

Language & Cognition – lecture 12

Practical applications

Foreign language teaching

- Many grammatical nuances problematic for students can be explained when we take into consideration the mental imagery evoked by words and expressions.

- Number (see “Grammatical classes”)
 - *The company **decide**...* vs. *The company **decides**...*
- Countability (see “Grammatical classes”)
 - *Water **is**...* vs. *Waters **are**...*
- Simple vs. continuous aspect (see “Major subclasses...”)
 - *I **know** the poem.* vs. **I’m **knowing** the poem.*
 - *??? I **learn** the poem.* vs. *I’m **learning** the poem.*
- Quantifiers (see “Scanning”)
 - ***each** car* vs. ***every** car*
- Passivization (see “Structure of events”)
 - *The film **stars** Arnold Schwarzenegger.*
 - **Arnold Schwarzenegger **is starred** in the film.*

Artificial intelligence design

- A **weak AI** imitates human behavior without having the thought processes that humans have.
- A **strong AI** has the thought processes similar to humans' and therefore displays human behavior.
- To speak like a human, a strong AI needs to have a model of human grammar. Obviously, to implement the model, we need to create it first.
 - Cognitive Grammar is one of the candidates for this kind of implementation.

Translation

- The “faithfulness” of a translation can be judged by how well the translated text reflects the construal in the original text.
- This is not the only aspect of translation’s “faithfulness,” but it is very important especially in literary and other types of artistic texts.

Miron Białoszewski, *A Memoir...*

Kościelna. Róg. Przy barykadzie...
tej tu... cisza – tylko para – on i
ona – powstaniec i powstańczyni –
siedzą z boku barykady – na
dyżurze. I rajcują. Jakby nic innego
nie było, nie miało być. Tylko
ciepło. Siedzi się. Barykada jak bok
mebla. I rajce.

Kościelna Street. The corner. Near
the barricade—the one over here—
silence—just a couple, a partisan
and his girl—sitting beside the
barricade, on duty. And chatting
away. As if there were no other
way, there could be no other way.
Only the warmth. Just sitting
there. The barricade like a piece of
furniture. And that chatting.

Miron Białoszewski, *A Memoir...*

A że podziemia to były po prostu schrony, a schrony pod starymi domami to były ordynarne piwnice na węgiel i kartofle, **ciasne klitki i klity** (...) Po **korytarzyskach** były napisy nad tymi wejściami do **klitek** na kartofle: sala 5, sala 6. A i w samym **korytarzyku**, tym od wejścia z podwórza – byli ranni.

And since the basements were merely shelters, and since shelters beneath old houses were ordinary cellars for coal and potatoes with **narrow cubicles** and stalls (...) Signs were posted along the **narrow corridors** over the entryways to the potato stalls: Ward 5, Ward 6. And in the **corridor** itself, the one leading from the courtyard entrance, lay the wounded.

Miron Białoszewski, *A Memoir...*

Drugą rozrywką było mielenie zboża. Z dnia na dzień mielenie narastało. (...) Ale to nam się wydało **powolniutkie. Malutkie.** A pszenicy mieliśmy dużo. (Już ją jedliśmy. W kółko. Po **pełniutkich** talerzach. Z sokiem. I z plewami. Bardzo dobra!). Często wało się nią, kto jej nie miał.

Another diversion was grinding grain. Every day the grinding increased. (...) But it was **too slow for us. Too small.** We had a lot of wheat. (We were already eating it. At every meal. **Small platefuls** each. With the juices. And the chaff. Very good!) We treated people who didn't have any.

Miron Białoszewski, *A Memoir...*

To pocisk. Potem drugi. **Z wyciem. Jak kometa. I prask!** Od mostu Kierbedzia. I trzeci: **ogień – wycie – prask! Ogień – wycie – prask!** – z naprzeciwka, od Gdańskiego, nagle. I **drugi** od Gdańskiego. I **nowy** od Kierbedzia. I od Gdańskiego. I od Kierbedzia. I **prask! prask!** Naraz. W dwa ognie nas wzięli. Dosłownie.

A shell. Then a **second. A whine. Like a comet. And crash!** From the Kierbedź bridge. And a **third: Fire—whine—crash! Fire—whine – crash!** From the opposite direction, from the Gdańsk bridge, without warning. Yet **another** from the Gdańsk bridge. **Another** from Kierbedź. From Gdańsk. From Kierbedź. And **crash! crash!** Suddenly. They had caught us between two fires. Literally.

References

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Artificial intelligence design

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