The Issues Related to Studying of Language and thought in Cognitive Linguistics

Ahmedova Matlubaxon Ibragimjonovna [1] *, Tuxtanazarova Sarvinoz Umidjon qizi* [2]

Abstract: In this article, various opinions and considerations about whether language is a social or natural phenomenon are considered, and it is emphasized that it is a social phenomenon. At the same time, the issues of the relationship between language and thought and its study in cognitive linguistics are considered.

Keywords: natural phenomena, social phenomena, universal grammar, linguistic units, physiological processes, socialization process, communicative function, Cognitive linguistics, Gardner's Hexagon, artificial intelligence, anthropology and philosophy, cognitive psychology.

What language is, how it appears, and what kind of phenomenon it is, have been the cause of debate by scientists since the emergence of linguistics. Looking back at history, many studies have been conducted to determine whether language is a natural or a social phenomenon. This is important not only in traditional linguistics but also in modern linguistics. Noam Chomsky, who is considered the father of modern linguistics, although this idea is not approved by most linguists, in his theory of universal grammar, all languages have similar structures and rules, children everywhere learn the language without the same difficulty that he was born with existing basic knowledge and the ability to understand language.[3]

E. Saphir has expressed this opinion by comparing the example of human ability to walk and speech. In his opinion, these two phenomena look like natural phenomena, even if no one deliberately teaches a child to walk, due to the complex known as biological heredity, the human nervous system and begins to walk with the interaction of his muscles, in a normal state, a person is born with the ability to master the art of walking. It is written in the destiny of a person to speak not only because he was born in the bosom of nature, but also because he was born in a society with certain traditions.[4]

J. Brunner, a psycholinguist who studied the formation of speech in children, emphasizes that language is formed as a result of interaction, proving that it is not an innate ability, and mentions that only some features of speech activity, in particular, attention, can be a key. [5]The child observes the things and events around him, his family members, first of all he receives the information to his mind, forms an image, and then expresses it through linguistic units. He receives information through his senses, and although he does not yet have the ability to express his thoughts through speech, objects occur in his mind, he begins to speak at different times due to factors such as communication, heredity, individual character, and temperament.

It is possible to cite the example of the girl who lived in the jungle, separated from people, that supports the opinion of Saphir. In 2017, a girl who was in the north-eastern jungles of Cambodia at the age of 8 and was found 19 years later that became famous in the world of media.[6] Although he has mastered physiological processes such as walking and running, which are natural phenomena for humans, speaking, talking, and being able to express his thoughts through speech time by times

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[1] Teacher at F.S.U

[2] Second course MD student at F.S.U

[3] https://www.healthline.com/health/parenting/toddler-sign-language#TOC_TITLE_HDR_1

[4] E.Saphir.Language: An Introduction to the Study of Speech.1921

[5] .Брунер Дж. Психология познания. М.: Прогресс, 1977. -412 с.

[6] Thelanguageguy.blogspot.com

gradually vanished due to no socialization process. So language is not a natural phenomenon, but a social reality. If we look at history, certain languages have developed and become world languages, some have disappeared. As a result of the discovery of America and its occupation by the British and French, many Hindu languages met their end, because the number of indigenous people decreased, the number of speakers was reduced, and the languages of the occupying countries performed the communicative function. Therefore, language and speech cannot be imagined separately from society, on the contrary, they are the basis for each other's formation.

Therefore, language is not a natural phenomenon, it is a social phenomenon. Cognitive linguistics, which is considered an anthropocentric paradigm, considers language as a product of human thinking and studies how information is received, processed and transmitted. The study of the relationship between language and thinking by linguists created the ground for the emergence of macro linguistics, in particular, cognitive linguistics. Cognitive linguistics appeared in the 70s of the XX century, and it is not based on the internal structure of language. Linguistic scientists such as Whorf J. Lackoff, R. Langacker, L. Talmy, G. Miller, J. Bruner, Ch.Fillmore F. Boas and E. Saphir made a great contribution to the development of this field. In contrast to the structural paradigm, cognitivists emphasized that it is not enough to learn the language according to the internal structure of the language, and that it is influenced by external factors, in particular, they paid attention to the relationship between the human mind, the ability to divide into categories, pragmatic, interactive, functional principles and the features of symbolism and economy in it. At the heart of cognitive linguistics is the study of the meanings of language units in themselves and in context, and therefore the term concept is widely used in this field.

Cognitive linguistics is considered an interdisciplinary approach that includes concepts from various disciplines, and the American psychologist H. Gardner noted that cognitive linguistics connects 6 disciplines. In the diagram below, the solid lines indicate a strong connection, the solid lines indicate a partially lower level of connection, and this connection constitutes cognitive linguistics. Technical progress has led to historical changes in linguistics, and cognitive linguistics, like computer algorithms, tries to determine how information undergoes processes in the human mind. In the figure given below is depicted what kind of fields are interrelated with each other that involves cognitive linguistics
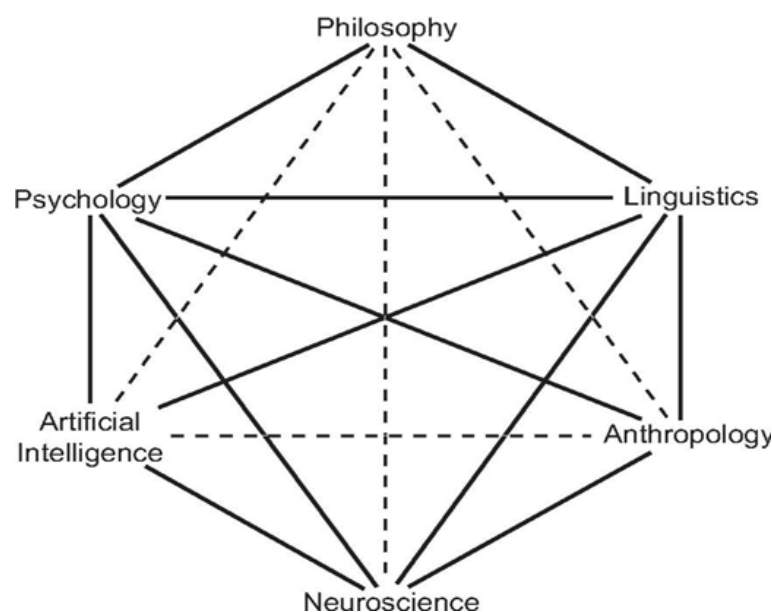

Figure1[7]

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[7] https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Culture-and-Cognitive-Science-Cole/8923ea2919e9f33df71192666c824d0bb0322b76

While the connection between artificial intelligence, anthropology and philosophy is realized indirectly, linguistics has a direct relationship with all fields, and cognitology, that is, the central aspect of the science of human cognition, forms the basis of this science. It is one of 3 fields: computer science - the creation of programs capable of performing actions performed by humans; cognitive psychology - the psychological aspects of the cognitive process; the emergence of the theory of generative grammar in linguistics.[8]

The connection between language and thought is revealed in this field, and now the focus is not on the structural study of the language, but on the way information is received, perceived, and new ones appear in the mind of the user, language or speaker. It should be noted that the emergence of cognitive linguistics is connected with the invention of the computer in the 20th century, was interested by not only the representatives of natural science but, humanitarian including linguistic field that made it possible for linguists to make a new turn within their discipline, the operation of algorithms on a computer increased interest in what processes it covers in the person who is its creator.

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