

УДК 811,111

DOI <https://doi.org/10.32838/2663-6069/2019.4-2/18>

*Mykhaylenko V. V.*  
King Danylo University

## THE CONTEXTUAL SHIFTS OF “NOW”

*The article investigates the unit now in three types of context to differentiate its part of speech category, meaning and its sentence position in the novel “Theatre” ” by W.Somerset Maugham (p.1-100), its Russian translation by Галина А. Островская, and in the British National corpus to compare the statistics in the novel and the corpus its statistic data aimed at the common trends in the development of now as an original adverb into particle (discoursal and imperative) context. Context in philosophy is the idea that a statement or thought has meaning only in relationship to a certain setting or background. In literature context illuminates the meaning and relevance of the text, and may be something cultural, historical, social, or political. The study of meaning has become the main point in two areas of linguistics: semantics i concerned with the ways meaning is encoded in language, pragmatics -- “the study of those relations between language and context that are grammaticalized, or encoded in the structure of a language. Bateson (1979) underlines that “without context, there is no communication” and that to understand communicational aspects of a phenomenon, one must look to ever larger context units in a “hierarchy of contexts within contexts.” We are hypothesising that there is a close relationship between the position of now, its part of speech designation and its semantics, therefore we are planning to analyse the unit now in three types of context, where they take on discourse related functions as a result of what is now widely accepted to be a grammaticalization process. The core contribution of this paper lies in the investigation of now which undergoes a cross-categorial transposition of now as an original adverb → discourse particle and adverb → pragmatic particle under the influence of various types of context: The introduction of a context helps to demonstrate the dynamic behaviour of the meaning. The comparison of the data retrieved from the novel and the British National corpus point out the common features of the cross-categorial transposition of now. We believe that units like still, yet, only, just and others can demonstrate the same shifts in various contexts.*

**Key words:** adverb, particle, context, discourse, transposition, shift, grammaticalization.

**INTRODUCTION.** The main objective of the paper is to reveal the components of the lexical meaning of *now* in its context. Very few people seem able to suggest that what meanings there might be beyond the ones in dictionary [1, p.324; 10, p.251-252]. When researching the unit *now* the dictionaries unanimously refer it, first, to the class of adverbs though in most contexts it does not fit that category. Context in philosophy is the idea that a statement or thought has meaning only in relationship to a certain setting or background. In literature context illuminates the meaning and relevance of the text, and may be something cultural, historical, social, or political. The study of meaning has become the main point in two areas of linguistics: semantics i concerned with the ways meaning is encoded in language, pragmatics -- “the study of those relations between language and context that are grammaticalized, or encoded in the structure of a language [13, p.9; 21, p.53].

We shall investigate the unit *now* in three types of context to differentiate its part of speech category, meaning and its sentence position in the novel “The-

atre” ” by W.Somerset Maugham (p.1-100), its Russian translation by Галина А. Островская, and in the British National corpus to compare the statistics in the novel and the corpus its statistic data aimed at the common trends in the development of *now* as an original adverb into particle (discoursal and imperative) context.

Traditionally, adverbs are one of the four major word classes, along with nouns, verbs and adjectives, though Beck defines nouns, verbs and adjectives as three major open classes and refers the adverb together with adposition to two minor lexical classes. Adverbs are generally believed in particular to be a cross-linguistically marked category than adjectives [3, p.11-12]. The most well-known study of adverb position is undertaken by Cinque [4, p.3-4]. We use adverbs as adjunct or modifiers of a verb, an adjective, another adverb, a clause or a whole sentence and, less commonly, about a noun phrase. Adverbs are classified into several categories: time, place, manner, degree, frequency, but some other grammar books distinguish some more categories, for example,

focusing, evaluative, linking, focus and viewpoint, truth, comment and directional, contrast or ambiguity, opacity, and veridicality [see 6, p.205-206; 15, p.57]. Thus adverbs do not present a unified class, in order to understand them, it is first necessary to establish the right taxonomies [19, p.285]. The options of adverb positions have been evident since Old English, and we find that authors used to employ them to express specific modes.

**DISCUSSION.** The word «context» is a metaphor derived from the Latin *texere*, «to weave.» It came into English in early 15c. in the meaning «a composition, a chronicle, the entire text of a writing,» from Latin *contextus* «a joining together,» originally past participle of *contexere* «to weave together,» from assimilated form of *com* «with, together» (see con-) + *texere* «to weave, to make» (from PIE root \*teks- «to weave,» also «to fabricate»). In the 4th c.A.D. the Latin noun *contextio* described the text surrounding a given passage. In the Middle Ages, *contextio* came to mean «literary composition,» but «context,» was expressed through the term *circumstantiae*. In the 9th c. Sedulius Scotus (fl. 840–860), an Irish teacher, Latin grammarian and scriptural commentator (Encyclopaedia Britannica), suggested the rule of «seven circumstances»— person, fact, cause, time, place, mode, and *topi* which lay the foundation of the modern concept of context. Gregory Bateson's ideas are significant for how we understand communication, in different settings whether in family settings, in ecosystems, among humans, or non-humans/. argued that “without context, there is no communication” and that to understand communicational aspects of a phenomenon, one must look to ever larger context units in a “hierarchy of contexts within contexts” [2, p.5-6; 5, p.1-2] As we can see, context plays a very important role in discourse analysis [22, p. 558]. The context can eliminate ambiguity of the unit meaning in the sentence; it can indicate referents to avoid repetition, and detect conversational implicature in the terms of ‘what the speaker can imply [18, p.878]. For our investigation the first and the third functions of the context are very significant.

**CORPUS ANALYSIS.** We are hypothesising that there is a close relationship between the position of *now*, its part of speech designation and its semantics, therefore we are planning to analyse the unit *now* in three types of context, where they take on discourse-related functions as a result of what is now widely accepted to be a grammaticalization process [7, p.195].

A Linguistic Context is a context defined purely in terms of what follows or what precedes a particular

segment that is undergoing a sound change. In other words, a linguistic context will not take into account the social, situational aspects, or the psychological aspects. Linguistic context refers to the context within the discourse, that is, the relationship between the words, phrases, sentences and even paragraphs. It can be also interpreted as the surroundings, circumstances, environment, background or settings that determine, specify, or clarify the meaning of an event or other occurrence. The function of the linguistic context is to help ascertain the unit meaning, primarily its lexical one. First, the structure of the lexical meaning of *now* will be in the focus of our investigation to further determine its possible shifts connected with the intercategory transposition of *now*: adverb → particle.

The lexical meaning of the adverb *now* includes the following components: (1)

at the present time or moment [Merriam Webster, Cambridge, Macmillan, Collins]; (2) in the time immediately [Merriam Webster, Cambridge, Collins];

(3) very soon [Merriam Webster; Macmillan];

(4) used with the sense of present time weakened to express command, request, or admonition [Merriam Webster, Macmillan, Collins]; (5) used with the sense of present time weakened or lost to introduce an important point or indicate a transition to a new situation or event [Merriam Webster, Cambridge]; (6)

sometimes [Merriam Webster]; (7) under the present circumstances [Merriam Webster]; (8) at the time referred to in a story [Merriam Webster, Macmillan, Collins]; (9) by this time the action is over [Merriam Webster Cambridge, Collins]; (10) used to introduce a new subject [Cambridge, Collins]; (11) as a result [Macmillan]; (11) attracting attention [Macmillan, Collins]; (12) conjunctive (*now/now that* ). The componential analysis of *now* reveals “present time” as the dominant one.

Single adverbs are relatively free, but there are some positional restrictions. used to disambiguate between two possible interpretations of an adverb. For instance, adverbs of manner have internal ordering restrictions, but they are very free within a sentence and allow for recursion, which are both properties of adjuncts. [1, p.8].

Now we shall investigate the relationship of the sentence position of *now* and its semantics in the Source Language and the Target language [14, p.131]

(i) The front position of *now* in the sentence: The Initial front sentence position in the novel – 12 (100); in the British National corpus --40(100 cases). *Now* in the sentence initial position is rather a discourse marker linking the previous event with the present

than a temporal adverb specifying the present time of the event adverb [see 16, p.232]. The functions of DMs and include modalizing (e.g. conversation management or stance expression) as well as text- or discoursestructuring (e.g. linking functions, i.e. the work of connectives [see 7, p.247;cf. 8, 189-190]. We use *now* as a discourse marker to signal something new, particularly when giving instructions or introducing a new idea or topic, they structure the relationships between speaker and listener. For instance, *now* links two temporal events -- *then* and *now* in discourse or two clauses of the composite sentence.

1.1. Now + S + Vlink + Predicative →сейчас:  
*Now his chestnut hair was very*

*grey, and he wore it much shorter;...* “Сейчас его каштановые волосы почти совсем поседели, и он стриг их куда короче...”

1.2. Now + S + Vmod + Vinf →теперь: *Now she could enjoy herself without fear.* “Теперь она может безбоязненно наслаждаться жизнью.”

1.3. *He seemed shy, ... well, that was not to be wondered at, now she was there he must be rather overcome, and she set herself to put him at his ease.* “Юноша казался робким, что ж, нечему удивляться, теперь, когда она здесь, он, естественно, смущен, очень волнуется, и Джулия решила, что ей надо его ободрить.”

1.4. Now + S + Vmod + Vin: *Now she could deal with him on equal terms.* “Теперь она будет с ним на равных.”

Naturally, *now* refers to the present, however, in the discourse both can refer the events to the three temporal planes. And the translator tries to follow this tradition, see the Russian equivalent of *now* “теперь” correlating with the present, past and future, when English *now* correlates with the past forms (narrative past)

(ii) The mid position of *now* in the sentence reveals its original dominant component of “present time” of events or actions. The frequency of *now* midposition in the novel is 14 (40): in the novel is the fragments of the BNC 68 (100). The regular position of *now* as an adverb is between the subject and the predicate, between the Vaux and the V notional, or after the predicate. This English regular function of *now* is not frequently rendered into Russian:

2.1. S + Vaux + now + Vpast participle → 0 = 0:  
*they could look about for a*

*theatre, and with the reputation Julia had now acquired it would be safe to start in management.* “они начнут присматривать театр и при той репутации, которой добилась Джулия, без риска начнут собственное дело.” 2.2. S + Ved + now →

0=0: *She ... did not quite know how to deal with the predicament in which she now found herself.* “Миссис Госселин ... не знала, как себя держать в этом затруднительном положении”.

2.3. S + Ved + now → 0=0: *She undressed now and slipped between the sheets.* “Она разделась и скользнула в постель.”

2.4. S + Ved + now → 0=0: *She noticed that for long now he had come to listen complacently to her praise of his exquisite nose and beautiful eyes.* “Джулия заметила, что он уже вполне спокойно выслушивает дифирамбы своему точеному носу и прекрасным глазам.”

In illustration 2.4. *now* correlates with the Ved in the main clause ‘She noticed’ where it points the time of the action and the Vpast perfect in the subordinate clause where it underlines ‘till the time of the action mentioned in the main clause and additionally the perfection of an action. However the translator omitted *now* and its implicit component ‘perfection’ substituted by the Russian explicit ‘уже’.

*Now* correlating with the past forms of the verb retains its adverbial nature in English, though in the target text the translator omits it as redundant. The fact is that in the given cases *now* refers the event to the point in the past together with the past form of the verb and therefore it becomes redundant. We can suggest another explanation – *now* in 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 undergoes so called cross-categorial transition (adverb → discourse particle), i.e. here is an example of grammaticalization

In the rest of fragments *now* in the midposition must be stressed and it retains its temporal adverbial character which is retained in the Target Discourse:

(iii) The end position of *now*. The frequency of *now* final position in the novel is 6 (40); in the fragments of the BNC is 3 (100). Linguistic context can be explored from three aspects: deictic, co-text, and collocation [18, p.876]. The adverb *now* tells us ‘when’ at the end of a sentence is a neutral position. Situational context, or context of situation (the Firthian context of situation) [see 11, p.30], relates to the environment, time and place, etc. in which the discourse occurs, and also the relationship between the participants. This theory is traditionally approached through the concept of register, which helps to clarify the interrelationship of language with context by handling it under three basic headings: field, tenor, and mode.

3.1. S + Vlink + now = сейчас: *How old are you now?* “Сколько вам сейчас?”

3.2. S + Vlink + predicative + now = теперь: *she hadn't risked it she would have looked all right in boy's*

*clothes, of course it was too late now.* “Разумеется, теперь уже поздно, а может, и хорошо, что она не стала рисковать.”

3.3. S + Vaux + V present participle + Vinf + now = теперь: *What are you going to do now?*» she asked quietly. “Какие у тебя теперь планы? - спокойно спросила она.»

3.4. Vaux + S + Vinf + now = сейчас (expressive): *D’you mean to say, get married now?* “Ты хочешь сказать - пожениться сейчас?”

3.5. S + Vlink + S + Predicative + now → 0 = O: *Dolly was alert now.* “Долли насторожилась”.

3.6. S + V + now → 0: *I’m beginning to feel better now. But, my God, you slut.*

“Стало немного лучше, но, клянусь богом, ты меня потрясла.”

In illustration 3.6. the author underlines the “present moment” grammatically and lexically, but the author avoids both due to the explicit context

(iv) AND + NOW. In discourse structure *now* can be used as a linking element and, evidently, its combinability with the original coordinating conjunction proves our assumption.

our assumption.

4.1. And + now + S + V → And = 0: *...he was incapable of a generous impulse,*

*... and now he was prepared to stand aside so that she might have her chance.* “Майкл не способен на широкий жест, и вот вам, пожалуйста, ... он готов отойти в сторону, чтобы дать ей хороший шанс.”

In illustration 4.1. the translator omits *now* as a redundant linking element

In the following illustrations the translator underlines the opposition of the two temporal planes:

4.2. And + now + S + V = сейчас: *but he wanted to be his own master and now in the last year of his articles he had broken away and taken this tiny flat.*

“но захотел быть сам себе хозяином и сейчас, в последний год учения, отделился от семьи и снял эту крошечную квартирке.”

(v) but + now. But and now show a contrast between the two items or ideas And in most cases the translator rendering the both units to underline the contrast or enumeration of temporal planes

5.1. but + now = теперь пора: *it had no; t seemed worthwhile to move while Michael was on active service, but now that a baby was coming...* “казалось, нет смысла переезжать, пока Майкл находится в действующей армии, но теперь когда появится ребенок...”

5.2. But + now + S + V = но теперь: *but now in some strange way it had left him.* “...но теперь каким-то таинственным образом Майкл утратил свое очарование.”

(vi) NOW + VIMP. The frequency of *now* + Vimpf in the novel is 5 (40); in the fragments of the BNC is 4 (100). *Now* in the socio-cultural context which can be customs, mores or norms of a society, the characters live in and how their culture can affect their behaviour and their opportunities, it also looks about where and when each text is set. See, for instance the sentence from the novel: “Julia talked very differently to herself and to other people: when she talked to herself her language was racy”. Clifford Geertz says that culture denotes an historically transmitted pattern of meanings embodied in symbols, a system of inherited conceptions expressed in symbolic forms by means of which men communicate [9, p.89]. Teun A. van Dijk argues that it is not the social situation itself that influences the structures of text and talk, but rather the

definition of the relevant properties of the communicative situation by the

discourse participant [20, Ch.2]. The social-cultural context in discourse is the manner in which interpersonal relationships influence communication: structure of relationship (family, friends, professional, etc.); nature of the relationship (roles of the individuals in the relationship). Discourse varies according to factors such as who it is for, in what situation, and what kind of activity the language is being used for. Leech, Deuchar and Hoogenraad define it as tenor which relates to the relationship between a speaker and the addressee(s) in a given situation, and is often characterized by greater or lesser formality [12, p.9]. Context of the following sentences is very important because is the background, environment, setting, framework, or surroundings of events or occurrences. Simply, context means circumstances forming a background of an event, idea or statement, in such a way as to enable readers to understand the narrative or a literary piece. It is necessary in writing to provide information, new concepts, and words to develop thoughts.

1.1. Now + Vimp (let’s) = 0: *Now let’s come down to brass tacks.* “Перехожу к сути дела.”

1.2. now + Vimp = 0: *Now listen, Roger’s coming home tomorrow.* “Послушайте, завтра возвращается Роджер.”

1.3. Intr + Vimp + now → Particle = Ну: *Oh, come e now, it’s not so bad as that.*

“Ну, полно, полно, не так уж все плохо, как кажется.”

1.4. Vimp + now → Now → 0 = Ну-ка: *Now sit down, duckie, and I’ll give you a drop of Scotch to pull you together.* “Ну-ка, сядь, цыпочка, и я дам тебе капельку виски, чтобы ты пришла в себя”



1.5. Now + Question → Particle = НУ: *Now what's all this Tosca stuff about?* “Ну, а теперь объясни, по какому поводу вся эта сцена из «Тоски?»”

Socio-cultural context refers to the culture, customs and background of epoch in language communities in which the speakers participate. Language is a social phenomenon, and it is closely tied up with the social structure and value system of society. We have investigated a case of grammaticalization of *now* into a discourse marker sharing Schwenter & Traugott's hypothesis that it can follow a “grammaticalization chain going through a fixed set of phrases: sentence adverb → epistemic adverb → discourse marker” [see 17, p. 7-8].

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION.** The core contribution of this paper lies in the investigation of *now* which undergoes a cross-categorial transposition of *now* as an original adverb → discourse particle and

adverb → pragmatic particle under the influence of various types of context: The introduction of a context helps to demonstrate the dynamic behaviour of the meaning. The comparison of the data retrieved from the novel and from the British National corpus point out the common features of the cross-categorial transposition of *now*. We believe that units like *still*, *yet*, *only*, *just* and others can demonstrate the same shifts in various contexts. The use of translation has proved some trends of grammaticalization of English *now* correlating with Verb (–ed) which brought its omission in Russian and the shifts of *now* into discursive particle or a pragmatic (imperative) particle. Contrastive studies lay the foundation for a further typological description of functional parts of speech. For further research, a detailed corpus study of adverbs like, *well*, *then*, *just*, *yet*, *already* we'll undertake their evolution to discourse markers.

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**Михайленко В. В. КОНТЕКСТУАЛЬНІ ПЕРЕСУВИ “NOW”**

У статті досліджено одиницю *now* у трьох типах контексту, щоб вирізнити її частино-мовну приналежність, семантику та дистрибуцію у реченні на матеріалі роману «Театр» У. Сомерсет Моєма (с.1-100), його російському перекладі (перекладач -- Галина А. Островська) і в Британському національному корпусі для порівняння загальних процесів. Все це спрямовано на визначення тенденції і розвитку *now* як прислівник → частку (дискурсивну та імперативну) у межах контексту. Контекст у філософії - це думка про те, що висловлювання має значення лише у певній ситуації. У літературному контексті висвітлюється значення та актуальність тексту, який може бути культурним, історичним, соціальним чи політичним. Вивчення значення є головним завданням семантики, яка досліджує способи кодування значення у мові та прагматики, яка досліджує “вивчення відносин між мовою та контекстом, які граматикизовані або закодовані в структурі мови. Бетесон (1979) підкреслює, що «без контексту немає комунікації» А для розуміння комунікативних рис явища потрібно визначити типи контекстів, які утворюють певну ієрархію. Ми припускаємо, що існує тісний взаємозв'язок між дистрибуцією *now* та її семантикою. Відповідно, ми плануємо проаналізувати *now* у трьох типах контексту, де ця одиниця виконує функції, пов'язані зі структурою дискурсу, у результаті чого відбувається процес її граматикизації. Основний доробок даної статті полягає у дослідженні явища, що *now* зазнає міжкатегоріальну транспозицію: прислівник → «дискурсивний маркер (або частка) та прислівник → прагматична частка під впливом різних типів контексту. Введення категорії контексту допомогло продемонструвати динаміку значення *now*. Порівняння даних, одержаних з роману та Британського національного корпусу, вказує на загальні риси у мовах, що порівнюються. Ми вважаємо, що одиниці типу *now*, *only*, *still*, *yet*, *just* та інші, можуть демонструвати однакові зміни в різних контекстах. Використання перекладу свідчать про загальні тенденції граматикизації.

**Ключові слова:** прислівник частка, контекст, дискурс, транспозиція, пересув, граматикизація.