Lexical licencing is a fundamental question in modern linguistics (Dik 1989, Levin 1993, Goldberg 1995, Bresnan 2001). It is clear because the systematic explication of this phenomenon is a cornerstone of explanatory grammar. Why is it possible to say *Strong teeth crunched it*, but the phrase *The spoon ate it* is impossible? What are the restrictions for these combinations? If we identify the restrictions and parameters, which determine lexical licencing, we will have the grammar, which would predict the natural production of the language.

The compositional syntax (Bogushevich, Makutsa 1997) proposes the solution to identify these restrictions: each sentence possesses two non-isomorphous 'aspects', which are called 'situation' and 'proposition'. The first aspect of sentence semantics represents a mechanism of reference to speech object and correlates with something that can be called the structure of empirical knowledge of the external world; the second one represents a mechanism of interpretation of a formal sentence structure and correlates with logical structures. Besides, the chosen theory treats conceptual worldview as a system of situations – simple and complex. If we accept this idea, then our goal is to test the following hypotheses: (i) Complex situation may occur in one-predicate constructions where the predicate itself dictates the chain of scenes or situations; (ii) The structure of the complex situation itself determines lexical licencing. For this purpose, lexemes of consumption were singled out from dictionaries and thesauruses. The corpus for the analysis consists of contemporary British and American fiction books. This corpus includes diachronic variation, its stylistic variation is limited by the genre, and it doesn't control dialect variation. About 8,200 contextual occurrences, based on these lexemes, by random access were derived from this corpus. The corpus-based method alongside the methods of logical and semantic data modeling were applied.

The carried-out analysis on the restrictions which determines lexical licencing let conclude the following results:

1. Complex situation occurs in one-predicate constructions with the verbs of consumption where the predicate itself represents the chain of scenes, or situations (eat = put→bite→chew→swallow, drink = take→swallow).

2. The possibility of an innate Instrument (e.g. *teeth*) to occupy Agentive position in active constructions depends on the structure of the complex situation of consumption, which possesses chain type of hierarchy. Each stage in the chain of situations is characterized by possessing Instrument that refers to the same relation that the verb does. Therefore, when the complex situation of consumption is reflected in sentences with the verbs that name the second stage in consumption process (*chomp, crunch,* etc.,), Instrument may shift to Agentive position: *Strong teeth crunched it.*

3. Intermediate Instrument of the first stage (e.g. *spoon*) in complex situation never occupies Agentive position in sentences with the verbs *eat/drink*: * *The spoon eats it*. It is explained by the fact that this enabling Instrument belongs not to the whole situation of consumption, but to the situation of taking something. In other words, the Instrument *spoon* names the relation 'taking food', but not 'consuming food'. Emerging from the first stage into the general structure of the situation of consumption, this component can occupy only Instrumentative position: *I ate with a spoon*.

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