

VERBAL-SUBSTANTIVAL HOMOGRAPHY IN RUSSIAN

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In reference to the Russian language, homography, as a relationship of words with the same spelling but different pronunciation caused by different word stress, may be observed as an intracategorical or as an intercategoryal one. The former reveals itself in correlations of words of the same part of speech, e.g. *замок* ‘castle’ – *замок* ‘lock’, *ноги* (nom. and acc. pl. of *нога*) – *ноги* (gen. sg. of *нога*), whereas the latter embraces correlations of words belonging to different parts of speech, e.g. *пропасть* (noun) – *пропасть* (verb), *мою* (verb) – *мою* (pron.).

Intracategorical homography in Russian was an object of my investigation in a number of articles.¹ In this work, I intend to dwell upon the question of Russian intercategoryal homography. In a short article like this there is not enough space to analyse all the aspects of this kind of homography, therefore one must confine oneself to a characteristic of one of its manifestations, namely of verbal-substantival homography. Below, on the basis of the vast and complete analytical material extracted from many contemporary Russian dictionaries of various sorts², the individual types of verbal-substantival homography are described.

¹ Калишан, Е. 2008. Русские субстантивные омографы. In: „*Studia Rossica Posnaniensia*”, XXXIV. 171–175; Калишан, Е. 2010. Русские глагольные омографы. In: „*Studia Rossica Posnaniensia*”, XXXV. 77–82; Kaliszan, J. 2012. Adjective homography in Russian. In: *Lingua: nervus regum humanarum*. Poznań. 183–187.

² Тихонов, А.Н. 2003. Словообразовательный словарь русского языка, т. 1–2, Москва; Зарва, М.В. 2001. Русское словесное ударение. Словарь, Москва; Ахманова, О.С. 1986. Словарь омонимов русского языка, Москва; Ожегов, С.И. 1987. Словарь русского языка, Москва; Евгеньева, А.П. 1981–1984. (ed.). Словарь русского языка, т. 1–4. Москва; Кузнецов, С.А. 1998. (ed.). Большой толковый словарь русского языка, Санкт-Петербург; Ефремова, Т.Ф. 2000. Новый словарь русского языка. Толково-словообразовательный, т. 1–2. Москва; Ефре-

According to my observations, the above-mentioned segment of intercategory homography is represented by at least five main types of relationships between inflectional forms of verbs and nouns. These types will be characterized here in order of their decreasing productivity.

1. Relationship between singular imperative form and case form

This type of relationship is the most representative among other relationships of verbal-substantival homography and, according to my estimates, includes more than 700 homographic correlations. It is important to say that one particular imperative form can correlate here either with only one case form or, to a greater extent, with two or more case forms, becoming their two-time or multiple homograph.

The first situation may be demonstrated by such pairs of forms like *голубь* (голубить) – *голубь* (nom. sg.), *мытарь* (мытарить) – *мытарь* (nom. sg.), *слесарь* (слесарить) – *слесарь* (nom. sg.), *долей* (долить) – *долей* (instr. sg. of *доля*), *порой* (порыть) – *порой* (instr. sg. of *пора*), *гости* (гостить) – *гости* (nom. pl. of *гость*), *окуни* (окунуть) – *окуни* (nom. pl. of *окунь*), *черти* (чертить) – *черти* (nom. pl. of *чёрт*), *болеи* (болеть) – *болеи* (gen. pl. of *боль*), *целей* (целеть) – *целей* (gen. pl. of *цель*).

The second situation may be mainly observed in such homographic correlations like *гвозди* (гвоздить) – *гвозди* (nom. and acc. pl. of *гвоздь*), *забеги* (забежать) – *забеги* (nom. and acc. pl. of *забег*), *бури* (бурить) – *бури* (gen. sg., nom. and acc. pl. of *буря*), *души* (душить) – *души* (nom. and acc. of *душа*), *провода* (проводить) – *провода* (gen. sg., nom. and acc. pl. of *провод*) etc. The largest number of homographic pairs is supplied here by the relationship between particular imperative forms and forms of the 3rd declension nouns, where we can see three, four or even five series of homographs, cf.: *кори* (корить) – *кори* (gen., dat., prep. sg. of *корь*), *молоди* (молодить) – *молоди* (gen., dat., prep. sg. of *молодь*), *матери* (материть) – *матери* (gen., dat., prep. sg. and nom. pl. of *мать*), *грани* (гранить) – *грани* (gen., dat., prep. sg. and nom., acc. pl. of *грань*) and so on. As we can see, all the homographic corre-

мова, Т.Ф. 2006. Современный толковый словарь русского языка, т. 1–3. Москва; Венцов, А.В. / Грудева, Е.В. / Касевич, В.Б. 2004. Словарь омографов русского языка. Санкт-Петербург; Колесников, Н.П. 1978. Словарь омонимов русского языка. Тбилиси; Зализняк, А.А. 2008. Грамматический словарь русского языка. Москва; Лопатин, В.В. 2007. (ed.). Русский орфографический словарь. Москва; Гребенева, Ю.Н. 2009. Словарь омографов русского языка. Ливны; Головня, А.И. 2007. Словарь лексико-грамматических омонимов. Минск.

lations given above are consistently formed by verbal and noun forms having homonymic inflection ending *-и*. Other cases, where more than one declension form homographically coincides with an imperative form, i.e. where any two homographic forms do not use the homonymic inflection ending *-и*, are relatively rare, cf. *насыть* (насыпать) – *насыть* (nom. and acc. sg.), *пристань* (пристать) – *пристань* (nom. and acc. sg.), *изморозь* (изморозить) – *изморозь* (nom. and acc. sg.), *случай* (случать) – *случай* (nom. and acc. sg.), *дурней* (дурнеть) – *дурней* (gen. and acc. pl. of дурень), *улей* (улить) – *улей* (nom. and acc. sg.) and the like.

2. Relationship between first person singular form and case form

This relationship realizes itself in correlations of the 1st person singular form and 1. dative form of masculine nouns, 2. dative form of neuter nouns, 3. accusative form of feminine nouns, e.g. *бегу* (бежать) – *бегу* (dat. sg. of бег), *обману* (обмануть) – *обману* (dat. sg. of обман), *плачу* (плакать) – *плачу* (dat. sg. of плач), *простою* (простоять) – *простою* (dat. sg. of простой), *случаю* (случать) – *случаю* (dat. sg. of случай); *горю* (гореть) – *горю* (dat. sg. of горе), *блюду* (блюсти) – *блюду* (dat. sg. of блюдо), *моряю* (морить) – *моряю* (dat. sg. of море), *полю* (полоть) – *полю* (dat. sg. of поле); *ловлю* (ловить) – *ловлю* (acc. sg. of ловля), *стужу* (студить) – *стужу* (acc. sg. of стужа), *еду* (ежать) – *еду* (acc. sg. of еда), *сотку* (соткать) – *сотку* (acc. sg. of сотка). In my base material, this type of homographic relationship is represented by almost 200 pairs of homographs.

In isolated situations, the 1st person singular form can enter into configurations with the case forms other than those mentioned above, for example, with the instrumental form: *вошью* (вшить) – *вошью* (instr. of вошь), *солью* (слить) – *солью* (instr. of соль), *порою* (порыть) – *порою* (instr. of пора); with the second prepositional case form: *чаю* (чаять) – (*в*) *чаю* (чай); or simultaneously with two homonymic case forms, the dative and partitive genitive ones: *толку* (толочь) – *толку* (dat. and part. gen. of толк), *ору* (орать) – *ору* (dat. and part. gen. of ор ‘shout, hubbub’).

3. Relationship between past tense singular form and case form

I mean here, for example, such correlations as *начал* (начать) – *начал* (gen. pl. of начало), *изверг* (извергнуть) – *изверг* (nom. sg.), *начала* (начать) – *начала* (gen. sg., nom. and acc. pl. of начало), *крыла* (крыть) – *крыла* (gen. sg. of

крыло), *начало* (начать) – *начало* (nom. and acc. sg.), *село* (сесть) – *село* (nom. and acc. sg.). According to my estimates, in present-day Russian there are at least 140 homographic pairs of this type.

A structural core of the homography discussed here constitutes the pairs with masculine or feminine verbal component, because masculine and feminine verbal forms, unlike neuter forms being able to correlate only with neuter nouns, can form correlations with the nouns of all three genders, cf. on the one hand, *мерило* (мерить) – *мерило* (nom. and acc. sg.), *крыло* (крыть) – *крыло* (nom. and acc. sg.) and, on the other hand, *мерил* (мерить) – *мерил* (gen. pl. of *мерило*), *перепел* (перепеть) – *перепел* ‘quail’ (nom. sg.), *просек* (просечь) – *просек* (gen. pl. of *просека*) or *мерила* (мерить) – *мерила* (gen. sg., nom. and acc. pl. of *мерило*), *мела* (мести) – *мела* (gen. sg. of *мел*), *жила* (жить) – *жила* ‘vein’ (nom. sg.).

One must notice at this point that grammatical gender, both of verbs and nouns, unequivocally determines the formal grammatical character of an interaction of verbal and substantival components of homographic dyads. Thus, neglecting some details, one may conclude that, for example, verbal masculine forms regularly correlate with genitive and accusative singular forms of masculine unanimate nouns (*замер* – *замер*, *посох* – *посох*), or with genitive forms of masculine and neuter nouns (*просек* – *просек*, *наволлок* – *наволлок* and *сонел* – *сонел*, *черпал* – *черпал*); the feminine verbal forms there occur as regular homographic partners to a genitive singular form of masculine nouns (*метила* – *метила*, *распила* – *распила*), to a genitive singular form or (if the grammatical number paradigm is full) genitive and accusative forms of neuter nouns (*пекла* – *пекла*, *забрала* – *забрала*); the neuter verbal forms always occur as homographs to the nominative and accusative singular forms of nouns (*пугало* – *пугало*, *село* – *село*, *правило* – *правило*), etc.

4. Relationship between infinitive form and case form

This relationship realizes itself in correlations of infinitive forms with the forms of 3rd declension nouns, cf. *подать* – *подать* (nom. and acc. sg.), *пропасть* – *пропасть* (nom. and acc. sg.), *сволочь* – *сволочь* (nom. and acc. sg.). A homographization of an infinitive form with noun forms actualizes itself here in accordance with the following principles. If the infinitive ends with *-ть* or *-чь* (like in the examples above), then it has as homographic partners the nominative and accusative singular forms. If, however, the infinitive ends with *-ти*, then it homographically correlates with the genitive, dative and prepositional case

forms of singular and, in addition (when a noun has full grammatical number paradigm), with the nominative and accusative case forms of plural, cf. *месту* – *месту* (gen., dat., prep. sg. and nom., acc. pl.), *весту* – *весту* (gen., dat., prep. sg. and nom., acc. pl.). In contemporary Russian, the homography illustrated above is represented by about 70 word pairs.

5. Relationship between past tense plural form and case form

This type of homography is manifested, for example, in such correlations as *враль* (врать) – *врали* (nom. pl. of *враль*), *катали* (катать) – *катали* (nom. pl. of *каталь*), *цвели* (цвести) – *цвели* (gen., dat. prep. sing. and nom., acc. pl. of *цвель* ‘mould, mildew’), *заросли* (зарасти) – *заросли* (gen., dat., prep. sg. and nom., acc. pl. of *заросль*), *отмели* (отместить) – *отмели* (gen., dat., prep. sing. and nom., acc. pl. of *отмель*). The total number of homographic pairs like the ones shown above is relatively small and, according to my data, does not exceed 40.

Apart from homographs of the five types characterized above, some individual, less typical cases of verbal-substantival homography, have been registered. They number no more than 30. Among them there are homographic dyads in which some noun forms correlate with (1) the 3rd person singular form: *динамит* (nom. and acc. sg.) – *динамит* (*динамить*), *примет* (gen. pl. of *примета*) – *примет* (*принять*); (2) the 2nd person plural form: *доломит* (prep. sg. of *доломит*) – *доломите* (*доломить*), *примете* (dat. and prep. of *примета*) – *примете* (*принять*); (3) the 3rd person plural form: *минут* (gen. pl. of *минута*) – *минут* (*минуть*), *цыганят* (gen. and acc. pl. of *цыганёнок*) – *цыганят* (*цыганить*); (4) the 1st person plural form: *случаем* (instr. sg. of *случай*) – *случаем* (*случать*); (5) the command (imperative) plural form: *калите* (dat. and prep. of *калита* ‘moneybag’) – *калите* (*калить*).

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As has been demonstrated above, the Russian verbal-substantival homography constitutes an exceptionally diverse phenomenon which, in addition, is characterized by extraordinary widespreadness. According to my calculations, the number of verbal-substantival homographs is currently not less than 1,200. It is, however, necessary to say that the present analysis does not exhaust all possibilities of Russian verbal-substantival homography. Apart from cases illustrated and

described here, there occur about 200 homographic pairs like *свита* ('entourage') – *свита* (short fem. form of *свитый*), *доломан* ('dolman, military uniform') – *доломан* (short masc. form of *доломанный*) or *буря* ('storm, tempest') – *буря* (adverbial participle of *бурить* 'to drill'), *уколов* (gen. pl. of *укол* 'injection') – *уколов* (adverbial participle of *уколоть* 'to prick'), in which the nouns correlate with the verbal attributive forms. This segment of Russian homography deserves separate attention and thorough investigation.