THE FUNCTION OF CASES IN OLD ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES

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Abstract: *This article deals with grammatical functions of cases in Old English language and their comparative analysis with Russian grammar cases were done by justifying them with examples. The peculiarities of using five grammar cases in English sentences such as, Nominative, Genitive, Dative, Accusative and Instrumental along with Russian language cases which is similar to those five cases and plus the last prepositional case.*

Key words: *Case, Old English, Russian grammar Word order, Wicca, direct object, indirect object, Pronoun.*

Introduction

To begin with the importance of using grammar case in Old English was to indicate the grammatical function of German, Karakalpak, Russian, Turkish and Greek languages. What is case, in general, for Russian users? For them mainly it means changing endings that serve as connectives with other words in sentences. There are six cases overall in Russian language while Old English grammar cases are considered to be less, they are five. [5]

However, there are only two cases in Modern English,

- Subjective case
- Objective one.

The subjective case now serves as Nominative and is used in the beginning of the sentence. It is supposed to be an agent of the action. Moreover, it can be served as a noun or pronoun in a sentence. For instance, <u>Teacher</u> *told to write article.* (***Teacher*** is in Subjective case). <u>He</u> *is so intelligent* (here «***he***» is in subjective). In Russian Subjective (nominative case) is «именительный падеж» which can be used in the beginning, in the middle as long as at the end of a sentence, still it still remains unchanged and answers the questions «Who? What?».

The objective case is also a noun in a sentence, however it is always at the end of a sentence and it is about the object towards which the action is directed. As an example. we can

take the sentence «*He gave me a **book***» where the ***book*** is an object of a sentence as it is the thing towards which the action is done. If it is about Russian Objective case, it can be either **Dative** (дательный падеж) or **Accusative** (винительный падеж). It depends on whether it is direct or indirect object. As indirect object answers the questions «for what», «of what», «to what», «for whom», «of whom» or «to whom» and accompanies a direct object. For example, *I gave **him** a book.* («him» is indirect object while «a book is direct object that directly receives the action). [4]

In Modern English there is one additional case which is possessive one, that implies ownership. It is formed with apostrophe «'». For instance, Ruslan's bag, Malika's computer. In russian it is «папка Руслана, компьютер Малики». How about analysing these two sentences which are in a possessive case;

- *Helen's and Dina's cars* (which means both of them have their own cara)

- *Helen and Dina's car* (the apostrophe is only after the second person, which means they have one car for both of them)

However Possessive case can also be used for inanimate when it is about;

1. The group of people. For instance, Nukus' love of art (the word Nukus' refers to group of people)

2. Noun that refers to time and we need to imply something that associates with specific period of time. For example, Teacher will give the answer be the end of today's lesson.

3. A measured period of time like in a sentence, «After such a busy and tiring month, I need a two-weeks' vacation.

4. A part of the whole such as, the leg of a table, the hotel's 200 rooms, etcetera.

The concept of «cases» in Modern English grammar does not mainly exist.

Main body

Old English which is also named as Anglo-Saxon, is the oldest variant of the English language. Old English grammar used to be more complicated before undergoing evolution and forming its present shape. Thereafter, in comparison with Russian grammar it appears to be much easier now. Russian grammar after so many centuries could maintain its gender, cases and declensions while English grammar somehow remained some of the case and declensions in the history and giving the importance in a sentence to the order of words. Even the writing of some letters underwent changes.

There were 5 cases in English and 6 cases in Russian. They are

- **Nominative case**. It was used as a subject of a sentence:

Se Wicca ġeaf þām Snāwhwit þone appel

(The witch gave Snow-white the apple)

Именительный падеж in Russian can be used in the beginning, in the middle and even at the end of a sentence but as in English it does not add any kind of endings

- **Genitive case**. This case means ownership. Þæs Wiccas appel (the withches' apple) whereas in Russian this is родительный падеж, answers the question whom? what?, for example, *у меня нету яблока* (changed its ending from «о» to «а»)

- **Accusative case**. It is used in a sentence as a direct object or as a partitive;

Se Wicca lufode þone appel (The Witch love apple).

Seofen þara deworhes (seven of dwarves).

However, in Russian Винительный падеж is formed in a different way. It answers the questions Whom? What? For example:

«Я люблю газету».

In this case the ending of the word «*газета*» changed into «*газету*».

- **Dative case** in English is used as an indirect object (the meaning of indirect object was explained above). E.g:

Se Wicca geaf þone Snāwhwit þone appel.

In this grammatical case the prepositions **to** and **with** can also be accompanied with case. For example:

Se Wicca slōh þone Snāwhwit þān appel

(The witch attacked the Snow-white with the apple.

At the same time, Russian dative case answers the specific questions to whom? To what? like, ***отдать маме*** (give to mum). From this can be inferred that preposition plays a role here but sometimes can be omitted.

- **Instrumental** is seen in a full sentence accompanying with prepositions like **by** and **with** in order to designate with what kind of instrument the action is done:

Se Wicca slōh þone Snāwhwit þý appel.

(The witch attacked Snow-white with the apple).

Russian language's instrumental case is *творительный падеж* also answers the same question With whom? With what?. For instance:

Горжусь дочкой (proud of daughter).

Even if in the question there are prepositions, in a context they can be omitted still remaining the meaning.

Conclusion

In light of this information there are numerous correlations between both language cases along with contrasts. While in English language one preposition can be used in several cases giving non-identical meaning to a word, in Russian language one preposition gives a single function and even can be excluded. Taking everything into account, it is necessary to mention that Old English had more likenesses with Russian grammar in the terms of cases. But present form of English is likely to be not so detailed as Russian one. Consequently, learners of English are more likely to acquire the language easily for its not complex structure. Importance in present grammar is the word order.

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