Model of the future analysis in the programs of political parties

Arkadii Sentsov¹,a, Yulia Bolsunovskaya²

¹National Research Tomsk State University, 634050, Lenin Avenue, 36, Tomsk, Russia
²National Research Tomsk Polytechnic University, 634050, Lenin Avenue, 30, Tomsk, Russia

Abstract. The paper addresses the problems of political modeling and analysis. It brings up issues of political discourse and namely of political parties programs. The authors examine the means of expression of the future model and characterise it. They deal with methodological basics of the image of the future modeling, they analyse the representation of the model of the future in political parties programs. The authors approach the problems of ideology in the context of the future planning and modeling, they examine a conceptual and comprehensive structure of a party program. The model of the future has a key position in the program of a political party. The pertinent model of the future proposed by the political actors can largely influence and improve political and social wellbeing.

Introduction

The sense of the future is a fundamental part of a human consciousness. This sense is located on the basic axis of coordinates by means of which a person is oriented in the outside world. It is included in the individual, social, and thus political temporal plan. The time horizon of modern society is determined by the future. Therefore modeling and programming of the future may be so important in our modern society.

While today there are many researches on political parties, political concepts, analysis of political discourse, and, in addition to these, there are researches on temporal problems and, particularly, on the future issues, there are still no works considering the model of the future and its linguistic expression in contemporary programmatic texts.

No doubt, the topic of the future in the political text, namely in the programs of modern political parties, is very important and significant for our society. Political parties, especially those that form a national parliament, have a great impact on the political, social, and economic wellbeing. And the analysis of the future modeling in these political texts can help us to find an appropriate model of the future for our society.

Materials and methods

In the studies of contemporary political discourse conducted in this work, the cognitive approach is used as a basic one. At the very core of the cognitive approach is the idea that human cognitive structures have indissoluble mutual ties in the framework of a common task. This task is to explain the process of assimilation, processing and transformation of knowledge. These are tasks that finally define the nature of the human mind.

The analysis of political concepts is very important in terms of current cognitive method. In this research we make use of the political concepts analysis to reconstruct the hierarchical structures of the meaning that are present in the political language, to analyse the structure of concepts, and to build their cognitive schemas (V. Bell, I. Berlin, C. Geertz, S. Holmes, H. Lasswell, I. Sternin, M, Wissenburg, et al.). The political concept is a structural element of the linguistic image of the political world that is formed as a result of cognitive activity [1-5].

Any statement can be determined by cultural facts and, therefore, this statement is associated with the characteristics and interests of a society or of a particular social group. Thus, one can discover the power relations in any statement. Yet it is important to note that the content of a message can often be related to the field of politics implicitly [6]. Discourse analysis is oriented not to what is said or written, but to what is received (or built in consciousness) by the addressee during the communication act. We have to identify the cognitive structures (concepts, basic knowledge, beliefs, projections, frames, etc.).

Thus, our approach to the concept of the future can be defined as semiotic one. Combining different notions of the concept we can see that the concept is a structural element of the world's linguistic image, formed as a result of cognitive activity. In the frame of our research, we consider the political concept of the future as “a verbal expression of the model of the future presented by political parties in their program documents” [7].
also, the problems of the future in the political texts and especially in the programs of political parties lead us directly to the ideological and political characteristics of the text and to the basic program components. We examine “the programs themselves with their structure, their links with ideologies and parties”.

Currently the researchers of ideological problems, political parties and electoral process are more interested “in the problems of the current situation”: the recent results, political claims during the election campaigns. However, it would be logical, first of all, to trace the evolution of political parties programs, doctrines and ideology changes.

The problem is that the future belongs to the category of slow and very slow changes, while the transformations and political events (elections, regional conflicts, etc.) are of fast nature. So this causes a mismatch of political cycles and problems of understanding of the future.

Thus, the programs of political parties are undergoing fast changes, but the doctrines that are based on the systemic level of values and goals change quite slowly. While the rhythm of ideology changes is in most cases very slow.

It should be noted that ideologies are strongly oriented to the future and they are of the conceptual nature. Political ideologies represent criticism that aims to change the current social and political situation in accordance with their ideals.

We can imagine an ideology, a doctrine and a program as more and more precise steps of political action motivation. Moreover, the text of a program contains an ideological core, a doctrine and a tactical situational part (programmatic). So ideology and doctrine are presented in the text of a program (fig. 1).

Fig. 1. Comprehensive structure of a party program

Therefore, ideology, related to the world view, determines the goal, the references and the main trends for adherents. The doctrine gives them an axiological and inspiring content. The programmatic part (in a strict
sense) motivates to concrete actions to achieve the goals
and values (fig. 2).

Fig. 2. Conceptual structure of a party program

It is necessary to point out that in this research the
model of the future is understood as an abstract linguistic
model, in other words, an ideal construct in natural
language that is created by thought and consciousness.
The model of the future represented in the programmatic
document of a party may be considered as a final product
of the thinking of the authors that is ready to transfer to
the society.

As it was mentioned above the political concept of
the future is “a verbal expression of the model of the
future” [7]. This concept of the future is an important
basic concept for an individual and for society in
general. This concept is one of the elements of the
guidance system “time – space”. It provides meaning and
dynamics for the actions of individuals and society.

Thus, determining the structure of the concept of the
future in the program of a party, it is possible to imagine
“the very model of the political future proposed by this
party” [7].

The problem of the future in the programs of political
parties is very important for understanding and
interpretation of the political process in general. It is
impossible to explain the nature of the "process" by the
immediate negation of the previous fact by those that are
new. The divergence between balance and imbalance,
traditions and innovations depends on the model of the
future (in our case, in particular, the political future)
receiving the features desirable for the society and its
parts in the temporal plan of the world perception.

These ideas bring us closer to understanding of the
model of the future as an object-substituent that has
properties and characteristics of an original object. At
first, this vision allows us to abstain from the study of
such a functional equivalent of the model as a project
and from the study of political utopias. Then, this
approach leads to the problems of goals and values. It
raises the questions about experience, foresight, needs,
and perceptions and gives us the opportunity to use the
political concept as a unit of scientific analysis.

This is namely the model of the future that provides
the connection between goals, values and ways to
achieve them proposed by political parties. Thus,
according to the conceptual structure of the party
program (mentioned above) it is possible to represent the
model of the future in a specific party program in the
following way (table 1). This model is a hierarchical
structure. The main goal of the party is at the top. Then
there are the values of the party that are followed by
measures to ensure the achievement of the goal and
affirmation of values.

Table 1. The model of the political future in a party program

| 1. Main goal |
| 2. Values |
| 3. Measures to ensure values and goal |

Based on the fact that the concept of the future is a
linguistic expression of the model of the political future
that is presented in the programmatic texts of the parties,
we can represent the structure of the political concept of
the future in a specific programmatic text in the
following way (table 2) as a hierarchical structure. The
basic layer of the proposed concept is at its peak, it
expresses the main goal of a political party. The summit
is followed by the conceptual segments corresponding to
the party's values. Behind them there is a concept
periphery that expresses the specific measures to ensure
that the goal will be reached and party values will be
affirmed.

Table 2. The structure of the concept of the future in a party
program

| 1. Basic layer |
| 2. Conceptual segments |
| 3. Periphery of the concept |

Therefore, the concept of the future is a linguistic
expression of the future model in party programs. This is
the model of the political future that structures the
program of a party. This model provides a link between
goals, values and ways to reach them that a political
party offers to the society. This phenomenon can be
explained by the nature of a political party program that
is initially oriented to the representation of the political
future proposed by this party.

**Conclusion**

Summarising we would like to note that this is exactly
the model of the future, the idea of understanding of the
future that is a key element in the program of a political
party. The structure of each program is a representation
of the programmed future.
The model of the political future is a focused image of the future that is proposed by a party to the society in order to achieve its own goals as a political institution. Through this model that represents the expected political future the program of a political party structures the consciousness of potential voters, it asserts the party, advances its interests, and, at the same time, simulates reality. With this model the political party program becomes an important element of contemporary political technologies.

The future plays such an important role in the life of a person that now the plan of the future broadly defines the main directions in the formation of a dynamic and emerging society. The formation and modeling of a pertinent image of the future is extremely important for our modern society in the context of sustainable development, national and international security, and improvement of political, social, and economic wellbeing.

Acknowledgment

The present work was realized and subsidized within the framework of the research “Political identity formation in the context of the image of the future modeling” supported by the President of Russian Federation Grant for state support of young candidates of science MK-7447.2016.6.

References

1. V. Bell, The discourse of negotiation: Studies of language in the workplace (Ed. A. Firth, Oxford, 1995)
2. I. Berlin, Four Essays on Liberty (London, Oxford University Press, 1992)
3. C. Geertz, Available light: anthropological reflections on philosophical topics (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2000)
4. S. Holmes, Democracy and the mass media (Ed. by J. Lichtenberg, Cambridge, 1995)
5. M. Wissenburg, M., Polit, Concepts: Comm. Conc. Meth. Work. Pap. Ser., 12, 2-28 (2011)
6. A. Sentsov, Y. Bolsunovskaya, L. Bolsunovskaya, IOP Conf. Ser.: Earth Envir. Sci., 21, 012014 (2014)
7. A. Sentsov, O. Aleksandrov, Y. Bolsunovskaya, M. Kuimova, Procedia Soc. Behav. Sci., 166, 536–540 (2015)
8. M. Greenberger, M. Crenson, B. Crissey, Comp. and Soc., 7(1), 3-14 (1976)
9. P. Madsen, The politics of economic modelling (Copenhagen: Institute of political science, 1991)
10. V. Schmidt, Ann. Rev. of Polit. Scien., 11(1), 303-326 (2008)
11. M. Laver, K. Benoit, J. Garry, Amer. Polit. Sci. Rev., 97(02), 311-331 (2003)
12. N. Sauger, Rev. Internat. de Polit. Compar., 14(2), 229-241 (2007)
13. M. Freeden, Liberal languages: ideological imaginations and twentieth-century progressive thought (Woodstock, Princeton University Press, 2005)
14. T. van Dijk, What is Political Discourse Analysis? Political Linguistics (Eds. J. Blommaert, C. Bulcaen, Amsterdam, 1998)
15. K. Benoit K. and M. Laver, Party policy in modern democracies (New York, Routledge, 2006)