

Theoretical Foundations of Modern Approaches to Linguistics

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Abstract. *Modern approaches to linguistics include a number of theoretical foundations and methodologies. Among them, the following main areas can be distinguished.*

Key words: *Cognitive linguistics, Generative grammar, Structuralism, Discourse analysis, Corpus linguistics, modern linguistics, Pragmatics.*

Structuralism: This approach studies language as a structure, that is, it focuses on the relationships between the elements of the language (words, grammatical rules). Ferdinand de Saussure is one of the founders of this approach.

Structuralism is an approach to the study of language and culture that focuses on the relationships between elements. This theory was developed mainly in the mid-20th century and has been used in many fields, including linguistics, anthropology, psychology, and literary studies. The main principles and important figures of structuralism are as follows

1. 1. The study of language as structure: Structuralism studies language not as individual words or sentences, but rather through their interconnection and structure. Language, according to Saussure, is seen as the relationship between the "signifier" (sign) and the "signified" (meaning).

Generative grammar: This theory, developed by Noam Chomsky, views language as a natural faculty of the human mind. It seeks to formalize the structure and grammatical rules of language. Generative grammar is an approach in linguistics, developed in particular by Noam Chomsky, that focuses on the study of the internal structure of language and its rules. This theory views language as a set of rules that can be used to create an infinite number of grammatically correct sentences. The main principles and concepts of generative grammar are:

Basic principles

Grammatical structure: Generative grammar views language as a multi-layered structure, encompassing phonological, morphological, and syntactic aspects of language. Each layer has its own rules and structures.

Syntax: Chomsky paid great attention to syntax. He proposed the concept of "transformational grammar" to describe the syntactic structure of language. This approach shows the process of creating and changing syntactic structures.

Cognitive linguistics: This approach studies language in relation to human thought processes. It studies the relationship between language and thought, analyzing how language helps to express thoughts. Cognitive linguistics is a linguistic approach that studies language as part of human thought and consciousness. This theory views language not only in terms of grammar or syntax, but also in terms of its relationship to meaning, context, and social factors. Cognitive linguistics understands language as a system that is shaped by human thought and experience.

Basic principles

Language and thought: Cognitive linguistics emphasizes the interrelationship between language and thought. Language is an expression of human thought, and linguists must take cognitive processes into account when studying language.

Meaning and Context: Cognitive linguistics studies the relationship between the meaning of language and its context. Meaning depends not only on the uniqueness of words, but also on the context in which they are used.

Metaphor and Metonymy: Cognitive linguistics views metaphors and metonymy as fundamental elements of language. These concepts play an important role in expressing human experience and help structure thoughts.

Categories and Classification: How humans classify and categorize the world is an important issue in cognitive linguistics. Language helps to express these categories.

Categories and classification are important concepts in cognitive linguistics. These concepts refer to the processes of organizing, organizing, and representing information in human thought and language. Categories and classifications affect how people understand the world and how they express their experiences.

Categories are conceptual groups that group objects, events, or ideas that share similar characteristics. People divide the world into categories to make their experiences easier to understand and remember. For example: Animals: cats, dogs, birds.

Discourse analysis: This approach studies language not only at the level of individual words or sentences, but also in the broader context of which they are composed, that is, at the level of text and discourse. It takes into account communication processes and social context. Discourse analysis is a research method used to study language and communication processes, their context, and their social significance. Discourse analysis considers not only the grammatical and lexical aspects of language, but also its social, cultural, and political context. This method studies how language is used to transmit information, form opinions, and manage social relationships.

Key Aspects of Discourse Analysis

Context: Discourse analysis takes into account context (social, cultural, historical). Every communication and writing occurs in a specific context, and this context determines its meaning.

Purpose: The purpose and audience of the communication are important. In analyzing, it is necessary to determine who is being addressed and for what purpose.

Social Relations: Discourse analysis studies the social relations between individuals participating in communication. These relations may include aspects such as power, authority, equality or inequality.

Rhetoric and Stylistics: Discourse analysis also analyzes the styles, rhetorical devices and language tools in language. Through this, it is possible to understand how the author expresses his opinion and how he influences the audience.

Identity: Discourse analysis studies how the identity of an individual or group is formed and expressed. How people present themselves through language and how they are perceived by others.

Sociolinguistics: This field studies the relationship between language and society. It analyzes how language is used in social, cultural and political contexts. Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that studies the relationship between language and society. It analyzes how language functions in social contexts, what role it plays in communication between people, and how language is related to social factors. Sociolinguistics considers language not only grammatically or lexically, but also its social, cultural, and economic contexts. Sociolinguistics views language not only as a means of communication, but also as an integral part of social life. It studies how language functions in social contexts, how it shapes relationships between people, and what identities can be expressed through language. This field is developing at the intersection of disciplines such as linguistics, sociology, anthropology, and psychology. **Pragmatics:** This approach is concerned with the meaning of language

and its use in context. It studies how utterances acquire meaning in communication. Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies the practice of language in communication, that is, how words and phrases are used in meaning and context. Pragmatics takes into account factors outside the language itself, such as context, the people involved in the communication, and their intentions.

Corpus linguistics: This methodology studies language based on large volumes of written or spoken texts. Through corpora, the actual use of the language, lexical and grammatical features are analyzed.

Corpus linguistics is a branch of linguistics that is based on the use of corpora (i.e., large collections of written or spoken texts) in the study and analysis of language. Corpus linguistics uses statistical and computer technologies to study the structure, lexicon, grammar, and pragmatic aspects of language.

Corpus: A corpus is a collection of texts related to a particular language or dialect. They are often collected from various sources (literature, media, academic articles, etc.). Corpora often come in various formats (e.g., electronic).

In modern linguistics, these approaches are seen as complementary and different methods. Each approach helps to understand language from its own perspective and serves to develop different directions in linguistic research.

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