УДК 811.111

Elena V. Shapkina

ACADEMIC WRITING ON ARCHITECTURE: TEMPORAL RELATIONS

Effective academic writing skills are important requirements for all the researchers in all the fields as well as architecture. A very important thing to know about the academic style and the linguistic means are correct tense forms that constitute the temporal relations and structure of the writing. Therefore, the purpose of the article is to study the features of tense forms usage in scientific articles on architecture. Our research focused on two aspects: to analyze the relationship between tense forms usage and the compositional parts and to study their functions within the articles. The results showed the use of the Present Simple, Past Simple, and Present Perfect prevails over the other forms. The most frequent form is the Present Simple used to describe abstract things; then comes the Past Simple used to describe real-life or existing things or phenomena with indicating a specific time and place; the Present Perfect form is the least common form used to describe research results. The quantitative use of all the tense forms depends on the contents and depends on the compositional part of the article. The Present Simple is mostly used in Data Collection and Data Analysis; the Past Simple – in Introduction and Methods; the Present Perfect in Conclusion. We found out that each tense form has several functions. The Present Simple is used to describe scientific facts, rules, laws, and the current state of affairs on a particular issue; the Past Simple is mostly used to present real facts when analyzing the history of the problem or describing some facts about the history of the research object; the Present Perfect is used to present the research problems and to underline the long existence of the problem and urgent necessity to solve it. Though using tense forms in architectural articles is similar to that of the articles in other scientific fields, it has a number of specific features, such as average quantity of each kind of tense form in different compositional parts, different percentage of functions of each tense form and extra functions that are typical for the articles of the field. The results of the study can be used to develop a set of instructions for academic writing in architecture as well as for further studies of the temporal structure in the field.

Keywords: *academic writing, temporal relations, tense forms, tense functions, text structure.*

I. Introduction

Nowadays, one of the is to publish the results of scientific studies in English. Scholars in the field of Architecture are no exception. include the knowledge of the structural, grammatical and lexical features of scientific articles in English. Undoubtedly, of great importance is the correct use of verb tense forms typical for scientific articles genre. As a rule, almost all the stylistics textbooks feature only the Present Simple tense as a typical tense to convey all-time truths, rules, patterns, etc. Our observations show that the range of verb tense forms scientific articles in a various scientific fields include not only the Present Simple but also the Past Simple and Present Perfect tenses. In addition, the frequency of using one or another tense verb form depends on the compositional part of the article in which it is used [8]. Therefore, the purpose of the article is to study the features of tense forms usage in scientific articles on architecture.

The main scientific tasks of our study are as follows:

– to consider the theoretical foundations for the study of verb tense forms in scientific articles;

– to analyze the functional features of verb tense forms in scientific articles on architecture;

– to study the relationship between the use of tense forms of the verb and the compositional parts of scientific articles on architecture.

II. Theory

Scientifically, the use of tense forms of the verb in any text depends on the temporal structure of the text, which is related to the category of temporality. This category is one of the essential properties of any text and reflects the author's perception and understanding the time of indicated situations and their elements

related to the moment of the speaker's speech or another reference point [1].

The temporal reference point is an extremely important notion of text time and the temporal structure of it. This is a kind of abstract "now", a point, which makes possible to constitute the temporal perspective of the text and other temporal relationships. The reference point can be objective, i.e. refer to real time, and it can be relative, a kind of an abstract notion [4], The temporal reference point determines the type of a text time and the choice of language means by the author of the text [2, 12, 15].

We believe that temporal relations in a scientific article are of an objective type, as it is determined by the real facts of a real world. As a result, the reference point is objective but it does not have a specific designation and is expressed indirectly through the description of a scientific problem and the need to solve it. In some cases (as a rule, in the articles of a humanitarian and social orientation), the scientific problem description is possible by using lexical means, for example, now, over the past few decades, over the 30 years, in the coming decades, etc. [8]

An important point for scientific article writing is the set of language tools used to express temporality. This set includes both lexical and grammatical means. Lexical means include words and phrases: time, year, tomorrow, yesterday, during ..., now, these days, etc. Grammatical means include: inclination, modal words and modal verbs, syntactic constructions, etc. The main means of expressing temporal relations in any language and text are verb forms [10].

The peculiarities of the temporal text structure depend directly on the topic and stylistic orientation of the text [3, 13]. This position is noted in the works of the famous linguist Z. Turaeva. She notes that the temporal structure of the text is a network of relations that connects linguistic elements used to present temporality and united by a functional and semantic integrity [11].

Important for our study is the fact that there are specifics and traditions of using linguistic means to express temporal relations in texts belonging to the same genre in each language culture [5, 6, 14]. This must be taken into account when writing scientific articles in a foreign language in various fields, including architecture.

Our observations show that in scientific articles on energy, computer science, education, chemistry, materials science the frequency of using this or that tense form depends mainly on the compositional part of a scientific article. We proceed from the following compositional structure of a scientific article, which implies the presence of obligatory compositional parts and a certain order in which they follow [7]:

1. Introduction
2. Methods, Data collection, Data analysis
3. Literature review
4. Results and discussion
5. Conclusions

In terms of tense using the most diverse compositional part is introduction, and the most homogeneous is conclusion (Table 1). In compositional parts about research methods, data collection and data analysis the Past Simple forms are mainly used. In other compositional parts the Present Simple forms prevail. It should also be noted that in each article the volume of each compositional part can vary greatly. Accordingly, in those articles that describe the methods and procedure of the study in much detail, the Past Simple forms may prevail in the whole article [9].

Table 1

Compositional part	Present Simple (%)	Past Simple (%)	Present Perfect (%)
Introduction	79	8	10
Methods	43	56	0,5
Data collection, Data analysis	21	75	1,5
Literature Review	73	17	8
Results and discussion	65	34	0,5
Conclusions	98	1	-

Our study in the field of energy, computer science, education, chemistry, materials show the following functional features of main tense forms.

The Present Simple form is used to describe scientific facts, rules, laws, the current state of affairs on a particular issue; to transfer of scientific opinions and assessments, research results if they belong to a group of scientists; to describe dynamic processes, research stages, the course of the experiment, the results and conclusions of the study.

Past Simple form is used to transfer of scientific opinions and assessments, research results; to present the experiment procedure, research methods, the process of collecting and processing data; to describe the data obtained during the experiment (but if we are talking about generalizations and conclusions, then the Present Simple form is used).

Present Perfect form is used to present the research problem; to describe the results of previous studies carried out by various scientists up to the present moment; to indicate a problem that has emerged in recent years [8].

III. Results and discussion

Tense forms varieties

Our analysis of the tense forms included their fixation and their quantitative analysis. The results show that in scientific articles on architecture, as well as in other scientific fields, the use of Present Simple, Past Simple, Present Perfect prevails over the other forms.

Table 2 demonstrates that the most common form is the Present Simple form, generally used to describe abstract things. Next, comes the Past Simple form, which is used to describe real-life or existing things or phenomena with indicating a specific time and place. The Present Perfect form is the least common form used to describe research results.

Table 2

Tense	%
Present Simple	64
Past Simple	26
Present Perfect	9

We observed these forms in all the compositional parts of architectural articles. But, their qualitative proportion of their use is not the same (Table 3). The most diverse in terms of tense forms are the following compositional parts «Introduction», «Literature review» (or «Theory») and «Conclusion». Less included or combined into other parts.

Table 3

Compositional part	Present Simple (%)	Past Simple (%)	Present Perfect (%)
Introduction	55	31	0,1
Methods	25	66	8
Data collection, Data analysis	76	16	7
Literature Review	72	21	6
Results and discussion	64	27	8
Conclusions	60	31	8,6

Comparing the results of the using temporary forms in articles on architecture and other fields (Table 1), we can conclude that there are significant differences in articles on architecture. Firstly, there is a significant difference in the variability of tense forms within the compositional parts, and secondly, generally, the articles on architecture use less the Present Simple but more Past Simple forms.

Tense forms functions

To study the functions of each tense we analyzed the quantity of verb forms used in the tense forms are used in the compositional parts «Methods», «Data analysis», «Results and discussion». The most frequent forms of Present Simple are in the parts «Data collection, Data analysis» and «Literature Review». The Past Simple are the most frequently used forms in the part «Method», and Present Perfect – in «Conclusions», «Methods», «Results and discussion».

This may be due to two reasons. Firstly, these parts present the most abstract and generalized things that are not related to a specific moment of time. Secondly, these parts are not clearly distinguished in all the articles and can be articles analyzed. The functions of the Present Simple are given below (Table 4).

The table 4 shows that in most cases Present Simple is used to describe scientific facts, rules, laws, the current state of affairs on a particular issue. That is, it shows the abstract relations that do not refer to a concrete situation. These relations are also valid for the other functions of the Present Simple tense. The specifics of the Present Simple in architectural articles is that it can be used to present the problem of the research. It is in contrast to the other fields where the tense is not used in this function.

Table 5

Past Simple Functions	%
Transferring scientific opinions and assessments, research results	7
Presenting the experiment procedure, research methods, the process of collecting and processing data	7
Describing the data obtained during the experiment	9
Presenting real facts	77

Table 5 shows the functions of the Past Simple. Statistically, the tense is mostly used to present real facts when analyzing the history of the problem or describing some facts about the history of the research object. Usually, in this function the Past Simple is used with geographical names and time expressions, which creates the concrete time and space relations in the writing. We should note that the function of the Past Simple is a specific feature of architectural articles, as it is practically not used in this function in other scientific fields.

Table 6 shows the most frequent use of Present

Table 6

Present Perfect functions	%
Presenting the research problem	42
Describing the results of previous studies carried out by various scientists up to the present moment	31
Indicating a problem that has emerged in recent years	10
Presenting the results of the study	21

Perfect to present the research problems. The forms are typically used in the introduction to underline the long existence of the problem and urgent necessity to solve it. Compared to other fields the Present Perfect has a wider use and a wider range of functions. The specific function of the tense in the architectural articles is to present the results of the study.

Conclusion

To sum up, our study showed that architectural articles use three tense forms: Present Simple, Past Simple and Present Perfect. The quantitative correlation of their usage is not the same. The Present Simple is the main tool as it correlates with the main communicative aim of the academic writing, to describe scientific facts, rules, laws, the current state of affairs on a particular issue. Then, the second frequent tense is Past Simple. It is used to present some information about the things that happened in the past. Typically, it is used with geographical names and time expression presenting the historical events related with the things studied. The quantitative use of all the tense forms is influenced by the aspect of the studies and depends on the compositional part of the article. The Present Simple has its widest usage in Data Collection and Data Analysis. Past Simple is mainly used in Introduction and Methods, and Present Perfect has its widest use in Conclusion. Though using tense forms in architectural articles is similar to that of the articles in other scientific fields, it has a number of specific features, such as average quantity of each kind of tense form in different compositional parts, different percentage of functions of each tense form and extra functions that are typical for the articles of the field.

The results of the study contribute to developing instructions for academic writing in architecture and can be used for further studies of the temporal structure in the field.

References

1. Bondarko A.Temporality // Theory of functional grammar. Temporality. Modality. Leningrad: Nauka, 1990. – P. 5– 48.
2. Babenko L. Linguistic analysis of literary text. Theory and practice. – M.: Science, 2003. – 203 p.
3. Galperin I. Text as an object of linguistic research. – M.: Nauka, 1981. – 137 p.
4. Matveeva T. Functional styles in the aspect of text categories. Synchronous comparative essay. – Sverdlovsk: Publishing House Ural University, 1990. – 234 p.
5. Nord C. Texts in situations (A functional model for text analysis in translation teaching) // Translation and text linguistics. Hogeschool Maastricht. – M., 1994.

6. Reiss K. Type, kind and individuality of text // The translation Studies Reader / Ed. By L. Venuti. – London and New York, 2003. – P. 160 – 171.
7. Shapkina, E. On some aspects of the translation of a scientific article / E. V. Shapkina // Nauka SUSU. Sections of Social and Humanitarian Sciences. Chelyabinsk: Publishing Center of SUSU, 2014. – P. 1399 – 1405.
8. Shapkina E. Temporal structure of a scientific article // Interaction of languages and cultures. Materials of the International scientific conference. Volume 2. Chelyabinsk: Publishing Center of SUSU, 2018. – P. 70 – 74.
9. Shapkina E. Scientific article as one of the genres of modern scientific prose // SUSU science. Materials of the 67th scientific conference. South Ural State University: 2016. – P. 939 – 945.
10. Tarasova E. Time and temporality. – Kharkov: Osnova, 1992. – 136 p.
11. Turaeva Z. Category of time. Time is grammatical and time is artistic. – M.: Higher school, 1979. – 219 p.
12. Turaeva Z. Text Linguistics: structure and semantics. – M.: Education, 1992 – P. 649 – 653.
13. Uspensky B. Poetics of composition. – St. Petersburg: Azbuka, 2000. – 352 p.
14. Vermeer H. Scopos and commission in translational actions // The translation Studies Reader / Ed. By L. Venuti. – London and New York, 2003. – 514 p.
15. Zolotova G., Onipenko N., Sidorova M. Communicative grammar of the Russian language. – M., 2004. – 544 p.

Shapkina E.V.,
assistant Professor, South Ural State University, Chelyabinsk, Russia, E-mail: eshapkina@mail.ru

Поступила в редакцию 12.05.2023