

## Development of the Ideas of I.A. Baudouin De Courtenay About the Zero Morpheme

By

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### Abstract

The article examines the main stages in the development of the theory of the zero grammatical and word-building morpheme in Russian linguistics, the contribution of I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay to the development of the theory of "zero of linguistic thinking" and the contribution of scientists from the Kazan linguistic school and other scientists to the development of synchronous-diachronic approach to linguistic facts including the theory of zero morpheme (Baudouin's position). Particular attention is paid to the discovery by V.M. Markov of a zero derivational morpheme. The parallelism of form and word formation and inflection is emphasized, as well as the productivity of language models of zero suffixation in modern Russian. In modern linguistics, the phenomenon of linguistic zero is considered at all linguistic levels: phonetic, lexico-stylistic, word-formation, morphological, syntactic. Zero exponents seems to be one of the most popular ways of linguistic creative work of writers and poets. The main research methods should include: theoretical analysis of scientific literature on the topic, the continuous selection methodology, the method of language, speech and text analysis, structural and semantic analysis of linguistic material, comparative and statistical methods, methods of observation. In general, discovered at the end of the XX century by IA Baudouin de Courtenay the phenomenon of "zero of linguistic thinking" is an interesting linguistic phenomenon and deserves further research.

**Keywords:** Kazan Linguistic School, I.A. Baudouin De Courtenay, Zero Morpheme, Grammatical Formation, Word Formation.

### 1. introduction

The study of the scientific heritage of the prominent scientist, founder of the Kazan linguistic school I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay allows us to trace the formation of many areas of modern linguistics. The relevance of the research lies in considering the evolution in Russian linguistics of one of the discoveries of I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay - the morpheme as the minimum significant unit of the language and, in particular, the zero morpheme. As N.M. Shansky noted, the scientists of the Kazan linguistic school give "a harmonious and consistent theory about the morpheme, although IA Bodouin de Courtenay did not write a single special work dedicated to this linguistic unit" (cited from: [1]). Particular attention is paid to the theory of the zero word-formation morpheme and its reflection in the early works of the Kazan scientist V.M. Markov and the works of his students and followers. Despite the fact that the issues related to the phenomenon of zero derivational suffixation remain controversial and require further research and clarification, the main vectors of their study are clearly traced.

## 2. Methods

*The main research methods should include* theoretical analysis of scientific literature on the topic, the continuous selection methodology, the method of language, speech and text analysis, structural and semantic analysis of linguistic material, comparative and statistical methods, the methods of observation. Based on the theoretical analysis of scientific literature on the topic, we identified the main works related to the study of names of zero suffixation in Russian, clarified the terminological and conceptual features of the research metalanguage as a tool of linguistic analysis. The continuous selection methodology allowed us to form an empirical base of research and to compile a voluminous card index of linguistic material on the topic. Based on the method of linguistic, speech and text analysis, we gave a description of the main types of names of zero suffixation, revealed the features of their functioning in speech. The structural and semantic approach to the facts of language and speech deepens the understanding of the isomorphism of form and word formation. The use of the comparative method made it possible to compare the features of the functioning of names of zero suffixation in texts of different genres and styles. The use of the statistical method showed the frequency of the use of formations of zero suffixation, and made it possible to identify repeated lexemes. The methods of observation contributed to the implementation of the applied aspect of the research, in particular, the development of linguodidactic material on the topic for the formation of linguistic, linguistic and linguistic-cultural competence of students in the process of teaching Russian as a native language and as a foreign language.

## 3. Results and Discussion

The theory of zero morpheme in Russian linguistics began to develop at the end of the 19th century under the influence of the works of the founder of the Kazan linguistic school I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay and the founder of the Moscow linguistic school F.F. Fortunatov, who independently of each other came to reasoning about zero form-generating elements in the morphological system of the Russian language [2] [3]. Just in 1883 I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay at Kazan University proposes a theme for a medal in comparative linguistics "On the sound zero of the Russian language", thus describing the direction of research: "The author must consider those places in the words of the Russian language, in which now there is no sound, but where in the previous periods of the development of the language we have reason to assume a certain sound. <...> One must also not lose sight of the difference between purely phonetic abbreviations and abbreviations due to the peculiar nature of morphemes (morphological parts of a word), which included disappeared sounds " (cited from: [4]). But in 1911, under the leadership of I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay at the Imperial St. Petersburg University L.P. Yakubinsky conducted research on the topic "Psychophonetic zeros in Russian linguistic thinking" (the work was awarded a silver medal). The ideas of I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay on "zero of linguistic thinking" laid the foundation for a whole series of studies on zero exponents in language and speech. First of all, following the work of I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay and F.F. Fortunatov, zero formative elements in the paradigms of variable words were considered. But I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay understands broadly the zero of linguistic thinking and thus prepared the emergence of the theory of zero derivational morphemes and zero linguistic exponents in general.

In 1956, analyzing the paradigmatic relations between the productive and derived words, V.M. Markov discovered and substantiated the zero word-forming element. This supplemented and developed the theory of the isomorphism of form and word formation. V.M. Markov did the following work: 1) he delimited names like *khod*, *ulov* (*move*, *catch*), etc. from

words like *dom, nebo* (*house, sky*), etc., as derivatives from non-derivatives: the former were correlated with verbs and interpreted as derivatives of these verbs; 2) by comparing words of the type *khod* (*move*) with single-root words such as *khod'ba, khozhdeniye* (*walking*), formed from verbs, noting their one-word and synonymy, he qualifies these names as formations of zero suffixation compared to formations of positive suffixation; 3) the phenomenon of zero suffixation was a reflection of the parallelism (isomorphism) of word formation and inflection (shaping), in the system of which (the latter) there were zero affixal morphemes (inflections and endings), discovered by F.F. Fortunatov and I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay. V.M. Markov published these ideas in his Ph.D. thesis (1955). V.M. Markov subsequently developed his concept of zero suffixation further: in 1958 in the article "Controversial issues of the theory of word production" and in 1961 in the theses "Phenomena of suffix synonymy in the language of the court books of the 15th-16th centuries" [5]. In these theses, in fact, he substantiated a program for further research on zero suffixation. The scientist pays much attention to the zero morpheme in the 1960 article "The language of the Menaion from the Dubrovsky collection" and in the famous article "On the question of the origin of the suffix -tel in Slavic languages" (1962). It can be said without exaggeration that the idea of zero derivational morphemes, its first discovery belongs to V.M. Markov. The further development of zero suffixation in theoretical and historical aspects was continued by V.M. Markov's students (G.A. Nikolaev, E.A. Balalykina, L.S. Andreeva, A.A. Aminova, M.A. Pilgun) and their students.

But the idea of morpheme zero was already "in the air". G. Marchand spoke about it in 1960 [6], in 1961 - V.P. Grigoriev, A.G. Cherkasova and others. V.M. Markov came to the discovery of zero suffixation in a historical way. However, finding zero as a morpheme is primarily a consequence of the establishment of systemic synchronic relations. The strong point of the Kazan linguists' research lies precisely in the synchronous-diachronic approach to linguistic facts (Baudouin's position). The first detailed description of the formations of zero suffixation in the Old Russian language (based on the material of the Meril of the Righteous of the XIV century) was made by GA Nikolaev in his Ph.D. thesis "Forms of nominal word formation in the language of the Meril of the Righteous in the XIV century." V.M. Markov's students discovered that: 1) zero morphemes were not originally inherent in word formation of the Russian language and other Slavic languages; 2) showed the ways of their formation and the reasons for their occurrence, 3) described the formation of word-formation types of names of zero suffixation in their correlation with verbs; 4) noted their semantic mobility, that is, the interaction in their sphere of morphological word formation and semantic derivation; 5) determined the main derivational meanings in the names of zero suffixation; 6) revealed the grammatical specifics of names with zero suffixation; 7) described the functional features, their connection with certain genre and stylistic areas; 8) identified a zero post-positive part in confixes (confix is an intermittent word-forming morpheme that complicates the generating basis of simultaneous pre- and postposition), 9) investigated the names of zero suffixation in a comparative aspect.

In modern linguistics, the phenomenon of linguistic zero is considered at all linguistic levels: phonetic ("fluent vowels"), lexico-stylistic (ellipsis), word-formation (zero word-forming morphemes and zero elements of intermittent morphemes - confixes and transfixes), morphological (gaps in the paradigm and zero formative elements), syntactic (incomplete constructions). Zero elements are studied in a comparative aspect, as a result of which a certain terminological abundance is observed (*implicit word production, conversion, morphological-syntactic method, improper derivation*, etc.).

Despite the fact that the concepts of zero grammatical and derivational morphemes have

firmly entered the scientific circulation and are used quite actively, discussions on these issues continue. So, in the system of school teaching of the Russian language, the term “non-suffix word formation” dominates, which contradicts the linguistic logic and the system of word-formation relations in the Russian language. Such a linguo-methodological inaccuracy can be explained by the complexity of the phenomenon being studied and the didactic difficulties faced by teachers of the Russian language when studying zero suffixation in school, in particular, by determining the motivation of a derived word and identifying the structural correlation of a derived and a producing word.

Considering the features of the functioning of the names of zero suffixation in the letters of the second half of the 18th century, A.G. Cherkasova comes to the conclusion about the loss in modern Russian of the model of the formation of nouns from verbs with the help of zero suffixation [7, 1], however, the data from the dictionaries of new words and meanings make it possible to refute this provision and note the constant replenishment of the vocabulary of the Russian language with formations of zero suffixation, mainly in sociolects - professional speech and youth slang.

The interaction and mutual influence of such ways of forming words as zero suffixation and truncation by the type of abbreviation requires further study. Comparison of the features of derivative formations suggests the effect of the names of zero suffixation on truncation [8]. Many traits bring truncation closer to zero-suffix formations. Both ways of forming words in modern Russian are stylistically marked. In both cases, there are rows of synonymous formations capable of conveying word-formation meaning by a materially expressed means: *khodit'* (to walk) — *khod'-Ø*, *khod'-ba*, *khozhd-yeniye* (walking); and *nark* (a drug addict) from *narkoman* (a drug addict), the same: *narkom*, *narkosha*, *narkusha*; *mers* 'Mercedes passenger car' from *mersedes* (Mercedes) with the synonymous *mersik* (Mercedes). Synonymy appears sequentially in word-formative zero suffixation, and inconsistently in words with truncation. Generic parallelism is possible: *protok* — *protoka* (duct), *abitur* — *abitura* (enrollee). Zero suffixation and truncation are presented in the nominal parts of speech - in nouns and adjectives.

However, there are also significant differences. 1) Many non-prefixed formations of zero suffixation (*khod*, *gul*, *lov* (move, hum, catch)) represent the most archaic layer in Russian vocabulary, inheriting the early word-formation connections of nouns and verbs. 2) Truncations are characteristic of the modern Russian language. 3) The generating base for formations of zero suffixation is primarily verbs, as well as adjectives and nouns. For truncation - nouns (including substantive adjectives and participles: *nal* — *nalichnyye* (cash), *oper* — *operupolnomochenny* (operative), *zek/zek* — *zaklyuchonnyy* (prisoner), less often - substantiated adverbs: *poluchit' neud*, *khор*, *ud* (get three, four, two), phraseological phrases: *med* — *meditsinskiy institut* (medical institute), *ped* — *pedagogicheskiy institut* (pedagogical institute), etc. 4) Formations of zero suffixation are semantically mobile and serve as the generating basis for the semantic formation of names with various derivational meanings (abstract action, character, result, tool, place, object, time of action). 5) Truncations have the meaning of the generating word, but in some cases they can be suffixed: *telik* (from *televizor* "TV"), *mul'tik* (from *mul'tfil'm* "cartoon"), *shizik* (from *shizofrenik* "schizophrenic"), *subchik* (from *sub'yekt* "subject"), *alkash* (from *alkogolik* "(alcoholic)"), *obshchaga* (from *obshchezhitnye* "hostel") [9]. It is possible to assume that the null suffix affects truncation as a way of forming words and subordinates it to itself.

Linguo-stylistic studies of the features of the functioning of names of zero suffixation in works of fiction are of scientific interest. And if occasional new formations of zero

suffixation have been studied quite fully (especially in the language of poetry at the turn of the 20th-21st centuries), the text-forming role of usual formations of zero suffixation in creating the artistic space of works remains poorly understood.

## 4. Summary

Thus, the study of zero exponents is carried out in several directions: in terms of comparative-historical and synchronous word formation, in the comparative aspect [10] [11] [12]. The peculiarities of enriching the vocabulary of the language with new formations of zero suffixation are actively investigated. The interaction and mutual influence of zero suffixation and truncation by the type of abbreviation, as well as zero suffixation and conversion are studied [13] [14] [15]. Text-forming functions of common and occasional names of zero suffixation are considered in the works of classical and modern authors.

## 5. conclusions

In general, discovered at the end of the XX century zero morpheme is an interesting linguistic phenomenon and deserves further research.

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