

WHETHER LANGUAGE IS SOCIAL PHENOMENON OR BIOLOGICAL NATURE OF HUMAN?

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Abstract:

When a people think about language, they try to find answers to the questions of what language is, how it came about, whether it is a part of man or not, and whether society has an impact on a language. Many linguists have done a lot of research on these questions and mentioned some facts. This article describes how language can be given a true definition, and discusses about what kind of phenomenon language is, social or natural one.

Аннотация:

Когда люди думают о языке, они пытаются найти ответы на вопросы о том, что такое язык, как он возник, является ли он частью человека или нет, оказывает ли общество влияние на язык. Многие лингвисты провели много исследований по этим вопросам и привели некоторые факты. В этой статье описывается, как языку можно дать истинное определение, и обсуждается, каким явлением является язык, социальным или естественным.

Key words: language, communication, society, social phenomenon, biological nature.

Ключевые слова: язык, общение, общество, социальное явление, биологическая природа.



What's a language? People live in a society always tend to communicate with each other in different ways. Facial expressions, gestures, writing, text messaging and others are such ways for communication. However, among them, people mainly use language to communicate with each other. Therefore, it's widely believed that language is only a means of communication. Is this opinion an exact answer to the question "What is a language?"? Different definitions were given to a language by many scientists. For example, according to Peter Trudgill "language is not simply means of communicating about something, it is also a very important means of establishing and maintaining relationships with other people" [P. Trudgill. Sociolinguistics: an introduction to language and society. p 1]. In order to clarify his idea, he gave a real life situation as an example. He mentioned that "it can be quite embarrassing situation if you stay in somewhere with someone whom you are not acquainted with". In order to avoid that situation, people tend to speak about some natural topics, for example, about the weather. It is not very interesting topic, but it is a great way to break silence and make relationship between two people who don't know each other. From this point of view, we can realize that language has a power which can make people close to each other.

For many years, lots of scientists have become interested in how language was emerged. It's widely argued whether language is biological part of human or not. In both cases, they gave valid reasons to support their ideas. For example, German scientist, Alexander Shleyxer claim "...language is a natural organism that has grown and developed based on certain laws" [M. Irisqulov. An introduction to linguistics. p 2]. They in turn grow old and die. Even, as an example, Latin and Sanskrit languages were shown by supporters of Shleyxer. According to Shleyxer, "...child can speak when he turns certain age". Of course, it's undeniable that every child has an innate ability to acquire language without any difficulties and any rules. "They do not go to language labs, and they are given no pattern drills to memorize"[Z.Salzmman, J.M.Stanlow, N.Adachi. Language, culture, and society. p 119]. In addition, it's true that languages are developed over the years, some words of a certain language are lost, and some being created by people. For these reasons, it can be said that Shleyxer's opinions about a language can be partly true.

However, other experts do not agree with this statement. They are in the favor of the opinion that language is a social phenomenon, not natural. Because the role of



society is essential for language acquisition. For example, even though children have an ability to acquire language, they can not learn language without people. In order to bring that ability on, there should be a family as a part of a society. "In fact, children seem to pick up the language spoken around them with very little effort" [Z.Salzmann, J.M.Stanlow, N.Adachi. Language, culture, and society. p 119] . Besides, if a person lives alone, he has no need to communicate with someone, and doesn't use a language. So, there is no language without a society. Another reason how society can influence on language is that the child learns to speak which language the people speak around him. "If my children had grown up in Tokyo, they would speak Japanese like other children there"[N.Chomskiy. New horizons in the study of language and mind. p 4]. If language was biological part of human, it would biologically pass down from generation to generation, but it can be seen that language is only related to a society where child live. For these reasons, it's clear that language is a social phenomenon, not natural one.

In conclusion, language is a tool for expressing thoughts, ideas, and emotions. On the one hand, Some people may think language is a biological part of a human regarding some of its features, however, on the other hand there's a strong relationship between language and society. Language is essential for social interaction and integration. There is no language without society. That's why language is considered as a social phenomenon.

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