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Mukhtorali Turdaliyevich Zokirov
Ferghana State University
candidate of philological sciences, docent
Fergana, Uzbekistan

Farhod Isomiddinov
Ferghana State University
candidate of philological sciences, docent
Fergana, Uzbekistan

ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF SYNCHRONOUS AND DIACHRONOUS SOCIOLINGUISTICS

Abstract: This article examines the issues of sociolinguistics, the relationship between language and society, the problems of synchronic and diachronic sociolinguistics, their common and distinctive features.

Key words: sociolinguistics, society, language, synchronous sociolinguistics, diachronic sociolinguistics.

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Introduction

Currently, no one doubts that language as a means of communication emerges and develops only in society. Consequently, language is a social phenomenon. Therefore, from the very beginning of the emergence of the science of language, linguists were interested in the problem of the connection between language and society. In any society, language acts as a means of accumulating, storing and transmitting the knowledge acquired by this society. Therefore, society and the social, economic and cultural changes taking place in it cannot but influence the various levels of the language. Equally, language has a significant impact on society. The literary processed form of any language, the stabilization of the norms of its use, have a significant impact on the sphere of everyday communication, contributes to an increase in the cultural level of the speakers of this language, and leads to the gradual erasure of dialectal differences. New words and phrases that appear in the language, new meanings of words that express new concepts that have arisen in society, in turn, help people to become more aware of the world around them, more accurately to convey their thoughts.

Therefore, the problems of the relationship between language and society attracted attention and aroused interest among linguists from different countries and linguistic directions. But the degree of this interest and attention was different in different periods of time. In the views of the ancient Greek philosophers, the problem of the social character of language was inseparable from the question of its origin. During the Middle Ages and the Enlightenment, when the accumulation of linguistic material took place, this problem was not urgent. Only with the development of theoretical linguistics, scientists increasingly begin to pay attention to this issue, pointing out the connection between the history of the language and the history of the people speaking it. In the works of J. Grimm, W. Humboldt, F. I. Buslaev, I. I. Sreznevsky, I. A. Baudouin de Courtenay, F. de Saussure, A. Meillet, J. Vandries and many other linguists, the emphasis was on that in the language you can distinguish the social and individual aspects of the language. Throughout the 19th century, the attention of linguists was mainly paid to the description and analysis of linguistic facts, and the study of the specifics of the main function of language

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- to be a means of communication in society - remained on the periphery of linguistic research.

The main

Problems of Synchronous Sociolinguistics

The differentiation of linguistics into synchronous and diachronic, associated with the name of F. de Saussure, was caused by the desire to overcome the objective difficulty of simultaneous research and description of: a) the system of language, that is, its elements in their synchronous interconnections and relationships, b) the dynamics of linguistic elements, and language as a whole, i.e. their descriptions from a completely different angle of view - from the standpoint of historical development. And although modern science does not recognize as convincing the specific arguments of F. de Saussure, put forward by him to substantiate the generally correct thesis: "... everything that relates to the static aspect of our science is synchronous, everything that concerns evolution is diachronic ...", synchrony denotes the "state of language", diachrony - the "phase of evolution" - nevertheless, a clear delimitation of the tasks of these two linguists and the choice of different methods of solving "synchronic" and "diachronic" problems is recognized as justified and fruitful not only for "internal", or "pure", linguistics, but also for sociolinguistics. Moreover, in modern sociolinguistics, the distinction between the synchronous, simultaneously existing, and the diachronic, successively changing in time, is recognized as an indispensable condition for observing the principle of scientific character in the description of language and its functioning in specific socio-historical conditions. Synchronous sociolinguistics and diachronic sociolinguistics, despite their novelty, are perceived as quite natural directions of social linguistics.

The object of synchronous sociolinguistics is all forms of language existence that function at a certain period in the history of society in the main spheres of human activity. Most of the works on synchronous sociolinguistics concern the modern period of the linguistic life of a particular people, state, linguistic region, and the whole world. The identification of "synchronicity" with "modernity" should not follow from this at all. The study of the language (the language situation and its components) of any of the previous periods of the life of the language can be synchronous. It is important that the analyzed facts are in the same chronological plane, and not taken arbitrarily from different eras.

The study of modern sociolinguistic situations turns out to be methodologically important in view of the accessibility of the object of observation, the possibility of conducting checks, clarifications, and the use of an experiment. On the basis of the synchronous study of modern linguistic material, it is possible to single out objects and units of

sociolinguistic analysis with greater accuracy, to work out the research procedure, description models, to check the explanatory power of the concepts and theories put forward, to create a conceptual and terminological apparatus, etc., which can then be used for sociolinguistic descriptions of other chronological sections that are more distant from us, as well as for the corresponding diachronic studies.

Just as there is no consensus on the subject of sociolinguistics, so, naturally, ideas about the content of synchronous sociolinguistics are also different. What is she studying? What is her area of expertise?

LB Nikol'skii believes that for synchronous sociolinguistics, "the essential are, first of all, those linguistic phenomena and processes that are conditioned and explained by social factors directly and directly."

Among the problems and objects of synchronous social linguistics are usually called: the study of the functions of language in society (the main functions and functions of "private", that is, "social", their forms of language existence, functional stratification of the language (languages) and individual forms of their existence, the study of linguistic situations and states, the development of methods and techniques for the sociolinguistic study of the language (languages), in particular these two ways, when the researcher starts from the language and moves towards the social structure society, or, on the contrary, starts from the structure of society and goes to the study of the language (languages) functioning in it.

Problems of diachronic sociolinguistics

The idea of separating diachronic sociolinguistics along with synchronous sociolinguistics arose by analogy with the division of general linguistics into synchronous and diachronic ones.

If we turn to the history of the science of language, then we can state that linguistics began its journey from the study of the facts of linguistic synchrony. In the aspect of synchronicity, general philosophical and particular issues of language in Greco-Roman linguistics (phonetics, teaching about parts of speech, syntax) were discussed. The same was basically the case for Arabic linguistics (grammar, lexicology). Linguistics in the Renaissance was descriptively synchronic, with its attention to living national languages, with its desire to cover all known languages of the world with dictionaries-catalogs, although at that time ideas were born and even concrete steps were taken of the historical interpretation of the facts of the language (questions of the origin of the language, etymology of words, explanation of the similarity of language groups by the commonality of their source).

Diachronic linguistics is the brainchild of the last centuries in the history of linguistics. XIX century. and the beginning of the XX century. passed under the sign of the almost undivided domination of historical

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(comparative historical) linguistics. During this period, the language was studied as a historical phenomenon, moreover, closely related to the people, its material and spiritual culture, although there was clearly a lack of concrete consideration of social factors in the evolution of the language.

Already in the XIX century, elements of science are born, which will then develop into an independent direction - social linguistics.

Back in the late 60s of the XIX century, I. A. Baudouin de Courtenay in his work "On the Old Polish language before the XIV century" in the history of the language distinguished two sides - external and internal - and pointed to the connection of external history in essence and material with the history of society and the history of literature (culture) ... "The history of language presents two sides: external (geographic-ethnological) and internal (grammatical). The material for the external history of the language coincides to a large extent with the material for the history and history of literature. For the internal history of the language, the material itself is the language itself, as a subject of research." ...

Since historical linguistics during its heyday did not separate the language from its socio-cultural basis, moreover, linguistics itself was perceived as an integral part of history, and language as a source and means of studying "individual epochs of the history of the people and, first of all, the history of its spiritual culture", then in historical linguistics, in its "external" and "internal" departments, one can find a lot of material, observations and conclusions useful for the construction of historical sociolinguistics.

Unfortunately, in this regard, the works of such Russian historians of the Russian language as A. Kh. Vostokov, F. I. Buslaev, A. A. Potebnya, I. I. Sreznevsky, F. F. Fortunatov, A. I. Sobolevsky, I. A. Baudouin de Courtenay, A. A. Bakhmatov, B. M. Lyapunov, M. M. Pokrovsky, research by Soviet scientists - first of all V. V. Vinogradov, V. M. Zhirmunsky, S. P. Obnorsky, F. P. Filin, B. A. Larin, I. K. Belodeda.

Many facts and observations of a sociolinguistic nature are contained in the works of foreign comparativists of the 19th and 20th centuries. For the construction of historical (diachronic) sociolinguistics, the experience of historical linguistics cannot be ignored.

In a number of modern works (for example, in the article by V. K. Zhuravlev "History of language and diachronic sociolinguistics") one can find the assertion that sociolinguistics owes its appearance to the demarcation of linguistics into internal and external. Internal linguistics went deep into the study of the systemic and structural structure of the language, external - into the study of the problems of the social nature of language and "took shape in sociolinguistics" in order to study the socially

determined patterns of functioning, development and interaction of languages.

Sociolinguistics itself, in the process of its "further splitting", gives rise to synchronic and diachronic sociolinguistics. Diachronic sociolinguistics is designed to investigate, according to V. K. Zhuravlev, "the external history of the language, directly conditioned by the development of society, the socio-economic, political and cultural history of the people: the dynamics of socially conditioned functions of language, socially conditioned interaction between dialects, interaction with other languages, dynamics of the linguistic situation, dynamics of language styles, etc. "

This, in essence, is what we are talking about when, following Yu. D. Desheriev, who distinguishes two lines of development in language: "functional" ("social pressure" on the development of language) and "intrastructural" ("pressure of the system"), K. Zhuravlev emphasizes that "the focus of diachronic sociolinguistics should be the first (functional) line of language development." Or even more definitely: Yu. D. Desheriev opposes "social pressure" on the development of language to the "pressure of the system". The solution to this problem could be undertaken by diachronic sociolinguistics as a special historical and linguistic discipline that studies the influence of the development of society and the mechanism of social pressure on language, the establishment of external, non-linguistic reasons for linguistic change. "

The main thesis of the historical-sociolinguistic concept of Yu. D. Desheriev is the proposition that "the functional development of a language is the development of its social functions." And if so, then the main problematic of historical (retrospective - in the terminology of Yu. D. Desheriev) sociolinguistics should be the development of the functions of language, most often "the expansion of the scope of its social functions."

Not considering it expedient to sharply oppose the external and internal history of language, especially the identification of diachronic sociolinguistics with the external history of language, to the subject area of diachronic sociolinguistics, we attribute the laws of the emergence and historical development of language, which are due to its social nature and equally relate to both its functional and structural sides.

The following problems should fall into the circle of direct interests of diachronic sociolinguistics:

- 1) the sociolinguistic aspect of the problem of the origin of language;
- 2) socio-historical types of languages;
- 3) the history of specific languages in the sociolinguistic aspect;
- 4) external and internal factors of the evolution of language in their interaction;

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5) interpretation of the concept of language progress;

6) the role of the spontaneous and conscious in the history of language;

7) issues of language policy and language construction, etc. [3; 100]

Conclusion

Sociolinguistics is a new discipline that complements and expands our understanding of language. If structural linguistics gave preference to the study of structural variability in the analysis of one language, then sociolinguistics focuses on the study of the functional variability of language in society, which has a manifold influence on the language and, in turn, is indirectly influenced by the language. The conceptual apparatus of sociolinguistics is being intensively developed.

Attempts by American sociolinguists, seeking to find correspondences between social and linguistic structures and transferring the methods of formal analysis of language to sociolinguistic categories, to a

certain extent contribute to the study of the mechanism of the influence of social factors on speech behavior. But, experiencing the strong influence of various positivist concepts - non-behaviorism, phenomenological philosophy, etc.

In conclusion, it should be said that the study of the social conditionality of language, which sociolinguistics deals with in a broad sense, helps to penetrate even deeper into the nature of language, to clarify the conditions for its functioning in society, for there are deep and direct connections between the social functions of language and the language system.

The content of sociolinguistics, like any social science, is conditioned by a certain philosophical base. The American School of Sociolinguistics proceeds from a subjective and objective idealistic understanding of social processes.

There is no doubt that the emerging connection between linguistics and sociology on the basis of historical materialism will make it possible to more fully clarify the nature of the causal relationship between language and society.

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