

Anaphoric Adverbs of Manner in French: Discursive Interpretation

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Abstract: *Anaphora plays a key role in text cohesion process, as for micro- and macro-text levels. Thus, interpretation of anaphoric units is compulsory for the adequate comprehension of discourse as a whole. Pronouns are generally considered as essential anaphoric units which refer to nouns naming persons, objects and phenomena, although anaphoric units can be found in all categorematic parts of speech, particularly in adverbs. Studying of adverbial anaphora in French is a rather difficult matter, first because of heterogeneity of elements composing this part of speech. This article presents detailed analysis of anaphoric adverbs referring to the manner of action verbalized in the same framework of the communicative situation. Anaphoric adverbs of manner have been studied in a concrete discourse space, and it allowed revealing 2 types of relation between anaphoric adverb and its antecedent – identity and difference, which facilitates their comprehension and discursive interpretation.*

Key words: *anaphora, anaphoric adverbs, reference, antecedent, discourse.*

1. Introduction

Anaphoric units play significant role in the creation and, consequently, adequate interpretation of the text as they provide along with other elements of text cohesion [1; 7]. These units ensure thematic progression as well. At the same time, the use of anaphor in text space indicates the importance of the anaphorized element (antecedent) of the text (person and/or object, action and/or process, time and/or location etc.) [7]. Thus, the research in the field of text linguistic anaphora reveals very significant and relevant.

Anaphoric text units become the object of independent linguistic study in the 1970s, but the focus was on research the nominal anaphora, which is quite reasonable, regarding the extent of the phenomenon in text and its importance for adequate reception and interpretation of written or oral text [8]. Although anaphora is represented in all significant parts of speech, the adverbial anaphora remains little studied [5].

2. Problem Statement

Our research is based on the statement that the anaphoric function, paying a key role in ensuring the coherence of the text, manifests itself in all categorematic parts of speech [9; 6]. Actually, we intend to study the peculiarities of adverbial anaphora in French, paying particular attention to anaphoric adverbs indicating the mode of action. The achievement of this goal requires, first, the setting up of anaphoric adverbs' inventory, then their classification, and, finally the analysis of anaphoric adverbs' functioning in the discursive space.

3. Methods and Research Material

For this research we shall use the method of direct observation of the phenomenon – anaphoric adverbs of manner – in discourse followed by the analysis of structural and functional features. The material of the study consists of modern fiction texts, as well as corpus data of the French language, particularly Corpora.

4. Literature Review

It is generally recognized that the semantic essence of an adverb is an expression of a attribute of a process, action, state, therefore its primary syntactic function is an expression of circumstance in the verb [2; 3; 4]. However, it should be reminded that the status of the adverb as a separate part of speech is sometimes questioned, primarily because of the heterogeneity of the constituent elements [3].

Based on the mode of expression of a sign as a differentiating criterion, linguists have long noted the possibility of identifying anaphoric adverbs, which are contrasted with definitive adverbs [4]. Ch. Bally distinguished virtual adverbs (such as *vite*, *bien*), which express signs regardless of the speech act or situation, and actual adverbs indicating the circumstances directly and being connected with the act of speech.

Summarizing these points of view, we differentiate the definitive (virtual) and anaphoric / deictic (actual) adverbs. Thus, adverbs can be considered as anaphoric ones if they: a) characterize the ton of action by direct reference to the attribute (e.g. *ainsi*, *autant*); b) replace circumstances which may be expressed by noun: e.g. *ici* (= dans cet endroit), *alors* (= à ce moment-là); c) characterize an action in relation to another action (e.g. *autrement*, *davantage*); d) characterize an action in relation to another situation of communication (e.g. *maintenant*, *après*, *hier*, *loin*). Adjacent to the anaphoric adverbs are deictic adverbs. They point out the space-time signs of the action and approach by this the pronouns (cf. *ici* - adverb; *y* - pronoun). Besides, anaphoric adverbs include all interrogative adverbs - *combien?* *pourquoi?* *où?* *quand?* - as well as adverbs of quantity and intensity, denoting the measure of a sign in relation to a certain standard.

It is obvious that such internal division of anaphoric adverbs in many respects coincides with the classification of adverbs, which has become classical and is reflected in functional grammars. As for French, this classification involves the selection of adverbs of manner (de manière), quantity or intensity (de quantité or d'intensivité), time (de

temps), space (de lieu), statements (d'affirmation) and doubts/probabilities (de doute) [2]. But semantic content and usage peculiarities of adverbs of manner in anaphoric function still remains little studied.

5. Research Stages and Results

5.1 Principles of adverbs classification

Generally agreeing the definition of anaphoric adverbs and the classification of units mentioned above, on the one hand, and relying on our own study of anaphoric adverbs in text space, on the other hand, we suggest the following principles of the internal organization of anaphoric adverbs in French. Thus, it is possible to distinguish anaphoric adverbs indicating a) mode of action, directly or indirectly; b) time of action; c) the site of action (space); and d) the volume and / or intensity of the action. Interrogative adverbs like *combien ? pourquoi ? quand ?* etc., traditionally occupying the left (cataphoric) position in the text in relation to the verbal expression of the sign of action, should be considered apart. We emphasize that anaphoric adverbs allow pointing (referencing) to an action attribute, while the verbal expression of the attribute is available in the same textual space.

5.2 Semantic and functional features of anaphoric adverbs

We shall now consider in more details the anaphoric adverbs of the French language classified above in terms of their semantic and functional features.

Anaphoric adverbs, united by a common function of indication of a mode (manner) of action, are quite numerous and heterogeneous. Most of them belong to the qualitative adverbs of mode of action (manner) [4]. Among these ones, we can specify adverbs characterizing action on base of similarity/identity (identité), subdivided, in their turn, into adverbs indicating the identity or similarity of the manner beside this of an action verbalized in text or observed directly, as well as adverbs indicating a manner of action different beside this verbalized in the text or directly observed.

5.2.1 Anaphoric adverbs of manner based on identity/similarity

Let us consider first the anaphoric adverbs, indicating a manner of an action which is identical or identifiable with that verbalized in the text. E.g.:

- Comment vas-tu faire ?
- Eh bien, je vais tout simplement *utiliser une mèche de huit mètres*, qui aboutira au bord du puits. *Ainsi*, je ne risquerai pas de tomber d'échelle en remontant après la mise à feu. (Marcel Pagnol)

Anaphoric adverb *ainsi* indicates the manner of the action referring to this verbalized at previous context (= *utiliser une mèche de huit mètres*). The speaker refers to the same action that was mentioned, therefore, it can be affirmed that there is an identity relationship between the anaphoric adverb and the antecedent.

The following example clearly confirms the validity of this statement:

Il en conclut que pour tenir jusqu'au 26 août, il faudrait utiliser Baptistine, Aimée, et Manon, et faire sept voyages par jour, c'est-à-dire douze heures de marche; puis, comme il était impossible d'imposer à ces femmes un programme et al, pers seel quail était absurde décida donc que la pluie viendrait à son aide le 20 août. Jusque-là, les femmes *ne l'accompagneraient que deux fois par jour*, et elles auraient *ainsi* le temps de s'occuper du ménage, de l'arrosage, et des lapins. (Marcel Pagnol)

In the text space, the anaphoric adverb *ainsi* indicates a manner of action, verbalized in the left position. Anaphoric adverb and antecedent are identical to each other.

The adverb *aussi* – functionally close to *ainsi* – is usually used to indicate the identity of action, e.g.:

Le vieillard, assis sur le seuil de sa porte, appointait des tuteurs pour son jardin.

"Alors?"

- Eh bien son puits, ça avance. Seulement, il n'a plus le sou, et il *marche à pieds nus*, et sa fille *aussi*." (Marcel Pagnol)

The adverb *aussi* indicates an identical manner of action expressed in the previous context (= *marche à pieds nus*). The verbs expressing the action – *marcher* – is in ellipsis for the action has just been mentioned. Actions and manners are identical to each other, which gives us reason to qualify *aussi* in this situation as an anaphoric adverb, indicating the identity of manner of action.

Anaphoric adverbs of manner based on the sign of identity can be conventionally subdivided into "core" and "periphery". Most used *ainsi* and *aussi* can be classified as "core" while anaphoric adverbs *pareillement* and *également*, expressing the similarity of manner, can be defined as "peripheral" ones. They indicate the similarity of manners of action (or actions) which have a verbal expression in the same text. E.g.:

C'est beau de voir les joueurs *courir* et *s'investir pareillement*. (Corpora)

Les manifestants *ont également soudé* le portail de cet abattoir, bloquant temporairement toute entrée ou sortie de camions. (Corpora)

In these examples, anaphoric adverb *pareillement* indicates on similarity of two actions performed (= *les joueurs courent et investissent pareillement*); anaphoric adverb *également* indicates on similarity of actions implemented by protesters (= *les manifestants ont soudé le portail, ont bloqué l'entrée*). Thus, adverbs *pareillement* and *également* should be considered as anaphoric, since they indicate the similarity of manners of action(s). For this, one of the manners of action should have a verbal expression in the text. Actions which are indicated by anaphoric adverbs are also verbally expressed in the text.

The use of adverbs *pareillement* and *également* in anaphoric function allows to indicate the similar type of action, despite the fact that the actions themselves are not identical, e.g.:

Le chronomètre *part au départ de chaque épreuve* ou de chaque groupe d'épreuves et *s'arrête pareillement aux arrivées*. (Corpora)

Anaphoric adverb *pareillement* indicates the similarity of manners of action, although the actions themselves are not identical to each other, on the contrary, they are antonymous. As the manner of action is identical, it allows to bring together the verb *partir* and *s'arrêter*.

5.2.2 Anaphoric adverbs of manner based on difference

Anaphoric adverbs can also indicate a manner of action different beside this verbally expressed in the same text space. Therefore, we can define a subgroup of an anaphoric adverb indicating a manner of action which is different or even opposite to that which is verbalized in the text and serves as an antecedent. Thus, we distinguish the adverbs *autrement* and *différemment*, indicating the difference between a manner of an action and a verbalization in a previous or subsequent context. E.g.:

Et puis, j'ai pensé à autre chose, Ruissatel, c'est loin pour les provisions. Alors, si ça peut vous rendre service, moi, j'ai Délie qui vient trois fois par semaine faire mon ménage ... Vous n'auriez qu'à me donner la liste des commissions !
- Mon cher voisin, dit le bossu, j'accepte encore une fois votre offre généreuse, parce qu'en ce moment il nous faut compléter notre installation, et nous n'avons pas de temps à perdre. Soyez d'ailleurs rassuré que, quand le temps sera venu, je vous *témoignerai ma reconnaissance autrement* que par des paroles. (Marcel Pagnol)

In this text, one circumstance is verbally expressed as a manner of action (= *témoigner sa reconnaissance par des paroles*), anaphoric adverb *autrement* indicates that in the future the action will be carried out differently (in a similar formula of politeness, the most likely manner of action is implicitly laid down – gratitude by words is usually contrasted with gratitude by acts).

Despite the fact that semantically the adverb of *autrement* implies only the difference of one attribute from another, and not their opposition, the practice of usage demonstrates the high frequency of using this adverb to express an alternative, i.e. contrasts, e.g.:

"C'est Baptistine qui m'a guéri, avec un charbon ardent dans un verre d'eau. Du moins, c'est ce que ma femme m'a dit. [...]"
"C'est le seul moyen, dit Ugolin, de vous enlever le soleil de la tête. Mais il faut *savoir les paroles magiques, autrement ça ne réussit pas* !" (Marcel Pagnol)

Au clair de la lune, Giuseppe alla examiner les plantations, arracha des feuilles, et les écrasa entre ses paumes.
"Notre maître, dit-il, elles souffrent ... Il faut sacrifier la moitié des plates parce que s'il ne pleut pas d'ici quatre jours, vous allez perdre tout! [...] il faut *perdre la moitié, autrement, vous perderez tout* !" (Marcel Pagnol)

In the presented examples, the anaphoric adverb *autrement* is used to express the only possible alternative; therefore, it is a matter of expressing the meaning of opposition.

The anaphoric adverb *différemment*, as well as *autrement*, indicate a difference in the manner of action, often without specifying details, e.g.:

Le Théâtre national populaire *procède différemment* suivant qu'il joue en plein air ou à huis clos. (Corpora)

Les récits de Noël, spécialement, sont une compilation, un patchwork d'histoires *rapportées différemment* selon les communautés et les époques. (Corpora)

It should be noted that the quantitative analysis of the use of *autrement* and *différemment* in texts of various stylistic affiliations reveals a higher frequency of use of the anaphoric adverb *autrement*.

6. Conclusions and Future Scope

The study thus conducted makes it possible to clarify the content of the anaphoric function in relation to adverbs, and to make an inventory of the anaphoric adverbs of the French language. It is now possible to distinguish among anaphoric adverbs those which indicate a mode (manner) of action, and also to subdivide them, taking into account their semantics, into adverbs expressing the meaning of identity/similarity and differences, describing the features of their functioning in the text.

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