

LANGUAGE VARIETY IN MODERN LINGUISTICS

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Abstract. The theory of language variety attracted many linguists' attention as well as Kazakh scientists. The investigation of this phenomenon gives us to understand the principles and laws of its diachronic and synchronic language functioning. The problem of variety isn't thoroughly investigated in terms of theory.

When we speak about the variety of language, there are a lot of valuable ideas. Although there isn't a unique point of view on the theory of variety. Alongside with the term language variety we can see the terms as variant, invariant, variety, variability. Having analyzed the investigations of Russian, foreign and Kazakh linguists, we should investigate this question from the different sides.

For example, from the position of general linguistics: the questions rise about the notion of "the variety ontology", "variant", "invariant", "types of variety", "factors of variety", "the borders of language variety". Evolutional development of language units is investigated from the point of history of language. The stratification and territorial realization of language variants are revised from the point of sociolinguistics.

In the recent years, the term variety of language is investigated in the aspect of intercultural communication. The variety of language is applicable to the all levels of language, it is investigated in all levels of language system, for example, in the level of phonetics, lexis and grammar, so it helps to solve the problems of phonology, syntax and semantics.

It should be noted out, that there isn't a unique terminology notion about "variety of language". It plays the main role in the language life. It fulfills important social functions, so it allows to differentiate spatial and social groups of speakers, to make the speech more concrete and expressive.

Despite of different views, it is necessary to differentiate the notion of "variability", "variety of language" and "variant". The difference between them was suggested by Saint-Petersburg phonological school.

Having analyzed the works of Kazakh linguists, we can see that the question is still unsolved, as there isn't concrete investigation of the theme.

Keywords: language variety, variant, invariant, variability

Introduction

The problem of language variability is one of the most complex, multifaceted and diverse in modern linguistics. Language as a functional system is in a state of continuous movement.

In any language, particulars are constantly changing while maintaining the main (general, invariant). According to the theory of "language drift" proposed by E. Sepir, language moves in time and space along its own course; individual speech variations move in a certain direction, determined by the "drift" of the language: "Language drift has its own direction ... only those individual variations that move in a certain direction are fixed in it, just as only some wave movements in the bay correspond to the tide and ebb. Language drift is carried out through the selection of those individual deviations that correspond to some predetermined direction that is not controlled by the speakers" (Sepir, 2001: 144). An inevitable consequence of evolution, a natural manifestation of the changes occurring in it, one of its fundamental properties is its inherent variability of linguistic units.

The general and particular problems of language variability have been studied for a long time, which allowed us to accumulate and generalize the vast practical material of many languages. However,

today, when the world has entered the era of globalization, many processes associated with the development of language, culture and other attributes of human society are taking new forms. This provokes the need to take a fresh look at the traditional issues of language variability.

Theoretical analysis

The study of the relationship of a particular language and its varieties (variants) interested language researchers back in the 12th century. A teacher at the Salamanca University Correas in 1626 described the phenomenon that is of interest to modern linguists as follows: “It should be noted that the language has, besides the dialects that exist in the provinces, some varieties related to the age, status and property of the inhabitants of these provinces: there is a language of rural inhabitants, commoners, townspeople, noble gentlemen and courtiers, a historian, an old man, a preacher, women, men and even small children. But a common language embraces all these varieties, subordinating them to its power, power and originality, and this language is well suited to every person, and the courtier can choose from it what is more to his taste, just as he chooses a suit for himself. But one should not think that the private style of the courtier is this single and common language. This is only part of it, because the courtier rejects much of what is useful and elegant in the language of a historian, elder, preacher, and others” (cited in (Vinaza, 1893: 60-61).

The first theory of variability was proposed simultaneously by representatives of the Prague Circle and Baudouin de Courtenay in the 1920s. She found her theoretical coverage in the work of N.S. Trubetskoy "Fundamentals of Phonology" (Trubetskoy, 1960: 361). Exploring the phenomena of the phonological level, N.S. Trubetskoy came to the conclusion that any phoneme can be realized in a number of sounds. All sounds in which the same phoneme is realized, he called it variants, and after defining the phonetic variant, he indicated the conditions under which two sounds should be considered either as the realization of two different phonemes, or as two variants of the same phoneme.

Investigations of N.S. Trubetsky about the variant found application in the development of this problem at different levels of the language, primarily lexical.

Along with linguistic and statistical studies, such scientists as K.S. Gorbachevich, R.P. Rogozhnikova, V.M. Solntsev are developing theoretical problems of language variants. These works emphasize that variants inevitably accompany language evolution; they appear as a result of the transformation of language means due to the contact of a literary language with dialects, professional speech, vernacular or jargon, and other languages.

V.V. Vinogradov and A.I. Smirnitsky was one of the first to carry out a theoretical analysis of the options. They laid the foundation for the study of formal grammatical and semantic variation of the word in the general literary system of the language.

Developing his concept of word forms, V.V. Vinogradov proceeded from the understanding of the word as the unity of all its sides, organized by a common “lexical-semantic core” of all its forms (Vinogradov, 1944). Unlike a number of other scholars (D. Bloomfield, A.A. Poebnya, A.M. Peshkovsky, D.N. Ushakov), he believed that all varieties of the morphological structure of the word, as well as its various syntactic-phraseological connections are grammatical forms of the word, and not separate words

In modern linguistics the great contribution on this theme was done by the following scientists as: G.V. Stepanov, E.A. Referovskaya, V.N. Yartseva, A.D. Schweitzer, Ph. Bosch, R. Jakobson, A.I. Smirnitsky, N.N. Stepanova, O.S. Akhmanova, N.Yu. Shvedova, V.M. Solntsev, etc.

The Kazakh linguists as I.K. Uyikbayev, Sh.Sh. Sarybaev, E.D. Suleimenova, S. Kenesbayev, A. Bolganbayev, R. Syzdykova, etc. also made investigations concerning the theory of language variety.

Some researchers (T.P. Lomtev, O.I. Moskalskaya, K.S. Gorbachevich, R.P. Rogozhnikova) suppose that starting point of highlighting the variants is in its structural design.

The next group of scientists (V.V. Vinogradov, A.I. Smirnitsky, M.D. Stepanova, N.N. Semenuyk, I.P. Raspopov, I.B. Khlebnikova, Z.D. Popova) point out that it is necessary distinguish between variability both in terms of expression and in terms of content.

The problem of variability in linguistics rises in full growth in the following cases:

- in the study of the "mechanism", "device" of the language, which can be called variant-invariant;
- when studying the functioning of the language and the transition from language to speech;
- in the study of intra-lingual factors of change and development of the language (variation and transformation of options into new entities);
- if necessary to explain the different appearance of "the same units" or their forms, explain different kinds of alternations under the influence of different factors;
- in a sociolinguistic study of the variation of the norm and the use of different manifestations of the same units for stylistic, expressive and normative purposes (Solntsev, 1984: 33).

The above mentioned, probably, does not exhaust all cases when there is a need to refer to the concept of variety, but is the most important and frequent cases.

Sometimes variety is interpreted very widely: along with modifications in the formal or semantic plan of the same linguistic units, it includes the forms that usually qualify as synonyms (O.S. Akhmanova, L.P. Evgenieva, V.S. Khrakovsky, V.P. Konetskaya, P.A. Rastorgueva, A.I. Cherednichenko).

With the widespread use of the term "variation", we can speak about national-state versions of language, the variation of dialect and sub-dialect language, the variation of sociolects, the age-related speech variation or variation of male and female speech, and even pragmatic variation (V.D. Devkin, A.I. Domashnee, G.V. Stepanov, A.D. Schweitzer). However, there are also such

concepts in which variant relations are related to duplet (L.P. Zaitseva, V.M. Filippova).

The investigation of language variety can be fulfilled from different sides. For example, from the position of general linguistics: the questions rise about the notion of “the variety ontology”, “variant”, “invariant”, “types of variety”, “factors of variety”, “the borders of language variety”.

The following definition is given in the Linguistic Encyclopedic Dictionary: variability (from lat. Variants ... - changing) (variability) - 1) idea of different ways of expressing a linguistic entity as its modification, variety or as a deviation from a certain norm. ... ; 2) a term that characterizes the way of existence and functioning of units of the language and the language system as a whole (LES, 1990).

By definition, V.G. Gak, variability is one of the fundamental properties of the functioning of a language (Gak, 2010: 4).

Variability is an indispensable feature of the language, it is determined by the language, imposed on them (Verbitskaya, 2001: 14).

According to N.M. Firsova, on the topic of “variability”, there is wide variability (both formal and semantic) of the terminological apparatus reflecting this concept. The terms “variability”, “variation”, and “variability” are very often used as equivalents of the term “variability”. There have been some attempts at their terminological delimitation, but not all of them have yielded positive results.

The term “variability” is defined by scientists in different ways: “partial variability”, “ability to modify”, “process of modification”, etc. These undertakings did not have any significant results. These terms continue to be used in parallel, and the most diverse interpretations are attributed to them (Firsova, 2000: 84).

The term “variety of language” in the dictionary of sociolinguistic terms is defined as the fundamental and universal peculiarity of the *language* and language units, providing its functioning and suitability. Each unit of the language, while remaining unchanged

in meaning, exists at the same time in a variety of *variants*, the language exists in territorial, social, stylistic, functional, national form (dictionary of socio-linguistic terms, 2007: 34).

Conclusion

Despite the various approaches, we adhere to the concepts of the Saint-Petersburg phonological school and try to distinguish between the concepts of “variability”, “variability” and “variability”. Variability (вариабельность) - a property of the language (or its levels) as a whole, the ability to vary regulatory tools. Variety (вариативность) - the interchangeability of options within the framework of a synchronous approach and in the framework of literature, normativity; the functioning of regulatory options in speech activity. Variantion (вариантность) is a combination of variants (both in synchrony and in diachrony), the use of which is noted in speech (literature - not literature; old - new; correct - incorrect, etc.) (Verbitskaya, 1976: 19).

In order to highlight the problem of variety in the language, one should take into account both the general features of the language and the specific cultural and historical conditions in which linguistic variation is carried out (Stepanov, 2004: 53).

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