



SOCIOLINGUISTIC APPROACH TO THE SUBJECT OF LINGUISTICS

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ABSTRACT

The article deals with the sociolinguistic approach to the problems of linguistics. A sociolinguistic approach to the problem of linguistics requires taking into account such problems as language and society, the relationship of words and concepts, sociolinguistics and terminology.

KEY WORDS: *language and human being, linguistics, language and society, communication.*

DISCUSSION

Sociolinguistics, a branch of linguistics that studies language in connection with the social conditions of its existence. Social conditions mean a complex of external circumstances in which a language actually functions and develops: a society of people using a given language, the social structure of this society, differences between native speakers in age, social status, level of culture and education, place of residence, as well as differences in their speech behavior depending on the communication situation.

To understand the specifics of the sociolinguistic approach to language and the difference between this scientific discipline and "pure" linguistics, it is necessary to consider the origins of sociolinguistics, to determine its status among other linguistic disciplines, its object, the basic concepts that it uses, the most typical problems that fall within its circle competencies, research methods and directions of sociolinguistics formed by the end of the 20th century.

The fact that language is far from being socially uniform has been known for a long time. One of the first recorded observations that testify to this dates back to the early 17th century. Gonzalo de Correas, lecturer at the University of Salamanca in Spain, clearly distinguished the social varieties of the language: "It should be noted that the language has, in addition to the dialects that exist in the provinces, some varieties associated with the age, status and property of the inhabitants of these provinces: there is a language of rural residents, commoners,

townspeople, noble gentlemen and courtiers, a scientist-historian, an elder, a preacher, women, men and even small children".

The term "sociolinguistics" was first used in 1952 by the American sociologist Herman Curry. However, this does not mean that the science of the social conditioning of language originated in the early 1950s. The roots of sociolinguistics are deeper, and one should look for them not in American scientific soil, but in European and, in particular, Uzbek.

Linguistic studies, taking into account the conditioning of linguistic phenomena by social phenomena, were conducted with greater or lesser intensity at the beginning of this century in France, Russia, and the Czech Republic. Scientific traditions different from those in the United States have determined the situation in which the study of the relations of language with social institutions, with the evolution of society has never been fundamentally separated in these countries from "pure" linguistics. "Since language is possible only in human society," wrote I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay, "then, in addition to the psychic side, we must always note the social side in it. Linguistics should be based not only on individual psychology, but also on sociology".

Modern sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics. While this science was just forming, getting on its feet, one could argue about its status, but by the end of the 20th century, when in sociolinguistics not only the object, goals and objectives of research were determined, but also tangible results were obtained; the "linguistic" nature



of this science became quite obvious. Another thing is that sociolinguists have borrowed many methods from sociologists, for example, methods of mass surveys, questionnaires, oral polls and interviews. But, borrowing these methods from sociologists, sociolinguists use them in relation to the tasks of language learning, and in addition, on their basis, they develop their own methodological techniques for working with linguistic facts and with native speakers.

Each linguistic community uses certain means of communication - languages, their dialects, jargons, stylistic varieties of the language. Any such communication medium can be called code. In the most general sense, a code is a means of communication: a natural language (Uzbek, English, Somali, etc.), an artificial language such as Esperanto or a type of modern machine languages, Morse code, marine flag signaling, etc. In linguistics, it is customary to call language formations a code: language, territorial or social dialect, urban koine, etc.

A subcode, or subsystem, can also be divided into varieties and thereby include subcodes (subsystems) of a lower level, etc. For example, the Uzbek literary language, which itself is a subcode in relation to the national language, is divided into two varieties - the codified language and the spoken language, each of which has a certain self-sufficiency and differs in functions: the codified language is used in book-written forms of speech, and the spoken language is in oral, everyday life forms. In turn, the codified literary language is differentiated into styles, and styles are realized in a variety of speech genres; there is some semblance of such differentiation in spoken language.

Codes (languages) and subcodes (dialects, styles) that make up the socio-communicative system are functionally distributed. This means that the same contingent of speakers who make up a given linguistic society, possessing a common set of communicative means, uses them depending on the conditions of communication. For example, if we are talking about the subcodes of the literary language, then in scientific activity the native speakers of the literary language use the means of the scientific style of speech, in the field of office work, jurisprudence, administrative correspondence, etc. they are obliged to resort to the means of the official business style, in the sphere of religious cult - to the words and constructions of the religious-preaching style, etc.

In other words, depending on the sphere of communication, the speaker switches from one language to another.

A similar picture is observed in those societies where not one, but two languages (or several) are used. Bilinguals, i.e. people who speak two (or more) languages usually "distribute" their use depending on the conditions of communication: in an official

setting, when communicating with the authorities, one language is used predominantly, and in everyday life, in the family, when dealing with neighbors, the other). And in this case, we can talk about switching from one code to another, only the styles of one language, as in the first example, do not appear as codes, but different languages.

If in the process of communication we can switch from one language means to another, for example, when changing the addressee, while continuing to discuss the same topic, this means that we have a set of means at our disposal that allows us to speak about the same thing in different ways. This is an extremely important property of language, which provides the speaker with the opportunity not only to freely express their thoughts in this language, but also to do it in different ways. The ability of a native speaker to express the same meaning in different ways is called his ability to paraphrase. This ability, along with the ability to make sense of what is said and the ability to distinguish between right and wrong phrases, underlies a complex mental skill called language proficiency.

Variability manifests itself at all levels of verbal communication - from possession of the means of different languages (and, consequently, variation, alternating use of units of each language depending on the conditions of communication) to the speaker's awareness of the permissibility of different phonetic or accentual variants belonging to one language (in modern Russian literary language, these are variants of the type *було[шн]ая / було[чн]ая*, etc.).

From a sociolinguistic point of view, the phenomenon of variability deserves attention insofar as different language variants can be used depending on social differences between native speakers and on differences in the conditions of verbal communication.

This term appeared in linguistics relatively recently - in the second half of the 20th century. It is formed of two parts - a socio-part, indicating the attitude towards society, and the second component of the word "dialect"; it is, in essence, a contraction of the phrase "social dialect" into one word. A sociolect is called a set of linguistic features inherent in any social group - professional, estate, age, etc. - within the limits of a particular subsystem of the national language. Examples of sociolects include the speech features of soldiers (soldier's jargon), schoolchildren (school jargon), criminal jargon, hippie argo, student slang (see below for the terms "jargon", "argo", "slang"), professional "language" of those who work on computers, various trade argos (for example, "shuttle traders", drug dealers), etc.

The term "sociolect" is convenient to refer to diverse and dissimilar linguistic formations, which, however, have a common feature that unites them:



these formations serve the communication needs of socially limited groups of people.

The main goals of sociolinguistics are the study of how people who make up a particular society use language, and how changes in the society in which this language exists affect the development of language. These goals correspond to two cardinal sociolinguistic problems - the problem of social differentiation of language and the problem of social conditioning of language development.

For the current stage of development, the first of these problems is characterized by the following features:

1. Rejection of the widespread in the past straightforward view of the differentiation of language in connection with social stratification of society: according to this view, stratification of society into classes directly leads to the formation of class dialects and languages.

2. With the rejection of a straightforward interpretation of the problem of social differentiation of language and the recognition of the complexity of social and linguistic relations, another feature of the development of this problem in modern linguistics is associated: with a general tendency to identify systemic connections between language and society, sociolinguists point to the mechanism and a priori the problem, which declares the complete isomorphism (that is, the complete correlation of properties) of the structure of the language and the structure of the society it serves.

3. With regard to the development of the problem of social differentiation of language, modern sociolinguistics is characterized by a broader view of the phenomenon of variation of language means (which may be due to both social and intra-linguistic reasons), including such means that belong to relatively homogeneous language formations, which is, for example, the literary language.

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