PROLONGED SYNTACTICAL FORM WITH CONDITIONAL MEANING IN THE ENGLISH DISTANT COMMUNICATION

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ABSTRACT

This paper discusses conditional relation as the kind of interconnection between the events which is expressed by predicative and polypredicative constructions, united by a term "prolonged syntactical form (PSF) with conditional meaning". The authors examine an urgent problem of functioning of PSF in the distant communication. Besides, the set of means which impart specific character to PSF with conditional meaning is determined. The study is based on the idea that the text is considered to be a type of communication. The paper stresses that conditions of communication (distant and contact) determine the way the addresser's intention is realized. In the scientific and fictional discourses the distant communication is represented by the author's speech. The English scientific discourse is characterized by objective modality which provides impersonal account of facts created by the set of realization means (grammatical, lexical and textual) of the objective modal-pragmatic superstructure of complex sentences with conditional clauses and elementary sentences with compressed structures. However the author's speech in the English fictional discourse imparts indirectly subjective character to the modal-pragmatic structure of the same conditional speech units which is reflected in the usage of both objectively and subjectively colored means.

Keywords: conditional relation; prolonged syntactical form; distant communication; objective modality; subjective modality.

INTRODUCTION

Conditional relation is a kind of interconnection between the events which implies that realization of some event either can become or can not the cause of the other one. There is a tradition to think that conditional relation is expressed in the bipredicative constructions which explicitly show the connection between the event-condition and the event-consequence. These are complex sentences with the conditional clauses (Declerk, 2001; Leech, 2002).

Conditional relation and means of its expression cause long scientific interest of Russian and foreign linguists.

A great number of works are devoted to structural (Kostrova, 1971; Hrakovskij, 1998; Declerk, 2001; Bhatt, Pancheva, 2005), semantic-pragmatic (Bailey, 1989; Hrakovskij, 1998) and cognitive (Traugott, 1983; Dancygier, Sweetser, 2005) aspects of study of conditional relation, however some problems still remain unsolved. It becomes obvious if we take into consideration a systemic approach which is dominant in the modern scientific paradigm. According to the system approach in linguistics it is necessary to study

a combination of the factors that influence production and functioning of language units and the factors that determine their semantic-syntactical structure. Such approach determines relevance of the study that, on the one hand, offers a general term for language units of different syntactical status which express conditional relation in the English language and, on the other hand, analyses the problems of functioning of the constructions with conditional meaning in the English distant communication.

Conditional relation, the kind of interconnection between the events: condition and consequence, is expressed by language means of different syntactical status which are united by the general term "prolonged syntactical form (PSF) with conditional meaning".

The notion of the prolonged syntactical form (PSF) was suggested by O.A. Kostrova (Kostrova, 1991). On the one hand, it is a metalinguistic construct used to describe bi- and polypredicative units which are considered to be an intermediate link between a simple sentence and a text in the real functioning.

On the other hand, PSF is a syntactical unit which is realized in speech in five structural variants:

1) two elementary sentences (ES) where one of them is used in the compressed form: as a preposition-noun combination, participle, gerund or infinitive:

 By using an electron microscope in what is called the back-reflection mode, one can see the surface irregularities even more closely (Somorjai, 1993);

2) a complex sentence which unites two or more elementary sentences with one-function clauses:

If I wanted the luxury of clean sheets, I changed them (Garwood, 1993);

 3) two or more elementary sentences which are connected by coordinating conjunctions or asyndetically forming a compound sentence:

"Bruise her and I'll lay your back open!" (Evans, 1996);

4) a chain of semantically connected elementary sentences where one follows the other by a full stop, an exclamatory mark or a question mark and separated elementary sentences with conjunctions and conjunction words:

"And if I agree to this difficult bargain?" he asked, trying to keep his amusement out of his voice. "You'll accept this marriage? I want your agreement and your acceptance" (Garwood, 1996);

5) contexts which unite a part of a complex or a compound sentence and an independent sentence following it (Kostrova, 1991):

Thank God she hadn't worn shorts. She would have been chuck steak by now (King, 1999).

Moreover, the notion of prolongation is considered to be a linear extension of the syntactical form which is measured by the number of predicative units and implies the connection of the syntactical form with the time and space factors. These factors define the dependence of PSF on the situation i.e. on the pragmatic elements "I", "here" and "now" (Kostrova, 1991). In this case the prolonged syntactical form is thought to be a modal-pragmatic unit with a modal-pragmatic superstructure which is formed as a result of the synergetic interaction of different language means and determines modality of a text and a type of speech. O.A. Kostrova suggests two kinds of superstructure: objectivity and subjectivity (Kostrova, 1991).

The main purpose of the study is to determine the specifics of functioning of the prolonged syntactical form with conditional meaning in the English distant communication and to find out the set of realization means of the specific modal-pragmatic superstructure of PSF.

METHODS AND DATA
The most suitable method for the research like this is the so-called discursive-stylistic approach analysis (Andreeva, 2006), synthesizing discursive and stylistic features of a text. A text being the product of the author's discourse and the basis of the reader's discourse is considered as a certain type of communication.

The components of the interlocution are an author (an addresser) and a reader (an addressee), the author's intentions, his attitude to the reality and to the contents of the message, the place and the time of interlocution. Intention is an organizing unit in communication as the addresser's choice of the subject under discussion, language means and the kind of the message depend on it. The place and the time of communication, the location of interlocutors in time and space define the conditions of communication and the way the addresser's intention is realized.

In addition, the discursive-stylistic analysis allows revealing the link between the discourse, conditions of communication and the types of speech and explaining the specifics of functioning of PSF with conditional meaning depending on the type of communication and the type of discourse.

The analysis of functioning of the prolonged syntactical form with conditional meaning in this research is limited by two types of discourse: scientific and fictional. We consider the written discourse as a type of mediated communication which assumes at least one pair of interlocutors: an author – a reader (in both types of discourse), a personage – a personage (in the fictional discourse). Thus we take into account the conditions of communication related to the location of the speech partners in time and space. These conditions where different types of speech are formed are contact communication which corresponds to the personage's speech and distant communication which is correlated with the author's speech.

The polarization of speech types reveals the distinction between the pragmatic modalities determining the character of speech. An objective modality is realized in distant communication while contact communication is characterized by a subjective modality.

A communicative register as well as a speech type determine a modal-pragmatic superstructure of PSF with conditional meaning, thus serving as a specific filter for the selection of PSF's structural variants.

Distant communication which includes the author's speech in scientific and fictional discourses is characterized by an objective modality. In other words, the author aims at concealing his attitude to the stated material from the reader in order to present facts and events as objectively existing laws or facts. Having this intention the author chooses an impersonal way of presenting the information which is possible due to the set of realization means of the objective modal-pragmatic superstructure of PSF with conditional meaning.

The data of the study include 1167 utterances containing language means with conditional meaning selected from the author's speech in the modern English literature (100 units) and from the English scientific texts (1067 units).

Let's consider the set of realization means of PSF with conditional meaning in each type of discourse.

THE REALIZATION MEANS OF THE OBJECTIVE MODAL-PRAGMATIC SUPERSTRUCTURE OF PSF WITH CONDITIONAL MEANING IN THE ENGLISH SCIENTIFIC DISCOURSE
The category of person

In the scientific discourse the category of person is not expressed or rather weakened. The author does not name himself as if he wants to remain aloof, he does not address his reader directly as he is distanced in time and space. So the use of pronouns *I* and *you* is considered to be inappropriate.

Weakening of the category of person is observed in the use of:

1) an indefinite pronoun *one* and a personal pronoun *we* in complex sentences with conditional clauses and in the main part of elementary sentences with compressed structures. The pronoun *one* stands for any person, while pronoun *we* can stand for a group of researchers, the author and the reader or any man.

This trend fits long-established principles [4], if one relates coordination number to bond order [5, 6] (Somorjai, 1993).

If we require the stress in a region one depth of the beam away from the wall, the stress variation at the fixed end need not be of concern as it does not lead to considerable stress variation in the region of interest (Ugural, 1991).

The category of person is not expressed in elementary sentences with preposition-noun combinations, which contain impersonal factual condition. There are two types of preposition-noun combinations in the English scientific discourse. In the first case the main noun is derived from the verb so it can be easily transformed into a verbal predicate:

We also indicate the primary surface information that can be obtained by the application of each technique (Somorjai, 1993) - … if we apply each technique.

In the second case a noun denotes the object, the presence or absence of which is a condition for the realization of the action, expressed by the verbal predicate.

At high temperatures the micropores of the high-surface-area catalyst may collapse by sintering or melting (Somorjai, 1993). – If temperatures are high enough…

The person that performs this or that action or produces the condition for realization of another action is not specified in preposition-noun combinations, as if everything happens by itself, without human participation. Thus, it produces an effect of observing the links between various phenomena which objectively exist in nature.

The idea of impersonality is manifest through the usage of participles and gerunds used in elementary sentences.

The ammonia production is monitored using a selective photoionization detector with such photon energy that it ionizes ammonia and not nitrogen or hydrogen (Somorjai, 1993).

So impersonal character of the scientific speech is created by the use of semi-predicative constructions (preposition-noun combinations, gerund and participle constructions) in elementary sentences, by the use of an indefinite pronoun *one*, a personal pronoun *we* in complex sentences with conditional clauses and in the main part of elementary sentences with compressed structures.

The categories of mood and tense
In the scientific text objectivity is created by the modality of actuality (reality) which means according to A.V. Bondarko being factual. The core of actuality is the situation of the present which is easily observed and which contains the reference to the definite participants of the situation (Bondarko, 1990).

In *elementary sentences with compressed structures* semi-predicative constructions can have conditional meaning. The category of mood and the category of tense are not expressed in the preposition-noun

combinations because these constructions define the situation as timeless. The predicate in such elementary sentences is in Present Simple which expresses repetition of an action or an event under certain conditions.

At high speeds, boundary lubrication occurs and the friction coefficient is again altered (Somorjai, 1993).

Participles I and gerunds are used in the Indefinite form and do not refer the action to any definite time (past, present or future) as they only indicate simultaneity of the actions expressed by the gerund or the participle I and the predicate in elementary sentences.

Assuming first-order desorption for ammonia, the 40-K decrease corresponds to a 2.4 kcal / mole drops in the adsorption energy of ammonia on iron in the presence of 0.1 ML potassium (Somorjai, 1993).

In *complex sentences with conditional clauses* (CCS) the modality of actuality is conveyed by a predicate in the indicative mood and in the form of Present Simple referring to the situation "I, here, now, this" and creating the effect of observation. This is used to supply objective characteristics of the phenomenon and to describe properties of things.

Objective connection between phenomena is expressed in complex sentences with conditional clauses with the modality of actuality *by lexical means:*

1)   verbs of being (*to be, to exist*) and possession (*to have, to possess, to contain*), used in conditional clauses of CCSs:

The bonding picture of adsorbed molecules becomes more complicated if there are more bonding sites available on the same molecule (Somorjai, 1993).

2)   verbs which introduce scientific concepts (*to define, to classify, to denote, to say, to call, to term*), used in active or passive voice in the main part of CCS, which mark objectively proved information:

If one atom has a greater tendency to attract electrons toward itself than the other, we say the electron distribution is polarized, and the bond is referred to as a polar covalent bond (Carey, 2004).

If a state of plane stress exists in the member under consideration, the third principal strain for v = 0.3 is from Eq. (4.2) (Ugural, 1991).

Thus monolayers of long-chain amines and of sterols are considerably expanded if the substrate contains dissolved low-molecular-weight acids or alcohols (Adamson, Gast, 1997).

Textual markers
Textual markers of objectivity of PSF with conditional meaning are defined as combination of verbal and non-verbal (graphic) codes which contribute to the creation of the real modality. Verbal means are nouns which denote the source of objective and mathematically proven information such as r*ule, law, formula, equation*, non-verbal means are graphic signs which denote mathematic and logic operations: greater or less than-equal signs (=), (>), (<):

Newton's first law states that if the resultant force acting on a particle (the simplest body) is zero, the particle will remain at rest or will move with constant velocity (Ugural, 1991).

If $\Omega = 0$, the depth distribution collapses to only a single-monolayer type of segregation (Somorjai, 1993).

The utterances with PSF with conditional meaning are characterized by the objective modality if the author expresses not his own opinion but retells somebody's point of view. From the syntactical aspect such utterances are constructions with reported speech. In the main part the author indicates that the

viewpoint expressed in the dependent clause belongs to the other person. Constructions with reported speech contain indication of the source of information in the verbs *«to say»*, *«to state»*, *«to declare»* and in the bibliographic references. The combination of verbal and non-verbal codes forms objectivity of complex sentences with conditional clauses and elementary sentences with compressed structures.

Griffith [54] states that crack propagation will occur if the elastic energy released upon crack growth is sufficient to provide all the energy required for the growth of the crack (Somorjai, 1993).

Complex conditional sentences (CCS) with predicates in Past Tenses contain the description of the experiments carried out by the researchers.

Chan and Horn [107] and Horn and Israelachvili [108] could explain anomalous viscosities in thin layers if the first layer or two of molecules were immobile and the remaining intervening liquid were of normal viscosity (Adamson, Gast, 1997).

Some utterances can contain predicates in the Future Tense which can be replaced by Present Simple, as the Future Tense in such contexts underlines the regularity of an action.

The equations describing the stress and deformation of a twisted circular bar will be derived by applying the principles of Sec. 1.3 (Ugural, 1991). – The equations describing the stress and deformation of a twisted circular bar are derived by applying the principles of Sec. 1.3.

Semantics of modal verbs
Semantics of modal verbs determines the degree of reliability and objectivity of the links between the phenomena which vary due to some circumstances defining the situation as possible. The utterances in which the speaker gives mathematically approved evidence are considered to be objective. When the speaker does not have reliable information about the situation under the study he provides his own viewpoint on the connection between the phenomena based on his deduction and perception of the situation. Such utterances are considered to be subjective.

In the scientific discourse we have discovered the following types of modal meaning, which create objectivity of complex sentences with conditional clauses and elementary sentences with compressed structures:

1) necessity and obligation to follow laws of nature which determine objective connection between the phenomena and are expressed by the modal verb *must*:

If the entire body is in equilibrium, any part of it must be in equilibrium. That is, there must be internal forces transmitted across the cut sections (Fig. 1.1b) (Ugural, 1991).

2) physical ability determined by the objective laws and the permanent state of affairs expressed by the modal *can*:

A material is said to behave in a ductile manner if it can undergo large strains prior to fracture (Ugural, 1991).

3) logical possibility that the situation is true expressed by the modal verb *can* in combination with an adverb *only* in the main part of complex sentences with conditional clauses:

For such statically indeterminate structures, all unknown forces can be obtained only if the deformations of the members are taken into account (Ugural, 1991).

4) possibility, determined by the typical nature of the situation expressed by the modal verb *may*:

The kinetics of reactions in which a new phase is formed <u>may</u> be complicated <u>by the interference of that phase with the ease of access of the reactants to each other.</u> This is the situation in corrosion and tarnishing reactions (Adamson, Gast, 1997).

5) possibility, determined by the logical and natural connection between phenomena expressed by the modal verb *should*:

According to these equations, both the surface and bulk compositions <u>should</u> approach the same atom-fraction ratios <u>at high temperature</u>s (Somorjai, 1993).

On the syntactic level the objective character of PSF with conditional meaning is conveyed by the subordinating conjunctions which make the interconnection between the condition and the consequence explicit such as *if*, *assuming that, given that, provided/providing* and *unless*.

Complex conjunctions *assuming that* and *given that* have special meaning which restrict their sphere of usage. Conjunctions *assuming that, given that* are derived from participles and emphasize that some fact is taken into account or is admitted by the speaker. They also introduce a priori information (something that is given) in utterances, representing mathematical (chemical or physical) problems.

Calculate the surface energy at 0 K (100) planes of radon, <u>given that its energy of vaporization is 34 x 10^{-14} erg/atom and that the crystal radius of the radon atom is 2.5 Å</u> (Adamson, Gast, 1997). – Calculate the surface energy at 0 K (100) planes of radon, if it is given that its energy of vaporization is 34 x 10^{-14} erg/atom and that the crystal radius of the radon atom is 2.5 Å.

The objective character of modal-pragmatic superstructure of PSF with conditional meaning is formed due to the integration of the identified means, and is manifested in elementary sentences with compressed structures and in complex sentences with conditional clauses. They account for 58% and 42% respectively of all the utterances with conditional meaning in distant communication in the English scientific discourse.

THE MODALITY OF PSF WITH CONDITIONAL MEANING IN THE AUTHOR'S SPEECH OF THE ENGLISH FICTIONAL DISCOURSE
In the scientific discourse the author addresses the reader directly, without other people, but in the fictional text the narrator can stand between the reader and the author. So the author's speech in the fictional discourse is an inhomogeneous notion, because the narrator can be the speech producer.

There are three types of narration in the written monologue fictional discourse, which depend on the author's position in the text. They correspond to the degree of the author's personality detachment and the degree of speech personalization:

1)   the auctorial form of narration is a narration carried out in the form of the third person singular and which is realized by the narrator-observer, who stays aside from the depicted events and the characters and sometimes expresses his feelings in the form of the author's digressions (Kuharenko, 1979; Domashnev, 1983; Paducheva, 1995). Another name of this form is an objective narration, when the narrator is omniscient: he knows all the characters' features: theoretically he can himself transfer all the information that is in the text (Goncharova, 1984). Thus, the narrator has an unlimited narration perspective, which allows him to enter all the spheres of the depicted world.

2)   the first person narrative which points to the presence of a subjective narrator in the same depicted world with the other characters. He can be denoted as a "teller-participant of happening", "the commentator inside the action" (Domashnev, 1983). This form of narration is subjective as the narrator is the protagonist of the story. But he doesn't have enough information about the other characters, he doesn't

know the way they feel and what they think about so he gets the information about the other characters through their actions.

3) the contaminated form of the author's and character's subjective perspectives in an "entrusted anonymous narrative carried out in the form of the third person" (Kuharenko, 1979) or a "free-oblique discourse" (Paducheva, 1995). It is characterized by an adhesion of the author's and the character's points of view, when they stop to be varied from each other, forming an indissoluble unity and creating the effect of reality, of something that "really happened". The narrator is like the character-narrator in the subjective narration, he has information about himself but not about the state of other characters. He can't compare his own perception with the perception of another person, his sense of himself with the feelings of another character.

The omniscient third person narrative displays the distance of a speaker in relation to the scene, but the first person form (in all its manifestations) and entrusted anonymous third person narrative (the personal method of the third person narration) reveal the author's involvement, being inside the imaginary world. In this way, an objective author's speech is represented in the form of the auctorial narrative done in the third person singular.

However, judging by the analysis of the data, the modality of PSF with conditional meaning in the author's speech is ambiguous in the fictional discourse.

Let's consider how various degrees of modality of conditional situations are combined in the author's narration, which contains the summary of events, indirect speech of characters and the author's reflections.

Modality of PSF with the semantics of condition in the author's speech
In the fictional discourse in case of the third person omniscient narrative mode the author creates his illusory non-participation in the depicted events. The author doesn't tell about himself, but he tells the story of the characters' live. That is why the category of the person is expressed by proper names and pronouns in the third person singular and plural *(he, she, it, they)*.

She stood with her hands folded together, waiting for Euphemia to invite her to join her at the table. She didn't dare sit without an invitation, for Connor's stepmother had berated her doing that very thing just two days ago (Garwood, 1996).

In addition, as in the scientific discourse to express his non-participation in the current events, the author applies for the use of the indefinite pronoun *one* in complex sentences with conditional clauses.

South along the shoreline, if one followed the road that led through town, one would eventually come to Oplontis and Prompeii, and from there, around the coast to a peninsula that jutted southwestward toward Capri, to wealthy little Stabiae (Evans, 1996).

In the English fictional discourse, objectivity is also created by the modality of reality, which is expressed in semi-predicative constructions, which make the structure of the elementary sentence complicated. Such constructions define the situation as nontemporal, without referring events to a particular period of speech, because there is the information about the absence of any circumstances that create the conditions for the performing of an action expressed by the predicate of an elementary sentence. The only variants of such semi-predicative constructions are the combinations of nouns or gerunds with the preposition *without*.

There'd been a time when he never went out without a minimum amount of survival gear (Evans, 1996). - … if he didn't have a minimum amount of survival gear.

Sometimes there are combinations of nouns with the preposition *by, which* contaminate the meaning of manner and condition.

Bericus' villa lay a couple of miles from Vesuvius' summit and at least another two miles line-of-sight from Herculaneum. <u>By road</u>, town was much farther; the road snaked around the flank of the volcano, taking the easiest route (Evans, 1996). - … if one went by road.

Real modality is expressed in the main part of elementary sentences with compressed structures and complex sentences by means of the predicates in the indicative mood in Present, Past, Future, and Future-in-the-Past. Unlike the scientific discourse, in the fictional one the author does not need to present the current situation "I, here, now, this" which does not refer to a particular period of speech, he describes the events that happened to the characters before the communication between the author and the reader as well as those events that will happen to the characters in their future. Therefore, in the fictional discourse there is a variety of tense forms of the predicates. Though the author doesn't want to give the assessment of the depicted events, he only points to the really existed conditions.

His name was Travis Herrick, and he didn't believe in spending money on food <u>if he didn't have to</u> (King, 1999).

Modality of PSF with the semantics of condition in the characters' indirect speech
The author of the fictional text does not only describe the events of the characters' lives, but also gives their characteristics as well as describes the inner world of the characters through their speech, expressed indirectly. Constructions with indirect speech contain both uttered and inner speech of the personages. As the result the pronouns of the first and the second persons are replaced by the pronouns in the third person. The tense forms of the predicate correspond to the temporal narrative plan: Past Perfect is used to express the actions in the past, while the future actions are represented by Future-in-the-Past.

Indirect uttered speech of the characters is introduced by nouns and verbs of saying *(to order, to say, to tell, to assure).*

The man behind her waved a knife in front of her face and <u>told</u> her that <u>if she called out a warning</u> he would kill her (Garwood, 1993).

Inner speech of the characters is introduced by the verbs of mental activity *(to guess, to doubt, to decide, to feel, to imagine, to think, to be sure, to be certain, to dawn)*, by the verbs of desire (to hope, to wish, to dream) and by nouns with the same semantics *(feeling, wish, hope, promise, suspicion, idea, thought).*

Rory stood on the sidewalk, watching the tail lights fade, shivering. He <u>wondered</u> what old friends could come forward at this hour, in this place, and what it would prove <u>if one did</u> (Lars, 1999).

Modality of the indirect speech structures is twofold. Choosing an indirect way of presentation of the character's direct speech, the author acts as a "mediator". Such structures show that the author has a different aim unlike in the scientific discourse. They show that he has to present the character's point of view without expressing his own one. In the other words, on the one hand, modality is objective in the construction with the indirect speech, because the author doesn't express his own attitude to the content of the utterance, on the other hand, the character's indirect speech (uttered and inner) is subjective as a direct one because the author must preserve the modality of character's discourse.

In this regard, in indirect speech a modal-pragmatic super-structure of PSF with conditional meaning has an indirectly subjective character, integrating features of objective and subjective types of modality.

The signs of objective modal-pragmatic superstructure of PSF with conditional meaning are clearly defined in the use of:

1)   impersonal semi-predicative constructions with the semantics of condition:

Roy said that, <u>in Martell's shoes,</u> he <u>would go</u> directly to a psychiatrist "Do not pass GO, do not collect 200 dollars" (Lars, 1999). - … if he were in Martell's shoes…

2)   CCS with predicates in the Indicative Mood:

She wouldn't let Flannaghan or Valena into the chamber, <u>fearing</u> <u>they would also catch the illness if they got too close to Colin</u> (Garwood, 1993).

3)   complex sentences with the subordinate clause of time, contaminating the meanings of time and condition:

He <u>decided</u> then that since what had already happened couldn't be undone, <u>as long as he stayed in control in the future,</u> he <u>would be content</u> (Garwood, 1996).

4)   compound sentences, in which the condition is expressed in the first clause through the indirectly expressed Imperative Mood in the infinitive:

He was strangling her now. He <u>kept telling</u> her <u>to quit her struggles</u> or he would have to hurt her (Garwood, 1993). – He was strangling her now. He kept telling her if she didn't quit her struggles, he would have to hurt her.

In the constructions with indirect speech the subjective character of modal-pragmatic structure of PSF with conditional meaning appears due to:

1)   unreal modality, which is created with the help of predicates in the Conditional Mood in the tense form of Future-Perfect-in-the-Past sometimes together with the modal verbs of subjective semantics in the main clause of CCS and in Past Simple or in Past Perfect in the conditional clause. Thus the unreal situation is revealed, as it is the character not the author refers to possible worlds.

He was halfway up the steps before he spotted her. The banister saved him from disgrace. Colin was <u>certain</u> he <u>would have fallen</u> backward <u>if he hadn't had a firm grasp on the railing</u> (Garwood, 1993).

2)   infinitive constructions (that can be transformed into the subordinate clauses) used with evaluative predicates.

She wanted to ask him to explain, but <u>felt</u> it would be <u>impolite</u> of her <u>to question</u> him any further (Garwood, 1996). - … if she questioned him.

The modality of PSF with conditional meaning in the author's reflections
Unlike the scientific discourse, in the fictional one the author can't do without expressing his own attitude to the depicted events by fulfilling his major task that is connected with the reproduction of the characters objectively. Usually the author's thoughts appear in "pragmatic insertions" (Kostrova, 2004) and are taken in brackets or marked by a dash or a comma from the main narration. In such pragmatic insertions the author offers the reader an assessment of the depicted events or brings to doubt what has been said before. Usually they are expressed in complex sentences with conditional clauses (1) and in elementary sentences with compressed structures (2).

(1)   And every morning when he woke up (<u>if he wasn't already awake</u>), it was there waiting for him, like some monstrous housecat stalking a crippled rat (Evans, 1996).

(2)   She tried to dismiss it as nerves (anyone would have jumpy nerves <u>after seeing that torn-off head</u>) and had almost succeeded when she came to a tree which had been scored with half a dozen diagonal cuts through its old dead bark (King, 1999).

The variants of PSF with conditional meaning described above as the pragmatic insertions in speech, are by all means subjectively coloured, because the author expresses his own assessment of what is going on with their help. However, the use of the indefinite pronoun *anyone* in the example (2), as well as of the predicates in the Indicative Mood allows us to say that the modal-pragmatic superstructure of PSF with conditional meaning in the pragmatic insertions has an indirectly subjective character.

In the English fictional discourse PSF with conditional meaning is found mainly in the indirect speech of the characters and accounts for 86% of all the utterances with conditional semantics in distant communication of this discourse.

CONCLUSION
Conditional relation reflects a person's ability to speculate on alternative things, to make judgements and hypotheses about possible situations and imagine what the world might be or have been like. It is expressed by a set of syntactical constructions united by the term "prolonged syntactical form with conditional meaning" which is defined, on the one hand, as a metalinguistic construct used to describe bi- and polypredicative units in their real usage in speech.

On the other hand, we consider prolonged syntactical form with conditional meaning as a modal-pragmatic unit with a modal-pragmatic superstructure formed as a result of the synergetic interaction of different language means which determines modality of a text and a speech type.

We have studied the character of the modal-pragmatic superstructure of PSF with conditional meaning in distant communication of the English scientific and fictional discourses from the discursive-stylistic approach. As the result we have come to the conclusion that the author's speech in scientific texts is objective and is created due to the objective modal-pragmatic superstructure of the certain variants of PSF with conditional meaning such as elementary sentences with semi-predicative constructions (preposition-noun combinations, gerund and participle constructions) and complex sentences with conditional clauses.

However, in the author's speech of the English fictional discourse the modal-pragmatic superstructure of PSF with conditional meaning is not purely objective, because there is a certain degree of subjectivity expressed by the Conditional Mood in elementary sentences with compressed structures and in complex sentences with conditional clauses.

Besides we have found out a set of language means which create a certain type of modal-pragmatic character of PSF in distant communication of the English scientific and fictional discourses.

Thus, PSF with conditional meaning as a modal-pragmatic unit is aimed at presenting real facts in the scientific discourse while it reflects an imaginary world of both the author and characters in the fictional discourse.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS
No conflict of interest exits in the submission of this manuscript.

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