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# THE PHENOMENON OF THE MULTIMODAL SERVICE MEDIA TEXT OF THE COMMUNICATION PLATFORM

**The aim** of the article is to investigate the issue of multimodal media text, which is now popular among authors and creators of content communication platforms.

**Research methodology**. In the course of the research a descriptive method was used to outline modern current scientific approaches to the study of the issue, comparative method – to compare scientific views and derive the author's definition.

Results. The definition of modern researchers is given and the author's own vision of the «multimodal media text» concept and its derivative — «multimodal service media text» is offered. Emphasis is placed on the need to identify and classify the term for the «Applied Social Communication Technologies» field, due to the spread of Internet communications and the growing popularity of communication platforms. The need to study multimodal service media text in view of its versatility, polythematic, diverse structure and other features inherent in the media texts of the network is noted. Attention is paid to different categories of mechanisms of perception of the visual component of the service media text. Multimodal service media text is presented as an applied unit of modern communication processes. Its informative and communicative properties are revealed. The ways of formation of communication modality of modern Internet platforms are outlined. The modern phenomenon of multimodality is described, which is formed taking into account two factors: communication processes and hypertext. The necessity of correct construction of the communication platforms' content taking into account the multimedia nature of the text is substantiated. The mechanism of functioning of communication platforms capable of synthesizing different types of modal content (video, audio, photo, animation, textual) is studied.

Scientific novelty. Communication multimodality is positioned in the article as a complex formation of symbols and code synthesis of different categories: linguistic and extralinguistic factors. All this gives grounds to study multimodal media text in social communications of the Internet sphere, where the text is now multimedia. It is offered to classify and structure the types of multimodal content according to the thematic orientation of the communication platform: culture, sports, politics, beauty industry, travel topics, etc.

**Practical meaning.** The results of the study can be used in the educational process in the «Journalism» specialty.

**Key words:** communication platform, multimodal media text, service media text, internet communications.

#### I. Introduction

The modern click-generation of users requires audiovisual content. Digital technologies make it easier to create the multimedia information that the target audience needs. Currently, the information field is multimodal, which forms the latest approaches to the study of media Internet content, presented by various groups of genres, but small in volume. That is, the multimodal sphere is represented by short texts that form the basis of the text media field.

The outlined issue is at the center of scientific research of modern media scholars, such as: N. Hrad, E. Ventola, G. Kress, Ch. Cassily, M. Kaltenbacher, J. Lyons, I. Myroshnychenko and others.

### II. Research objective and methods

The aim of the article is to study the issue of multimodal media text, which is currently popular among authors and creators of communication platforms content.

In the course of the research, a descriptive method was used to outline modern topical scientific approaches to the study of the issue, comparative one – to compare scientific views and formulate the author's definition. The obtained results made it possible to form a vision of the notion concept and its derivative, which is «multimodal service media text».

#### III. Results

The trends of the XXI century have led to the emergence of new forms of textual communication. Changes in forms, platforms of coverage, obtaining new practical approaches to working with consumer audiences, information and communication needs of users are traced.

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An important contribution to the development of modern media linguistics is the academic research of I. Myroshnychenko, who offered the «media service text» term — «media text with a surrogated structure, created to organize the media continuum, the convenience of its perception by consumers, attractive presentation of content, which performs accentuation, navigation or location functions» [4, p. 3]. This definition is accurate and relevant not only for media linguistics, but also for the field of social communications. However, there is a need for clarification, because the media text controls the consciousness of the audience, imposes patterns of behavior, organizes communication on the Internet between the media platform and users. Thus, it is necessary to distinguish the communicative and entertaining functions of the media service text in the field of social communications.

According to E. Ventola, «multimodal texts, in particular, perform at least three main functions: 1) the formation of concepts (ideational); 2) creating of interaction between communicators (interpersonal); 3) organization and structuring of the text (textual)» [7, p. 26].

Authors of a New Philosophical Encyclopedia [6, p. 107] note that modality today as a central concept should be studied in view of its aspectivity in a certain stimulus, which is directed by human sensory systems and controls a number of perceptions of the individual. That is, modality will be due to the need of humans to satisfy the spectrum of their interests. N. Hrad notes: «The type of sensory receptor activated by the stimulus plays a major role in encoding the modality of the stimulus» [2, p. 3]. It is a question of formation of communication modality of modern Internet platforms. Based on the above described, we note that the phenomenon of multimodality is formed primarily for communication processes, and only then for the text, and the field of Internet communication is no exception. Communication multimodality is positioned as a complex formation of symbols and synthesis of codes of different categories: linguistic and extralinguistic factors. Historically, this approach to the study of communication began to emerge in the late 10s of the XXI century. This trend began to be outlined through the technological parameters of the media society existence, the emergence of new communication technologies. This vector of the text's existence led to the development of new scientific and practical concepts of studying the issue, the introduction of a number of methods that have studied communication on the Internet in a fundamentally different perspective.

G. Kress, studying the issue of multimodality as a leading category of the text, derived three main theoretical provisions of its existence. Firstly, he considered multimodality as a representation of the text content, which is based on the unity and interaction of modes existing in it. Such a constructive approach to analysis was made possible by researching the tools used to create currently existing knowledge, approaches and types of conducting communication. The typology of modes here is also distributed depending on the sphere. According to the scientist, multimodality suggests other ways as well to achieve the communication goal. Secondly, multimodality does not exclude other resources as well that can be used by the text creator to achieve the goal. Thirdly, this category allows the use of different norms that occur at the time of creating the text value and contribute to the appropriate configuration of modes. Also in this context, the scientist offers four categories that are fundamental to understanding the multimodality phenomenon. Thus, he describes: (a) mode – as a result of cultural formation of the material through its use in the daily social interaction of people; b) semiotic resource – shows the interaction between representative resources and their implementation; c) modal admissibility is a concept that is related to the material, cultural, historical aspects of the use of mode. This category is responsible for the reasonable use of the mode; d) intersemioticity of modes – compatibility of modes in a certain context» [3, p. 14].

Contemporaries attribute to multimodal media texts most units of Internet content that visualize it: maps, images, and advertising elements. Also a separate example is a website; nature allows a developer to integrate different sign systems, because it is able to synthesize means of graphic abstract purpose, text, sound and more.

N. Hudz states: «Website is a hypertext formation of electronic communicative activity, which is in constant dynamics and is implemented in a set of interdependent (in thematic, semantic, intentional, physical planes) web pages» [1]. Based on the above described, we can say that the texts of communication platforms are multimodal not only because of their web nature, but also because of the nature of multi-format synthesation. The possibility of modern and creative information-communication expression due to the high level of combination of semiotic systems occupies a dominant position here. The large scale of the audience allows attracting a large number of interlocutors to the global dialogue, to gain a large number of readers of the communication platform.

The reformatting of the communication platforms' subject and the expansion of their horizons of influence has ensured the formation of an international audience, which is representative of the click-generation of modern consumers. The possibility to realize own content in different genres and forms contributes to a high level of subjectivity on the «pages» of electronic channels and platforms. Due to this concept of information dissemination and a large percentage of feedback, the principle of multimodality of electronic text is implemented.

If we consider it in the narrow sense, given the development of applied social communication technologies, the impact of the text on the senses of the readership – hearing and sight, which form the instantaneous perception of content – can be traced here. Each information channel has its own specifics of functioning, due to which the multimodality phenomenon of the text is complicated. Linguistic, visual, audio and textual components define it as a diverse concept.

The issue of diffusion of research in media linguistics, journalism and social communications is relevant. Areas of research, related fields and issues demonstrate the breadth of the necessary scientific studies and future research in view of the modern science development. Multimodal service media text is a fairly new and little-studied phenomenon.

More attention in modern applied social and communication technologies needs modal media text, which is now becoming similar to a cluster, generating new forms of journalistic texts on communication platforms. According to G. Kress and T. van Leeuwen, it should be interpreted as «any text whose meanings are realized through more than one semiotic mode» [8, p. 185]. It follows that the media text of the XXI century is based mainly on symbolic positions — visual content now generates the thoughts of society. Modus in the context of scientific research by G. Kress and T. van Leeuwen is defined as a way or means of introducing the text. Thus, the symbolic nature of the media dominates the process of generating of modern Internet discourse.

Ch. Forseville defines the mode somewhat differently, qualifying it in his scientific research as follows: «...sign system, interpreted by a specific process of perception» [9, p. 380]. Later in his works, he describes such categories as music, signs-pictograms, gestures, smells, tastes, touches, and so on. For modern service media text, which operates on communication platforms, the use of most of the modes mentioned by Ch. Forseville is relevant. It is the possibility to add different groups of characters, sounds, images and videos that contribute to the existence of media service text and the development of a modern cohort of platforms. At the same time, one of the features of the formation of modal media text today is the brevity of the text and short form. It is dominant in Internet communications and in demand among modern readers. «Concise texts are a common unit of modern media communication due to its pragmatic characteristics formed through the interaction of two interested agents - the producer of mass media and consumers of information» [4, p. 4]. Such factors are the oversaturation of the media field in the XXI century with technical components, media convergence, the possibility to produce quality but cheaper content, and the reluctance of most users to read large texts. The need for concise texts arises from the tend of the generation to click actions – the possibility to urgently get information here and now, satisfy own consumer interest and filter out what is no longer needed for using and keeping in memory.

According to I. Myroshnychenko, «concise media texts are attractive to readers: they reduce the time to read the message, promote rapid memorization, have increased visual and cognitive attractiveness» [4, p. 4]. It follows that the leading unit of communication in a multimodal media space is a concise media text, which has leading characteristics of traditional text and classical media discourse. However, at the same time, it is characterized by categories of traditional media discourse. Here it is worth noting the time duration, information value, plot completeness. At the same time, service media texts are characterized by other types of discourses as well, in addition to traditional ones: Internet, cross-media, cross-platform, mobile type, etc.

The phenomenon of discourse is quite wide, so it is not surprising that the service media text was able to absorb a little of each of the existing in the network, forming its own niche of existence. The nature of the existence of service media text led to the birth of a new form of discourse that synthesized all possible modern formats of text existence. Informativeness, convergence, and orientation to web platforms have grown especially. There is a question not only about information discourse, but also about the formation of platforming as a process in the field of applied social and communication technologies.

Therefore, it is obvious that from a scientific point of view it is necessary to consider not only service media text, but also multimodal service media text as one of the varieties. According to I. Myroshnychenko, the phenomenon of media service text is built depending on the functions it performs in Internet communications. The researcher is convinced that it should be defined as a text that «has a functional and pragmatic purpose different from the media texts merely: it serves to organization and segmentation the information continuum, simplifies the search for materials in the publication, makes content more attractive and convenient for the recipient» [4, p. 7]. Based on the above definition, it can be concluded that most media service texts are used to work with multimedia texts. Thus, one of the leading features should be convergence and orientation to cross-platforms, which are now leading to modern media information content.

In our opinion, this is a type of media text that synthesizes high-quality multimedia content, different types of discourse, the appropriate percentage of information condensation as a sign of concise information presentation in a journalistic text. It is appropriate to say that the type of discourse is determined depending on the platform on which this type of text will be placed and/or the branch of journalism that it presents: mobile, Internet, cross-media branch, and so on.

According to modern scholars [2; 5; 9], condensation of information is a number of factors that characterize brevity as a feature that contributes to the distribution of texts according to the following criteria: «expanded – concise»; «normatively concise – forcibly concise.» Multimodal content of communication platforms is a text that generates the content of the communication platform through the synthesis of semiotic text compounds: printed text (sometimes in small volumes) and multimedia components. Thus, communication platforms are filled with different types of modal content that can be classified as follows: video format, audio, photo, animated and classic (textual). Also, multimodal content can be classified according to the thematic focus of the communication platform: culture, sports, politics, beauty industry, travel.

#### **IV. Conclusions**

The formative concepts of multimodal text are similar to the concepts of multimedia text of online journalism due to their indispensability and multi-functionality. Modern social communications require a clear identification of terms, one of which is a multimodal text that was originally described by philologists rather than media scholars. Today this unit is relevant for applied social and communication technologies, operates in Internet communications, in particular in Internet media and communication platforms. Today, service media text has many varieties, among which the most interesting for social communications is multimodal service media text. Thus, we can talk about the formation of varieties and classification series of this unit, which emphasizes the current trends in the growth of service media text as an applied unit that has active use in the information and communication process.

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Досенко А. К. Феномен мультимодального сервісного медіатексту комунікаційної платформи

**Метою** статті є дослідження питання мультимодального медіатексту, що нині є популярним серед авторів та творців контенту комунікаційних платформ.

**Методологія дослідження**. У ході дослідження використано описовий метод для окреслення сучасних актуальних наукових підходів до вивчення питання, порівняльний — для зіставлення наукових поглядів та формулювання авторського визначення.

Результати. Наведено визначення сучасних науковців і запропоноване авторське бачення концепції поняття «мультимодальний медіатекст» та похідного від нього – «мультимодальний сервісний медіатекст». Акцентовано на потребах ідентифікації терміна для галузі «Прикладні соціально-комунікаційні технології» та класифікації, що зумовлено поширенням інтернет-комунікацій і зростанням популярності комунікаційних платформ. Відзначено потребу вивчення мультимодального сервісного медіатексту з огляду на його багатогранність, політематичність, різноструктурованість та інші риси, притаманні медійним текстам мережі. Приділено увагу різнокатегоріальним механізмам сприйняття візуальної складової сервісного медіатексту. Подано мультимодальний сервісний медіатекст як прикладну одиницю сучасних комунікаційних процесів. Розкрито його інформативно-комунікативні властивості. Окреслено шляхи формування комунікаційної модальності сучасних інтернет-платформ. Описано сучасний феномен мультимодальності, що формується з огляду на два фактори: комунікаційні процеси та гіпертекст. Обґрунтовано необхідність правильної побудови контенту комунікаційних платформи з урахуванням мультимедійності тексту. Досліджено механізм функціонування комунікаційних платформ, що здатні синтезувати в собі різні види модального контенту (відео, аудіо, фото, анімаційний, текстовий).

**Новизна.** Комунікаційна мультимодальність позиціонується в статті як складне утворення символів і синтезу кодів різних категорій: мовними та позамовними чинниками. Усе це дає підстави вивчати мультимодальний медіатекст у соціальних комунікаціях інтернетсфери, де текст нині є мультимедійним. Запропоновано класифікувати та структурувати різновиди мультимодального контенту за тематичною спрямованість комунікаційної платформи: культура, спорт, політика, б'юті індустрія, тревел-тематика тощо.

**Практичне значення.** Результати дослідження можуть бути використані в навчальному процесі зі спеціальності «Журналістика».

**Ключові слова:** комунікаційна платформа, мультимодальний медіатекст, сервісний медіатекст. інтернет-комунікації.

## Досенко А. К. Феномен мультимодального сервисного медиатекста коммуникационной платформы

**Целью** статьи является исследование вопроса мультимодального медиатекста, ныне популярного среди авторов и создателей контента коммуникационных платформ.

**Методология исследования.** В ходе исследования использован описательный метод для определения современных актуальных научных подходов к изучению вопроса, сравнительный — для составления научных взглядов и формулировки авторского определения.

Результаты. Приведены определения современных ученых и предложено авторское видение концепции понятия «мультимодальный медиатекст» и производного от него — «мультимодальный сервисный медиатекст». Акцентировано на потребностях идентификации термина для отрасли «Прикладные социально-коммуникационные технологии» и классификации, что обусловлено распространением интернет-коммуникаций и ростом популярности коммуникационных платформ. Отмечена необходимость изучения мультимодального сервисного медиатекста с учетом его многогранности, политематичности, разноструктурированности и других черт, присущих медийным текстам сети. Уделено внимание разнокатегориальным механизмам восприятия визуальной составляющей сервисного медиатекста. Представлен мультимодальный сервисный медиатекст как прикладная единица современных коммуникационных процессов. Раскрыты его информативно-коммуникативные свойства. Обозначены пути формирования коммуникационной модальности современных интернет-платформ. Описан современный феномен мультимодальности, формирующийся с учетом двух факторов: коммуникационные процессы и гипертекст. Обоснована необходимость правильного построения контента коммуникационных платформ с учетом мультимедийности текста. Исследован механизм функционирования коммуникационных платформ, способных синтезировать в себе различные виды модального контента (видео, аудио, фото, анимационный, текстовый).

**Новизна.** Коммуникационная мультимодальность позиционируется в статье как сложное образование символов и синтеза кодов разных категорий: языковыми и внеязыковыми факторами. Все это дает основания изучать мультимодальный медиатекст в социальных коммуникациях интернет-сферы, где текст в настоящее время является мультимедийным. Предложено классифицировать и структурировать разновидности мультимодального контента по тематической направленности коммуникационной платформы: культура, спорт, политика, бьюти индустрия, тревел-тематика и т. д.

**Практическое значение.** Результаты исследования могут быть использованы в учебном процессе по специальности «Журналистика».

**Ключевые слова:** коммуникационная платформа, мультимодальный медиатекст, сервисный медиатекст, интернет-коммуникации.