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THE VARIATION OF THE WORD IN THE GERMAN EVERYDAY- SPOKEN LANGUAGE

Abstract: *The features of the word variant in the modern German everyday-spoken language are considered. Variants of a word are understood as formal varieties of a word within its semantic identity and identity of morphological structure. The main types of phonetic, morphological and orthographic variants of German colloquial words are analyzed.*

Key words: *variant, word variant, identity, colloquial word, German everyday-spoken language.*

Language: *English*

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Introduction

In this article, an attempt is made to look at the lexical material of the German everyday-spoken language from the standpoint of variantology – a direction in modern linguistic science, within which word modifications are studied [2, 21]. The variation of the word following K. S. Gorbachevich is interpreted by us in a narrow sense as a modification of the formal side of the word within the semantic identity, as well as the identity of the morphological structure [4, 9-16]. In accordance with this approach, formal variants of a word are understood as varieties of the same word characterized by differences in terms of word expression: in pronunciation, in the formation of grammatical forms, in spelling [6, 61]. Linguists propose various approaches to the identification and classification of formal variants of the word [1; 2; 4; 6]. According to formal signs, the most common is the division of word variants into phonetic, morphological (grammatical) and orthographic.

The purpose of the article is to identify the specifics of the word variant in the German everyday language. The need to study the variation of German colloquialisms is explained by the fact that elements of linguistic tradition and innovation coexist and interact with each other in this layer of vocabulary. On

the one hand, the colloquial fund was formed under the influence of the territorial features of the German language, these features are manifested in the use of colloquial regionally marked vocabulary and in modern German. On the other hand, in the everyday spoken language, the processes of movement of sociolect vocabulary, updating of the vocabulary due to interlanguage contacts, as well as due to replenishment with new units - products of semantic and word-formation derivation, word composition and word-making are dynamically proceeding. The inventory of variant vocabulary from this language subsystem is designed to supplement the factual information of variantology as a branch of linguistics that is at the stage of formation. The material for the analysis was selected from lexicographic sources, in addition, data from German language corpora were involved [8; 11].

I. Phonetic variation

Phonetic variants are characterized by modifications in stress, pronunciation of sounds, phonemic composition of the word. The listed modifications correspond to such subtypes of phonetic variants as accentual, orthoepic and phonemic. Fluctuations in the sound structure of a word can be qualitative, that is, associated with the replacement of

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variable components; quantitative, characterized by the instability of the quantitative composition of variable components; positional, associated with a change in the location of variable components.

Accent options. When identifying the specifics of accentual variation of spoken words, we proceed from the definition of verbal stress in German as morphemically related [5, 129]. Fluctuations of verbal stress are investigated on the basis of the morphemic composition of the word, taking into account the connection with word formation. Only a strong verbal stress is analyzed – its position in the word or the number of strong accents.

The study showed that accentual variation is marked by complex colloquial words. Thus, positional and quantitative fluctuations of accents are characterized by complex nouns and adjectives with emotionally-reinforcing semi-prefixes Heiden-, Bullen-, Höllen-, erz-, hunde-, knall-, piek-, pudel-, sau-, schnurz-, stock and others: 'Höllen'lärm/Höllenlärm/Höllen'lärm "infernal noise", 'piek'fein/piek'fein/piekfein "chic"; copulative nouns with the component Hans- 'Hansnarr/Hans'narr "simpleton"; complex adverbs 'überzwerch/über'zwerch "obliquely". Accentual fluctuations are revealed among numerous composite English-language borrowings represented by attributive composites: Happy'end/'Happy' end "happy ending"; shifts: 'Must-have/Must-'have "a necessary subject"; nouns formed from phrasal verbs: 'Hangover/ Hang'over "hangover"; adverbs: 'non'stop/non'stop "without interruption"; verbs 'happyenden/happy'enden "good end." Accent variation is found among units formed by colloquially marked ways of word formation, in particular, by compressive word formation: A'be/'Abee "toilet"; onomatopoeia: 'iahen/i'ahen "roar (about a donkey)"; reduplications: 'Kuddelmuddel/'Kuddel'muddel "confusion". Accent vibrations are quite frequent among interjections: a'ha/aha "aha!", hei'di/heidi "op!".

Orthoepic variants. Orthoepic modifications consist in the variation of the longitude and quality of the root vowel sound: Limo – [l:] / [ɪ] "lemonade", Malocher – [o:] / [ɔ] "hard worker"; tshüs – [y] / [y:] "bye"; fesch – [e:] / [ɛ] "chic", in fluctuations between a voiced/deaf consonant: nervig – [v] / [f] "annoying", Penunse – [z] / [s] "money". In borrowed vocabulary pronouncing variability is manifested in the existence of options with varying degrees of phonetic assimilation: flirten – [flœrtɪn] / [flø:ɐtɪn] / [flirtɪn] "to flirt", jumpen – [dʒʌmpn] / [jʊmpn] "jump", stressen – [ʃtrɛsn] / [ʃtrɛsn] "to annoy".

Phonemic variants. Analysis of variants with fluctuations in phonemic composition revealed the following specifics of variation of vowels and consonants in root and affix morphemes.

In root morphemes, the qualitative variation of vowel phonemes is based on the juxtaposition of long

closed and short open vowels: zerfleddern/zerfledern "to dishevel", umlautirovannyh and unmlautirovannyh vowels: muffeln/muffeln "to grumble", on the oscillation of diphthongs: Keiche/Keuche "prison", breitmaulig/breitmäulig "boastful", on the oscillation between monophthongs and diphthongs: trefe/treife "stolen", as well as on other types of monophthong fluctuations: scharwenzeln/scherwenzeln "to ingratiate", schnorren/schnurren "to beg", schwapp/schwipp "slap". Quantitative vocal variants are contrasted by the presence/loss of the final -e in a number of nouns and adjectives: Bangbüxe/ Bangbüx "coward", mall/malle "crazy". Vowel drops are characterized by separate interjections: ojemine / jemine "oh my God!", auweia/auwei "oh!", prosit/prost "to your health!", hem/hm "um!".

Qualitative consonant variants are based on the following types of oscillations: between voiced/deaf consonants: benzen/penzen "beg", Depp/Tepp "fool", Gickser/Kickser "chuckle"; bowed/slit consonants: verbumfiedeln/verfumfiedeln "waste to no avail", Masseltopp/Masseltoff "luck", wulacken/wullachen "to work hard (about work)", strawanzen/strabanzen "to loiter", geck/jeck "silly"; slit consonants [s] / [ʃ]: wurstig/wurschtig "not caring"; affricates [tʃ] / [tʃ]: Gatsch/Gatz "goo", affricates/slit consonants: pfriemeln/friemeln "twirl, twist (fingers)", Funzel/Funsel "smoker (lamp)", fratscheln/frascheln "ask", knaunzen/knaunschen "whine"; affricate [pf] / bowed consonant [p]: Doofkopf/Doofkopp "simpleton", bowed sonants [n] / [m]: ganfen/gamfen "steal". Quantitative, as well as qualitative-quantitative fluctuations of consonants are also found in colloquial vocabulary, but much less often: Nacktfrosch/Nackfrosch "naked (about a child)", verknassen / verknasten "put in jail".

Affixal variation of German colloquial words is mainly quantitative and is associated with the loss of the reduced phoneme from affixes in the following cases: from the suffixes -el, -er polysuffix substantive and adjectival deverbatives: Schnodderigkeit/Schnoddrigheit "impudence", Quackler/Quackeler "chatterbox", spillrig/spillrig "skinny"; from the diminutive suffix -el of South German nouns: Streithansel/Streithansl "bully"; from the prefix ge- South German suffix-prefix derivatives: geführig/gführig "slippery (about snow)", Geschnas/Gschnas "junk"; from the genitive ending of the first base of attributive compound nouns: Diebesgelichter/Diebsgelichter "gang, thief". Variants also arise as a result of the falling off of the final vowel -e of verbal neuter nouns formed using the circumfix ge-...-e: Geplärr/Geplärre "whimpering". The analysis of variant vocabulary also revealed qualitative fluctuations within the affix: Kappes/Kappus "nonsense", Kalfakter/ Kalfaktor "errand man", Kledage/ Kledasche "clothes, rags".

II. Morphological variation

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Morphological variants include cases of fluctuations in the grammatical form of a word while preserving the identity of the morphemic structure, as well as the identity of the grammatical meaning [4, 22]. These types of variants are referred to in the same way as grammatical ones [6, 46]. Sometimes, as a subtype of morphological variants, equivalent single-root words with different word-forming morphemes are distinguished and such units are called word-forming variants [1, 214].

Word-formation variants. We share the position that the condition for identifying variants is the identity of the morphemic structure of the word. Equivalent or similar in meaning single-root words with different word-forming affixes are classified according to this point of view not as variants, but as word-forming or single-root synonyms [7, 155-157]. Nevertheless, the analysis of equivalent units with modifications in the formal shell shows that the principle of morphological identity cannot be raised to an absolute and borderline cases between phenomena are observed. In our opinion, in the German language, modifications of complex words associated with qualitative and quantitative variation of interfixes as semantically empty elements can be considered as word-formative variants: *der Hundslieben/Hundeleben* "miserable existence", *hundemüde/hundsmüde* "tired as a dog", *der Katz buckel/Katzen buckel* "flattering behavior". The variation arising in the process of word formation is also accompanied by cases with a fluctuation of the defining basis between the singular and plural, provided that the identity of the word is preserved, for example *Lauseforke/Lä useforke* "comb". However, such modifications belong to the periphery of the word variant, since the use of the defining basis in the singular or plural is characterized, as a rule, by semantic discrepancies.

Grammatical variants. The variation of grammatical forms in accordance with their formation in the German language can be of an analytical and synthetic type. The variation of grammatical forms is revealed among nouns and verbs. Let's consider the specifics of variation in these classes of words.

1. Grammatical fluctuations of nouns are manifested in the formation of generic affiliation, as well as in inflection, namely, in the variation of paradigms of strong and weak declension, in the oscillation of genitive forms, in the formation of plural forms.

Fluctuations of grammatical gender are found among units of very different structure and semantics, as well as of different genesis. The most numerous group of units with grammatical gender fluctuation consists of nouns with variation between masculine and neuter gender. This group includes units formed by colloquially labeled methods or means of word formation: suffix derivatives with diminutive suffixes -erl, -el: *der/ das Damerl* "fool", *das/der Krispindel* "skinny man", lexical reduplications: *der/das Fickfack*

"trick, excuse", *der/das Klimbim* "fun romp; trinkets", shifts *der/das Verstehstemich* "savvy", onomatopoeic nouns *der/das Puff* "brothel", *der/das Rums* "rumble". In the group of variants with a fluctuation between the masculine/feminine gender, units are found that are opposed in the initial form not only analytically, that is, using the article: *der Flunsch/ die Flunsch* "inflated face", but also through word-forming suffixes, which are also indicators of generic affiliation: *die Latsche/der Latschen* "house shoe", *der Schneid/(yu.-German, austr.) die Schneide* "prowess", *der Nasenquetscher/die Nasenquetsche* "coffin with a flat lid". A few variant pairs with a fluctuation between the feminine and the neuter gender make up truncation words: *die/das Limo* "lemonade", *die/das Repro* "reproduction", words with diminutive suffixes serving for the nomination of female persons: *die/das Püppi* "baby", *das/die Sexerle* "woman".

We emphasize that in each group of variants with unstable generic affiliation, there are variant pairs or rows that are not subject to certain systematization, especially if we are talking about foreign-language units. The largest number of borrowings is observed in the group of variants with fluctuations between the masculine and the neuter gender.

Variant forms with variation between strong and weak declension paradigms represent masculine nouns. Often the form of the weak declension is obsolete or regionally marked: *der Protz – des Protzes / (oral) Protzen – die Protze / (mouth) Protzen* "braggart", *der Fex – des Fexes / (yu.-German, austr.) Fexen – die Fexe / (yu.-German, austr.) Fexen* "fool, fool".

The next type of grammatical variation of nouns consists in fluctuations in the form of the genitive singular. Variant pairs of this type are nouns of strong declension of masculine and neuter gender, opposed by the presence/absence of genitive inflection -(e)s. Numerous borrowed words are marked by fluctuations in the form of the genitive: *das Okay – des Okay/Okays* "consent", *der Newbie – des Newbie/Newbies* "teapot (about a novice user)", also borrowed and autochthonous units with a certain structural specificity: abbreviated words: *der G.I. – des G.I./G.I.s* "American soldier"; shifts: *der Möchtegern – des Möchtegerns/Möchtegern* "braggart", *der Nimmersatt – des Nimmersatt/Nimmersattes* "glutton"; onomatopoeic nouns *das Tatütata – des Tatütata/ Tatütatas* "the sound of a fire engine siren, police", reduplications: *der Krimskrams – des Krimskrams/Krimskramses* "trash; trinkets"; truncated words on -i, -o: *der Ami – des Ami/ Amis* "American", *der Anarcho – des Anarcho/Anarchos* "anarchist".

The variation of plural forms consists in fluctuations between suffixal forms: *das Malheur – die Malheure/ Malheurs* "nuisance", *der Schmock – die Schmöcke/Schmocke/Schmocks* "unscrupulous journalist", *der Depp – die Deppen/Deppe* "fool", *der*

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Medikus – die Medikusse/Medizi "aesculapius", der Topp – die Toppe/Toppen/Topps "gallery (in the theater)"; suffixal and prefix-free forms: das Hascherl – die Hascherl/Hascherln "stupid man; poor thing", die Schoko – die Schoko/Schokos "chocolate", der Lokus – die Lokus/Lokusse "toilet"; umlautated/unlautated root vowels: der Knast – die Knäste/Knaste "prison".

2. An analytical component or a synthetic formative agent may be subject to fluctuations in the formation of verb forms in the German language. The fluctuations of the analytical type include the possible use in the South German area of the verb danebenliegen "to be mistaken" in the form of a perfect or plusquamperfect not only with the auxiliary verb haben, but also with the verb sein.

The variation of grammatical forms of the verb can be associated with such a property of compound German verbs as separability of the first base. The separability/inseparability of the adverbial component is related to the semantics of the verb unit, therefore, it is practically not necessary to talk about such fluctuations in the verb form that do not entail changes in meaning in relation to native or fully mastered verbs. Nevertheless, the analysis of the forms and meanings of compound German verbs revealed cases of possible use of the forms of three German verbs durchkramen "to search", durchschnüffeln "to search", durchschmökern "to read to holes" with both separable and inseparable adverbial particle durch-: 'durchkramen/durch'kramen – er durchkramte/er kramte durch.

The variant pair, whose members are opposed by the presence/absence of the prefix ge-, is formed by the participle forms II of the borrowed unit roboten "to work (about work)" – er hat gerobotet/robotet. Similar fluctuations, not recorded in lexicographic sources, but revealed during the analysis of corpus data, are found in numerous neological English–language prefixed or compound verbs: remixen "to make a remix" – remixt/geremixt/geremixet, supporten "to provide support" – supportet/ gesupportet. In the process of integrating English–language verbal neologisms into the grammatical structure of the German language, the variation of verb forms is also manifested in fluctuations between the German/English formative suffix of the participle of the hybrid form of the suffix: bloggen "to make a blog entry" – gebloggt/geblogget/geblogged; in the position of the prefix in the participle II of compound verbs: brainstormen "to brainstorm" – gebrainstormed/gebrainstorm/braingestormet/braingestormed; in separability/inseparability of the first basis of compound verbs in the forms of presentation, preterite, participle II, in the dependent infinitive with a particle: babysitten "to look after the child" – ich babysitte / sitte baby, ich habe babygesittet/gebabysittet, ich habe mit 13 Jahren angefangen babyzusitten / zu babysitten.

III. Spelling variation

Spelling variants are characterized by differences in spelling, but coincidence in pronunciation. The analysis of the written form of variant units allowed us to distribute the identified spelling variants into the following three groups.

Firstly, variants of the word with different grapheme composition are distinguished. Variant pairs, and in some cases rows, form units in which the same sound is transmitted by a monograph or digraph: Posemuckel/ Posemukel "backwoods", trietzen/triezen "to torment (on the exam)", dun / duhn "drunk". There are variants in which the combination of sounds [ks] is transmitted by the monograph x or by combinations of graphemes chs, cks: Flachs/Flax "joke", verknacksen/verknaxen "put in jail". In words of foreign language origin, spelling differences may be due to the replacement of letters in the process of graphic assimilation: abturnen/abtörnen "to spoil the mood", Teenie/Teeny "teenager", shanghaien/shanghaien "to persuade", bezirzen/becircen "to seduce, bewitch". Quantitative variants with a short root vowel are characterized by different grapheme composition, contrasted by the presence/absence of doubled root consonants: aufpeppen/ aufpepen "to give a zest, to revive", Trabbi/Trabi "trabant (car brand)". The doubling of a consonant serves here as a graphical indicator of the brevity of the preceding root vowel.

The second group of spelling variants consists of units with fluctuations between uppercase and lowercase letters: Bufdi/BuFDi "volunteer of the federal volunteer service", O.K./O.K. "OK".

Finally, the third group of spelling variants is represented by different-structured complex units, mainly English-language nouns, distinguished by a merged/hyphenated spelling: Couchkartoffel/CouchKartoffel "a sedentary person spending all his free time in front of the TV", Jobhopper/Job-Hopper "flyer", Hangover/Hang-over "hangover", Fresssack/Fress-Sack "glutton"; in a single/separate spelling: Hotspot/Hot Spot "hot spot", ballaballa/ balla balla "crazy, abnormal".

As a result of the analysis of the types of variation of colloquial German words discussed above, the following observations can be made.

Variation in the German everyday-spoken language affects such classes of words as nouns, adjectives, verbs and interjections, to a much lesser extent – adverbs. Colloquial nouns are represented in all types of formal variation. Adjectives, adverbs and verbs are characterized by all kinds of phonetic variation. Verbs, in addition, reveal variant properties in the formation of grammatical forms. Interjections are marked by accentual and phonemic fluctuations. Spelling variation is characterized by nouns, adjectives, verbs, interjections.

There is a relationship between colloquially marked ways (means) of word formation and

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fluctuations in the material shell of the word. So, among accentual and grammatical variants, and in the latter case, sometimes simultaneously on several grounds, there are reduplications, words of onomatopoeic nature, truncations, complex words.

Variant colloquial vocabulary is represented by both native and foreign-language units, both mastered and unassimilated. Native, as well as mastered foreign language vocabulary is characterized primarily by phonemic fluctuations. Phonemic fluctuations in root morphemes are caused by the uneven course of historical phonomorphological processes of development of the German language in different territories of the German-speaking language space: movement of consonants, palatal rearrangement, affrication, diphthongization, monophthongization, etc. Undeveloped foreign-language units with varying degrees of assimilation are marked by orthoepic, accentual, morphological fluctuations, often by

several indicators at once. The combination of variant features is especially characteristic of neological borrowings. This is due to the uneven course of assimilative processes, the emergence of intermediate, hybrid forms due to the preservation in borrowed words of certain properties of words-etymons and the simultaneous influence of the German language system.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the units forming variant pairs or series are not necessarily equal, and thus interchangeable. Unequal variant units can be chronologically or geographically differentiated, differ in frequency of use, emotional and expressive coloring, degree of proximity to the general literary norm. All these properties of variants indicate that the variation of the word is not redundant, but, on the contrary, acts as one of the factors of the diversity of means of linguistic expression.

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