

MARKERS OF SOCIAL STATUS IN RUSSIAN-CHINESE DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTS OF THE 17TH-19TH CENTURIES

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Abstract. The present article is devoted to the problem of reflecting the social status of participants in diplomatic documents. The purpose of the given article is to show the functions of markers of social status of participants in Russian-Chinese bilateral cooperation while analyzing the material of Russian-Chinese diplomatic documents of the 17th-19th centuries. The results of the analysis of the texts of bilateral Russian-Chinese treaties not only outline the range of historical events and their participants, but also show the process of evolution of Russian and Chinese society in the dynamics of international contacts. The proper comparative analysis of the diplomatic documents of the two countries demonstrated that markers of social status not only indicate the individuals who participated in this cooperation over the two centuries, but also reveal the evolutionary processes that took place during this period in social, economic, cultural and political development of the two countries, their state building. The theoretical and practical significance of the article lies in the fact that the research findings can be used in courses related to general linguistics, lexicology, and other disciplines which are connected with the study of political discourse. The collected lexical material can also be used in compiling dictionaries on political terminology.

Keywords: social status, verbal marker, text, diplomatic discourse, lexeme, phraseological expression, Russian-Chinese relations, document

Basic provisions

In the pragmlinguistic model of language description, the social status of a person is one of the main parameters of communication, which manifests itself in the postulates of communication and speech acts, spheres of communication and speech genres, methods of influence and characteristics of the mode of expression, as well as in the pragmatic meanings of speech units.

Introduction

The term “social status”, in the first third of the twentieth century by Max Weber transferred to sociology from jurisprudence, where this term denoted the legal status of a legal entity, is today used in various humanitarian fields and has been fixed in meanings close to Weber’s understanding as “social recognition in the form of positive or negative privileges” [1, p. 305]. In modern science “social status” is considered as a person’s state in the system and subsystems of society. In sociology different types of statuses are distinguished, therefore, if we use different status criteria and attributes for a person, then each of us has a certain “status set”

(Robert K. Merton's term) [2]. "The most important criterion by which sociologists determine the real social status of a person in a capitalist economy is economic status, that is, the volume of equity capital, real estate, level of profit, lifestyle (closely related to the level of profit and expenses)" [3, p. 82]. In a society where it is important to distinguish social groups by class origin, the second economic criterion is the class one, because it affects "a person's lifestyle, his job and educational opportunities, and cultural priorities" [3, p. 82]. The next criterion is the relationship in the system of social division of labor (when one of the leading roles in getting a job and paying for it is the level of education, position, profession, and the degree of proficiency in skills). The following criteria are also considered: territorial (where a person lives: in a city or in a village; if in a city: in a prestigious area or in an area for the poor), political, national, confessional, linguistic, gender, age, some others, depending on existing social subsystems. Social status always has systemic characteristics specific to a particular society. Social statuses are in a correlative relationship with the social phenomenon of prestige in any society.

Based on inheritance or personal acquisition in humanities, social statuses are divided into two main types: those that "are delegated to an individual by society or a social group, regardless of his abilities and efforts," and those that a citizen "deserves through his efforts" [4, p. 116] thanks to service, work, needs, talent, life situations, etc.

There is a more detailed classification of social statuses, taking into account the previous signs, but among the main social statuses, it also identifies groups of statuses according to spheres of social life, according to ideological, professional, family, geographical, and some other differences. These are the following groups of statuses: "proposed, achieved, mixed, personal, professional, economic, political, demographic, religious and consanguineous" [4, p. 116].

In addition to basic social statuses, a person has temporary, situational, episodic statuses, which often change, but can significantly influence a person's fate, his behavior, feelings, reactions in a certain period of time. One can discuss the level of temporariness, recurrence and regulation of such statuses, but all of them are not permanent, most of them are provided for by laws and regulations of varying degrees of administration: criminal, civil, administrative codes of the state, regulations, official instructions, orders, etc. temporary, secondary statuses include the statuses of the accused, client, victim, witness, plaintiff, defendant, participant in an accident, tenant, trainee, pedestrian, passenger, patient, fan, buyer, strike participant, TV viewer, excursionist, scrap metal collector, etc. We believe that the results of our analysis of the texts of bilateral Russian-Chinese treaties not only outline the range of historical events and their participants, but also show the process of evolution of Russian and Chinese society in the dynamics of international contacts.

Materials and methods

The material we studied is regulated by the situations that diplomatic service workers have faced before and are facing today. Of course, these situations are not monotonous either. This study is useful to those who prepare for the diplomatic

service, since it points to the role of both civil servants and various groups of society in international politics for the sake of which these policies are carried out.

Results and discussion

Let us analyze individual contracts in chronological order.

1689, August 27. — Nerchinsk peace treaty between Russia and China on borders and terms of trade [5].

The officials who compiled the text of this document, which became the first bilateral agreement between Russia and China, assign a primary role to the first persons of the states, constantly mentioning them, although the autocrats did not participate either in the preparation of this document or in its signing, delegating these powers to their representatives. Thus, we find the following **class-status names for the first persons** of Russia (this was the time of the dual reign of Peter the Great and Ivan the Fifth): *great sovereign, tsar, grand duke, father and grandfather, autocrat, sovereign, (their) royal majesty, heir, owner* (of lands and authorities); the first person of China: *Chinese Khan, ruler of the great Asian countries, autocratic monarch, ruler of the law, guardian of the affairs of the Chinese people's society and glory, Bogdy Khan's and Chinese Highness, Bugdy Khan's Highness*. There are also lexical and phraseological markers of **class status**: (Russian) *boyar, nobleman*; (Chinese) *the wisest nobleman of Bogdoy, prince of the first rank, lord of the khan's banner, khan's uncle*. The text also presents markers of some other social statuses: **official status**: (Russian) *great and plenipotentiary ambassador, ambassador, adviser to the ambassador, comrade* (= assistant), *okolnichy, governor, stolnik, diak* (deacon), *envoy, voivode, border guard voivode, border voivode, border man* (= border guard), *secretary, translator*; (Chinese) *royal adviser, chief of the court troops, governor of the inner chamber, great ambassador*; **status by occupation (corporate status)**: *industrial person* (= a person engaged in some kind of trade); **status of executor of laws and rules**: *a person with a travel certificate* (= citizen with a visa), *fugitive* (= border violator), *defector* (= border violator), *self-willed* (= criminal: robber, murderer, thief); **status at place of residence**: *border resident* (= one who lives in the border zone).

Commenting on the social status names presented in the text of the Nerchinsk Peace Treaty, we can conclude that the main attention is paid to respectful attitude towards those who have legislative power and delegate the implementation of the treaty to representatives of the executive branch. Worst of all, and very vaguely defined in the agreement, are the people who live in the place where the border is established and are obliged to obey the new rules. By social status markers one can judge the structure and state of the social structure of Russia and China at the end of the 17th century.

1727, October 21. — Kyakhta treaty with the conditions of political and economic relations between Russia and China [6].

In the first half of the 18th century, there was an urgent need to develop a peaceful cooperation between Russia and China, which was beneficial to both states and their citizens, especially to those who lived in Transbaikalia and the Amur region. Over the period since the signing of the Nerchinsk Treaty, Russia changed

dramatically thanks to the activities and reforms of Peter I. For history, 38 years is an insignificant period, but the entire Petrine era fit within this period. Let us consider how approaches to the objectification of social problems changed in the international Russian-Chinese discourse over this time. **The class and status markers of the first persons of the state** are designated as follows: (Russian) *empress, sovereign, all-Russian emperor*; (Chinese) *emperor, sovereign*. There are the verbalizers of **class status**: (Russian) *count, merchant class, merchant, priest, master, nobleman*; (Chinese) *nobleman, nobleman of the red banner, khan, merchant, lord, lama, merchant class, merchant, vile person* (= representative of the lower class, here - nomad); of **official status**: (Russian) *ambassador, grand ambassador, minor ambassador, governor, city chief, city manager, commandant, border manager, border man* (= border guard), *commissar, courier, chief/leader of a merchant caravan, secretary*; (Chinese) *adviser to the nobleman, president of the Mandarin Tribunal, governor of the House of the Interior, nobleman of the Inner Chamber, president of the Tribunal of the Outer Provinces, governor of the Outer Provinces, second president of the Military Tribunal, nobleman of the royal guard, mandarin, border steward, border mandarin*; of **status by rank**: (Russian) *general, officer, serviceman*; (Chinese) *haxa, general, officer, servant*; **status by occupation (corporate status)**: *merchant, employee*; **status of executor of laws and rules**: *defector* (= border violator), *found* (violator), *caught* (violator), *weapon* (= armed criminal); of **citizenship status**: *subject, Russian subject, Chinese subject, border resident* (= one who lives in the border zone); of **national-ethnic status**: *Mungal* (= Mongol), *Russian, Uriankh*; of **property status**: *owner*; of **different temporary statuses**: *buying* (= buyer), *selling* (= seller); of **educational status**: *student*.

Direct markers, that is, words and phraseological expressions with the archeme 'social status', used in this text, indicate some changes in the Russian power structure and in the social structure of Russia that occurred during the reign of Peter I. There is no class-status word *boyar*, since Peter began to focus on the service nobility in governing the state. Since the Table of Ranks was established only in 1722, that is, 5 years before the signing of the Kyakhta Treaty, the names of the classes of government officials in its text were not yet used, the procedure for their entry into the Russian administrative management system was at the initial stage. Noteworthy is the update of the status names of the first persons of Russia and China: instead of *tsar, grand duke, royal majesty, Bugdykhanov's highness, Chinese khan*, etc., the noun *emperor / empress* is used for both first persons. If China first became an empire in the 3rd century, and the last empire lasted from 1644 to 1911 (Qing Empire), then Russia was proclaimed an empire, and the Russian Tsar as *Emperor* by decree of Peter I in 1721. The use of the status word *emperor* for the first person of the Russian state forced a more responsible attitude towards the title of ruler of the Celestial Empire. In addition, the negotiations regarding the signing of the Kyakhta Treaty began during the life of Catherine I, and the exchange between the parties took place in 1828, when the minor Peter II, the grandson of Peter I, was proclaimed an emperor. Therefore, the text contains a **gender status** marker: cognate words of the feminine and masculine gender *empress* and *emperor*. The Kyakhta Treaty, more than the Nerchinsk Peace Treaty, pays the attention to the

direct executors of the adopted legislative act. The rules for the movement of merchants are clearly stated, concern for their safety is visible, which indicates the need to streamline the active spontaneous trade that was rapidly developing between Russia and China, and the desire of both countries to increase its pace. What is new in relations between countries is the dialogue in the field of the spiritual life of peoples, as indicated by the appearance of markers of confessional status. Some groups of words appear in the document (there were none in the Treaty of Nerchinsk), which are the direct markers of citizenship status, national-ethnic, educational and property status.

In the pre-revolutionary period, the bilateral relations between Russia and China reached their peak in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when Russia actively participated in the economic life of China and developed a cooperation in the military sphere.

Let's look at two documents that discuss specific activities in the field of economic and military cooperation. Both documents date back to the end of the 19th century. Markers of the social status of the participants in these events and the discursive features of the texts indicate the evolution of social processes in both Russia and China in comparison with the processes that took place in these countries and in Russian-Chinese relations in the 18th century.

1896, April 2. Agreement between China and Russia on the granting of the last concession in Hankou [7].

1898, March 15. – Convention concluded between Russia and China on the lease of Port Arthur and Dalniy [8].

The class status of the first persons of the state is marked (only in the 1898 convention) as follows: (Russians) *His Majesty the Emperor and Autocrat of All Russia*; (Chinese) *His Majesty the Emperor of China*. Only one word on the Chinese side acts as a verbalizer of **class status**: *count*; of **official status**: (Russian) *consul general, Russian-imperial consul, consul, embassy manager, temporary consulate manager, commissioner, charge d'affaires to the government of His Majesty the Emperor of China, governor, governor general*; (Chinese) *chancellor, zhixian* (= district chief), *member of the mixed court, daotai* (= chief of the district, as well as an official in charge of any branch of provincial government), *representative of the daotai on European concessions, delegate on foreign relations, commissioner, member of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, senior mentor to the heir to the throne, comrade of the Minister of Finance*; of **status by title and rank**: (Russian) *state councilor* (= 5th class official), *cadet chamberlain* (= 9th class official), *collegiate secretary* (= 10th class official); (Chinese) *dignitary*; of **status of executor of laws and rules**: *guilty*; of **citizenship status**: *national, Chinese national, Chinese resident*; of **educational status**: *student*.

A comparison of markers of the social status of participants in the process of bilateral Russian-Chinese cooperation at the end of the 19th century and the first half of the 18th century indicates a qualitative change in the approaches, goals, objectives and participants in this cooperation. The top officials of states are no longer mentioned in all documents. Indication of the class status of participants in the negotiation process ceased to be a priority. Among Russian social status names, the

first place in international documents is given to the official status of participants in negotiations and executors of an international legislative act, and among direct markers of a person's status based on rank and rank, the first place is given to civil ranks from Peter's Table of ranks.

Conclusion

This study proves that markers of social status of participants in the international negotiation process and international cooperation, studied on the basis of Russian-Chinese diplomatic documents from different eras, are simultaneously the markers of evolutionary processes occurring in the social, economic, cultural, and political development of Russia and China.

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XVII-XIX FF. РЕСЕЙ-ҚЫТАЙ ДИПЛОМАТИЯЛЫҚ ҚҰЖАТТАРЫНДАҒЫ ӘЛЕУМЕТТІК МӘРТЕБЕ МАРКЕРЛЕРІ

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Андатпа. Мақала дипломатиялық құжаттардағы қатысушылардың әлеуметтік мәртебелерінің көрініс табу мәселесін зерттеуге арналған. Мақаланың мақсаты: XVII-XIX ғғ. Ресей-Қытай дипломатиялық құжаттарының негізінде Ресей-Қытай екіжақты ынтымақтастығы қатысушыларының әлеуметтік мәртебе маркерлерінің қызметін көрсету. Ресей-Қытай екіжақты келісімшарттарының мәтінін талдау нәтижелері тарихи оқиғалар мен сол оқиғаларға қатысушы тұлғаларды айқындап қана қоймай, халықаралық қатынас динамикасындағы орыс және қытай қоғамдарының эволюциясын да көрсетеді. Екі мемлекеттің дипломатиялық құжаттарын толыққанды талдау нәтижесінде әлеуметтік мәртебе маркерлерінің екі ғасыр бойына осы ынтымақтастық мүшелері болған тұлғаларды ғана емес, екі мемлекеттің әлеуметтік, экономикалық, мәдени және политикалық дамуындағы эволюциялық үрдістерді және олардың мемлекеттік құрылымын да көрсететіндігі анықталды. Мақаланың теоретикалық және практикалық маңызы мынада: зерттеу нәтижелерін жалпы тіл білімі, лексикология және политикалық дискурсты зерттеуге қатысты басқа да пәндерді оқыту барысында қолдануға болады. Жинақталған лексикалық материалды, сонымен қатар, политикалық терминология бойынша сөздіктер құру кезінде қолдануға болады.

Тірек сөздер: әлеуметтік мәртебе, вербалды маркер, мәтін, дипломатиялық дискурс, лексема, тұрақты тіркес, Ресей-Қытай қарым-қатынастары, құжат

МАРКЕРЫ СОЦИАЛЬНОГО СТАТУСА В РОССИЙСКО-КИТАЙСКИХ ДИПЛОМАТИЧЕСКИХ ДОКУМЕНТАХ XVII-XIX вв.

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Аннотация. Настоящая статья посвящена проблеме отражения социального статуса участников в дипломатических документах. Цель данной статьи - показать функции маркеров социального статуса участников российско-китайского двустороннего сотрудничества на материале российско-китайских дипломатических документов XVII-XIX веков. Результаты анализа текстов двусторонних российско-китайских договоров не только очерчивают круг исторических событий и их участников, но и показывают процесс эволюции российского и китайского общества в динамике международных контактов. Тщательный сравнительный анализ дипломатических документов двух стран показал, что маркеры социального статуса не только указывают на лиц, участвовавших в этом сотрудничестве на протяжении двух столетий, но и раскрывают эволюционные процессы, происходившие в этот период в социальной, экономической, культурное и политическое развитие двух стран, их государственное строительство. Теоретическая и практическая значимость статьи заключается в том, что результаты исследования могут быть использованы в курсах общего языкознания, лексикологии и других дисциплин, связанных с изучением политического дискурса. Собранный лексический материал также может быть использован при составлении словарей по политической терминологии.

Ключевые слова: социальный статус, вербальный маркер, текст, дипломатический дискурс, лексема, фразеологическое выражение, российско-китайские отношения, документ

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