Communicational cohesion in medical publications

In order to create sentences in communication it is very important that their parts are adequately connected with linguistic context and communicational situation. Communicational cohesion makes possible for good semantic communication and simplifies the linguistic form of a sentence. This economical form of a sentence is more suitable for creation of databases similar to the one of the National Library of Medicine of USA, which adapted the style of the American National Standards Institute. It was used as a base for the creation of the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals, Vancouver (1).

The contractued expressions (N.B.: avoid abbreviations and jargon) in medical publications could be applied in so-called coherent text. In this case, when speaking about the rationale for using certain therapy in the treatment of a patient it is possible to use sequence of sentences connected by a certain situation.

Example:...Ovakva terapija se u navedenih bolesnika pokazala uspešnom. I odabr bolesnika je u ovom slučaju usledio ranije, što je, takođe, bilo značajno. (Such therapy was effective in a mentioned group of patients. The selection of patients had been made earlier and that also proved to be important).

Contrary to this, the stated example would have different form and meaning:...Terapija se pokazala uspešnom. Odabir bolesnika je usledio ranije, što je bilo značajno (The therapy was effective. The selection of the patients had been made earlier, which was important).

Demonstrative adjective "such" in the first example has a presentational perspective of a sentence indicating the quality of the applied therapy. The sentence also informs only about mentioned group of patients whose selection was significant because it had been, only in this case, made earlier. The chosen vocabulary made a direct connection with previously stated facts and thus became concordant to the context of the statement. Anaphoric connection with the context, where the meaning of subsequent sentences is interpreted on the basis of previously uttered sentences, is frequently used in the checking of the results obtained in scientific research.

The sentential perspective may also be of syntactical character, which implies anaphoric interpretation. There are conjunctions between independent simple clauses within a main clause, which bear the meaning of consecutiveness and successiveness. These conjunctions are: "i, "pa", "te", "ni" and "niti", and they are used for enumeration of the elements and are characteristic for copulative predicative clauses (2). Conjunctions are also used in other coordinating predicative clauses pointing to the concluding on the basis of previous context (Concluding: "dakle", "prema tome", "znači", "zaključujem"; Excluding: "samom", "jedinom", "osim"; "osim što"; Disjunctive: "ili", "bilo da"; Adversative: "ali", "nego", "već", "dok") (3). All mentioned conjunctions have the main purpose to connect one communicational clause with previous context because among them there is a copula with previous text.

Many adverbs, pronouns and particles can also make a connection between a clause and the context ("onda", "koji", "ako", "ukoliko", "još"), in their own way. Some of them help to make conclusion, other relate to something specific from the previous context. Personal pronouns at the beginning of a sentence may (intentionally or unintentionally) emphasize the subject of the sentence. Some of these words may imply possibility or a condition for the realization of an action from the context and other imply previous continuation of given situation.

Communicational cohesion is imperative if we want to interpret a sequence of clauses as a coherent text or to connect a sentence and its parts with a communicational situation. The use of above stated cohesive linguistic modes is always standardized, but the implementation of communicative cohesion, especially in written communication, is also a question of style.

REFERENCES