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Translation/interpretation and language consciousness in dynamic synchrony: mental boundaries of a language (on example of the Russian language in Moscow)

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Abstract

The first part of the issue deals with actual need for a new dynamic non-structuralist language model in globalization era; two psycholinguistic concepts are being considered: associative-verbal net and language consciousness. The second part is devoted to perspectives of their research. On the basis of the everyday life theory some options of the language consciousness investigation are demonstrated by means of a new concept "naive interpretation/translation". Its pattern is discussed; a new term "mental language boundaries" is offered.

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1. Language modeling in globalization era

Scientists are becoming more and more concerned about the basic modern process that is globalization which in most cases is referred to as a set of processes causing the formation of social and industrial bases of unified mankind (Gritsenko and Kirilina, 2010; Blommaert, 2010; Coupland, 2010). Here we aren't discussing the foreign linguists'

* Corresponding author. *E-mail address:* alkira@list.ru points of view on globalization in its broad and narrow meaning. For more details on the problem see (Kirilina, Gritsenko, and Laletina, 2012).

Globalization has set in motion the majority of languages and has made for several significant processes:

- the change of technical communication conditions and the media of language functioning itself;
- the increased intensity and the growth of language contacts: languages that didn't used to interact or did it to a certain limited extent now are beginning to interact; multilingualism is increasing; the spheres of language functioning and social prestige of languages are changing; there is a "reformatting" of linguistic situation, etc.;
- the formation of a new reality mainly due to the change in language world image rearranged for reflecting new phenomena and creating new ties between semantic fields for serving new social institutions etc.; the significance of language ideologies is growing; the mechanisms of social construction are becoming more prominent; the dynamics of language changes is accelerating.

Galloping pace of globalization demands regular monitoring of linguistic situation and intensified attention to the reflection between these rapid changes and to their verbal interpretation in consciousness of a human being who is a native speaker of a particular language.

Thus, the necessity of renewing theoretical models of a language is evident. Under conditions of dynamic synchrony the differentiation of language and speech worked out for structuralism doesn't allow to describe completely the processes and tendencies of language development. Besides, nowadays when it's a matter of recording the indications of development and changes, and of looking for the explanations of these changes rather than a matter of structure description convenience, within the framework of such a model the structural definition of a language as a system abstraction fails not only to study but also to legalize research of language dynamics. Dynamic synchrony, to whose origin many researchers currently pay attention, presupposes the elaboration of apparatus and methods which accord with the pace of language changes, with its fluctuation and with the demands of a new episteme.

Apparently the new theoretical construct must take into consideration social and psychological aspects to a larger degree than a structural one does. It's even more important when we speak of the fact that globalization "stakes destinies" of languages, and the opportunity itself of the further life or death of a language is social and is outside its (language) system arrangement. Nevertheless, even nowadays at scientific forums during the discussions of development and state of a language (for example, of Russian) it can be heard that the phenomenon under consideration is not a language, but speech. Meanwhile, maintenance of strict division between the two scientific constructs today doesn't allow to progress in describing rapid changing linguistic and social situation as well as in psychological one. Analysis of everyday life of a language, recording of tiny changes and monitoring of language consciousness are necessary.

Foreign researchers point out the necessity of working out new theoretical methodological apparatus of linguistics as well (Fairclough, 2006; Blommaert, 2010; Coupland, 2010).

In Russian psycholinguistics a number of methodological innovations is offered and corroborated. The reliable empirical basis was created by data gathering and the further working out of Russian Associative Dictionary (RAD 1994-1998): "Using the materials of Associative Dictionary we can find new ways of researching the mechanisms of speech influence and behavior, as well as of studying semantic laws in a language on the whole, principles of correlation between semantics and syntax in speech and in a language, the socialization tendencies of individual semantic changes and finding new types of associative connections" (Ufimtseva, 2004, p. 190).

Generalizing the data obtained during the preparation of Russian Associative Dictionary, Yu.N. Karaulov (1999) worked out inductive dynamic model that is the associative verbal net which represents a language in a pre-speech readiness. The working out of the associative thesaurus allowed to objectify this construct: "Associative thesaurus represents a means of associative verbal net registration (fixation) as the basis of native speaker language capacity" (Karaulov, 1999, p. 7). The foundation of this approach is a linguistic construction that is a method presupposing "creation of a new research object possessing the properties of the reality under study, namely language consciousness" (Karaulov and Filippenko, 2009, p. 5).

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