
LANGUAGE AS A SOCIAL PHENOMENON

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Abstract

This topic forms an idea of the social character of language and different points of view on its origin. It also reveals the role of language in the development of society and the degree of influence of society on language: social and territorial differentiation of language, functional styles, etc.

Keywords: Language, society, culture, social and territorial differentiation of language, national language, literary language, norm, non-literary varieties of the national language (dialect, jargon, argot, dialect).

Introduction

As a social phenomenon, language is the property of all people belonging to one group. In the vast majority of cases, a group of people speaking one language ("language community") is an ethnic group (nation, nationality, tribe). Language is created and developed by society. Being a means of thinking and human communication, language exists only in a society of people. There is no language outside of society, just as there can be no society without language. The question of the connection between language and society has different solutions. According to one point of view, there is no connection between language and society, since language develops and functions according to its own laws (Polish scientist E. Kuryłowicz), according to another, this connection is one-sided, since the development and existence of language is completely determined by the level of development of society (French scientist J. Maruzo), or vice versa – language itself determines the specifics of the spiritual culture of society (American scientists E. Sapir, B. Whorf). However, the most widespread point of view is that the connection between language and society is two-sided. The influence of language on the development of social relations is evidenced, first of all, by the fact that language is one of the consolidating factors in the formation of a nation. On the one hand, it is a prerequisite and condition for its emergence, and on the other hand, it is a result of this process. In addition, this is evidenced by the role of language in the educational and upbringing activities of society, since language is an instrument and means of transmitting knowledge, cultural, historical and other traditions from generation to generation. Although language has its own, internal patterns of development (intralinguistic), they are influenced by the processes occurring in society. And this is natural: after all, language is a social phenomenon and, existing in society, it cannot but experience the influence of social factors (extralinguistic). Another form of society's influence on language is the social conditioning of language development. The processes of social development, changes occurring in the social order, in the social

structure of society, are reflected in language: they accelerate or slow down the pace of linguistic changes, the mechanism of which is regulated by internal patterns inherent in the language, and also contribute to the restructuring of some areas of the language system. For example, after the 1917 revolution, the number of speakers of the Russian literary language expanded significantly: if earlier it was mainly the bourgeois noble intelligentsia that spoke it, then after October, the masses of workers and peasants began to become familiar with the literary language. The process of democratization of the language took place. Workers and peasants brought their characteristic speech features into the system of the literary language. Dialectal, colloquial, and slang elements began to coexist and compete with traditional units of the literary language. This led to the penetration of some dialectisms and slang into the literary language (nechatka, neploladki, ucheba, gluhoman, smychka, etc.), to the emergence of new synonymous series (uchenie - ucheba; deficiencies - neploladki - defects; province - periphery - gluhoman; nechatka - nedascha - deficiencies). Language is influenced not only by the objective development of society, independent of the will of individuals, but also by the conscious activity of the state and various social institutions aimed at improving the language. Such activity is called language policy. Language policy may concern the most diverse aspects of the linguistic life of a given society. This may be, for example, the creation of alphabets and scripts for peoples who until then had only an oral form of language, the improvement of spelling, the development and organization of special terminology, etc. This conscious, targeted influence of the state on language is intended to promote more effective functioning of the language in various spheres of human activity.

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