; in contextual modification, the functional value; and in intertextual reinterpretation, the interpretative perspective. What unites them is the preservation of the conceptual invariant related to openness. As a result, even if the unit has a different structural or discursive appearance, the semantic basis associated with creating opportunities, reducing barriers, ensuring connectivity, or revealing openness is not lost.

On this basis, the general functional-semantic mechanism of intralinguistic transformation can be described by the following model: **conceptual invariant → transformational operation → semantic reprofiling → referential expansion → pragmatic refunctionalization → new discursive value**. This model shows that units with barrier-free semantics act in the language system not as ready-made and unchanging verbalizers, but as dynamic units that constantly reorganize their semantic potential under the influence of the communicative environment.

## DISCUSSION

The results obtained show that it is not enough to explain the intralinguistic transformation of semantic units with barrier-free semantics only in terms of structural change or meaning transfer. In the process of transformation, the conceptual core, referential orientation, pragmatic function, and discursive value of a linguistic unit act in an interconnected manner. The change in the formal structure of the unit leads to semantic reprofiling, and semantic reprofiling leads to the formation of a new communicative function. Therefore, intralinguistic transformation is manifested as a dynamic integration of the form → meaning → function → discourse relations [1; 2].

Component substitution is one of the most structurally obvious manifestations of this process. The replacement of a certain component in the structure of a stable unit does not completely destroy the original model. On the contrary, the initial structural scheme is adapted to another referential sphere due to the semantic capabilities of the new component. As a result, a semantic connection is formed between the conceptual invariant and the new context. This feature distinguishes substitution from simple lexical replacement and allows us to characterize it as a transformational mechanism that renews the referential field. The preservation of conceptual invariance as a result of the exchange of components and the expansion of pragmatic function and discursive possibilities are among the main features of this mechanism [1; 3].

**Table 1. Functional-semantic transformation mechanism of component substitution**

| Analysis parameter            | Until the transformation                     | Substitution process                        | After the transformation                               | Conceptual-functional result            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Structural composition</b> | Stable or relatively stable component system | A specific component is replaced by another | A new variant emerges based on the original structural | The structural model is maintained, the |

|                               |                                                               | lexical unit                                                   | scheme                                                          | lexical content is updated           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Conceptual invariant</b>   | There is a basic conceptual symbol of unity                   | Substitution does not invalidate the invariant                 | The underlying semantic schema is preserved in the new version. | Conceptual continuity is ensured     |
| <b>Referential field</b>      | The unit is associated with a specific referent or situation. | The new component activates a different referential direction. | The scope of the unit moves to a new object or situation.       | The referential field expands        |
| <b>Semantic profile</b>       | The primary meaning is in a dominant position.                | The new component activates additional semantic markup         | Content is re-profiled according to the new context             | Semantic adaptation occurs           |
| <b>Pragmatic function</b>     | The initial communicative task is a priority.                 | Context sets a new communicative goal belgilaydi               | Unity takes on a new pragmatic role                             | Pragmatic refunctionalization occurs |
| <b>Discursive opportunity</b> | Use is limited to a specific communicative environment        | Substitution creates a connection with a new discourse         | The unit adapts to different communicative situations           | Discursive potential expands         |

**Table analysis.** It can be seen from the table that the essence of component substitution is not the formal replacement of one lexeme with another. In the transformation, the structural scheme and conceptual invariants are stable components, while the lexical content, referential orientation, semantic profile, and pragmatic function are variable components. Therefore, the substitution mechanism can be described as a multi-stage intralinguistic transformation that occurs in the sequence of component exchange → referential shift → semantic reprofiling → pragmatic adaptation [1; 3].

In attributive expansion, the transformation takes place in the other direction. The additional attribute does not replace the semantic core of the initial unit, but rather narrows its interpretative boundaries and brings to the fore a specific feature of the concept. In this way, the general meaning of accessibility is adapted to a specific communicative situation. For example, the general semantics of openness or accessibility can be directed to the sphere of information, communication, institutional activity, or social participation through a specific attribute. Thus, the functional essence of attributive expansion is not in creating a new concept, but in determining the discursive focus of an existing conceptual meaning.

In metaphorical renewal, transformation takes on a deeper conceptual character. The initial semantics of units such as *Weg*, *Brücke*, and *Tür* contain elements of concrete experience such as space, movement, connection, and access. As a result of their transfer to communicative, psychological, institutional, or cognitive spheres, concrete spatial experience becomes a means of structuring abstract relationships. Here, *Weg* conceptualizes opportunity and solution, *Brücke* conceptualizes communication, cooperation, and integration, and *Tür* conceptualizes openness and social participation. In the research material, the transfer of the units *frei*, *Weg*, *Brücke*, and *Tür* from physical space to communicative, psychological, institutional, and cognitive space demonstrates precisely such a dynamic semantic feature.

In this case, the important aspect is the continuity of the relationship between concrete and abstract meanings. When *Brücke* expresses communicative connection, its schema of “connecting two separated points” is preserved; when *Tür* expresses possibility, the schema of “providing access from one space to another” serves as semantic support. Therefore, in metaphorical transformation, the initial meaning is not lost, but is transformed into a conceptual schema that constitutes abstract content. It is this feature that ensures the expansion of the referential space of barrier-free verbalizers from physical barriers to communicative and social barriers.

Contextual modification, on the other hand, shows that transformation can occur without formal change. The use of the same verbalizer in artistic, journalistic, official, or Internet discourse activates different pragmatic functions while preserving its semantic core. While in official discourse, accessibility can be profiled as a normative requirement or equal access, in other communicative environments the content of openness, cooperation, psychological rapprochement, or free access to information comes to the fore. The fact that the research material notes the dynamic transformation of verbalizers in different discourses under the influence of context confirms this idea.

Intertextual reinterpretation enhances the interpretive aspect of transformation. The modification of a familiar stable unit in a new textual environment relies on the addressee's knowledge of the initial model. As a result, two semantic layers — the stored content of the initial unit and the actual content formed by the new context — are simultaneously activated. The emergence of new pragmatic meaning through reduction, component substitution, metaphorical expansion, contextual modification, and intertextual reinterpretation demonstrates the discursive flexibility of such units [1; 2].

The difference between the mechanisms identified is determined by the level at which the transformation dominates. In component substitution, the structural-lexical level dominates; in attributive expansion, semantic specification; in metaphorical renewal, the conceptual level; in contextual modification, the pragmatic-discursive level;

and in intertextual reinterpretation, the interpretative level. Nevertheless, these mechanisms are not absolutely isolated phenomena. In real discourse, component substitution can occur together with metaphorical expansion, and contextual modification with intertextual reinterpretation. Such integration demonstrates the multi-level nature of intralinguistic transformation.

Therefore, when determining the level of transformation, structural change, semantic distance, referential expansion, and pragmatic refunctionalization must be taken into account together.

#### CONCLUSION

The analysis of the intralinguistic transformation of semantic units with barrier-free semantics in modern German has shown that this phenomenon is not limited to simple lexical or structural modification. In the process of transformation, the conceptual core of the unit is preserved, while its referential orientation, semantic profile, and pragmatic function are reorganized in accordance with the requirements of the new communicative situation. In this regard, the main principle of intralinguistic transformation is determined by the unity of conceptual stability and discursive variability.

As a result of the analysis, component substitution, attributive expansion, metaphorical renewal, contextual modification, and intertextual reinterpretation were differentiated as the main transformation mechanisms in the intralinguistic transformation of semantic units with barrier-free semantics. Each of them activates a different level of the linguistic unit: component substitution changes the structural-lexical content, attributive expansion changes the semantic specification, metaphorical renewal changes the conceptual sphere, contextual modification changes the pragmatic-discursive value, and intertextual reinterpretation changes the interpretative potential. The common feature of these mechanisms is the preservation of the initial conceptual invariant during the transformation [1; 2].

The semantic dynamics of units such as *Weg*, *Brücke*, and *Tür* clearly demonstrate the mechanism of referential expansion in intralinguistic transformation. The shift of *Weg* from the physical direction of movement to the content of opportunity and solution, of *Brücke* from physical connection to communicative connection, cooperation, and integration, and of *Tür* from physical access to institutional openness and social participation indicates the reprofiling of the initial spatial schema in new abstract areas. In this case, the initial semantic base is not lost, but becomes a conceptual basis that forms new discursive content.

Another important feature of intralinguistic transformation is that it is not absolutely dependent on formal change. While the structure of the unit is preserved, the referential direction and pragmatic function can be significantly updated. Therefore, it is appropriate to determine the level of transformation not only by formal modification, but also by semantic distance, referential expansion, pragmatic refunctionalization, and change in discursive value.

The results of the study made it possible to characterize the transformation process based on the model [conceptual invariant → transformational operation → semantic reprofiling → referential expansion → pragmatic refunctionalization → new discursive value]. In this model, while the conceptual invariant preserves the initial semantic basis of the unit, the transformational operation creates its structural or substantive modification; semantic reprofiling and referential expansion take the verbalizer into a new communicative sphere. At the final stage of the process, the unit acquires a new pragmatic function and discursive value.

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