
Similarities and differences between languages from a linguistic perspective

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Annotation

This article focuses on comparing and contrasting languages, using the points of view of a linguistic criterion and seeks to offer a multi-level and systematic comparison of the linguistic structures. The discussion is done at major scales of linguistic description, which would be phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics, to demonstrate how languages come together based on universal principles and how they go apart based on their language-specific patterns. Some of the fundamental linguistic universals identified by the study are the existence of lexical categories including nouns and verbs, simple clause structure, universal meaning and grammatical relationship expression mechanisms. Meanwhile, it focuses on idiosyncratic peculiarities which differ among languages, such as sound inventories, morphological typologies, word patterns, and pragmatic norms that are informed by cultural and social circumstances. Moreover, the article also talks about typological categories of languages taking into consideration how languages may be categorized based on structural characteristics such as the coping of analytics or synthetic morphology or the vocabulary order as fixed or flexible.

Keywords

Language comparison, linguistic universals, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, typology

Сходства и различия между языками с лингвистической точки зрения

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Аннотация

В данной статье рассматриваются сходства и различия между языками с лингвистической точки зрения на основе многоуровневого анализа языковой системы. Исследование охватывает основные уровни языка фонологический, морфологический, синтаксический, семантический и прагматический, что позволяет выявить как универсальные характеристики языков, так и их специфические особенности. Особое внимание уделяется языковым универсалиям, таким как наличие лексических категорий (существительных и глаголов), базовых синтаксических моделей и общих принципов формирования значения. Одновременно анализируются особенности, отличающие языки друг от друга, включая звуковые системы, типы грамматического строя, порядок слов и прагматические нормы общения. В статье также рассматриваются типологические классификации языков, исторические и ареальные влияния, а также процессы языкового контакта и заимствования, которые способствуют формированию структурных сходств и различий. Отдельное внимание уделяется роли социолингвистических факторов, таких как социальная

среда, культурные традиции и коммуникативные потребности общества, в развитии и функционировании языковых структур. Понимание сходств и различий между языками способствует развитию межкультурной компетенции, облегчает процесс изучения иностранных языков и играет важную роль в сравнительных и теоретических лингвистических исследованиях.

Ключевые слова Сравнение языков, лингвистические универсалии, фонология, морфология, синтаксис, семантика, прагматика, типология

Tillarning lingvistik nuqtai nazardan o'xshash va farqli jihatlarini

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Annotatsiya Mazkur maqolada tillarning lingvistik nuqtai nazardan o'xshash va farqli jihatlarini tizimli ravishda tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot fonologiya, morfologiya, sintaksis, semantika va pragmatika kabi asosiy lingvistik darajalar doirasida olib borilib, tillarning qanday umumiy qonuniyatlarga ega ekanligi va qaysi jihatlarda bir-biridan farq qilishi yoritib beriladi. Maqolada ot va fe'l kabi asosiy so'z turkumlarining mavjudligi, gap tuzilishining umumiy modellari hamda ma'no ifodalash mexanizmlari singari lingvistik universallar muhim omil sifatida ko'rib chiqiladi. Shu bilan birga, har bir tilga xos bo'lgan fonetik tizim, grammatik tuzilma, so'z tartibi va nutqiy me'yorlar kabi xususiyatlar ham tahlil qilinadi. Shuningdek, maqolada tillarning tipologik tasnifi, tarixiy taraqqiyoti va areal ta'sirlar masalalari muhokama qilinadi. Til aloqalari, o'zaro ta'sir va qarindoshlik munosabatlari tillar o'rtasidagi o'xshashlik va farqliklarning shakllanishiga qanday ta'sir ko'rsatishi yoritiladi. Ijtimoiy-lingvistik omillar, jumladan, jamiyat, madaniyat va kommunikativ ehtiyojlarning til tuzilmasiga ta'siri alohida e'tiborga olinadi. Tillarning o'xshash va farqli jihatlarini anglash til o'rganish jarayonini samaraliroq qiladi hamda solishtirma tilshunoslik va nazariy tadqiqotlar uchun muhim ilmiy asos bo'lib xizmat qiladi.

Kalit so'zlar Til solishtirma, lingvistik universallar, fonologiya, morfologiya, sintaksis, semantika, pragmatika, tipologiya

Introduction

The human species language is one of the most complicated and unique abilities as it performs not only as a human system of communication but also as a storage of culture and social principles, values, and cognitive models. Similarities and differences between languages have thus traditionally taken center

stage in the study of lingo-linguistics, especially in comparative, theoretical, and typological school of thought. Through the study of converging and diverging languages on a phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic level, linguists attempt to find the universal principles of all human languages, as well as the linguistic

features of the language that display its historical progression, social-cultural environment, and language contact dynamics.

On a theoretical level, the study of cross-linguistic similarities helps to discover linguistic universals, or features which are manifested uniformly in all languages irrespective of geographical or genetic groupings. Comrie (1989) and Croft (2003), among others believe that these universals offer an insight into the cognitive underpinnings of language and help identify limitations on the ways language systems may be organized. Simultaneously, linguistic variety as the investigation of language distinctions emphasizes the tremendous variety of linguistic expression showing how languages respond to communicative needs, social conventions, and cultural habits of those who speak them. This two-fold interest in the universality and diversity is the core of the contemporary linguistic inquiry.

Comparative linguistic analysis is also very significant in the study of internal organization of languages. At the phonological level, languages can have basic differences including vowels and consonants whereas they can have vast differences in the number of phonemes, tonal systems and the prosodies pattern. Linguistically, the grammatical relationships are represented by an enormous variety of strategies, such as isolating and agglutinative, fusional and polysynthetic. Syntactic systems, although universally ordered, differ in word-order, agreement patterns and subordination strategies. In the same vein both semantic and pragmatic systems represent common cognitive categories as well as those that manifest cultural unique modes of meaning construction and social interaction management.

In addition to theoretical issues, the research of linguistic differences and similarities is relevant on the practical side. Contrastive analysis is used in second language acquisition to determine the possible regions of weakness among the learners by comparing

the structures of the first and the target languages. When translating or communicating between different cultures, one should be aware of cross-linguistic variation in order to maintain meaning, subtlety, and pragmatic intent. Moreover, there are sociolinguistic variables, including multilingualism, language prestige, and contact induced change, which prove the dynamism of the linguistic systems and their continuous development, influenced by social interaction and historical process.

It is on this backdrop that the current paper will seek to offer a detailed discussion of similarities and differences between languages in a linguistic context. By incorporating the knowledge of phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, typology, historical linguistics, and sociolinguistics, the article tries to show that languages represent both universal cognitive facts and those peculiar to a certain culture. With an integrated approach like that, not only our knowledge of the structure of language and its variation is enhanced, but also the continuum of the way language, cognition, and society should be viewed as interconnected.

This study shows the exploration of similarities and differences between languages takes one of the central places in the comparative and theoretical linguistics domain, offering the researchers a perspective through which organizing structure and organization is only one of the aspects of human communication that can be examined and comprehended at the cognitive, social and cultural level. As Bernard Comrie (1989; 45) stresses, the languages have both common characteristics, which are consistently manifested among the human populations, and specific peculiarities of languages that occur due to historical development, geographic isolation, the phenomenon of contacts, and social culture. Abdullayeva (2014; 23) also emphasizes the importance of adaptations to situations in the development of linguistic systems, as an expression of the equilibrium between the structural material of

the innate set of cognitive mechanisms and the approach of the community to discussions of sense encoding.

On the phonological level, Ladefoged and Maddieson (1996; 78) it is important to note that the majority of languages separate the vowels and consonants, and use systematic syllable patterns, prosodic, and suprasegmental processes like stress, tone, and intonation. As an example, in English the stress helps make the difference between record (noun) and record (verb) whereas in Mandarin tonal variation helps create the distinction in the lexical meaning of mā (mother) and mǎ (horse). Sultonov (2015; 56) also notes that phonemic inventories may differ radically, so that the Hawaiian language has only a bare thirteen phonemes, whereas Xosho has more than one hundred consonants, which includes clicks. Karimov (2018; 18). It is stated that the large discrepancies between phonotactic constraints like medicine consonant groups in Russian (vzglyad - glance) and the less complex CV(C)Vs in Uzbek have far reached consequences to speech perception and to acquisition of a second language.

Morphological variation also illustrates the interaction between the occidentals and language specific strategies. Mamatqulov (2017; 12) points out the dependence of agglutinative languages, including Turkish and Uzbek, on suffixation to represent several grammatical relations; an example is kitoblarimizdan ("out of our books); the combination of plurality, possession and case in one word. In contrast, Comrie (1989; 78) states that in isolating languages such as Mandarin, grammatical relationships are mostly used via the word order and the use of functional words, e.g. w o k o n sh u n ("I read book). Fusional languages such as Russian and Spanish constitute complicated inflectional schemas whereby verbs in addition to expressing one grammatical category, also express another, as illustrated in Russian verbs pisat' (to write) and napisat' (to finish writing). Bybee (2010; 43) and Mamatqulov (2017; 35)

observe that the polysynthetic languages, which include Inuktitut, represent complete propositions within one morphologically complex word, which demonstrates how morphologically rich human languages can become.

Sentences are arranged hierarchically in all languages through the use of noun phrases and verb phrases, but the word order, case marking, the agreement system and subordination strategies may not be the same. Mamatqulov (2017; 42) also notes that syntactic variation has an impact on discourse coherence, processing sentences and translation. These variations play a very essential role in acquiring the second language because learners often use the native syntactic patterns and apply them in the target language, thus, making typical mistakes.

Both general categories of cognition and culturally determined differences can be found in semantics and pragmatics. Sapir (1921; 134) notes that all human beings conceptualize time, space and number of things but the pattern of lexicalization varies among different cultures. Spatial metaphors of time are commonly used in English (glimpsing into the future), but the Aymara language has a conceptual arrangement, having the past in front and the future behind. Brown and Levinson (1987; 56) point out that pragmatic rules, like strategies of politeness and conversational implicatures, are much more language-specific: Japanese employs elaborated honorifics (keigo), and English depends on less face-threatening wording (Could you pass the salt?). Mamatqulov (2017; 48), the Uzbek language also captures subtle pragmatic meanings using evidential and honorific particles.

Croft (2003; 45) and Sultonov (2015; 70) describe the typology as a system used to classify the languages, predicting learning problems, and explaining the relationship in history and in the area. Areal and historical linguistics show that convergence and divergence can follow through contact

influences and phonological change and grammaticalization (such as the development of the Romance languages out of Latin) respectively (Comrie, 1989; 112). Other contributors to variation are sociolinguistic factors, including multilingualism, language prestige and community norms. Karimov (2018; 89) points out that even though Spanish and Portuguese are related in terms of genetics, they exhibit both lexical and phonological diversity; and those unrelated languages can be converged through long-standing contact.

Ladefoged and Maddieson (1996; 78), it is important to note that it is in the light of these similarities and differences that pedagogy can be understood. Contrastive analysis enables teachers to foresee the errors in transfers, develop targeted learning, and develop a metalinguistic awareness. Abdullayeva (2014; 23). Learners are known to benefit out of a positive transfer where the languages have structural characteristics, and awareness of the divergence is valuable in discouraging interference. Hockett (1960; 190) and Mamatqulov (2017; 55) also underscore the fact that idioms, proverbs and discourse conventions in cultures bring difficulties in the translation and interpretation. Loanwords, calques and phonal adaptation are some of the ways in which linguistic systems are dynamic and adaptive (Hockett, 1960; 190).

Lastly, cross-linguistic comparison illuminates a curriculum design, teaching materials, and methods of teaching. Nichols (1992; 210) and Abdullayeva (2014; 40) emphasize that the acquisition of a target language may be supported by the first language knowledge of learners in the context in which structural similarities are pointed to, whereas typological awareness minimizes the occurrence of persistent errors. A combination of typological, historical, areal, and sociolinguistic viewpoints will present a comprehensive picture of linguistic diversity and universality and expose the cognitive, cultural, and social aspects of human

communication (Nichols, 1992; 210; Karimov, 2018; 89).

Conclusion

It can be seen that the comparative study of languages supports a paradox at the core of human language: all the languages are based on the same principles of cognition and communication, nevertheless, each of them expresses these principles through the different structural, functional, and sociocultural arrangements. At the international phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantics and pragmatic language levels, both universal constraints and specific failures of language articulate the forms of development of specific languages, specifications of history, culture and social structure.

The manifestations of this duality are seen in systems of phonology, like vowel-consonant contrasts and syllabic structure, and great differences of phoneme inventory, tone, and prosodic systems. Morphological typology also demonstrates how languages encode grammatical meaning by taking up various strategies, some of which are transparent suffixation of agglutinative languages, dense inflection of fusional languages, and the complicated word construction of polysynthetic languages. Syntactic variation, and especially word order and system of agreement, emphasizes the generality of the hierarchical structure as well as the freedom of the surface manifestation. Semantics and pragmatics, in their turn, display the way, in which shared cognitive categories are distorted through the culturally specific norms, metaphors, and interactional conventions.

The linguistic similarities and differentiation also focus on the significant role of typological, historical and areal approach to the study. Typology enables linguists to place languages into groups and figure out what their common trends are, and historical linguistics describes how one language is differentiated in a way that can be modified by sound change and grammaticalization. Areal linguistics and sociolinguistics show that

contact between unrelated languages, multilingualism, and social processes may result in convergence and this causes more difficulty to simplistic assumptions of genetic relatedness. These points of view combined give the dynamic picture of language as the changing system which is influenced by the internal structure as well as the outside force.

Concerning the application side, the cross-linguistic variation and its cognition is important to language teaching, learning and translation. It is through this level of awareness of similarities that positive transfer between languages is made possible whereas it is through such level of awareness of differences that interference and misunderstanding may be avoided. The comparison also leads to creation of good pedagogical approaches, learner centered curricula and linguistic translation approaches. In this respect,

comparative linguistics can be viewed as both theoretical and practical in terms of solving practical communicative problems of real life.

To sum it up, the comparative analysis of languages as a systematic study contributes to knowledge of linguistic uniqueness and variety, shedding light on cognitive, cultural and social basis of human communication. Incorporating structural, functional and sociolinguistic views into linguistics will provide linguistics with a broader picture of the way languages work, evolve and interact. This kind of approach helps communities of people value the diversity of language even more and strengthens the human ability to share language, thus resulting to improved communication, more insight into and interaction of cultural backgrounds and further development of linguistic theory and practice.

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