MAJOR LINGUISTIC SCHOOLS IN THE HISTORY OF LINGUISTICS

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Abstract

This article explores the chronological development of major linguistic schools that have significantly influenced the field of linguistics. From the early prescriptive grammar traditions of antiquity to contemporary approaches rooted in cognition and functionality, each paradigm has shaped our understanding of language and communication. The paper highlights the contributions of key scholars and theories, providing insight into how linguistic science has evolved over time.

В данной статье рассматриваются основные лингвистические школы, оказавшие значительное влияние на развитие лингвистической теории и практики. Описана эволюция языковедческой мысли от античности до структурализма, генеративизма, функционализма и современных когнитивных и социолингвистических подходов. Освещаются ключевые теоретики и основные принципы каждой школы. Изучение этих школ помогает лучше понять природу языка и его роль в общении.

Ushbu maqolada tilshunoslik tarixida muhim o'rin tutgan asosiy tilshunoslik maktablari yoritiladi. Tilshunoslik tafakkurining qadimgi davrlardan boshlab strukturachilik, generativ grammatika, funksionalizm va zamonaviy kognitiv hamda sotsiolingvistik yondashuvlar orqali qanday rivojlanganligi tahlil qilinadi. Har bir maktabning asosiy nazariyotchilari, tamoyillari va ilmiy hissasi bayon qilinadi. Bu maktablarni o'rganish tahliliy fikrlashni kengaytiradi va til tabiatini chuqurroq anglashga yordam beradi.

Keywords: English: Linguistic schools, structuralism, generative grammar, linguistic schools, structuralism, generative grammar, functionalism, cognitive linguistics, sociolinguistics, historical linguistics, language theory, language analysis

Russian: Лингвистические школы, структурализм, генеративная грамматика, лингвистические школы, структурализм, генеративная грамматика, функционализм, когнитивная лингвистика, социолингвистика, историческое

языкознание, теория языка, анализ языка, философия языка

Uzbek: Lingvistik maktablar, strukturachilik, generativ grammatika,sotsiolingvistika, funksionalizm, kognitiv tilshunoslik, generative grammatika

Introduction

The history of linguistics reflects humanity's deep-rooted curiosity about language—its structure, origins, and use. As one of the oldest fields of inquiry, linguistics has undergone numerous transformations shaped by cultural, philosophical, scientific, and technological changes. From ancient Sanskrit and Greek grammarians to modern cognitive scientists, scholars have continuously sought to understand how language works and how it reflects the human mind.

The earliest known linguistic traditions can be traced back to Panini's grammar in ancient India (circa 5th century BCE), which introduced formal rules and meta-language still admired today. Similarly, the Greek philosophers Plato and Aristotle approached language philosophically, often linking it with logic and thought. These early approaches laid the groundwork for what would later evolve into traditional grammar, which dominated language study for centuries.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, linguistics began to take a more scientific form. The birth of historical linguistics, marked by scholars such as Jacob Grimm and Franz Bopp, introduced the comparative method, focusing on language change and reconstruction of proto-languages. This era emphasized diachronic analysis and the relationships between languages across time.

However, the real turning point came with the structuralist revolution, pioneered by Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure. His ideas introduced a systematic view of language as a set of interrelated elements, shifting the focus to synchronic analysis—studying language as a structured system at a given point in time. Saussure's concepts of langue and parole, and his emphasis on the arbitrary nature of linguistic signs, became foundational for many linguistic theories that followed. In the mid-20th century, Noam Chomsky's theory of generative grammar radically changed the field. He argued for the existence of a universal grammar embedded in the human brain, suggesting that language acquisition is an innate biological capacity. This marked the emergence of transformational grammar and the cognitive revolution in linguistics, which emphasized the mental representations underlying language production and comprehension.

Other schools also developed in parallel or as a reaction to Chomsky's theories. Functionalism, represented by scholars such as Michael Halliday, emphasized the role of language in social interaction and communication. This school focused on how language is used rather than how it is structured. At the same time, cognitive linguistics

emerged, integrating insights from psychology, neuroscience, and philosophy to understand language as part of general cognitive processes.

Moreover, advances in technology have given rise to new approaches such as corpus linguistics, which uses large collections of real-life texts to analyze language usage, and computational linguistics, which has become essential in fields like machine translation, speech recognition, and artificial intelligence.

Understanding these linguistic schools is crucial for language educators, researchers, and students alike. Each school has not only expanded our knowledge of language itself but also influenced language teaching methodologies, translation practices, discourse analysis, and sociolinguistic research. The dialogue between these schools continues to enrich the discipline, making linguistics a vibrant and interdisciplinary field.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the major linguistic schools throughout history have provided diverse yet complementary lenses through which to study language. From the prescriptive rules of early grammar traditions to the descriptive, scientific, and cognitive approaches of the modern era, each paradigm has offered valuable insights into the nature of language. As language continues to evolve alongside society and technology, so too will the theories that seek to explain it. Gaining a historical perspective on linguistic schools allows us to better understand current trends and anticipate future directions in language research and education.

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