

# FEATURES OF TEACHING

THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE: GRAMMATICAL METAMORPHOSES OF THE WORD FORM “SLEDOM”

## **CARACTERÍSTICAS DE LA ENSEÑANZA DE LA LENGUA RUSA METAMORFOSIS GRAMATICALES DE LA FORMA VERBAL “SLEDOM”**

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### ABSTRACT

The study aims to illuminate the educational strategies for teaching Russian language nuances, focusing on the grammatical metamorphoses of the word form “sledom”. The authors aim to conduct a comprehensive analysis of substantive word forms that in typical contexts demonstrate different degrees of expression of different characteristics that interact in the functional-semantic adverbialization of nouns and adverbs. Under the proposed approach to syncretic structures, the research utilizes the methods of opposition analysis (with the scale of adverbialization), elements of component and distributional analysis, and a linguistic experiment. The study identifies a multi-stage transposition of the substantive word form “sledom” into the adverb class, showing various proportions of characteristics from the original noun and derived adverbs through its adverbialization stages. This finding is pivotal for teaching Russian, as it highlights the dynamic nature of grammatical transformations, underscoring the importance of incorporating such linguistic phenomena into language instruction to enhance students’ understanding and mastery of complex grammatical structures. The novelty of the study consists in the description of a formalized method of establishing the stages of the adverbialization of nouns in the instrumental case without prepositions. The theoretical significance of the research lies in the comprehension of transient phenomena in the domain of parts of speech in the systemic-linguistic aspect. Practical significance is provided by the opportunity to apply the research findings in the practice of teaching linguistics disciplines – the Russian language, general linguistics, and theoretical grammar.

**Keywords:** Russian language, Learning, grammar, Syncretism, Scale of transitivity, Stages of adverbialization.

### RESUMEN

El estudio pretende mostrar las estrategias educativas para la enseñanza de los matices de la lengua rusa, centrándose en las metamorfosis gramaticales de la forma verbal “sledom”. Los autores pretenden llevar a cabo un análisis exhaustivo de las formas verbales sustantivas que en contextos típicos demuestran diferentes grados de expresión de distintas características que interactúan en la adverbialización funcional-semántica de sustantivos y adverbios. Según el enfoque propuesto para las estructuras sincréticas, la investigación utiliza los métodos de análisis de oposición (con la escala de adverbialización), elementos de análisis de componentes y distribucional, y un experimento lingüístico. El estudio identifica una transposición multietapa de la forma verbal sustantiva “sledom” a la clase adverbial, mostrando diversas proporciones de características del sustantivo original y de los adverbios derivados a través de sus etapas de adverbialización. Este hallazgo es fundamental para la enseñanza del ruso, ya que pone de relieve la naturaleza

dinámica de las transformaciones gramaticales y subraya la importancia de incorporar estos fenómenos lingüísticos a la enseñanza de la lengua para mejorar la comprensión y el dominio de estructuras gramaticales complejas por parte de los estudiantes. La novedad del estudio consiste en la descripción de un método formalizado para establecer las etapas de la adverbialización de sustantivos en el caso instrumental sin preposiciones. La importancia teórica de la investigación radica en la comprensión de los fenómenos transitorios en el dominio de las partes de la oración en el aspecto sistémico-lingüístico. La importancia práctica estriba en la posibilidad de aplicar los resultados de la investigación en la práctica de la enseñanza de las disciplinas lingüísticas: la lengua rusa, la lingüística general y la gramática teórica.

**Palabras clave:** Lengua rusa, Aprendizaje, Gramática, Sincretismo, Escala de transitividad, Etapas de la adverbialización.

## INTRODUCTION

The relevance of research into the mechanism of adverbial transposition of nouns in the Russian language is shaped by the attention of modern linguistics to the problems of interaction between semantics and grammar in the structure of linguistic units involved in the transpositional processes of adverbialization, adjectivization, substantification, pronominalization, particulation, and conjunctionalization. Research interest is also drawn to the issue of the development of a vast layer of transient phenomena that come into being as a result of various stages in the transposition of words and word forms from one class to another.

The novelty of our study is provided by the fact that the problem of part of speech transposition is developed from the standpoint of a new scientific branch (transpositional grammar). This line of research involves a comprehensive investigation of the mechanism of transposition of parts of speech, the reasons and prerequisites behind it, its signs, stages, and limits, as well as the identification of patterns of pure and combined types of transposition transformations of words and expressions.

The validity of these words is confirmed by the study of many types of transposition in the grammatical system of the Russian language and, in particular, adverbialization, interjectivization, predicativization, and modulation (Evtiukhin, 2013; Ryan, 2022; Shigurov & Shigurova, 2017).

Noun adverbialization is interpreted by us as a stage-by-stage process of functional and functional-semantic

transposition of substantive units into the class of adverbs, which produces peripheral nouns and adverbs, hybrid, substantive-adverbial formations, and nuclear adverbs.

Similar to other types of inter-category transposition of linguistic units, the adverbialization of nouns proceeds in stages. In different conditions of speech, there is variation in the degree of neutralization (loss) of the characteristics of the original noun in the substantive word form, as well as in the development of adverb characteristics (translation, conversion, syntax lexical derivation, transitivity) and syncretism based on the desubstantivization and adverbialization processes.

The transposition of nouns into the class of adverbial lexemes accompanied by the isolation, and sometimes lexicalization, of their grammatical forms has been examined in Bashkir, Udmurt, Tajik, Tatar, and other languages. This phenomenon has been researched through the lens of conversion and grammaticalization based on German and English (Avagian, 2021) and Russian and French languages (Kravtsov & Golubeva, 2016).

Assessments of many factors in the adverbialization of linguistic units from an “either-or” perspective are often contradictory. The same formation in the same conditions of speech can on many occasions be interpreted both as a noun in the instrumental case in the function of the adverbial of time (e.g., *utrom (in the morning)*, *vecherom (in the evening)*, *letom (in the summer)*), as a noun-derived adverb, a hybrid, and a seminoun-semiadverb.

The subject of the present study is the process and result of stepped adverbial transposition of nouns in the instrumental case without prepositions. The object under examination is transpositional transformations in the structure of the substantive word form *sledom*, which explicates different stages of adverbialization in typical contexts, primarily into the zone of core noun-derived adverbs.

The goal of the study is to establish on the examples of the word form *sledom* the set of characteristics describing different stages in the semantic-grammatical departure of the instrumental case form of a noun from the core substantive form (*sledom*) and its approachment of core noun-derived adverbials.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials for the study were typical contexts provided by the Russian National Corpus and our examples. The methodological foundation of the study is comprised of scientific works covering theoretical and applied aspects of the problem of interaction of word classes under transposition theory (translation, derivation, conversion, transformation, etc.) and the associated zone of peripheral

(syncretic) formations (see the brief review of sources). Objective research results were obtained through opposition analysis (with a scale of transitivity) and indexation of different transposition stages. These methods enable more precise identification of the combinatorics and proportions of differential characteristics in the structure of word forms that explicate certain stages of substantivization, predicativization, interjectivization, etc. in typical contexts. Research objectives are addressed through general scientific, general linguistic, and specialized methods of analysis (comparison, generalization, the descriptive method, elements of component and distributional analysis, linguistic experiment).

Our proposed approach to the study of transitive phenomena largely relies on the methods of opposition analysis and indexation, which have been tested by V.V. Shigurov primarily in his monographs on the theory of transpositional grammar of the Russian language.

Here we are referring to studies into the staged nature of transpositional processes at the level of parts of speech and inter-part-of-speech semantic-syntactic categories (predicatives and introductory-modal units), such as (a) substantivization, adjectivization, adverbialization, and conjunctivization of attributive forms of Russian verbs (participles and adverbial participles) in the negation of action; (b) pronominalization of words and word forms of various parts of speech (Shigurov, 2015; Sichinava, 2018); (c) interjectivization of linguistic units, in several cases joined with other transpositional processes, particularly verbalization and particulation; (d) predicativization of words and word forms, often intersecting with adverbialization and modalization processes (Shigurov, 2016); (e) modulation of words and expressions, including in combination with such types of transposition as particulation, interjectivization, conjunctivization and prepositionalization (Shigurov, 2020a; Shigurov & Shigurova, 2019, 2020).

The present study was carried out in the framework of a program of comprehensive research of the transposition mechanism, which generates a great variety of peripheral and hybrid syncretic structures, as well as of grammatical and lexical-grammatical homonyms themselves, characterized by varying proportions and combinations of the properties of linguistic units interacting in pure and combined transposition (Shigurov & Shigurova, 2016).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The investigation of the transpositional potential of the substantive word from *sledom* in the contemporary Russian language shows its complicated interaction with different word classes. This is manifested in the categorial transformations of the word form in the processes of adverbialization, prepositionalization, and interjectivization.

The word form *sledom* (at different stages of adverbialization) becomes closer to, first, the adverbial lexical class (Table 1).

Table 1. Stages of adverbialization.

Form of use	Example
time	(1) A Lenka vdrug podoshel k Fedoru, vmig zabral iz yego ruk tetrad – nikto i slova skazat ne uspel, kak on vyrval dva lista s zapisyu svoikh slov. Da yeshche i tsyknul: “Razresheniye sprashivat nado, molodoj chelovek!” – i vyshel. Fedor skhvatil svoyu kurtku, vybezhav sledom, no opozdal – nikogo (Lenka suddenly approached Fedor, swiftly taking the notebook out of his hands – before anyone could say a word, he tore out the two pages his words were written down on. He snapped: “You should ask for permission, young man!” – and walked out. Fedor picked up his coat and ran out after him but was too late – there was no one there) (When? – ‘right after, following Lenka’)
place	“Heinkel” tronulsya s mesta i otrulil na samij kraj nasypy, propuskaya togo, kto yekhal sledom (The “Heinkel” pulled away and moved to the very edge of the mound, giving way to those who drove behind him) (Where? – directly behind the «Heinkel»)
syncretic type represented by adverbs of place and mode of action	Sutulij dachnik shel sledom, ne reshayas medlenno idushchikh zhenshchin obognat, podstraivalsya pod ikh shag... (The slouching cottager was walking behind, hesitating to go past the slow-walking women, adjusting to their pace...) (Where and how? In what manner? – directly behind the women, keeping pace, on the heels’)
combined with the primitive preposition za, the word form sledom becomes closer to prepositions	S sovershenno oblegchennoj dushoj Margarita priletela v spalnyu, i sledom za neyu tuda zhe vbezhala Natasha, nagruzhennaya veshchami (With a completely relieved soul Margarita flew into the bedroom, and right after her Natasha ran in too, loaded with luggage)

the word form <i>sledom</i> comes functionally close to imperative interjections conveying different commands (to animals)	Razdalas komanda: "Sledom!" (The command was given: "Follow!») )
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Source: Own elaboration

As demonstrated in our study, the word from *sledom* in typical contexts presents the following stages of adverbialization, represented graphically as a chain: **A** (noun core) → **Ab** (noun periphery) → **ab** (zone of hybrid substantive-adverbial formations) → **B** (adverb core). The word form does not explicate only into the periphery of adverbs [**aB**], immediately transforming from a hybrid to a prototypical adverb.

For example, in the noun periphery zone, the word form *sledom*, when used with adjective words, can come syntactically close to qualifying adverbs of place or mode of action or with place and method adverbs. In turn, in the zone of hybrid substantive-adverbial formations, *sledom* becomes more like single intermediate formations combining the objective value of the object with the circumstantial value of the mode of action or method of action.

**In this paper, we focus on the functional-semantic stage of adverbialization of the examined word form (the B link on the scale of transitivity) and its lexicographic fixation.**

The academic Dictionary of Modern Russian Literary Language (Galavanova & Sorokoletov, 1962) labels the adverb *sledom* as "colloquial". The dictionary identifies only one lexical meaning – 'after someone or something, on the heels, keeping pace', which comprehensively describes the method of an object's movement and its position directly behind someone/something. The illustrations given are the following examples from literary texts:

(10) [Matrena:] *Idesh, chto l? (Are you going?)* [Nikita:] *Sejchas pridu. Vy idite, ya sledom (I am coming. You go, I will follow)* (L. Tolstoy. The Power of Darkness).

In the special temporal type of usage of the adverb *sledom*, the aspect of its meaning that comes into focus is 'directly after someone or something', indicating that the action was performed immediately after some event:

(11) (a) *Mozhet byt, eto pismo Vy poluchite oborvannym na poluslove, eto znachit – sledom budet drugoye (Perhaps you will receive this letter ended abruptly on half a word, that would mean another would follow shortly)* (Nemirovich-Danchenko. From a letter to K.S. Stanislavsky, July 26, 1899).

One dictionary article on the adverb *sledom* additionally presents two prepositions *sledom za* (*right after someone or something*), actualizing, respectively, the local-quality characteristic of the action (12) or its temporal component (13). Compare:

(12) *Vot proshel dyachok... Sledom za nim proshel ponomar (Here goes the dyak... After him the sexton)* (Saltykov-Shchedrin. Poshekhonye in Old Times).

The Big Academic Dictionary of the Russian Language (Gorbachevich, 2019) offers the same information as the Dictionary of Modern Russian Literary Language (Galavanova & Sorokoletov, 1962), albeit with a slightly renewed illustrative material and without the binding of the preposition *sledom za* to the two semantic types of the adverb *sledom*.

The four-volume Russian Language Dictionary within a single entry fixates the lexical meaning of *sledom* as 'directly after someone/something, not lagging behind' (14) and the prepositional meaning of *sledom za* (15):

(14) *Marinka vyporkhnula iz khaty. Sledom vyshel Ivan Terentyevich (Marinka fluttered out of the hut. Following her came out Ivan Terentyevich)* (A. Perventsev. Black cloud);

(15) *Sledom za materyu pokhoronili i Pashkinu babushku (Right after his mother, Pashka's grandmother was buried, too)* (Isakovsky. On the Yelna Earth).

A similar interpretation of the lexical meaning of the adverb *sledom* is found in the Explanatory Dictionary of the Russian Language with Information on Word Origin (Shvedova et al., 2007) and the Explanatory Dictionary of the Russian Language by Ozhegov & Shvedova (2006), where we observe a single adverbial meaning 'directly after someone or something'. An attempt to draw this distinction can be seen only in the description of the meanings of the adverb

*sledom za*, where two semantic varieties are interpreted: 'behind someone/something' (localization perspective) and 'after someone/something' (temporal, chronological perspective). However, in the phrases given as illustrations, the declared distinction is not demonstrated: only the temporal-chronological meaning of the preposition is actualized; Compare: *Vystupat sledom za dokladchikom* (*Speak after the rapporteur*) and *Sledom za otpuskom – komandirovka* (*After the leave there is a work trip*).

The Big Explanatory Dictionary of the Russian Language also presents the adverb *sledom*, first, in the universal meaning of 'directly following someone/something' (*Idti sledom. (To follow.) Idi, ya budu sledom. (Go, I will follow.) Otpравil pismo – sledom drugoye* (*Sent a letter – followed by another*)) and, second, *sledom za kem, chem-libo* (*after someone/something*) in the meaning of a preposition 'directly after someone/something; following after someone/something'. As we can see, in the interpretation of the semantic structure of the preposition, there is a distinction between a temporal and a localization component. A striving to divide these semantic components is also noticeable in the choice of examples for the adverbial *sledom*.

The clearest disambiguation of the temporal and spatial meanings (complicated with the meaning of the method of action) of the adverb *sledom* is found in the Explanatory Dictionary of Service Parts of Speech of the Russian Language by Efremova (2004). This dictionary differentiates two meanings of the noun-derived adverb: 1. 'Following after someone/something that is moving away; on the heels, keeping pace' (place and method of action); 2. 'Directly after someone/something' (time of action). The same two meanings are seen in the preposition *sledom za*, which is used with an instrumental case noun in two situations: 1) indication of someone after whom another someone is following or moving, which corresponds to the meaning of following closely behind someone/something, keeping pace with someone/something, coming after someone/something; 2) indication of someone/something directly after whom/which some action is performed, which corresponds to the meaning 'after someone/something'.

The "Dictionary of Grammatical Homonyms of the Russian Language by Kim & Ostrovkina (2004), provides only the adverb *sledom* meaning a place and method of action (16), correlative to the original instrumental case form of the noun *sledom* (17):

(16) *Na telege, shedshej sledom, sidela dryakhlaya starukha* (*On the cart following behind sat a decrepit old woman*) (Sayanov);

(17) *Shram na pleche byl sledom ot puli* (*The scare on the shoulder was a mark from a bullet*).

The review of the lexico-grammatical development of the adverbial *sledom* and its different types of use in speech indicates that it has, first, a temporal meaning (18) and, second, a local-quality meaning, which indicates the place and method of action (19). The two meanings are identifiable with the following questions: 1. When was the action performed? (the first semantic type); 2. Where and/or in what direction and by which method was the action performed? (the second semantic type):

(18) *Ya sdelał bezrazlichnoye litso i vyshel iz domu. Vad vysokochil sledom* (*I made an indifferent face and left the house. Vad jumped out after me*);

(19) *V. V. odolel vershinu, stal spuskatsya. Ya polz sledom* (*V. V. passed the summit and began to descend. I crawled after him*).

The formation of the adverb *sledom* in these meanings is associated with the functional-semantic adverbialization of the original instrumental case noun *sled*. This type of adverbial transposition results in the formation of a grammatical-lexical homonym of the noun (Norman, 2016).

(20) *Zoologi zainteresovalis neobychnym sledom zajtsa* (*Zoologists got interested in the unusual hare paw prints*) (core noun; link **A** on the transitivity scale);

(21) *Iz podyezda vyshla kakaya-to zhenshchina, sledom vysokochili dvoje podrostkov* (*Some woman came out of the building entrance, and after her two teenagers jumped out*) (core adverb; link **B** on the transitivity scale).

In the process of adverbialization, the semantic type of a substantial word form (like *sledom*) may change. The substantive-adverbial formation *sledom*, combining the functions of an object and an adverbial of the method of action (*Zayats sbivayet okhotnika sledom* (*The hare confuses the hunter with his trail*) – *With what? In what way? By means of what?*), is grammatically reborn in the zone of core noun-derived adverbs into a time adverb (*Gost vyshel pervym, sledom vysokochil dezhurnij* (*The guest exited first, the man on duty rushed out after him*) – *When?*) or into an adverb of the place and sometimes the method of action (*On nablyudal za temi, kto yekhal sledom* (*He watched those who were driving behind* – *Where? In what way?*)) (on the polyfunctionality of linguistic units see also: (Pankov, 2016).

The noun-derived core adverb *sledom* is mainly used with verbs describing movement, which appear in different forms of grammatical representation. The possible scenarios are as follows (Table 2).

Table 2: Possible scenarios.

<b>A. With finite verb forms</b>	Ona legko i uverenno stupala vo tme, tak kak znala zdes kazhduyu bylunku ili rogatinu, a Kornila medlenno tashchilsya sledom, pozvyakivaya uzdechkoj i tikho ponukaya loshad (She stepped in the dark with ease and confidence, as she knew every blade of grass and twig here, while Kornila slowly trailed behind her with his bridle clinking and quietly kicked the horse)
<b>B. With infinitive verb forms</b>	V proshlom mesyatse my pisali usadbu na zare, do etogo berezovuyu roshchu v solnechnij den, teper zhe nad nami shutila osen, ostavshis v gorode, vmesto togo chtoby pojti sledom (Last month we painted the estate at dawn, before that – a birch grove on a sunny day, but now the autumn made jokes of us, staying in the city instead of following along)
<b>C. With transgressive verb forms</b>	Vzysalsya bylo za ruchku tretyego, no v etot mig Bakh rukhnul so skamejki na pol i na kortochkakh metnulsya iz spalni proch. “Shket! – zaoral derzkij, ustremlyayas sledom. – Derzhi yego!” (He barely laid his hand on the third handle, but in that moment Bakh tumbled down on the floor from the bench and dashed away from the room ducking. “That kid!”, shouted the audacious, charging after him, «Hold him!»)
<b>D. With participle verb forms</b>	Okazyvayetsya, “byuik” uzhe prodvinulsya vperyod, a bulldog vyglyadyvayet iz zadnego okna mashiny, podrulivshej sledom (It turns out that the Buick has already moved further, and the bulldog looks out the back window of the car driving after it)
<b>E. According to the Russian National Corpus, the adverb sledom most often appears with the verbs dvinutsya, pobezhat, vojti, kinutsya, poplestis, bezhat, potyanutsya, vyskochit, plestis, idti (move, start running, enter, rush, trudge, run, stretch, stretch, jump (out), trail, go)</b>	Vdrug ya uvidel, chto Tvardovskij podnyalsya i, zadevaya koleni sidyashchikh, stal bokom protiskivat'sya k vykhodu. Cherez minutu-druguyu sledom dvinulsya Rylenkov. Prokhodya mimo, on legonko potyanul menya za ruku (Suddenly I saw Tvardovskij stand up and, hitting the knees of those seated, begin to push sideways toward the exit. A minute or two later, Rylenkov followed. Passing me by, he lightly pulled my hand) Mariya podnyalas s kresla i molcha poshla po lestnitse na vtoroj etazh, Funtik tut zhe pobezhal sledom (Mariya rose from the armchair and silently went up the staircase to the second floor, Funtik immediately ran to follow her) Lina napravilas k domu, khlyabaya rezinovymi sapozhonkami, a Grishanya neokhotno poplelsya sledom, nakhokhlivshis, vysoko zadrav plechi (Lina headed for the house, squelching with her rubber boots, and Grishanya grudgingly trudged after her, with a full head, his shoulders high) No sledom, vplotnuyu, po pyatam, shli za Shtrumom somneniya, stradaniye, neveriye (But Shtrum was followed close at the heels by doubt, suffering, disbelief)

Source: Own elaboration.

Our observations demonstrate that the adverb *sledom* most commonly takes on the temporal meaning when coupled with perfective verbs (38) and spatial meaning (with a possible quality tinge) with imperfective verbs (39). Compare:

(38) Dezhurnij vyshel sledom (The man on duty went out next), i.e., right after, following someone (Went out when?)

(39) Provodnik shel pervym, ostalnyye shli sledom, po pyatam, starayas ne poteryat dorogu (The guide went first, the others followed, on the heels, trying not to lose the path) (Walked where and how? Moved in what way?)

Providing a spatial-temporal, and in several cases qualifying, specification of an action, the adverbial *sledom* adjoins to verbs of different lexical-semantic groups, above all to words denoting different types of movement of an object in space. These are the verbs that denote unidirectional movement oriented relative to the starting and final or only the starting/end points (run, fly, ride, run, crawl, drag, trail, stretch, crawl, chase, move, climb, travel, stride, jump, run out, fly out, crawl out, run in, walk in, etc.).

The verbs of movement with which the adverb *sledom* is used may represent one-act and multi-act modes of action (*prygat prygnut (to jump)*, *nyryat nyrnut (to dive)*, *tolkat tolknut (to push)*, and some others); e.g.: *On uspel prygnut sledom, i dvertsy zakhlopnulis (He managed to jump right after, and the doors shut close).*

It is much less often that this adverb is combined with verbs describing other types of action, particularly with verbs of specific physical actions and speech (*erase, take out, talk, speak, summon, shout, cry, freeze*, etc.), for example: *Po slabosti nog usevshis u samoj doski, k nej litsom, k auditorii spinoj, on pravoj rukoj pisal, levoj sledom stiral – i vse vremya chto-to nepreryvno bormotal sam s soboj (Having sat down right near the blackboard because of his weak legs, facing the board, back to the auditorium, he was writing with his right hand and erasing with the left right after – constantly muttering something to himself); Malta vytashchila iz ryukzaka uzhe znakomuyu slozhennuyu vchetvero bumagu, razvernula, sledom dostala zazhigalku (Malta took out of her backpack the familiar paper folded in four, unfolded it, and then pulled out the lighter).*

This adverb can be used in two-part constructions with elliptical verbs of sound and movement; Compare:

(51) *Katya vpered, Vikusya sledom, bystryimi ostorozhnyimi shagami prosochilis v drugoj konets koridora i ostanovilis, dojdya do dveri, vedushchej na zapasnuyu lestnitsu (With Katya in the lead and Vikusya right after, stepping carefully, they sneaked to the opposite end of the corridor and stopped in front of the door to backup stairs);*

(52) *Minut pyat menya lupili pochyom zrya, a potom pod dushnym i pylnym pologom odeyala ya vdrug rasslyshal kakoj-to dikij vizg i sledom – istericheskij vopl i uznal golos Styopy, pravda, silno iskazyonnij otchayaniem i gnevom (For about five minutes I was being beaten for nothing, and then from under the stuffy and dusty canopy of the blanket I suddenly heard some wild screech followed by a hysterical cry and recognized Styopa's voice, though greatly distorted by despair and anger);*

(53) *K nim prisoyedinilas tysyacha molotochkov s motivom poslozhneye, a sledom khor khrustyashchikh kolenets i shurshashchikh begunkov (They were joined by a thousand mallets with a more complex motif, and after them a choir of crunching capers and rustling runners).*

This adverb can be used with predicates expressed by a combination of a short adjective, including in a predicative function, with a copula and an infinitive (*sledom dolzhen byl yekhat (should have been driving after)*; *sledom nuzhno bylo vynesti stulya (chairs were supposed to be brought out after)*, etc.):

(59) *Makarov vyslal v pomoshch yemu bystrokhodnyye korabli "Novik" i "Askold". Sledom dolzhna byla idti yeshche "Diana" (To his aid Makarov sent the high-speed ships "Novik" and "Askold". Next "Diana" should have also followed).*

Our study of the syntagmatic properties of the nuclear adverb *sledom* reveals that this adverb can be used as a local concretizer of action not only for verbs but also for nouns with the semantics of abstract action. Although we failed in finding examples of this in literary texts, their possibility is evident. Compare, for example, the theoretical possibility of the phrase:

(60) *Dver zakrylas i poslyshalsya golos sledom "Do zavtra!" (The door closed, followed by the voice "See you tomorrow!")*

Like the adverb *ryadom (near)*, the adverbialized word form *sledom* is sometimes used as a local-temporal determinant that expands the structural scheme of the sentence (61). For example:

(61) *Sledom iz shatra vyshli neskolko devushek v naryadnykh odezhdakh (Next a few girls in fancy dresses came out of the tent).*

The adverbial *sledom* may also be part of a coordinative chain as a homogenous adverbial:

(62) *A zayats sledom, po pyatam gonitsya, pokrikivayet, posvistyvayet, ushami tryaset, okhotnika s mushki ne spuskeyet (And the hare is chasing him right behind, at the heels, shouting, whistling, shaking his ears, keeping the hunter in the crosshairs).*

Functional-semantic adverbialization of the word form *sledom*, on the one hand, leads the word form to lose the structural-semantic characteristics of a noun, and on the other – results in it acquiring the differential characteristics of an adverb. It has lost such substantive properties as the categorial semantics of the object (objectivity) and the means of its explication – the inflectional categories of the case and number and the classification category of gender; the system of forms, the paradigm (within the categories of case and number); usage with typical expanders of the noun – adjective words and oblique case noun forms; the primary function of an object, belonging to the subclasses of proper, inanimate, and concrete nouns. Certain shifts have also occurred at the level of morphemic structure of the noun-derived adverb *sledom*: the inflection *-om* has been transformed into the suffix *-om*, which expands the composition of the word stem.

On the other hand, the adverbialized word form *sledom* has acquired the part-of-speech characteristics of an

adverb: the general grammatical meaning of a secondary attribute (attribute of an attribute); unchangeability; the primary function of an adverbial (of time, space direction, and method of action); connection with the main word in a word combination by the method of adjoinment; belonging to subclasses of adverbials (temporal and local) and qualifying adverbs of the method of action.

The difference between the peripheral adverb *sledom* and peripheral adverbs like *ryadom* meaning 'v ryad' (in a row), *darom* meaning 'gratis', and *zimoj* meaning 'in winter' is that *sledom* has almost completely semantically separated from the original noun (*sled*), moving beyond its semantic zone. Thus, it cannot be considered a special adverbial type of use of the substantive lexeme *sled* (*sledom*). In the case of the adverbial *sledom*, adverbialization can then be said to be a morphological syntactic way of word formation, and in the purely synchronous aspect – a morphological suffix-based word formation (*sledom* ← *sled* (*trace*)).

The transition of the substantive word form *sledom* towards core (prototypical) adverbs in the framework of staged adverbialization is accompanied not only by the original lexeme in the instrumental case splitting into two words, lexical homonyms but also by the change of the adverbial category at different stages in transposition. In noun periphery, the word form *sledom* combined with adjective expanders functionally approaches adverbs a) method of action and place/direction (*Olen ne pojdet pri opasnosti starym sledom* (*When in danger, a deer will not walk the old trail*)) – In what way? Where? In what direction?); b) mode of action (*Strui gaza tyanulis inversionnym sledom* (*Jets of gas ran in a condensation trail*)) – How? In what manner?). In the hybrid zone, the single word form *sledom* comes close to adverbs a) method of action (*Zayats sbivayet okhotnika sledom* (*The hare confuses the hunter with his trail*)) – In what way?); b) mode of action (*Voznikshaya mezhdu rukami svyaz nezrimo tyanetsya sledom* (*The connection that emerged between the hands invisibly trails behind*)) – How? In what manner?). In the nuclear adverbial zone, the single word form of *sledom* belongs to the subclass of adverbs with meanings a) time (*Dezhurnij vyshel sledom* (*The man on duty went out next*)) – When?); b) place direction and method of action (*Kto-to yavno shel sledom, po pyatam, ne otstavaya* (*Someone was definitely walking behind, on the heels, keeping pace*)) – Where? In what direction? In what way?). In prepositive usage, the nuclear adverb *sledom* acts as a determinant component of the expression (*Sledom iz kluba vyskochila gruppa podrostkov* (*A group of teenagers stormed out of the club after*)). When referring to the whole situation (clause), the adverb in question performs the communicative function

of the topic, and when it covers a separate fragment of the situation (action), it most often functions as the comment. Compare two types of usage of the adverbial *sledom*:

(63) *I goltepa taborom shatnulas za nim. Sledom poplelis baby, rebyatishki* (*And the ragged shuffled after him in a flock. Trailing behind him went women, children*) – prepositive use of the adverbial *sledom* as a determinant in the function of the topic;

(64) *Faraonovo plemya khodit sledom i smotrit v glaza: podari da podari... I tak nadoyedayut, chto odin pribor, vrode etogo, ya uzhe razdaril, – tolko by otstali... A on tri tysyachi stoi! Katenka* (*The Pharaoh's tribe follows you around and looks into the eyes: gift this, gift that... And they are so annoying that one device, such as this, I have already given away – just so that they would let me be... And it was worth three thousand! Katenka*) – postpositive (with respect to the verb) use of the adverbial *sledom* in the function of the comment.

## CONCLUSIONS

The conducted study allows us to conclude that the substantive word form *sledom* at different stages of adverbialization displays a complex conglomerate of the properties of nouns and adjectives up to a complete loss of substantive properties and a fundamental reorganization of semantic-grammatical and morphemic structure in the zone of core noun-derived adverbs.

These findings underline the necessity of integrating linguistic transformations into Russian language education to enhance learners' grasp of semantic-grammatical shifts and functional versatility, providing a richer understanding of language dynamics.

The categorial transformation of the substantive word form *sledom* is defined by its convergence with several semantic categories of adverbial lexemes, namely temporal, spatial, and modifying-qualifying adverbs, which explains the functional syncretism of this linguistic unit. As a result of the functional-semantic adverbialization of *sledom* as an instrumental case noun without a preposition, there forms a lexical-grammatical homonym used outside of the semantic zone of the original lexeme. Semantic-grammatical changes in the word form *sledom* are caused by its convergence with the classes of prepositions and interjections within the processes of prepositionalization and interjectivation.

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