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STRUCTURAL-SEMANTIC AND STATISTICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THREE-COMPONENT ATTRIBUTIVE CONSTRUCTIONS IN THE OFFICIAL DISCOURSE GENRES

Ludmila Tsapenko[1], Elena Mardarenko[2], Tamara Kudinova [3]

Abstract

The paper considers three-component attributive constructions (TCACs) functioning in the official discourse texts. Four genres of official discourse have been taken as a material: "British Council Correspondence", the texts included in the correspondence of the British Council with teachers of universities in foreign countries; the juridical documents of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labor Organization (ILO; the texts of operating instruction for Toyota vehicles; the texts containing formulas of inventions in physics and radio electronics, extracted from the licensed sources. They could conditionally be called "humanitarian" (official correspondence, juridical documents), which are close to colloquial speech, and "technical" (car operating instructions, formulas of inventions (licenses), which, respectively, reflect written language. This selection allows to determine the differential and integral features of the analyzed TCACs as inside each mentioned pairs and between them. The total volume of text corpora was 200 thousand word tokens, so the texts of each genre include text corpora of 50 thousand word tokens. The goal is to describe and comparatively analyze their structural, semantic and statistical characteristics. The results have demonstrated that three-component attributive constructions in all four genres of official discourse are characterized by a large variety of models. The greatest variety of TCACs models is observed in the formulas of inventions (licenses) genre – 23 models; 19 different types of TCACs models are in official correspondence; the genre of car operating instructions presents 16 different types; the genre of juridical documents has 14 types of models. Within the two so-called "humanitarian" genres, a partial mismatch in usage of models has been found. In the genres of car operating instructions and formulas of inventions (patents), more coincidences were observed. The most frequent model in all genres is SSS (noun + noun + noun). Besides this model possesses the most extensive semantic structure as compared to the other ones occurred in the analyzed text corpora.

KEYWORDS*:* text corpus, model, frequency zones, structure, quantitative and qualitative characteristics, semantic and thematic relations, semantic field, complex word.

[1] Assoc. Prof. PhD L. N. Tsapenko, Odessa National Polytechnic University, Serova,42,12, 65000-Odessa, Ukraine, E-mail: ellebedeva-od@mail.ru
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-5088-2393

[2] Assoc. Prof. PhD E. V. Mardarenko, Odessa National Polytechnic University, A. Nevsky,4,8, 65072-Odessa, Ukraine, E-mail: mardarenkoelena@gmail.com
ORCID ID: 0000-0003-0330-124X

[3] Senior Lecturer T. I. Kudinova, Odessa National Polytechnic University, Lermontov Lane, 4, 8, 65014-Odessa, Ukraine: E-mail: kudinova.tamara@gmail.com
ORCID ID: 0000-0003-3302-6699

1. Introduction.

When studying almost any genre of official discourse attention is attracted, first of all, by the high frequency of occurrence of attributive word-combinations. Moreover, attributive phrases with a wide variety of structures – from simple two-component structures with a minimum number of elements to multi-component ones, including up to seven elements. This fact cannot be ignored by the researchers since it is obvious that the statistical (quantitative) features of this phenomenon definitely indicate its possible status as a style- distinguishing marker. In accordance with the statement by I.V. Arnold "... styles differ among themselves not so much by the presence of specific elements, but by their specific distribution. Therefore the most indicative characteristic of the functional style is the statistical one"[4]. Recently, the frequency of functioning of attributive constructions in various types of discourse has begun to attract the attention of even supporters of comparative linguistics who are trying to find the differentiating and integrating features of these speech units in the seemingly completely different languages of Central Asia[5], some Slavic Languages[6] and English.

Attributive word-combinations have already been described in sufficient detail by linguists of both the old theoretical school[7] and young scientists[8] who consider attributive constructions directly in text corpora. However, it seems that although multi-genre discourses – media discourse[9], discourse of the education system[10], scientific discourse[11], political discourse[12] – have already been studied, this aspect has not been sufficiently developed in the official discourse.

Therefore for this study the official discourse was chosen as a **material**, as the presence of documentary objects of different contents gives a wide opportunity for comparing the results without resorting to text corpora of other fields of knowledge. Three-component attributive constructions were selected as the **object** of the study. The **goal** of this paper is to describe and comparatively analyze the structural-semantic and statistical characteristics of three-component attributive constructions.

2. Methodology.

The presented article is based on the results of a study of text corpora of four genres that are part of the official discourse: official correspondence (taken from the correspondence of the British Council with teachers of universities in foreign countries (British Council Correspondence), court proceedings (texts of the judicial documents of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labor Organization (ILO) in the collection "Judges of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labor Organization"), texts of car operating instruction for Toyota vehicles, and formulas of inventions (patents) (the texts containing formulas of inventions in physics and radio electronics, extracted from the licensed

[4] Arnold 2004;
[5] Бобоходжаева 2000;
[6] Ханаху 2007;
[7] Poutsma 1904; Гальперин 1954; Curme 1957; Будагов 1963; Ахманова 1963; Якубайтис 1981; Добросклонская 1981; Блох 1983; Белоусова 1989;
[8] Пешехонова 2003; Самойлик 2007; Юрьева 2009;
[9] Добросклонская 1981
[10] Пешехонова 2003
[11] Белоусова 1989
[12] Самойлик 2007

sources).The total volume is 200 thousand word tokens, so the texts of each genre include corpora of 50 thousand word tokens.

These genres were selected from the entire list of genres in order to consider text corpora of various nature – those that could conditionally be called "humanitarian" (official correspondence, court procedural documents), they are close to colloquial speech, and "technical" (car operating instructions, formulas of inventions (licenses), which, respectively, to a greater extent reflect written language. This selection allows you to determine the differential and integral features of the analyzed objects both inside each mentioned pair and between them.

To analyze the frequency characteristics of the three-component attributive constructions (TCAC) in different genres, three frequency zones were arbitrarily singled out: high-frequency, mid-frequency and low-frequency. The high-frequency zone embraces TCACs used in texts with a frequency of 200 to 100 units, the middle-frequency zone comprises constructions with frequencies from 99 to 50, the low-frequency zone includes TCACs with a frequency of occurence from 49 to 1.

The abbreviations for the parts of speech and their grammatical forms accepted in the work are as follows: S – noun, B – adjective, Pr – pronoun, Adv – adverbial, P1P2 – participle 1, 2, R – compound word, Vn – verbal noun, A – acronym, X – symbol, T – proper name, name, N – numeral.

3. Results.

3.1. In the texts of official correspondence among multi-component structures the three-component structures with the model TTS occurs with the highest probability which contain the following components: the name of an object, society, organization, etc. + noun. Structures of this kind often denote the names of administrative and cultural institutions, for example, *the State's Tourist Committee*, or organizations, for example, *the World Health Assembly*.

The following structures are located in the mid-frequency zone: SSS (noun + noun + noun) or S'SS (noun in the possessive case + noun + noun), TSS (proper name or title + noun + noun) or TBS (proper name or title + adjective + noun), BSS (adjective + noun + noun), P2SS (participle II + noun + noun), BBS (adjective + adjective + noun).

In the structural models TSS, TBS the relationship between the core and preposites which express the names of cities, countries, surnames of people, for example, *Edinburgh book shop, Scotland's famous poet*, has an individual distinguishing feature for separating the object from the class of homogeneous ones, since modern linguistics considers proper names in this exact aspect[13].

The relationship between the core and preposites in the SSS model expresses the distinguishing feature, purpose, membership, for example, *summer schools booklet, selection Committee Procedure, Chamber Music Club, Sales Service Section.*

In the constructions of this type consisting of the two conjugated nouns the first is always identified as a definition, the second as defined. With an increase in the number of conjugated nouns the relations do not change, and the last noun in the chain constituting the structure is identified as being defined, and all the previous ones as definitions to it[14].

[13] Алыбина 1981
[14] Бурлакова 1984

In some cases, a noun is combined with another noun based on subordination in the S'SS structure: noun in the possessive case + noun in the general case, for example*, Students' Representative Council, Committee's sound film.*

The BSS model represents relationships expressing qualitative, quantitative, or relative characteristics, for instance, *colorful national costume, great architectural beauty, residential adult education*. Both the first and second preposites in this construction can be descriptive, for example, *small rocky island*, relative, for example, *great architectural beauty*, or have a functional characteristic, for example, *several experimental firms*, a distinguishing feature, for example, *famous beauty spot*.

The P2SS structure denotes a feature acquired as a result of some action, for example, *enclosed Application Form, attached Application Form, Recorded Sound Department.*

In the mid-frequency group there are advP1S (adverbial + participle I + noun), advP2S (adverbial + participle II + noun), advBS (adverbial + adjective + noun) groups, i.e. three-component attributive constructions with abverbials formed using the -ly suffix. They have an intermediate meaning between qualitative and circumstantial adverbs, some of which indicate a sign of action,[15] for example, *culturally prescribed goals, socially structured avenue*, or express an emotional assessment, for example, *strangely moving story*.

Due to the low frequency of use of the remaining types of three-component attributive constructions (TCACs) they are not described in this paper. We confine ourselves to their enumeration: BSVn (adjective + noun + verbal noun), for example, *British Council showing*; BBVn (adjective + adjective + verbal noun), for example, *modern Japanese setting*; BP1S (adjective + participle I + noun) or BP2S (adjective + participle II + noun), for example, *English speaking union*; R'NS (compound word in possessive + numeral + noun), for example, *Director-General's first letter*; NSS (numeral + noun + noun), for example, *two youth camp*; SP1S noun + participle I + noun), for example, *language teaching records*; SBS (noun + adjective + noun), for example, *world famous comedy*. There are also phrases like *"At home" Schedule*.

3.2. In studying the structures of the procedural documents genre 14 three-component structural models were identified. Of these, the structures BSS and ASS (A'SS) are most likely to appear in the texts of the procedural documents genre, for example, *International Labor Organization, UNESCO staff Regulation.*

The next most commonly used are SSS, SS'S, SBS, S'BS, NSS, NS'S constructions, for example, *Selection Committee Procedure, complainant's principal claim, 15 month's salary*.

The following structural models are located in the zone of low frequency of occurence: S'NS, for example, *complainant's second plea*, PrSS (pronoun + noun + noun), for example, *your maintenance allowance*, SP1S, for example, *letter refusing repayment*, XAS (symbol + acronym + noun), for example, *(c) o FAO headquarters*, SXS (noun + symbol + noun), for example, *grade G.5 Secretary*, RSS (compound word + noun + noun), for example, *lump-sum pension benefit.*

3.3. In the texts of the genre of car operating instructions 17 different models of three-component attributive constructions (TCACs) are registered.

[15] Чуприна 1981

In the texts of this genre of official discourse the most frequently occurrence models are SSS, BSS and SP1S. The high frequency of the appearance of SSS models in the texts can be explained by the fact that nouns are capable of creating a conceptual and substantive richness of sentences, which is important for the content of this genre with a comprehensive description of such objects as devices, the operation process of the device, its working conditions, etc. Adjectives in BSS constructs add a qualitative, quantitative or relative characteristic. SP1S constructions are used when it is necessary to give an object, process or phenomenon a process-qualifying characteristic, which is manifested in these constructions.

The following models are in the mid-frequency zone: ZZS (passport data + noun), NSS, SBS, P2SS, P2BS, RSS (compound word + noun + noun), BP1S, XSS (symbol + noun + noun).

The remaining structures are in the low-frequency zone: SSVn, for example, *choke valve opening*, P1SS, for example, *adjusting screw spring*, BBS, for example, *thermostatic bimetal coil*, ASS, for example, *EES system hoses*, PrSS, for example, *each current alternation*.

The following TCACs occur occasionally: BSVn, for example, *atmospheric pressure readings*, SP2S, for example, *speed controlled spark.*

In the largest group of the model SSS quite a variety of semantic-thematic relationships are presented:

a) parts to the whole which is one of the meanings of the semantic field of relational connections, for example, *master cylinder reservoir, input shaft end, end wall portion*;

b) a functional purpose or assignment related to the semantic field of the object parameters, for example, *clutch release cylinder, air supply hose, rocker assembly support*;

c) the nature of the action, process, for example, *brake pad removal, cylinder head installation, exhaust gas recirculation.*

The second most frequently used model is BSS, this structure belongs to the semantic fields of quality and evaluation of objects.

a) TCACs expressing the assessing meaning, for example, *low resistance material, high frequency oscillator, high frequency coil, highest current density*;

b) TCACs having values of the properties of objects, their features (characteristics), for example, *additional circuit layer, gaseous gain medium, negative temperature coefficient, positive voltage differential*.

The next according to frequency is the TCAC SP1S which represents the meaning of the process semantic field reflecting all kinds of aspects of actions and the qualifying characteristic of various parts related to a particular part of the car, for example, *shaft retaining bolt, converter attaching bolt, switch securing bolt, transmission mounting bolt, pocket aligning.*

The semantic field of parameters (characteristics) of objects includes the ZZS model located in the mid-frequency zone, which represents passport data, for example, *2005 Corolla model, 2004 Celica models, Corolla 1200 models, 4M six-cylinder engine*. In the same zone (medium frequencies) the SBS model operates implementing the relational connections of the part and the whole, for example, *synchronizer outer ring, brake flexible hose*, as well as the P2SS model. The attributes in this TCAC model found in the texts of this genre of official discourse distinguish the following meanings:

a) an external feature, for example, *tampered roller bearing, elongated bolt hole*;

b) a description of the state resulting from a certain action[16], for example, *slotted split pin*. In this construction, the participle II indicates the state of the object after the "*slot*" action was performed on it. In the TCAC *a polished planar surface* the attribute *polished* indicates the state of an object after the "*polish*" action has been performed on it. In the TCAC *elongated bolt hole* the attribute denotes the state of the object "*hole*" after the action "*to elongate*" that is "*to lengthen*"; in *the operated fuel lamp design*, after the action "*to operate*", that is "*to actuate*". The number of such TCACs in the text corpus of car operating instructions was 19 units.

The BP1S model (adjective + participle 1 + noun), which expresses the qualification-procedural characteristic, belongs to the same (middle) area of frequency of use. In it participle 1 combines the properties of a verb and an adjective[17], for example, *normal operating temperature, vacuum switching valve, front adjusting cam, rare mounting brace, protective relaying apparatus, electronic heating means.*

The composition and integration relations is implemented by the NSS structure (numeral + noun + noun), for example, *first synchronizer unit, six graduation difference, three detent balls.*

In the mid-frequency zone there is also the XSS model – symbol + noun + noun, for example, *U-joint sleeve joke, w-50 speed transmission.*

3.4. As a result of the TCAC study of the formulas of inventions (patents) an unusually large variety of structural models was revealed (23 models), which indicates the widest combinatorial possibilities of parts of speech manifested in this genre of official discourse. At first glance such a diversity between TCAC elements seems chaotic and only the impossibility of rearranging the components without distorting the meaning of the whole structure suggests that these relations are logical. The probability of the distribution of three-component constructions in the genre of formulas of inventions about frequency zones is presented below.

The highest frequency of occurrence in this genre the SSS structure possesses, for example, *bearing signal generator*.

It is followed by: BSS, e.g. *rigid metal pin*, NSS, e.g. *second bearing unit*, SP1S, e.g. *induction heating furnace*, P2SS, e.g. *opposed end surfaces*, P2BS, e.g. *hardened photoresistive film*, BBS, e.g. *variable capacitate elements*, BP1S, for example, *unidirectional charging current*.

The rest of the TCAC models are implemented in the texts of this genre using a variety of structures. So, for example, in the low-frequency zone there are models with compound words that can be located both at the beginning of the phrase and inside it: RBS, for example, *open-ended cylindrical closure*, RSS, for example, *rod-supporting electromagnet means*, RP1S, for example, *ribbon-type heating element*, RRS, e.g. *gas-insulated high-voltage lines*, BRS, e.g. *electronic position-indicating means*, RP2S, e.g. *short-circuited shading coils*, NRS, e.g. *two load-related variations*, P1RS e.g. *protruding lead-in conductor*.

As you can see, compound words in these constructions can consist of a noun and participle I or II (*electronic position-indicating means, cup-shaped housing means*), a noun and a noun (*repetitive pulse-form images*), a pronoun and a participle I (*self-supporting slurry*

[16] Бурлакова 1984
[17] Блох 1982

layer), an adjective and a participle II (*open-ended cylindrical closure*), a numeral and a noun (*three-phase distribution current*), an adverbial and a participle II (*laterally-spaced surface region*), noun and adjective (*voltage-dependent semiconductor element*), a noun and a symbol (*refractory mask-GaAS interface*).

Structural models are found with an even lower frequency, which include an acronym or a symbol: ABS, for example, *MOS digital gate*, BAS, for example, *common dc bus*, ASS, for example, *p + conduction characteristic*, XSS, for example, *pnp transistor structure*.

The following structures, including adverbials, appear in the texts of this genre with the following frequencies: adBS (F = 5), for example, *essentially coherent beam*, adP2S (F = 4), for example, *radially magnetized magnets*, adP1S (F = 3), e.g. *vertically reciprocating member*.

The remaining TCACs are represented by structural models operating in the texts of the genre with a frequency of 2 and 1: NBS, for example, *first primary winding*, SP1S, for example, *voltage controlled oscillator*, P1BS, for example, *electroplating conductive material*, NP2S, for example, *first predetermined interval*, BP2S, e.g. *continuous predetermined period*, NP1S, e.g. *first insulating film*, P2P2S, e.g. *encapsulated integrated circuit*.

The following TCAC models occur occasionally: P1P1S, for example, *reversing switching mechanism*, PrSS, for example, *rectified alternating circuit*, P1P2S, for example, *free-wheeling mixed bridge.*

As for the proper names that are included in this type of constructions according to scientists they (proper names) can appear in constructions exclusively according to the N'S + N model, i.e. when a subordinate noun appears in the form of a possessive case. However, in the studied text corpus proper names also appear in the general case as a part of subordinate groups, for example, *the Faraday effect diffraction*.

Let us dwell on the meanings realized by these TCAC models. The most common SSS model is:

a) a differential indication of a device, part, system, structure, for example, *a bearing signal generator, motor drive system, field effect transistor;*

b) the relations of the part and the whole or vice versa – the relations of the whole and the part, for example, *output terminal portion, connector ring segments, semiconductor device element, outer edge portion;*

c) the purpose of the device, system, for example, *power supply system, current supply means, size selection means.*

That is, in this genre, constructions built according to the SSS model are referred to a qualitative semantic field, as well as the ones of relational connections and object parameters.

The BSS model are referred to the following semantic fields:

a) distinctive feature, property, estimated characteristic of the object, for example, *low resistance path, extreme voltage drop;*

b) this structure can also characterize the relation of the part and the whole, for example, *a magnetic pole piece*;

c) the BSS structure expresses the distinguishing feature, shape, material, substance of which the item is made, for example, *elongated metallic web, soft resilient member*

d) physical properties, for example, *flexible piezoelectric film*;

e) the nature of the action, for example, *simple mechanical adjustment, relative robbery movement.*

In models SP1S and BP1S, participle I gives them a qualifying and procedural characterization, for example, *energy feeding port, induction heating furnace, light emitting region.*

Participle II in models P2BS, P2SS denotes a sign, property that has arisen as a result of any action, for example, *predetermined minimum value, doped polycrystalline silicon.*

TCACs expressed by NSS structures indicate composition, integration, for example, *four bridge arms.*

TCACs, expressed by the structures with AdBS and AdP2S adverbials, characterize the degree of the feature, for example, *essentially coherent beam, relatively brief period, quality of action, states, for example, axially directed gas, radially magnetized magnets*.

4. Discussion.

The choice of official discourse, which includes genres that reflect the most diverse aspects of the socio-cultural activity of society, made it possible to highlight the lexical-semantic, structural and statistical features of speech units used by members of society in everyday life most frequently.

The authors' decision to use two genres with almost the same topics turned out to be methodically correct and successful and allowed to obtain a number of advantages: 1. statistically more reliable results; 2. confirmation of data in the aspect of lexical-semantic relations; 3. a more detailed and accurate representation of the three-component structures of various models.

5. Conclusions

1. All four genres of official style are characterized by a large variety of models of three-component attributive constructions.

2. The greatest variety of TCAC models is observed in the genre of formulas of inventions (licenses), the number of different structures is 23; in the second place for this parameter are TCACs of official correspondence – 19 different types of models; in the third – the genre of car operating instructions, 16 different types; and in the last there are the constructions that are part of the genre of court proceedings – 14 types.

3. If we compare the TCAC models according to the frequency of use in the genres of official correspondence and court procedural documents we can find that the distribution of models in almost all frequency zones does not coincide. Nevertheless, it would be incorrect to speak of a complete discrepancy. For example, one cannot but notice the presence of SSS, SS'S models in the mid-frequency zone in both genres.

4. In the genres of car operating instructions and formulas of inventions (patents), more coincidences can be observed in functioning the TCAC models in frequency zones. So, the SSS model is included in the high-frequency zone of both genres. In the TCAC structures of both genres, participles I and II are widely used, for example, in the genre of instructions SP1S, P2SS, P2BS, BP1S, P1SS; in the claims genre SP1S, P2SS, P2BS, BP1S, SP1S, P1BS, NP2S, BP2S, NP1S, P2P2S. This is one of the common distinguishing features of these "technical" genres.

5. A comparison of both pairs of genres has showed that there are some common characteristics between the models that appear in official correspondence texts and the TCAC

models offormulas of inventions: in the texts of both genres there are TCACs, which include adverbials, for example, advP1S, advP2S, advBS and adBS adP2S adP1S, respectively. In addition to this feature they both demonstrate the highest rates in terms of the variety of types of TCAC models.

6. In the process of research it has been found that each type of these structures expresses one or another abstract (generalized) lexical meaning. At the lexical-semantic level, TCAC models have the following features:

a) SSS – a model with the most ramified semantic structure, i.e. it is the most significant TCAC and has the following meanings: the relations of the part to the whole, which is one of the meanings of the semantic field of relational connections; object parameters; nature of the action, process;

b) almost all models with participle II indicate a characteristic acquired as a result of some action;

c) models in which adjectives are in the first place have a qualification-procedural characteristic, i.e. denote relationships expressing qualitative, quantitative or relative characteristics;

d) models with participle I represent the meaning of the procedural semantic field, reflecting all kinds of aspects of actions and give them a qualifying characteristic;

e) TCAC models with adverbials characterize not only the degree of the attribute, quality of the action, condition, but also the emotional assessment in relation to any action.

The complexity, frequency of occurrence and the great structural and semantic potential of multi-component attributive constructions functioning in the text corpora of various genres of official discourse have demonstrated the important status of these speech units, so further studies will be devoted to four-, five-, six-component, etc. attributive constructions.

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СТРУКТУРНО-СЕМАНТИЧНІ І СТАТИСТИЧНІ ХАРАКТЕРИСТИКИ ТРИКОМПОНЕНТНИХ АТРИБУТИВНИХ КОНСТРУКЦІЙ В ТЕКСТАХ ОФІЦІЙНО-ДІЛОВОГО ДИСКУРСУ

Людмила Цапенко, Олена Мардаренко, Тамара Кудінова

Анотація.
У статті розглянуто трикомпонентні атрибутивні конструкції (ТКАК), які функціонують в текстах офіційно-ділового дискурсу. Чотири жанри дискурсу були взяті як матеріал: «Листування Британської ради», тексти, включені до листування Британської ради з викладачами університетів зарубіжних країн; юридичні документи Адміністративного трибуналу Міжнародної організації праці (МОП); тексти інструкцій з експлуатації автомобілів Toyota; тексти, що містять формули винаходів з фізики та радіоелектроніки, витягнуті з ліцензованих джерел. Їх умовно можна назвати "гуманітарними" (офіційна кореспонденція, юридичні документи), вони близькі до розмовної мови та "технічними" (інструкції з експлуатації автомобілів, формули винаходів (ліцензії), які відповідно відображають письмову мову. Цей вибір дозволив визначити диференціальні та інтегральні ознаки аналізованих ТКАК як в межах кожної із згаданих пар, так і між ними. Загальний обсяг текстових корпусів становив 200 тис. слововживань, тому тексти кожного жанру включають текстові корпуси в 50 тис. слововживань. Мета статті – описати і провести порівняльний аналіз їх структурних, семантичних та статистичних характеристик. Результати продемонстрували, що трикомпонентні атрибутивні конструкції у всіх чотирьох жанрах офіційного дискурсу характеризуються великою різноманітністю моделей. Найбільше різноманіття моделей ТКАК спостерігається у жанрах формул винаходів (ліцензій) – 23 моделі; 19 різних типів моделей ТКАК перебувають в офіційному листуванні; у жанрі інструкції з експлуатації автомобілів представлено 16 різних типів; жанр юридичних документів має 14 типів моделей. У двох так званих «гуманітарних» жанрах спостерігається часткова незбіжність використання моделей. У жанрах інструкцій з експлуатації автомобілів та формул винаходів (патентів) спостерігалося більше збігів. Найчастіша модель у всіх жанрах – SSS (іменник + іменник + іменник). Крім того, ця модель має найбільш широку смислову структуру порівняно з іншими, що мали місце в аналізованих текстових корпусах.

Ключові слова: текстовий корпус, модель, частотні зони, структура, кількісні та якісні характеристики, семантичні та тематичні відносини, семантичне поле, комплексне слово.

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