

COMMUNICATIVE-PRAGMATIC POTENTIAL AND SEMANTIC-GRAMMATICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF UNCERTAINTY IN MODERN UKRAINIAN MASMEDIA

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Abstract: The article characterizes language units with indefinite semantics, which in Ukrainian media texts implement a number of communicative and pragmatic tasks and in some cases even serve as a means of manipulation. The study of ambiguity in the context of specific speech acts and the correlation of the concepts of subject and object made it possible to distinguish between two manifestations of this semantics: clear and partially neutralized. It has been found that to describe situations with a tinge of indefinite, vague, inaccurate expression of someone, something, a certain sign or action, journalists use language units that relate to lexical, syntactic, morphological, and word-forming levels. It is emphasized that the more expressive are those markers that represent a clearly presented ambiguity, while less vivid are the means of expression with a lower degree of expression of the specified semantics. Orientation to the syntactic language level became the basis for the selection of interrogative, probabilistic, and narrative modalities. The emphasis on the morphological tier of language involved the study of nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, numerals and verbs, in which the indefinite shade can be expressed by word-forming formants. On the basis of newspaper journalism, a set of indefinitely marked language units is formed, which form the center (nuclear zone), semi-center, periphery, and absolute periphery.

Keywords: Communicative-pragmatic aspect, Linguistics, Literary norm, Mass media, Parts of speech, Sentences, Ukrainian language, Uncertainty, Vocabulary.

1 Introduction

Linguistics of the 21st century determines the focus on the application of the latest methodological principles of study, confession of heterogeneous approach, focus on multifaceted and multilevel analysis of language units with a predominance of semantic factors, which, according to I.R. Vykhovanetz, are the basis for syntactic and morphological features of words [5, p. 13]. Concepts based on these principles are relevant, objective and productive, which we consider a strong argument in favor of using these guidelines to describe sentences and tokens with generalized indefinite semantics.

In modern Ukrainian linguistics, uncertainty is usually considered in connection with the ambiguity [2, 4, p. 430, 8] and associated either only with nouns [4, p. 430], or with different parts of speech [2]. The development of a set of qualification parameters and focus on deep semantics served as the basis for the qualification of uncertainty as an independent non-correlative, cognitively oriented and grammatically articulated functional-semantic category, devoid of specialized grammatical forms of expression [3]. These and a number of other works undoubtedly accumulate important theoretical information about uncertainty, but its description is mostly based on literary texts, while media sources are used in fragments. In addition, no less important is the communicative-pragmatic aspect of the study of units with an indication of uncertainty. Special attention needs to be paid to the manifestation of their functional peculiarities in newspaper journalism, where the result of language dynamics has recently accumulated to the greatest extent. In order to increase the attention of the readership, journalists choose different means, including those with vague semantics, which need to be studied in different areas, including in the context of destructiveness and compliance with the language standard. We consider all this to be an important argument for involving media material in describing the semantic structure and distinguishing between central markers and those that represent transitional zones of uncertainty.

Thus, the objective is to outline, on the basis of newspaper journalism, communicative-pragmatic specialization and to find out the partial linguistic affiliation of linguistic means of expression of uncertainty, to distinguish between central and secondary markers of identified semantic varieties, to consider them in connection with modality and normative context.

2 Materials and Methods

An attempt is made to give the most complete description of the lexical, morphological, and syntactic means of expressing the category of certainty-uncertainty, as well as to develop a scientific approach to understanding the category of certainty-uncertainty as a category that is complex in structural and content terms. To create a holistic picture of the category of certainty-uncertainty, it is supposed to solve problems that are in the center of attention of modern linguistics.

When covering the theoretical provisions relating to the category of certainty-uncertainty, a set of methods different in their parameters was used: logical-structural and functional analysis, descriptive-analytical modeling, logical-linguistic comparison, as well as a number of other methods. The theoretical analysis of the category of certainty-uncertainty also allows for a universal relationship, causality and conditionality. Because of this, the category of certainty-uncertainty appears to be a relative category. Certainty and indefiniteness are semantic concepts where one does not exist without the other. Just as we cannot determine the white color of an object without the existence of its antipode black, so a feature can be called definite if it is possible to compare it with a less definite or indefinite one. Thus, the first rule for the category of certainty-uncertainty is formulated as follows: there are no languages in which the category of certainty or only the category of uncertainty can be present. Linguistic dualism in this category functions quite effectively. Categorical signs of certainty necessarily correlate with the semantic meanings of uncertainty, although the ways and means of expression in languages may be different. The second rule is that there are no languages in which the category of certainty-uncertainty would be absent.

Thinking, as a form of reflection, is based on the processes of generalization and abstraction of perceived information about the objects of reality. Since certainty-uncertainty is based on the relations of exact/approximate, concrete/abstract, individual/generalized, etc., the process of thinking is impossible without displaying certain features.

The certainty-uncertainty category is a logical-linguistic category, that is, linguistic definite and indefinite representations are based on logical relations. The category of certainty-uncertainty is a functional-semantic category that combines a wide variety of means and methods of expression that function in speech situations.

Certainty-uncertainty in this paper is considered as a structurally complex formation, the logical-linguistic center of which is the relationship of certain-indefinite, exact-approximate, etc.

3 Results and Discussion

We consider studying through the prism of communicative-pragmatic load as one of the important aspects of the description of specialized and functionally equivalent formal representatives of uncertainty presented in media texts. As it is known, the journalist's priority tasks are not only to accurately, in balanced manner and promptly report on current events and various situations, but also to use the arsenal of language tools that would facilitate the availability of information, interest the reader, encourage him to think and trust. Undoubtedly, every mediator should strive for impartiality and avoid cases of manipulative influence on the recipient. However, in practice, we follow some other trends; in particular, in the articles we

come across emotional and evaluative means that can hinder the objectivity of the perception of real information and even contribute to its distortion. These and a number of other factors play an important role in determining the communicative and pragmatic potential of language units, including those involved in the labeling of uncertainty.

Focus on the communicative-pragmatic dimension involves the study of indefinitely marked language situations in the context of the correlation of the concepts of subject and object, which is the basis for highlighting at least the following options: both (author and reader) or one of the participants in the communicative act (usually reader) partially or generally deprived of information about the event, subject, its features, etc. The journalist reports on something superficially, without going into details, because he does not know enough about what is described. Accordingly, the recipient will also have only general, clearly defined, vague ideas about what is read. A striking example of this situation was the information discussed before February 24, 2022 about the threat of war in Ukraine. In media sources, not only Ukraine, but also other countries have expressed various assumptions about the beginning of full-scale aggression.

Nowadays, articles about the end of the Russian-Ukrainian war have been marked indefinitely. Until recently, Ukrainian and still foreign publications discuss the causes of coronavirus. There is no doubt that neither the journalist nor the average reader has reliable knowledge of these messages. At the same time, the topics are relevant, so they are often written about. So, the ambiguity here is clear. There may be another situation when the author of the publication deliberately hides some part of the information, resorting to the so-called 'keeping back', which causes the reader certain associations, encourages him to think, compare facts and more. In this case, the approach applied may even indicate a deliberate covert manipulation of the target audience. The study of language means in such a plane allows talking about the partial leveling of uncertainty, as one of the participants in the communicative act has some knowledge of the object of discussion or message, and the other (reader) is limited.

The study of the units of the analyzed variety in the context of specific speech acts allows revealing their communicative value, including the role in influencing the reader, which often happens to achieve the appropriate effect and achieve the communicative goal. To describe situations with a touch of uncertainty, journalists use language units that have varying degrees of expression of this semantics. Of course, more expressive and expressive will be markers that represent clearly presented uncertainty, while less vivid means of expressing partial uncertainty. To convey both shades, different constructions are used for the purpose of expression, among which interrogative syntactic units need special comment. In media texts, they are widely presented in interviews, less often in informative articles, where, as a means of modeling rhetorical questions, they encourage the reader to think, activate his attention.

In the first case, the journalist seeks information from the interlocutor, who, having the desire and showing consent, reports something in whole or in part. The functional feature of such syntactic units can be described as interrogative-motivational, because the addressee encourages another person to active speech actions. As it is known, in linguistics interrogative structures are divided into two types: 1) sentences aimed at deepening, specifying the knowledge of the addressee about certain events, objects, time, place, etc. In this way, the speaker tries to obtain new information, using partially interrogative syntactic units, which, in our opinion, reveal the highest level of indefinite semantics, as they provide an answer that is not limited by any options. Traditionally, such a functional range is found in articulated structures; 2) sentences that serve as a means of clarifying the authenticity or inaccuracy of information about which the speaker has only a general idea, but is not convinced of its veracity (these are general syntactic units). Given that in this case the journalist operates with a certain amount of knowledge, we consider the constructions used by him to be markers of partially neutralized uncertainty.

They usually need answers in the form of affirmative or negative unarticulated syntactic units modeled by affirmative or negative particles, respectively.

Next, we will dwell in more detail on the means of expressing the interrogative content in both types of statements. According to the degree of uncertainty, the center is formed by general question structures, which are mostly found in interviews. In this case, when formulating questions, the mediator often cannot predict what the recipient will tell him, for example: *How can we force Gazprom to get rid of the monopoly on gas supply through our GTS? What levers of influence do we have in the EU or in our country?* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 18.01.2021); *How did you select Lesya Ukrainka's letters and why does actress Irma Vitovska read them from you?* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 18.11.2021); *But why do you think the German government does not want to understand our position, as well as that of Poland, the Baltic states, and Slovakia on the threat of Nord Stream 2?* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 18.01.2021); *What can you say about the incentives to attract foreign investors, including American ones, to gas production?* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 18.01.2021); *What should our school be like?* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 11.02.2022); *So what should be the step in this situation?* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 18.01.2021). The last sentence will be considered in the context of normativity. It unjustifiably uses the token *given*, because its meaning is associated with the implementation of the generalized-indicative function, and not with the creative verb *to give*. It is appropriate to replace this attributive unit with a pronoun word *this* or an equivalent subjunctive part, cf.: *So what should be the step in this situation? So what should be the step in the situation that has arisen?*

On the opposite vector with respect to general interrogative sentences, there are partially interrogative syntactic units. Usually at the beginning, less often within structures with somewhat leveled indefinite semantics, there are interrogative pronouns, or, perhaps, the simulation of interrogative intention takes place without them with the help of appropriate intonation. It is worth mentioning that these service units also provide an additional emotional and expressive tone, cf.: *Did you talk about this with the management of Naftogaz?* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 18.01.2021); *You named Shell, but there's French Total, can they really export gas?* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 18.01.2021) and... *do you see the minibus No. 145 with the Bulgarian flag painted in front?* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 09.09.2021).

Rhetorical questions used in journalistic texts, not so much for concrete answers, but rather to provoke reflection, weigh on functional features of general interrogative sentences, which are characterized by a weakened expression of uncertainty. The scope of use of such units is articles, which are divided by genre features into news, investigations, journalistic analysis. It is important that in the constructions of this variety there are markers of questionability, characteristic of general and partial interrogative constructions. Cf.: *Will the Albanian language disappear right now, in independent Ukraine, when it was finally studied at school?* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 09.09.2021); *They (politicians of the "old generation" – Ed.) have been in parliament for decades, in party life, in the executive branch, some were even the president or a high-ranking government official, and what the result?* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 29.09.2021); *There is someone in Ukraine to protect the Black Sea-Azov coast. But with what means to protect it, except for heroism and self-sacrifice?* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 15.01.2022); *Gentle attitude to enemies even got into the national anthem, which became the national anthem: "Our vorizhenki (Ukrainian word 'enemies' in diminutive form) will perish like dew in the sun..." They will take - and perish themselves, you know? Moreover, where and from whom does the national anthem take affectionate form against the enemies of the nation, sounding like vorizhenki?* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 20.09.2021).

Sentences that are formally represented by interrogative syntactic units, but with a clearly expressed affirmative meaning, are a reflection of transpositional processes. In such statements, the addressee expresses his own opinion, assessing certain facts of objective reality, for example: *There is only one question – is*

it the Great Emblem that we do not have enough for complete happiness? (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 20.09.2021); *Are there no new, previously hidden facts and documents, no new testimonies of people who survived the tragedy, after all, aren't people able to rethink their lives? And in general – there is no history in the world that would be written once and for all. Each generation digs its history deeper and deeper* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 04.11.2021).

A kind of intermediate model between the structures that form the center of expression of uncertainty, and statements with a weakened expression of this semantics form interrogative sentences used in articles of such genres as news and investigation. Their specificity is reflected in the accompanying functioning of the answers of the author of the publication, for example: *What do the Navy currently have in its composition? Frigate "Hetman Sagaidachny", which is under repair and modernization; the former Pryluky missile boat, from which anti-ship missiles were fired; four Island patrol boats; eleven artillery boats, seven of which are Gurza-M projects, i.e., capable of operating only in calm weather; anti-sabotage boat and raid minesweeper. Three assault boats of the Centaur-LK project were supposed to be put into operation, but two of them were arrested by the DBR (because they were built by the Forge on Rybalskyi, formerly owned by Petro Poroshenko), with the third one, something incomprehensible is happening* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 15.01.2022); *May this happen in a normal state? No* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 20.12.2021).

In some places, the answer to the question posed in the title is the whole publication, such as: *Does the "old generation" have a chance?* (head) (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 29.09.2021); *Have you learned the lessons of history?* (head) (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 16.12.2021); *Should enemies be treated kindly?* (general) (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 20.09.2021); *Will Ukraine survive in the event of Russian aggression?* (head) (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 03.01.2022); *Is Biden really putting the Ukrainian economy on the brink?* (head) (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 30.01.2022). This group includes alternative questions, which are partly based on the statements of famous people or are modifications of winged expressions: *Mobilization or demobilization of the country?* (head) (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 28.01.2022); *Reconstruct or bring another: In the Lviv City Hall it was advised what would be built on the site of the burnt construction* (head) (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 07.02.2022); *To be or not to be for an external evaluation?* (head) (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 10.02.2022).

Such headlines seem to require answers that can be expressed in the affirmative or negative part, but, of course, journalists cannot limit themselves to this. The article provides extensive comments, arguments in favor of a thesis. In some cases, the title is a model of a partial interrogative sentence: *Why does history need to be rewritten and rethought?* (head) (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 04.11.2021); *Why is the West in no hurry to help Ukraine with weapons?* (head) (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 20.12.2021); *Who is afraid of the gray wolf Andriy Zholdak?* (head) (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 29.12.2021); *And who are the experts?* (head) (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 04.02.2022). The commonality of both types of constructions is that they have a very pragmatic effect on the reader. The titles based on this model encourage the recipient to get acquainted with the publication and occasionally find out whether his views and beliefs coincide with the position of the author. The title sentences, in which the process of metaphorization is realized, show a special emotional and expressive load. As O. Golub rightly emphasizes, "today society wants not only facts but also emotions - and there is no contradiction in this, if we approach this issue rationally and be guided by common sense" [1, p. 22]. For example: *Will the Colossus fade? Volyn deputies want to transfer the honored folk song and dance ensemble from Torchyn from the regional budget to support the local community* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 01.02.2022).

Relation to the realization of uncertainty, in addition to interrogatives, reveals constructions with a modal value of probability and predictability. In the analyzed texts, they express subjectivity in the transmission of content. Statements of a probable modal plan express doubts, assumptions of the speaker,

the means of creating which are modal modifiers. In the studied media texts, such a role is played by language units it seems, probably (possibly), or, perhaps. For example: *Putin seems to have such important relations with China that he will not take any decisive steps until the end of the Olympics...* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 29.01.2022); *I think, obviously, this will not happen tomorrow, but they will join* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 06.11.2021); *It is obvious that the truth in this case should be established by the court, the intentions to file a lawsuit to which both parties to the conflict have stated* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 11.02.2022); *The death of a British resident is probably the first confirmed case of death of an infected person with Omicron in the world* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 13.12.2021); *Pope Francis is likely to visit Ukraine in 2022, said Archbishop-Metropolitan of the Lviv Archdiocese of the Roman Catholic Church Mechyslav Mokshytsky* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 28.09.2021); *I do not want to reduce this conversation only to the figures of ministers who headed the Ministry of Health during Zelensky's term and in the monopoly of majority, because there were different people among them, and the current leader Viktor Lyashko is among them, perhaps the most competent* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 12.11.2021); *Apparently, everyone has already seen photos with the queues of Kyiv residents near the vaccination points* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 01.11.2021); *The Ministry of Health appealed to the owners of 15 health care facilities, where medical data may have been falsified, with a request to remove the managers* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 01.10.2021); *Probably, if we compare the Ukrainian norm of the elite and the establishment, the main component will be "not corrupt", and such a characteristic as reading daily newspapers or the press in general may not come to mind* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 18.02.2021); *He noted that the meeting of European ministers in the Gymnich format, which had just ended in Brest and was dedicated to resolving tensions over Ukraine and European security, was probably one of the most important informal meetings in the political history of the European Union* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 14.01.2022).

The constructions selected from newspaper journalism testify that in terms of the number of modal syntaxes that serve as a means of realizing indefinite semantics, they are not inferior to texts of other styles, including artistic ones. Emphasizing the functional equivalence of means of realizing probability as one of the shades of uncertainty, we note that the inserted units in these sentences correlate with the main parts of complex explanatory constructions, in which the verb predicates *predict, assume, doubt*, etc. play a central role. Transformational processes that testify to the semantic correlation of syntactic units of different statuses are reflected in the following example: *According to him (D. Razumkov – Author), personnel rotations in the government may not take place in the first plenary week of the sixth session of the Verkhovna Rada, but soon* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 06.09.2021), *D. Razumkov assumed that personnel rotations in the government will take place not in the first plenary week of the sixth session of the Verkhovna Rada, but soon; Not many Kyivites know about this educational institution, and probably no one from outside the capital of Ukraine knows it* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 19.11.2021) ← *A. Voitko doubted whether anyone knew about this educational institution from outside the capital of Ukraine*.

Functional closeness to the analyzed ones is shown by structures with tokens *hardly, as if, allegedly* which appear both in the headlines and texts of newspaper publications: *It can hardly be said that the process of state recognition of those organizations and individuals in Ukraine who fought for our independence with weapons in the hands and organized the zeal of this struggle, has already reached the appropriate levels* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 31.01.2022); *Turkish aircraft seem to have hit targets in Idlib so far, remaining in their airspace* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 03.03.2020); *Russian aircraft, after allegedly several explosions at the Hmeimim air base (it could have been fired upon by Turkish drones), stopped flying from this airfield and stopped flying in all areas of Idlib, where Turkish troops entered* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 03.03.2020). Using them, the author thus tries to remove or at least reduce the level of responsibility for the accuracy of the information provided by him. In some

cases, in addition to doubt, one can trace the journalist's hidden disagreement with the report, especially if it is related to a person whom the majority of Ukrainians do not trust: *The self-proclaimed President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko has announced the alleged detection of terrorist attacks involving Germany, Ukraine, the United States, Poland and Lithuania* (epravda.com.ua, 02.07.2021). Selected modal modifiers, similar to those analyzed earlier, are also formed by folding the main part of a complex sentence: *Germany's refusal to provide Ukraine with weapons is unlikely to be a good thing for the future of the EU – Reznikov* (head) (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 29.01.2022) ← *Reznikov doubted whether Germany's refusal to provide Ukraine with weapons would be a good thing for the future of the EU*. In some cases, journalists themselves submit constructions with semantically related means of realizing the assumption, cf.: *North Stream-2 is unlikely to work if Russia invades Ukraine – US Secretary of State* (head) *if Russia attacks Ukraine* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 05.01.2022).

Indirectly, expressions of translational modality with interjections are involved in the expression of ambiguity, such as *they say, as they say*, which give the whole statement an indefinite-general shade, for example: *They say that satisfaction with a family doctor is a subjective indicator but in reality this subjectivity significantly affects whether a person goes to the doctor* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 03.03.2020). Of course, there are not many such sentences, because the media aim to convey true, verified information, not based on rumors. When recounting someone's thoughts, they usually name the people from whom they received messages. Given this, the declining manifestation of indefinite semantics can be traced in structures with compounds such as *teachers* (*doctors, specialists, experts, government officials, etc.*) *say: It turned out that the average health index of Ukrainians is 63 points out of 100. This is not so bad, experts say* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 03.03.2020); *When asked about the early detection of diseases – whether respondents go to the doctor without delay – 66% answered in the affirmative. Experts say, here there is also positive dynamics* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 03.03.2020); *Lebanese officials say that the tragedy could have been caused by ammonium nitrate, 2,750 tons of which were stored in the port for six years in violation of warehousing rules...* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 05.08.2020). The complete leveling of uncertainty is represented by constructions in which to the token *to say* personal nominations or their semantic equivalents are subordinated – common names, cf. highlighted compounds in two sentences from the same publication: *“Snails that we grow on the farm should be covered with sauces, namely from fermented milk products, i.e., on the basis of cheese, whey, etc.”, – says Vasyl Ivanyuk* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 08.01.2021) *and the Man says that snails are not only a delicacy, but also a product of wide application* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 08.01.2021).

According to the semantic potential, language units with an accompanying indication of uncertainty explain uncertainty, complete lack of information or the presence of partial information about objects, signs, actions, processes, states, secondary signs, quantity, time, spatial landmarks, etc. In the media, these and a number of other nuances are represented by formal means that relate to different language levels and, given the degree of consolidation and functional purpose have the status of primary (specialized, or core) and secondary (non-specialized, peripheral). In our opinion, the comprehensiveness of the description of indefinitely marked units will ensure their study through the prism of functional-grammatical methodology, which provides for the focus on the plan of content and the plan of expression.

As evidenced by the body of research material, the main role in the implementation of indefinite semantics is played by morphological and syntactic units. Relation to the former is revealed by certain groups of words belonging to the noun parts of speech and verbs. In particular, this concerns indefinite pronouns, which according to grammatical characteristics complement the classes of nouns, adjectives and numerals, and according to the latest vision and adverbs [6, p. 184-212; 7, p. 241-243, 303-304, 335-337, 362, 501], as well as nouns,

numerals, adjectives. Atypical (secondary) means are language units with vague indefinite content or one that is directed or is as close as possible to the meaning. Given the degree of expression of this semantic nuance, we differentiate them into core, or semi-central, peripheral, and absolutely peripheral.

Close connection with the semantics of uncertainty, and hence the relationship to the central sphere is observed in the following:

1) Nouns and adjectives in which the semantics of uncertainty is realized by the lexical meaning of the word: *stranger, unknown, not investigated, mysterious*. For example: *...a stranger hides in the street from the attentive eye of an observer* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 05.11.2020); *Residents were surprised by a silent stranger...* (gazeta.ua, 12.03.2018); *X left the children's hall and moved somewhere in a long enfilade of luxurious rooms of his house* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 10.01.2003); *The sleeping bag was not ours, but was given to us by a complete stranger when he saw that we were sitting on the marble floor of the temple* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 06.01.2013); *And I like to go for a walk on familiar routes to meet strangers* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 05.11.2020); *The plot of the TV series “Paper House” tells about a team of mysterious robbers, who this time fell into a trap inside a bank in Spain* (gazeta.ua, 02.12.2021). The token *X* with an indication of the symbol of an unknown or specially unnamed person, time, space, etc. is often used alongside other nouns. In this case, we can talk about its applied role and at the same time attributive function: *The student was represented by visitors to the institution. The guy then called himself Mr. X* (gazeta.ua, 03.01.2021); *“Today, the dormant terrorist cells, the so-called self-defense units, have been uncovered. The purpose of these cells is a violent change of government on the day of X. They themselves do not yet know what day X is: our people should be brought to it.” Lukashenko said* (epravda.com.ua, 02.07.2021). The following link needs special comment: The US State Department has announced the issuance of the first US “X” passport. ...Instead of the traditional male or female gender, the document states “gender X”. *According to the US State Department, the “X” mark refers to non-binary, intersex and gender nonconforming persons who apply for a US passport or documents certifying that a child born outside the United States acquires national citizenship (CRBA)* (epravda.com.ua, 28.10.2021). As one can see, the journalist offered an explanation for the relatively new nomination, as it has recently come into Ukrainian use and would naturally be incomprehensible to the average reader without a detailed explanation. Occasionally, we will focus on the compound *X* disease: the World Health Organization has warned of a new deadly epidemic caused by an unknown pathogen, called this disease *X* (gazeta.ua, 05/08/2018); *“The next outbreak will be something we haven't seen before... It seems strange to call the disease X, but we've labeled it because we're still working on vaccines and diagnostic tests, said John-Arne Rottingen told* (gazeta.ua, 12.03.2018). It is the lack of information about the new disease was the basis for naming it *X*;

2) Pronoun words, in particular: a) indefinite, formed from interrogative-relative with the help of affix prepositive *abi-de, bozna, kazna, nevidj, khtozna* (in Ukrainian *somewhere, any, somebody, something, who knows*) or postpositive (*сь, небудь*) morphemes that under certain conditions of use can be presented analytically: *Someone in the warehouse found small sewn toys-angels* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 06.09.2019); *If my heart saves someone's life, why not?* (gazeta.ua, 01.02.2022); *Most of the residents who could afford it fled to parts of Ukraine controlled by Kyiv. Especially in Kharkiv, some to Russia* (gazeta.ua, 01.02.2022); *“We will not allow Slovyansk to be repeated. If some “bitter man” tries to seize the administrative building, he will be shot by our special forces without warning and without hesitation”, the head of the department assured* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 14.02.2022); *Some citizens of Ukraine were placed in the sports hall of Taganrog* (gazeta.ua, 20.02.2022); b) interrogative-relative, for which the obligatory condition for the manifestation of indefinite mark load is their functioning within the statements of interrogative modality or in the structures of another modal plan, but together with tokens it is *unknown, unclear, not known*

or their semantic equivalents: *And what needs to be done for Ukraine to become autonomous in this regard and be able to join the European grid system?* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 18.01.2021); *Whose copter is the fastest?* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 13.02.2018); *In fact, we are witnessing attempts to massacre Kyiv's self-government, in which the head of the President's Office, Andriy Bohdan, took an active part; demonstrative silence in response to the loud scandal around the District Administrative Court and the concentration of all power in a single center, behind which it is unknown who is behind* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 31.07.2019); *I mention the billboard "Russian Heritage", which hangs in the center of Lugansk for ten years at someone's unknown expense and is updated* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 07.11.2014);

3) Adverbs, among which: a) indefinite, derivational forms of which coincide with the list of service morphemes involved in the formation of indefinite pronouns. Linguistic units of this variety indicate the place or direction, time, reason, purpose, mode of action, condition, but with a touch of inaccuracy, approximation: *So it was once and so it is now: somewhere lingering (and become invisible to the untrained eye) new ones appear* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 27.08.2019); *For some reason, the Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments and the National Union of Architects of Ukraine were not allowed to work* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 06.09.2017); *...The first President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk for some reason appeared via video link on the main state channel "Russia-24" in the program "60 minutes", and then gave an interview to "Komsomolskaya Pravda"* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 06.09.2017). We can speak about the partial concretization of the semantics of uncertainty realized by this group of adverbs, provided that clarifying units or words with a narrower meaning function alongside them, cf.: *Once, in the days of the Roman state, famous general Scipio Africanus, conqueror and victor of Carthage, speaking in the Senate said the following: "Romans! You should evaluate your leaders not by what they for some reason failed to give you, but by the fact that they gave something new compared to previous times"* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 08.09.2019) and *Somewhere in comfortable park, students with books sat on benches, an artist with an easel somewhere in the alley, couples in love somewhere* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 16.04.2018); b) questionnaires: *Why is it especially important for you to be approved for the position of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy?* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 18.01.2021); c) relative in combination with words of indefinite semantics *unknown, incomprehensible, not known: And it all starts with the fact that the gas of its own production goes nowhere* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 15.02.2012); *All even slightly significant decisions are made by someone and it is unclear where* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 29.11.2019); d) modal: *In the fall, the parliament will probably be "captured" by Republicans. Then there will be by-elections to the Congress* (gazeta.ua, 13.02.2022);

4) Indefinite numerals, which indicate a clearly defined quantitative manifestation of something. Among such markers, there are words like *many, few*. In terms of functional potential, the noun majority and compounds like a significant part are attracted to them. For example: *Families came to the action, many young people* (gazeta.ua, 20.02.2022); *Yes, I know that many Russian-speaking citizens have defended and are defending our borders from Russian aggression and I am very grateful to them* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 16.07.2020); *The situation is calm, most citizens do not want to leave their homes* (gazeta.ua, 18.02.2022); *Many of these publications are available only in libraries, as some of them have not been republished for several decades* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 18.03.2019).

The semi-central sphere includes language units with a somewhat leveled manifestation of uncertainty, including:

1) Pronouns used independently and within compounds, in particular: a) the pronoun that has undergone substantivization. It is important that the semantics of this word be limited to the actions, processes, states, features presented in the subordinate part of it: *Only those who are in solidarity with Ukraine can be called a true European...* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 02.19.2019); *If the*

elections to the Verkhovna Rada take place next Sunday, 23.2% of those who have decided and will come to vote will be ready to vote for European Solidarity (gazeta.ua, 21.02.2021); b) relative pronouns, the scope of which is complex sentences with contracted parts formed by folding the interrogative structure: *The conversation with the ambassador began with the question on whose initiative the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky had a telephone conversation on April 10 and what both leaders agreed on* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 13.04.2020); c) compounds with indefinite pronouns and subordinate prepositional-singular forms of proper nouns, which structure a compound subject or a controlled part of a sentence and are close in meaning to the word one: *Some artists will get a job, while some – recognition; someone's photos from the home archive will be the decoration of catalogs or publications of Ukraine* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 13.01.2021); *Some of this is really top news, some is just an informational trifle that does not deserve special attention* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, June 21, 2019); *But does a well-fed and comfortable reader have the right to condemn someone of those whose life circumstances and challenges were incomparably more difficult* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 17.02.2022);

2) Adverbs: a) acting as a connecting word in subjunctive parts derivationally related to interrogative constructions: *"Den" asked Hungary's ambassador to Hungary, Lyubov Nepop, for clarification on Hungary's position and asked her why the neighboring country was so ultimatum and disrupted the KUN meeting.* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 31.10.2017). Let us occasionally explain that, in the structures of the given sample, the interrogative modality is to some extent neutralized, therefore such syntactic units cannot be present together with the actual interrogative ones in the same status group; b) definite, the role of the creative base for which are performed by adjectives, and circumstances with the meaning of time and place (direction and static localization), cf.: *long, late, early, long, recent, short and long ago, in advance, in advance, later, then, occasionally, sometimes; high, low, far, close, deep, shallow and above, below, behind, above, aside, left, right, near*, for example: *The main concert venue has not seen so many stars and spectators for a long time* (gazeta.ua, 17.02.2022); *Pears, along with apples, plums and apricots, have long been considered our main fruit trees...* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 19.02.2021); *"I hope that the operator is fine, I'm sorry it happened. On the penultimate jump, I did not accelerate enough and landed too deeply..." quotes the athlete NRK* (gazeta.ua, 17.02.2022); *Vitaliy Buyalsky gave the pass to the left to Vladislav Vanat...* (gazeta.ua, 15.02.2022);

3) Part of indefinite numerals: *several, several dozen, several hundred*, which, although approximate, but still tend to the group of definite-quantitative: *Several hundred soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division were transferred to Poland* (gazeta.ua, 15.02.2022). To the pre-nuclear zone, we count semantically close to the indefinite numeral many words *thousands, millions, billions: There are fears that thousands of Afghans who want to flee the Taliban may not leave the country* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 25.08.2021).

The periphery of linguistic expression is formed by noun parts of speech, in which the main emphasis is on the semantics of objectivity or signification, while the manifestation of ambiguity is hidden. Including:

1) Nouns: a) in the genitive case with the meaning of quantitative object partisanship: *The mayor asked to help the Baby House, to bring apples there to make puree* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 14.05.1999); *I bought fresh bread and milk* (gazeta.ua, 27.01.2022); b) to denote the team and close to them in the semantic range *youth, people, public, detachment*, etc. with a hidden meaning of an indefinite number: *The holiday grew thanks to the youth and students, who were the main dynamic force of the Embroidery Day* (gazeta.ua, 19.05.2021); *Today, January 1, in Lviv, the public celebrated the 113th anniversary of the birth of the head of the OUN, Hero of Ukraine Stepan Bandera* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 01.01.2022);

2) Adjectives, with an accompanying indication of the approximation of volume, intensity, size, some features of the

appearance of creatures, etc.: *The week did not please with high earnings* (gazeta.ua, 19.02.2022); *The sandals on high heels complemented the dress* (gazeta.ua, 18.02.2022); *And in this story the prehistory is too long. A long, long chain of humiliations and losses, catastrophes and failures* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 20.02.2019). In the language palette of peripheral means of explication of uncertainty there are also adjectives of irrelevant degree of manifestation of the sign: *French President Emmanuel Macron refused the Russian PCR test on Covid-19 before talks with Kremlin President Vladimir Putin. Therefore, he had to distance himself from the President of Russia at a very long table* (gazeta.ua, 11.02.2022); *Hutsul culture is very rich in all songs, rituals, music, patterns, agriculture* (gazeta.ua, 09.09.2021);

3) Adverbs of measure and degree *many, too many, a lot, excessive, few, a few*, which are usually subordinate to verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. Some of the words in this subgroup are capable of gradation, such as: *more, less, most, least*. For example: *I learn a lot myself and teach others...* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 28.04.2020); *Countries around the world are too slow to adapt to climate change and spend too little money to prepare for the devastating effects of global warming* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 14.01.2021);

4) Denoted-quantitative and fractional numerals used to express some quantitative limits. In this case, they must be accompanied by unspecified modifiers – mostly comparative adverbs of degree *more, less*, as well as the preposition *over*: *Navy of Ukraine in 2022 may receive from the United States more than 10 patrol boats type Mark VI* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 09.02.2022); *During the first four days of work, police phantom cars recorded more than four thousand speed violations* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 31.01.2022); *The occupiers damaged more than a hundred houses near the demarcation line in Donbas* (gazeta.ua, 21.02.2022). To denote numerical approximation, the media sometimes use prepositions transposed from the field of adverbs *more, less*, such as: *From the Crimea, more than a hundred scanned photographs of the forced relocation of Crimean Tatars in 1944 entered mainland Ukraine* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 10.05.2015); *More than a thousand new cases of coronavirus per day in Ukraine* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 12.08.2021). In our opinion, such use violates the norms of the Ukrainian literary language, more than a hundred should be replaced by *more than a hundred* should be replaced by *over a hundred*, and *more than a thousand* should be replaced by *over a thousand*;

5) Verbs indicating the increase or growth of something. The role of means of modeling such semantic nuances is played by prefixes *з, на, пона*, sometimes the postfix *-ся (сь)*, for example: *Міліція приїхала, людей понаскодилося. Слава Богу, чоловік живий лишився* (The police arrived, people came together. Thank God, the man survived) (gazeta.ua, 07.03.2017); *Людей понаскодилося, ще й оркестр* (People came together, including the orchestra) (gazeta.ua, 21.04.2015).

Some linguistic units present one of the aspects of indefinite semantics, i.e., it is largely leveled and directed to the zone of significance, which allows such formal means to be considered completely peripheral. They include:

1) Noun parts of speech used in the plural. They have hidden quantitative characteristics: *The best athletes competed for the City Cup* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 19.05.2013);

2) Nouns to denote titles, positions, types of activity, etc., in which only in specific conditions of use the generic feature is specified, cf.: *Former Minister of Education Serhiy Kyiv received the most votes in the second round of the presidential election of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, which he already headed from 2007 to 2014* (gazeta.ua, 28.01.2022) and *the Minister of Education and Science Lilia Hrynevych told the participants of the Summer School of Journalism "Den", what transformations await Ukrainian education* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 04.08.2016);

3) Adverbs: a) measures and degrees insofar as their inclusion in the absolute periphery is related to their semantics of proportionality due to the functioning of both analyzed language units within complex sentences: *The world is committed to us as much as we build it ourselves* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 31.12.2021); b) circumstances with the meaning of time, which are formed from nouns and specialize in expressing the temporality of the seasons, month, day, night, but without specifying a specific time sign: *spring, summer, day, night, evening, morning, enviable, daily, every night, repeatedly*, for example: *In the spring of 2022, the first cyber training in the history of Ukraine will be held* (gazeta.ua, 18.02.2022); *...The airline monitors the situation daily* (gazeta.ua, 17.02.2022);

4) Denoted-numerical and fractional numerals, if they are accompanied by units that express inaccuracy, proximity: *close, somewhere close, to, barely, almost, approximately*, etc.: *about 30 policemen and up to 20 security guards are on duty* (gazeta.ua, 21.02.2022); *Almost 17,000 new cases of COVID 19 per day were detected in Ukraine* (day.kyiv.ua/uk, 14.02.2022).

4 Conclusion

Thus, in the media to implement a number of communicative and pragmatic tasks, media workers use vaguely labeled language units, which in part even serve as a means of manipulation. Formal expression of ambiguity, given its vivid expression and declining or leveled expression, is associated with various means of lexical, syntactic, morphological, and sometimes word-forming level, as well as forming the center (nuclear zone), semi-center, periphery and absolute periphery. Focus on the syntactic language level allows focusing on the statements of interrogative, probabilistic, and narrative modality. The emphasis on the morphological tier of language involves the selection of nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, numerals, and verbs.

We see the perspective of the research in the description of communicative-pragmatic, semantic and formal features of indefinitely marked units of the Ukrainian language, found in the most popular social networks.

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