

REALIZATION OF CONTEXTUAL MEANINGS OF THE INDEFINITE ARTICLE

The contextual meanings of the lexically charged indefinite article can sometimes be quite unexpected. The most frequent and common of these meanings can be expressed in one of the following ways:

1) by the cardinal numeral **один (одна, одне)**:

He said something about a schooner that's getting ready to go off. – Він тут розповідав щось про одну шхуну, яка готується відпливати.

2) in some contexts the indefinite article may acquire a lexical meaning which corresponds either to the Ukrainian cardinal numeral **один**, to the ordinal numeral **перший** or to the indefinite pronoun **якийсь (якась, якийсь)**:

Only for an instant he hesitated... – Він був у нерішучості (вагався) тільки якусь/першу/одну мить...

3) by the indefinite pronoun **якийсь** only, without the attendant meanings of the cardinal or ordinal numerals:

He saw her come down the aisle, with Arthur and a strange young man. – Він бачив, як вона пройшла партером у супроводі Артура і ще якогось незнайомого молодика.

4) when the lexically meaningful indefinite article precedes the noun under logical stress, it functions as the demonstrative pronoun, which is translated into Ukrainian as **цей, ця, це**:

How can a man write so badly?.. – Як може ця людина (цей чоловік) писати так погано?..

5) as one of the possessive pronouns (according to their contextual meaning):

When she returned with the grammar, she drew a chair near his. – Коли вона (Рут) повернулася з граматикою, вона присунула свій стілець до його стільця.

6) as the negative pronoun **жоден** or the negative particle **ані** (when the determined noun is preceded by the negative particle **not**):

You were not following a word. – Ви не чули жодного слова/ані слова.

7) as the relative adjective **цілий** which is lexically equivalent in the sentences below to the Ukrainian identifying pronoun **весь (вся, все)**:

...*(his) day's work was the equivalent to a week's work of the average successful writer.* – ...*(його) доробок за день дорівнював доробкові якогонебудь модного письменника за цілий тиждень.*

8) more common in Ukrainian contextual substitutes for the lexically meaningful indefinite article are, however, different relative adjectives, the most often used being **справжній**:

This small sum seemed a fortune. – *Ця маленька сума здалася (Мартіну) справжнім (цілим) скарбом.*

9) the contextual meaning of the indefinite article may some times be expressed in Ukrainian through different adverbs:

There is a great difference. – *Це зовсім різні речі/зовсім інша річ.*

10) The broader context often predetermines the employment of lexically equivalent variants which could scarcely ever be offered for a narrow context:

He was not to remain a sailor. – *Бо ж він не буде простим собі матросом.*

11) the contextual meaning of the indefinite article may be expressed through the interrogative or indefinite pronoun also enforced by some emphatic particles:

What a lovely day! – *Який же гарний день!*

Note: Apart from the above-cited contextual meanings of the definite and the indefinite articles there may be some other (implicit) meanings of them. Thus, the definite article may sometimes have the following additional realizations in Ukrainian:

a) that of a pronominal word-group of an emphatic force:

I want you to get rid of the dreadful people you're associated with. – *Я хочу, щоб ви врешті-решт перестали спілкуватися з усіма тими покидьками.*

b) sometimes the article may substitute an implicit identifying/interrogative pronoun and a particle expressing the contextual meaning of the emphatically used noun with the definite article:

The pity of it! The pity of it! – *Як жаль! Який жаль! А шкода! Дуже шкода!*

There are, naturally, many more contextual realizations of the lexical meanings, pertaining to the definite and the indefinite articles, which they may acquire in a text/at speech level.

?? Suggested Topics for Discussion

1. The most general contextual realizations of meanings of the nominalizing and emphatic articles. The means of expressing their meanings in Ukrainian.

2. The most common contextual meanings of the definite article and means of expressing them in Ukrainian.
3. The most common contextual meanings of the indefinite article and means of expressing them in Ukrainian.
4. Ways of conveying the rhematic and thematic contextual meanings of the definite and the indefinite articles in Ukrainian.
5. Other possible contextual meanings of the definite and indefinite articles and means of their expression in Ukrainian.

EXERCISES

Ex.1. Analyse the sentences and substitute the definite article for an appropriate Ukrainian demonstrative pronoun. Translate the sentences into Ukrainian.

1. This was **the** man Dorian Gray was waiting for. 2. He had met **the** woman at last – **the** woman he had thought little about, not being given to thinking about women. 3. Eight Street Bridge is **the** place. 4. – and at **the** instant he knew, he ceased to know. 5. That's **the** Barney, that has the ugly daughter. 6. "You've heard of Rancocanty?" – "I'm **the** man". 7. "**The** Mr. Jardyce, sir, whose story I have heard?" 8. When she smiled, he saw **the** Pat he had known, **the** Pat smiling at him from worn photo, that still lay in the pocket-book against his heart. 9. If I ever saw a man hopelessly hard up it was **the** man in front of me. 10. I was brought up by my paternal aunt, Miss Frobisher, **the** Miss Frobisher of the Barton Chapel Case and the Woman's World Humanity movement.

Ex. 2. Substitute the definite article for an appropriate possessive pronoun. Translate the sentences into Ukrainian.

1. He had uttered a mad wish that he himself might remain young, and **the** portrait grow old – . 2. It was his beauty that ruined him, his beauty and **the** youth that he had prayed for. 3. "Take the thing off **the** face. I wish to see it." 4. I know **the** age better than you do, though you will prate about it so tediously. 5. The next night, of course, I arrived at **the** place again. 6. At last, liveried in the costume of **the** age, Reality entered the room in the shape of a servant to tell the Duchess that her carriage was waiting. 7. – and you have often told me that it is personalities, not principles, that move **the** age. 8. "He began to talk about **the** house". 9. In England he never quite capitalized on the savage impact, the famous "black sarcasm" of **the** Spanish drawings. 10. The friendship, **the** rapport became comprehensible –.

Ex. 3. Translate the sentences into Ukrainian. Give your reasons for the choice of the indefinite pronoun (or cardinal numeral) to express the lexical meaning of articles.

1. A Mr. Forsythe to see you, sir. 2. By the way, have you any spare clothes you could give the wife of **a** poor snipe? 3. He was moving slowly on the Bond Street, when **a** little light lady, coming from the backwater, and reading as she went, ran into him behind. 4. Haviland looked at him for **a** moment and then hung up his hat and coat. 5. “I saw **a** Mrs. Danvers on the twelfth floor at two o’clock”, he said. 6. There was **a** woman sitting before the fire. 7. There lay **a** young man, fast asleep – sleeping so soundly, so deeply, that he was far, far away from them both. 8. In a few minutes **a** man came in, and George explained that the cook was sick. 9. “We’re going to kill **a** Swede. Do you know **a** big Swede named Ole Anderson?” 10. As he swung, head down, into Talgarth Street he was conscious, suddenly, of **a** man running. 11. – not to be acquainted with **a** Jarndyce is queer, ain’t it, Miss Flite? 12. Every old gang has **a** Billy in it. 13. What **a** fool Rawdon Crawley has been to go and marry a governess! 14. After **a** pause Lord Henry pulled out his watch. 15. When all that is settled, I shall take **a** West End theatre and bring her out properly. 16. **A** woman in a fluttering shawl was creeping slowly by the railings, staggering as she went. 17. At last he heard **a** step outside, and the door opened. 18. When **a** government makes a bad mistake of judgement, the electorate turns against it as soon as it feels the effect.

Ex. 4. Analyse the sentences below. Identify how the contextual meanings of the bold type articles are realized in Ukrainian (as an identifying pronoun, a relative adjective or any other semantically/contextually suitable word). Translate the sentences into Ukrainian.

1. Desperately he came to **a** halt in front of one decent picture hanging on the walls. 2. I honestly think if **a** person’s **an** artist nobody ought to have any feeling at all about meeting him. 3. Life worried and bored him, and time was **a** vexation. 4. He is **a** man. 5. He was over to San Francisco yesterday looking for **a** ship. 6. “What’s that?” he replied to **a** question from Olney that broke in upon his train of thought. 7. “Yes, she is **a** peacock in everything but beauty”, said Lord Henry. 8. I have not laid eyes on him for **a** week. 9. They are always telling that it (America) is **the** Paradise for women. 10. Were people to gape at **the** mystery of his life? 11. “**An** eternity”, she tells me... 12. There is hardly a single person in **the** House of Commons worth painting – . 13. I want to place her on a pedestal of gold, and to see **the** world worship the woman who is mine.

14. Then he discovered Henley and wrote **a** series of sea-poems on the model of Hospital Sketches. 15. For **a** generation ... the Old Hundredth (night club) has maintained a solid front against all adversity. 16. So when a young man at the office suggested that we take a house together in **a** commuting town, it sounded like **a** great idea. 17. You can tell me **the** truth without giving me any of that lip.

Ex. 5. Substitute the articles in bold type for the appropriate particles (вже, навм'язно, просто, саме, маку, ще, etc.). Translate the sentences into Ukrainian.

1. I believe some pictures of mine had made a real success at **the** time...
 2. It was **the** passions about whose origin we deceived ourselves that tyrannised most strongly over us. 3. You are **the** type the age is searching for –. 4. It seems to be **the** one thing that can make modern life mysterious or marvellous to us. 5. Conscience is **the** trade-name of the firm. 6. You are **the one** man in the world who is entitled to know everything about me. 7. “Years ago, when I was **a** boy”, said Dorian Gray. 8. **The very** thought of it stirs me. 9. – when that was over and he had failed to kill his loneliness but only made it worse, he had written to her, the first one, **the one** who left him. 10. “I suppose, it’s **the** thing to do”, Macomber agreed. 11. “She went into **a** house –” – “Into **a** house!” Michael dived his cigarette-case. 12. I have this coloured laundress. She is **a** real character. 13. He says he wouldn’t sit down at the table with one (Negro) for **a** million dollars. 14. She is more than **an** individual. 15. “That’s better”, the sheriff said. “That’s **a** civil answer”. 16. “You should go and see Claud Brains. He’s **a** real genius. 17. I have no doubt it was not **an** accident, Dorian. 18. What **a** girl! 19. ... but I shall have to ask them what the name of **the** country is, you know. 20. It sounded **an** excellent plan, no doubt, and very neatly and simply arranged. 21. That will be **a** queer thing, to be sure! 22. Ah, that’s **the** great puzzle! 23. “What **a** curious feeling!” said Alice. 24. Either **the** well was very deep, or she fell very slowly.

Ex. 6. Point out the difference in the lexical meaning expressed by the indefinite and the definite articles signaling respectively the rheme and theme in the sentences below. Pay attention to the place which the rhematic and thematic nouns occupy in their Ukrainian variants.

1. As he passed the bronze statue of the Four Moors **a man’s figure** emerged from an old house on the opposite side of the shipping basin. 2. **The man** approached unsteadily along the water side, shouting an English song. 3. As they passed by the gateway of the Uffizi, he crossed

the road and stooped down at **a dark bundle** that was lying against the railings. 4. **The bundle** moved, and answered something in a low, moaning voice. 5. What a fool Rawdon Grawley has been to go and marry **a governess!** 6. But there was something about **the governess** too. Green eyes, fair skin, pretty figure. 7. It was as John had said – he and she just wanted to live and **the past** was in their way – **a past** they had not shared in, and did not understand. 8. I’ve written a lot of them (his sayings) down in **a book** for fear of losing them. 9. It is only fair that at the back of **the book** I would be allowed a few pages to myself to put down some things. 10. It was **an early morning** of a sunny day. 11. He remembered suddenly **the early morning** when he slept on the house-boat after her father died. 12. He wrote **a pamphlet** on Malt on returning to England. 13. She ... took an interest in **the pamphlet** on Malt: was often affected, even to tears. 14. There came **a morning** at the end of September when aunt Ann was unable to take from Smither’s hands the insignia of personal dignity. 15. **The morning** after a certain night on which Soames at last asserted his rights and acted like a man he breakfasted alone.