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"Passe-partout" verbs (pronominal verbs) in Russian and Greek: approach to the subject and comparative analysis

Abstract. In the Russian and Greek system relating to parts of speech, the significant and pronominal categorical classes of words are distinguished. Our main task is to present such an ambiguous phenomenon as a pronominal verb. It has a field arrangement with a core and a periphery. Verbs with deictic roots (-eto-/-αυτό-) such as *этовать*/*αυτώνω*, as well as an obscene verbal lexicon, are found at the core of the field. The Russian verb *делать*/Greek *κάνω* is included in the zone around the core. The nearest periphery includes explicative verbs used in descriptive predicates; explicative verbs used in the analogues of descriptive predicates; and also the verb *делать*/*κάνω* in the context of phraseological units. Incomplete phasic and modal verbs constitute the far periphery together with fullvalue verbs, which can perform some pronominal functions in both languages.

Key words: *"passe-partout" verbs, deictic verbs, descriptive predicate, phraseological units.*

1. Introduction

In the linguodidactic model of teaching foreign languages, including Russian and Greek, along with the classification of linguistic phenomena, the principle of their systematization with a dichotomous system of oppositions is actively used. In addition to the meaning of the lexical unit fixed in the explanatory dictionaries, the meaning of the lexical-semantic variant of the word is widely used as the realization of the value of a unit in a specific expression (Смирницкий 1955). In addition to the *parts of speech* as the most

common grammatical (or lexical-grammatical) superclasses, the concept of *categorical classes of words* (CCW) is used as more particular morphological categories in the view of parts of speech (Всеволодова 2000; Панков 2009). CCW in Russian are not allocated on the basis of classification, but of systematization. Rejection of the classification principle in favor of the principle of systematization seems logical at the present stage of development of linguistics as a whole and its functional and communicative direction in particular. The so-called CCW are morphological levels of lexemes, united, first of all, by the unity of grammar, not lexical (semantic) features. In accordance with the principles of systematization and the dichotomy, all the parts of speech are divided into independent and dependent, and among the independent we distinguish nominal and pronominal CCW. The former play a nominative role in the sentence, and the latter, pronominal, replace this or that significant (nominative) lexical unit.

The theory and practice of teaching foreign languages often pose some questions concerning the grammatical status of the lexeme. One of the problems deals with the so-called pronominal (i.e. *passe-partout*) words, which perform such functions as deictic, referential, quantitative, etc. In the frame of every nominal part of speech, we can single out nominal and pronominal categorical classes of words. For instance, among the nouns we distinguish not only *ручка* (*ruchka*, transl.[1] *pen*), *карандаш* (*karandash*, transl. *pencil*) in Russian and *μαρκαδόρος* (*markadoros*, transl. *felt pen*), *καρέκλα* (*karekla*, transl. *chair*) in Greek, but also *она*, *он*, *αυτός*, *αυτή* (*on, ona, aftos, afti*, transl. *he, she*), among the adjectives we discern not only *умная* (*umnaja*, transl. *clever*), *высокий* (*vysokij*, transl. *tall*) in Russian and *όμορφη* (*omorfi*, transl. *beautiful*), *ωραίος* (*oreos*, transl. *handsome*) in Greek, but also *такая*, *такой* (*takaja, takoj*, transl. *such*), *τέτοιος* (*tetios*, transl. *such*), among the numerals not only *два* (*dva*, transl. *two*) or *τρία* (*tria*, transl. *three*), but also *столько* (*stolko*, transl. *such*), *сколько* (*skolko*, transl. *how many*), *τόσοι* (*tosi*, transl. *so much*), *πόσοι* (*posi*, transl. *how much*), among the adverbs not only *завтра* (*zavtra*, transl. *tomorrow*), *интересно* (*interesno*, transl. *interesting*) or *αύριο* (*avrio*, transl. *tomorrow*), *βεβαίως* (*veveos*, transl. *certainly*), but also *тогда* (*togda*, transl. *then*), *τότε* (*tote*, transl. *then*), *как* (*kak*, transl. *how*) etc.

Despite the linguistic systemic nature and regularity of the speech realizations of this opposition, modern grammatical studies usually do not talk about the expediency of distinguishing a class of so-called "pronominal" or "passe-partout" verbs, although some scientists still recognize their presence in the language system.

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[1] We used *transl.* for translation.

2. Historical background

For the first time the term "pronominal verb" appears in the scientific literature in 1965 in various English works in order to design the construction *verb + noun* (compare, e.g., *take a drive/a walk* etc.). In Russia and Greece, a number of linguists have dealt with the pronominal character of the verb, but neither in Russian nor in Greek science has there been a systematic and comprehensive description of this CCW.

Thus, in particular, in Russian philology, Academician V. Vinogradov refers to A. Zaretsky, who finds "surrogate of the verbal pronoun" in Russian: a descriptive verbal pronoun *что делать*? (*chto delat'*, transl. *what to do*). In fact, this expression represents one whole pronoun, and it's evident from the fact that in the answer to this question the word *делать* (*delat'*, transl. *to do*) is neither repeated nor implied, e.g.: *Что ты делаешь? – Читаю* (*Chto ty delaesh? – Chitaju*, transl. *What are you doing? – I'm reading*), but not **делаю чтение* (**delaju chtenie*, transl. **I do reading*) or *делаю читать* (**delaju chitat'*, transl. **I do read*) (Виноградов 1972: 262). Following A. Zaretsky, V. Vinogradov considers *что делать* (*chto delat'*, transl. *what to do*) an indivisible pronoun. Yu. Maslov suggests comparing English *Yes, I **do** (he **does**/I **did** ...)* as an answer to a question containing a significant verb in the simple present or simple past tense, to *He reads better than I **do***, where the pronominal verb *to do* is used. In addition, Yu. Maslov notes the necessity of a proper pronoun next to the verb form.

Two points of view on the problem of the appropriateness of distinguishing pronominal verbs are given by M. Panov. The first one is V. Arakin, who (after A. Zaretsky and V. Vinogradov) speaks about a single-verb construction *что делать* (*chto delat'*), calling it a verbal phraseological construction: *Ты что **делаешь?** – Да вот видишь – лежу, думаю* (*Chto ty delaesh'? – Da vot vidish – lezhu, dumaju*, transl. *What are you doing? – As you can see, I'm lying on bed thinking*): "In these dialogues, two replicas are grammatically parallel: the question is a whole word and a verb *passe-partout*, without a supplement (*что делаешь – chto delaesh'*, transl. *what are you doing?*), and the answer is a whole word which is just one verb (*думаю – dumaju*)". The second point of view is N. Janko-Trinitskaya, who objected, believing that in the case of recognition of the combination of *что делать* as a "passe-partout" verb, we will be obligated to name other verbs as well as *passe-partout* verbs: *что-нибудь делать* (*chto-nibud' delat'*, transl. *to do smth*), *что-то делать* (*chto-to delat'*, transl. *to do smth.*), *что-либо делать* (*chto-libo delat'*, transl. *to do smth.*). E.g.: *Надо **что-нибудь сделать**, лучше всего – уехать* (*Nado chto-nibud' sdelat', luchshe vsego uekhat'*. transl. *I should do something, the best of all is to go*

away). Here the pronoun does not mean an object of action (Панов 1999: 173–174). M. Panov himself joined neither of the above mentioned points of view.

N. Shvedova discerned the class of so-called deictic verbs: "Deictic units are words and stable combinations, which denote the most abstract concepts around which all the nominative vocabulary is grouped" (Шведова 1998: 3). Deictic verbs, denoting the situation as a whole or as a predicate, hold their own linguistic meanings. N. Shvedova discerns deictic verbs into two groups: cored (with free compatibility) and non-cored (connected). Each cored verb has a group of non-cored verbs formed around it. E.g., around *осуществить* (*osushchestvit'*, transl. *to realize*) we have the group of: *ввести* (порядки) (*vvesti porjadki*, transl. *to introduce orders*), *выполнить* (обещанное) (*vypolnit' obeshchannoe*, transl. *to fulfil the promise*), *применить* (меры) (*primenit' mery*, transl. *to apply measures*).

The article by G. Fedyuneva deals with Russian *passe-partout* verbs: "On the status of a vertebra in the language". She calls this class of words "pronominal" and defines them as "verbs with primary deictic roots". Thus the linguist refers only to lexemes of the type of *тоговотать* (*togovotat'*, transl. *to this), *стогокаться* (*stogokat'sja*, transl. *to be thised[2]). The author does not agree with N. Shvedova on the matter of discerning deictic verbs: on the basis of exclusively "pronominal significance" we can not attribute such lexemes to the composition of a deictic system. G. Fedyuneva believes that only the lexemes formed solely from the actual pronouns are the "pronominal" verbs. The "pronominal" verbs in her opinion have not received wide use, but are, first of all, the phenomena of dialects, therefore they often remain only a fact of oral speech. The researcher focuses on attention on the functions of pronominal verbs: they are used only if the speaker has difficulty choosing the right word. Thus, the communicative task here is more important than the nominative. (Федюнева 2011: 89–96).

Greek linguists use the term *απολεξηκοποιημένο ρήμα* (*apoleksikopiimeno rima*, transl. *delexikised verb*) for "passe-partout" verbs, which V. Sfetsiou (Σφετσίου 2007) uses in her work, where she characterizes in this way the "bounding" verb in the construction with abstract nouns (*κάνω χιούμορ* (*kano hioumor*, transl. *to make a joke*), *κάνω ερώτηση* (*kano erotisi*, transl. *to make a question*)). In Greek hermeneutic dictionaries (e.g. Μπαμπινιώτης 2012; Χρηστικό 2014) this term denotes the units participating in the formation

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[2] We can't translate verbs as *togovotkat'* and *stogotkat'sja* in English, because there are no such forms. We offer an approximate and literal translation, which can create an understanding of the "pronominality" of these verbs.

of the *verb + noun*, which replaces the simple verbal predicate and is used as a construction for the designation of an action or state synonymous with the significant verb (*κάνω ερώτηση – ρωτώ* (*kano erotisi – roto*, transl. *to make a question – to ask*)). A. Μέντη describes expressions and stable constructions with a verb *λέω* (*leo*, transl. *to say*), introducing the term *light verb* (*ελαφρύ ρήμα* (*elafri rima*)), marking the category of passe-partout verbs. In the hermeneutic of the Greek language they give the most commonly used verbs, e.g. *κάνω* (*kano*, transl. *to do*), *δίνω* (*đino*, transl. *to give*), *έχω* (*echo*, transl. *to have*), *παίρνω* (*perno*, transl. *to take*), *γίνομαι* (*ghinomai.* transl. *to become*) etc., which describe many different functions in the sentence, since they often form part of a structure or phraseological expression. In the dictionary of G. Babiniotis, such verbs are characterized as *βοηθητικό ρήμα* (*voithitiko rima*, transl. *auxiliary verb*), and in the dictionary of Academy of Athens as *απολεξικοποιημένο ρήμα* (*apoleksikopiimeno rima*). Our opinion is to propose the term *ρήμα – πασπαρτού* (*rima-paspartu*, transl. *"passe-partout" verb*) for the Greek language as it describes the CCW most precisely.

3. "Passe-partout" verbs: approaching the problem

In order to reveal the verbal *pronominality*, it is, apparently, necessary to formulate the concept-antipode: verbal significance. By significance we mean full meaning, i.e. the ability of the verb to perform independently the functions of a predicate, to be a significant unit. If you arrange all verbs in Russian and Greek on the scale between the conditional poles "signification – pronominality", then the words that somehow lost or almost lost the significance, obviously took or are about to take a step towards pronominality. That is why we will also express some of our own considerations in favor of discerning the class of passe-partout verbs.

1. Among passe-partout verbs, it is possible first of all to distinguish lexemes, which are formed from demonstrative pronouns, for example, the colloquial verb *этовать* (*etovat'*) in Russian or *αυτώνω* (*aftono*)[3] in Greek language. Obviously we will also treat as passe-partout verbs units of obscene vocabulary in Russian *зах..чить* (*zahujachit'*, transl. *to do smth fucking*[4]) and in Greek the verb *γαμώ* (*gamo*, transl. *to do smth fucking*).

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[3] It's impossible to translate adequately these two verbs into English, for they are part of oral speech and are used as slang.

[4] This translation is not exact, but we try to take it closer to the meaning of Russian and Greek verb from the view of semantics, for in Greek and Russian verbs there is an obscene morpheme that is used.

2. In Russian and Greek there are at least two lexical-semantic variants of the verb *делать* (*delat'*, transl. *to do*) – *κάνω* (*kano*, transl. *to do*) – significant *делать₁/κάνω₁* (*to make*) and passe-partout verb *делать₂/κάνω₂* (*to do*). When we answer the question *Что Антон сейчас **делает**?* (*Chto Anton sejchas delaet?*, transl. *What is Anton doing now?*) using the significant *делать₁* (*delat'*), we can say: *украшение* (*ukrashenie*, transl. *bijoux*), *подставку для книг* (*podstavku dlja knig*, transl. *bookend*) etc., and when we answer this question using the passe-partout verb, we have to use the verb: *работает* (*rabotaet*, transl. *He is working*), *отдыхает* (*otdykhaet*, transl. *He has a rest*) (e.g. Greek version *Τι κάνει ο Αντώνης τώρα;* (*Ti kani o Antonis tora?*, transl. *What is Antonis doing now?*) – *Κάνει ένα κόσμημα* (*Kani ena kosmima*, transl. *He is making a bijoux*) in the case of significant verb and *Ξεκουράζεται* (*Ksekourazete*, transl. *He has a rest*) in case of passe-partout verb, etc. In this case, in the first case, in the answer it is quite possible to use the word *делать/κάνω*, while in the second case it is incorrect (****Делает** работает* (*Delaet rabotaet*) / ****Κάνει** δουλεύει* (*Kani doulevi*)).

3. Passe-partout (functional pronominal) verbs play the role of a pronoun in the sentence replacing the significant word in the case of the verb. All the specific questions in Russian and Greek are expressed by a pronoun in front of them (by the so-called *Q-words* (Иомдин 2007), e.g. *Wh-words* in English (Исаченко 1965)): *кто, что, где, куда, откуда, когда, почему, сколько / ποιος, τι, πού, πότε, γιατί, πόσο* (*kto, chto, gde, kuda, kogda, pochemu, skolko / pios, ti, posos, pu, pote, jiati, poso* transl. *who, what, where, when, why, how much*) etc. So it seems rather logical that the question *Что он **делает**? / Τι **κάνει*** (*Chto on delaet? / Ti kani?*) also includes pronominal words (or, as some linguists say, this verb is a one-unit verb characterized by a single prosodic feature, e.g. (Панов 1966; Виноградов 1947), while at the same time it may be substituted by one significant verb: *Он читает / Διαβάζει* (*On chitaet / Diavazi*, transl. *He reads*) or may exist in the answer accompanied by the noun: *Он **делает** зарядку / **Κάνει** γυμναστική* (*On delaet zaryadku / Kani jimnastiki*, transl. *He does morning exercises*).

The impossibility of replacing some of the full-meaning verbs by the passe-partout verb *делать/κάνω* (*delat'/kano*) is not an argument which argues against the classification of this kind of CCW. E.g.: *Антон **лежит** на диване. Он плохо себя **чувствует**.* (*Anton lezhit na divane. On plokho sebja chuvstvuet.* transl. *Anton is lying on the sofa. He feels unwell*) Compare impossibility: **Антон **делает** на диване. Он плохо (себя) **делает*** (**Anton delaet na divane. On plokho (sebja) delaet*, transl. *Anton is doing on the sofa. He does unwell*) etc. This operational kind of verification of categorization of Q-words (replacement of the significant word by the passe-

partout word) is not universal. There are some restrictions to this kind of word's use. Particularly, it's important to keep in mind that the passe-partout verb *делать₂* first of all replaces significant action verbs, and, as usual, intransitive (transitive is the verb *делать₁/κάνω₁* (*delat'/kano*)). Restrictions of such kind are also possible in the use of "usual" pronouns, e.g. pronouns-nouns. So, we cannot always replace a noun with a personal pronoun, but this fact does not prevent the personal pronoun from being itself. So, we can't replace any noun by any pronoun in any case, but this fact does not prevent the personal pronoun from being itself: *Антон читает интересную **книгу*** (*Anton chitaet interesnuju knigu*, transl. *Anton is reading an interesting book*). E.g. impossibility: **Антон читает интересную **её*** (*Anton chitaet interesnuju ee*, transl. *Anton is reading interesting **it***). *В аудиторию я заглянул из **любопытства*** (*V auditoriju ia zagljanul iz **lubopytstva***, transl. *I looked into the classroom out of curiosity*), e.g. incorrectness: **В аудиторию я заглянул из **него***[5] (**V auditoriju ia zaglianul iz **nego***, transl. *I looked into the classroom out of **it***). Thus pronominal words have grammatical characteristic features in contradistinction from significant words and so we have the reason to classify this kind of words in the separate class CCW.

4. Among the passe-partout verbs which have the semantic component of pronoun, desemantised explicators can also be classified (a term by Russian linguist Shmeleva) in the body of descriptive predicates[6], which have one-word correlators, e.g.: *допустить* (*dopustit'*) *или сделать* (*sdelat'*) (*ошибки*) (*oshibki*, transl. *to make mistakes*), compare *ошибиться* (*oshibit'sja*, transl. *to make a mistake*), *оказать (помощь)* (*okazat' (pomoshch)*, transl. *to help*), compare *παρέχω βοήθεια – βοηθώ* (*parekho voithia – voitho*, transl. *to help*), *παίρνω απόφαση – αποφασίζω* (*perno apofasi – apofasizo*, transl. *to decide*) etc.

5. The categorical class of passe-partout verbs has a field arrangement, as well as intersection zones, within which new semantic values can be identified.

In the **core** of the field we can put verbs with deictic (pronominal) root meanings in both languages, e.g. *этовать* (*etovat'*) / *αυτώνω* (*aftono*), and also the obscene lexems, in **the field near the core** – Russian verb *делать₂* (*delat'*) / Greek verb *κάνω* (*kano*), (*to do*), to **the nearest periphery** we can put verb-explicators which compose the descriptive predicates and their analogues

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[5] E.g. from (Всеволодова 2000: 28): ***Парень** высокого роста сказал...* – ****Он** высокого роста сказал...* (***Paren'** vysokogo rosta skazal...* – ****On** vysokogo rosta skazal...*)

[6] About the descriptive predicates see (Кузьменкова 2000; Всеволодова 2000 etc.).

or some verbs which don't have any one-word correlator. To the **distant periphery** we put the verb in the phraseological units.

Let us analyse every part of the field in turn, starting with and gradually moving towards the periphery.

1) **Core of the field**: 1) verbs with deictic roots (-это-/-αυτό-) типа *этовать* (*etovat'*) / *αυτώνω* (*aftono*); 2) obscene verbs as *зах..чить* (*zahuia-chit'*) / *γαμώ* (*gamo*). In the core of passe-partout verbs we place the semantically marked verb *этовать* (*etovat'*) in Russian or *αυτώνω* (*aftono*) in Greek that play the substitutive role. In Russian we put some derivative verbs, such as *отэтовать* (*otetovat'*), *разэтовать* (*razetovat'*), *доэтовать* (*doetovat'*), *подэтовать* (*podetovat'*), *переэтовать* (*pereetovat'*)[7] etc., in the Greek language the verb *αυτώνω* (*aftono*) will exist in the single form excluding its paradigm in different tenses.

The Greek verb *αυτώνω* (*aftono*) is formed by using the theme of pronoun -αυτ- and thus this verb becomes verb-pronoun, passe-partout verb by itself due to its etymology. More than the verb *κάνω* (*kano*) / *делать* (*delat'*), this verb is used for replacing other significant verbs that the speaker can't find at the moment of producing speech, thus this verb plays a role of passe-partout or *magic word*. It is very frequently combined with an adverb *λίγο* (transl. *a little bit*), which reduces the imperative: *Αύτωσε λίγο το αυτό εκεί πέρα* – *Отэтовай немножко вот это там.* (*Aftose ligo to afto eki pera – Otetovaj nemnozhko vot eto tam*, transl. *Will you please do this there?*); *Μπορείς να αυτώσεις λίγο το πιστολάκι, σε παρακαλώ* – *Ты не мог бы чуть-чуть отэтовать фен?* (*Mporis na aftosis ligo to pistolaki se parakalo – Ty ne mog by chut-chut otetovat' fen*, transl. *Will you please do the hair-dryer a little bit*).

We also often use this verb for replacing some obscene verbs which cannot be used in some speech situations, while is implied in the whole context: *Θα σε αυτώσω!* – *Я тебя сейчас как отэчу!* (*Tha se aftoso – Ja tebia seihas kak otechu / I will fuck you*); *Πρέπει να αυτώσω την έκθεση για τη Δευτέρα, αλλιώς θα με αυτώσει πάλι ο αυτός ο βλάκας!* – *Я должен отэтить доклад на понедельник, иначе меня этот урод так отэтит!* (*Prepi na aftoso tin ekthesi ghia tin Deftera, allios tha se aftosei pali aftos o vlakas – Ja dolzhen otetit doklad na ponedelnik, inache meni tot urod tak otetit / I have to make this text until Monday, otherwise this fool will fuck me*).

2) **Field near the core**: Russian verb *делать* (*delat'*) / Greek *κάνω* (*kano*), compare English *to do*.

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[7] It is not possible to adequately translate these verbs into English, since all these verbs indicate a different character or different degree of completeness of the action embodied in the main verb *этовать* (*etovat'*).

3) **The nearest periphery**:

1. verb-explicators which compose the descriptive predicates, e.g., *де-латъ ошибку* (*delat' oshibku*) instead of *ошибаться* (*oshibat'sja*), transl. *to make a mistake*) / *κάνω λάθος* (*kano lathos*, transl. *to make a mistake*)[8], *делатъ остановку* (*delat' ostanovku*) instead of *оста-навливаться* (*ostanavlivatsja*, transl. *to make a stop*) / *κάνω στάση – σταματώ* (*kano stasi – stamato*), *делатъ попытку* (*delat' popytku*) instead of *пытаться* (*pytat'sja*) / *κάνωπροσπάθεια – προσπαθώ* (*kano prospathia – prospatho*), *делатъ заявление* (*delat zajavlenie*) instead of *заявлять* (*zajavliat'*, transl. *to declare*) / *κάνω δήλωση – δηλώνω* (*kano đilosi – đilono*), *делатъ объявление* (*dela't objavlenie*) instead of *объявлять* (*objavliat'*, transl. *to announce*) / *κάνω αγγελία – ανα-γγέλνω* (*kano angelia – anaghelno*), *делатъ классификацию* (*delat' klas-sifikaciu*) instead of *классифицировать* (*klassificirovat'*, transl. *to clas-sify*) / *κάνω ταξινόμηση – ταξινομώ* (*kano taksinomisi – taksinomo*), *делатъ перерыв* (*delat' pereryv*) instead of *прерываться* (*preryvat'sja*, transl. *to have a break*) / *κάνω διάλειμμα – διακόπτω* (*kano đilaima – điakopto*) etc.;

2. whole expression which includes a passe-partout verb which we cannot substitute by any one-word correlator, e.g. in Russian *делатъ домашнюю работу* (*delat' domashniuju rabotu*, transl. *to do homework*) and in Greek *κάνω πρόγνωση* (*kano prognosi*, transl. *to make a fore-cast*), or a verb, which pretends to be a correlator, has other mean-ing: e.g. in Russian *делатъ выводы* (*delat' vyvody*, transl. *to con-clude*) ≠ *выводить* (*vyvodit'*, transl. *to take out*); *делатъ замечание* (*delat' zamechanie*, transl. *to make a remark*) ≠ *замечать* (*zamechat'*, transl. *to notice*); in Greek: *κάνω παρατήρηση* (*kano paratirisi*, transl. *to make a remark*) ≠ *παρατηρώ* (*paratiro*, transl. *to notice*); *κάνω μάθημα* (*kano mathima*, transl. *to make a lesson*) ≠ *μαθαίνω* (*matheno*, transl. *to learn*);

3. the verb *делатъ/κάνω* (*delat'/kano*) as a part of phraseological units, where it has almost lost its initial function: e.g. in Russian: *делатъ из мухи слона* (*delat' iz mukhi slona*, transl. *to make smth bigger than it is*), *делатъ большие глаза* (*delat' bolshie glaza*, transl. *to be amazed*), *делатъ вид* (*delat' vid*, transl. *to make as if to*), *делатъ кислую мину* (*delat' kisluju minu*, transl. *to make a wry face*), *делатъ хорошую мину*

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[8] 50 Here and further except of some specially stipulated cases, the meaning of examples in the Russian and Greek languages coincide, so we just translate the examples of the Russian language.

при плохой игре (*delat' khoroshuju minu pri plokhoj igre*, transl. *to make a poker face*); and in Greek: ***κάνω*** *τα μικρά μεγάλα* (*kano ta mikra megala*, transl. *to make smth bigger than it is*), ***κάνω*** *στραβά μάτια* (*kano strava matia*, transl. *to turn a blind eye*), ***κάνω*** *τα στραβά μούτρα* (*kano ta strava mutra*, transl. *to make a wry face*), ***κάνω*** *τον κορόιδο* (*kano ton koroiđo*, transl. *to pretend to be a fool*).

4) **Distant periphery**:

1. so-called semi-significant phase verbs (*начать* (*nachat'*, transl. *to begin*)) and modal verbs (*мочь* (*moch'*, transl. *can*));

2. full-significant verbs which in both languages can in some ways serve as a passe-partout verb (compare the noun *вещь* (*veshch*, transl. *object*), that can replace any other noun in certain situations and, thus, taking the first step towards becoming a pronoun): e.g. in Russian *заниматься / заняться* (*zanimat'sja / zaniat'sja*, transl. *to be engaged in*), *поступать / поступить* (*postupat' / postupit'*, transl. *to do, to act*), *выполнять / выполнить* (*vypolniat' / vypolnit'*, transl. *to practice*), *происходить / произойти* (*proiskhodit' / proizojti*, transl. *to happen*), *случаться / случиться* (*sluchat'sja / sluchit'sja*, transl. *to happen*) etc.; in Greek *παίρνω* (*perno*, transl. *to take*), *έχω* (*echo*, transl. *to have*), *ρίχνω* (*rikhno*, transl. *to drop*), *βάζω* (*vazo*, transl. *to put*), *τρώω* (*troo*, transl. *to eat*) etc.

4. Brief conclusions

Thus, the study of the rich and diverse class of Russian and Greek passe-partout verbs, and in prospect – the analysis of its aspectual characteristics – has both theoretical and practical significance. On the one hand, it theoretically registers a universal lexical and grammatical phenomenon that has long become a real linguistic fact for a long time, on the other hand it helps to optimize the process of teaching the Russian and Greek languages, making it methodologically more expedient and effective. From this point of view it seems interesting to study the functioning of pass-partout verbs that have lost their significant meaning in the phraseological expressions of the Greek language, since such an aspect in the study of phraseology is very important for understanding the specific features of the formation of phraseological expressions and the possibility of their adequate translation into Russian in the teaching of various courses in translation and lexicology of the Greek language.

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Les verbes « passe-partout » (verbes pronominaux) en russe et en grec: pour une approche du sujet et pour une analyse comparative

Résumé

En russe et en grec, dans le système des parties du discours, on distingue les classes catégoriques significatives et pronominales des mots. Notre article se propose d'analyser les verbes pronominaux qui sont présents dans les grammaires russe et grecque comme un phénomène ambigu. Ces verbes montrent un champ avec un noyau et une périphérie. Au milieu du champ se trouvent des verbes aux racines déictiques (-eto-/-αυτό-), ainsi qu'un lexique verbal obscène. Le verbe russe *делать* / grec *κάνω* est inclus dans la zone nucléaire. À la périphérie la plus proche, nous incluons les verbes explicatifs concernant la composition des prédicats descriptifs; les *verbes*-explicatifs concernant la composition des analogues des *prédicats descriptifs*; et aussi le verbe *делать*/*κάνω* dans le cadre des unités phraséologiques. La périphérie distante est composée de verbes incomplets phasiques et modaux; ainsi que des verbes ayant une valeur pleine et montrant certaines fonctions pronominales dans les deux langues.

Mots clés: *verbes "passe-partout", verbes déictiques, prédicat descriptif, unités phraséo-logiques.*