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## **The conative function of constructions expressing surprise in Swedish, English and Russian**

### **Abstract**

The article presents the results of a comprehensive comparative analysis of the concept “surprise” in Swedish, English and Russian fiction books manifested by syntactic constructions performing the conative function. Three Swedish fiction novels by Selma Lagerlöf and their translations into English and Russian were chosen as the material for the study. 135 complexes of examples (1 complex = 1 Swedish token + 1 corresponding English token + 1 corresponding Russian token) were selected using continuous sampling method. First, it was found that the function could be manifested in 2 directions (modes): extroversive and introversive. Second, 2 syntactic patterns expressing the function were identified: imperatives and vocatives. The analysis of their interaction in the three languages showed the following results. In Swedish and Russian, the introverted imperative pattern was used while in English modal verb+infinitive extraverted pattern was mostly used. As far as vocatives, similarly to imperatives, both extroversive and introversive modes were present. However, in contrast to imperative patterns, introversive mode prevailed in vocatives in all the three languages. Further studies might involve comparative analysis of the modes and patterns manifesting surprise in other languages of origin.

**Keywords:** emotion, surprise, conative function, comparative analysis, fiction.

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**For citation:** Kovaleva, M. N. The conative function of constructions expressing surprise in Swedish, English and Russian. *Teoreticheskaya i prikladnaya lingvistika* [Theoretical and Applied Linguistics], 7 (1), 86–95. doi: 10.22250/2410-7190\_2021\_7\_1\_86\_95.