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Study of Synonymy in Western Linguistics

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Annotation
this article is a small study of when synonymous words began to form as a separate species in western linguistics, who studied them and to what extent, how the processes of development of synonymous words in general went. The article describes the concept of synonymous words and synonymy in Plato, V. von Humboldt, A. A. Potebnya and F. The opinions of the De Saussure were considered.

Keywords: synonyms, phenomenon of synonymy, noun, ontological antinomy, linguistics, neutral, dominant, language, speech, row of synonyms, singular, type, category, coloring.

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It is appropriate to consider that the study of the phenomenon of synonymy began with the philosophy of ancient times. Because first of all, it was the thinkers of ancient times who drew attention to the fact that in their opinion about the linguistic form and the nature of the name there are several names for one thing. This feature of language has its philosophical basis through the use of the category of “similarity and difference”. This philosophical category is ontological antinomy, which determines the essence of synonymy.

Ancient Greek philosophers are recognized as the starting point of efforts in the study of the phenomenon of synonymy. The state and appearance of the concept of synonymy, as we know it today, is completely different from the previous views about it, of course. A language is a unit that does not stop from forming, expanding. For this reason, first of all, it took a certain period for the concept of synonymy to form perfectly and have its own boundaries, then it took time for it to chase away linguistic units that would not stop changing. As noted above, this phenomenon was among the first to begin to take shape in Western countries, which were considered the foci of philosophical views.

In Plato's dialogue "Cratylus", special attention is paid to the relationship between the individual, the animal, the thing and the processes around us in general[1]. In this dialogue, Plato notes the difference between a person and an animal that constantly tries to compare one thing to another from the Socratic language. He compares: "when a person sees something, that is, when his eyes progress something, he immediately pays close attention and begins to think about what his eye

[1] Платон. Полное собрание сочинений в 4-х т.,Т2 / Платон – М.,1999

has advanced. That is why, unlike all animals, he was called “Man”, that is, what is around man is the only creature capable of progressing phenomena with his eyes and thinking about it”[2] .

In addition Plato also works on comparing the names given to the gods, their types, their peculiarities, their meanings, in a situation unique to that time. For example, in one of his footnotes, he cites the existence of several names of some gods, and assesses this phenomenon – the fact that one God is referred to by several names, that each name given to them is correct in that it represents a special characteristic in its own right. If this is seen by today's views, it is revealed that a meaning is actually being understood that corresponds to the essence of synonyms, that is, synonyms are also different manifestations of the neutral word in the line of synonyms based on the colorfulness and subtlety of meaning.

Plato thus reveals with his thoughts the ability of a person to think, for example: the ability to discursiveness, that is, to be able to relate phenomena through thinking, to be able to see common and different aspects in them.

The problems of synonymy, the study of its essence, the most effective way to study the specific features of synonymous proximity between words are successfully solved within the framework of the philosophical category "uniqueness and differentiation". Discreteness of linguistic units implies their differentiation from each other, and differentiation can be considered as the initial stage of discreteness. In order to give a name to something, it is necessary to identify the characteristics that distinguish this thing from other things of the same type. And the difference is established in the boundaries of uniqueness.

"If a person's intellect begins to understand similarity, then this means that it has broken the limits of its intellect. If this situation has occurred, then this person sees not only similarities, but also differences"[3]. So, a person can observe the difference in different things by finding similarities with the help of his mind. By using this ability in language and speech, the emergence of synonymy, antonymy, homonymy, paronymy and many other language units was achieved.

W. von Humboldt is one of the first linguists who paid attention to the synthesis of language and speech, as well as the distinction between these concepts. In his teaching, language appears simultaneously as a form of thought, a whole organism, and an activity: "Language is a constantly renewed expression of the soul, which uses the activity of sounds to convey thought"[4]. Immediately after this definition, Humboldt writes: "Strictly speaking, this definition is suitable for any speech activity, but in the true sense, language can be understood only as a whole set of speech activity actions"[5].

W. von Humboldt understands that language can be effective only when it is speech, i.e. language combinations fulfill their function. Language is a stock of words, a system of rules, "and ultimately it is an independent unit that has become an independent force over thousands of years"[6], however, only in living speech is such a collection of words and rules effective: with the intellectual power of each generation, the elements of the language existing in the mind of each individual are modified, updated, refined based on accumulated experience, added new characters and features will be highlighted and filled[7]. In his research, W. von Humboldt defines two main criteria that distinguish language and speech: the individual character of speech and the objective

[2] Look above
[3] Виттенштейн Л. Философские исследования / Людвиг Виттенштейн // Философские работы / Пер. с нем. М.С Козловой и Ю.А.Асеева / М.,1994/ст.273
[4] Гумбольдт, В. фон. Избранные труды по языкознанию / Вингельм фон Гумбольдт. – М., 1984/ст 70
[5] Look above pg.71
[6] Look above pg.82
[7] Look above pg..82

state of language[8]. "Each person or individual uses language as a tool to convey his or her unique aspects, thoughts, goals and desires to others, so language is a tool that transforms subjectivity into objectivity" [9].

W. von Humboldt's thoughts and observations served as a way to reveal the specific characteristics of language in the form of speech. Another scientist who followed this path is A. A. Potebnya. However, his views differ from those of W. von Humboldt.

A. A. Potebnya believes that "In general, there is no common language, only languages and their types, including personal language, languages that change depending on space and time." In his studies, speech is recognized as a part of the general whole, that is, language; a part of the meaning and elements included in the speech is visible, therefore, to understand the speech, it is necessary "its existence", that is, it must become a practical phenomenon[10]. It is also important for the listener to have an idea of the event or a specific situation presented in the speech, and at the same time, the concept that is happening outside of his mind"[11]. After all, the lexical meaning has a more precise meaning only when it occurs practically, that is, when it is formed in speech, because "speech, in turn, exists as a part of a larger whole, that is, language"[12].

These ideas seem to be an extended and original continuation of Humboldt's views.

At the same time, A.A. Potebnya (like Plato and Humboldt) emphasizes that understanding of the world is based on comparison. In this regard, Hegel also said that "resemblance occurs only by finding approximate differences, and difference acquires meaning by finding an existing similarity." In the end, we achieve difference through similarity, and similarity through difference"[13] said. Scholars' opinions diverge at this point, the interdependence of similarity and difference in language, its polysemy, synonymy, antonymy, etc. creates a basis for systematization in related forms.

So, the scientists of the western countries made a great contribution to the development of not only synonymy, but also many other language units. F. De Saussure is another one of the scientists who has significant influence in terms of the results of his research.

Saussure's views on language and discourse have long been relied upon in linguistics. F. De Saussure describes the concepts of language and speech as concepts of a completely different nature. Language and speech are essentially interrelated, but not interchangeable entities. Speech is presented as an activity of the speaker, which serves to convey the language in practice, and language is presented as a finished product developed by the speaker. Language is an object, a system external to a person, in order to have it, it is necessary to master it, to learn it, as a result, it serves you to convey your thoughts to others and to understand them too, in this respect, language is supposedly members of the community. is similar to a contract concluded on the basis of mutual benefit[14].

Based on Saussure's views on language and speech, a tendency to separate language synonymy and speech synonymy has begun to be observed in lexicology. Many researchers deny the

[8] Л.Г. Зубкова ОБЩАЯ ТЕОРИЯ ЯЗЫКА Издательство Российского университета дружбы народов Москва – 2002/ ст.141
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[10] Потебня, А. А. Мысль и язык. Собрание трудов / А. А. Потебня. – М., 1999/ст.8
[11] Look above
[12] Зубкова, Л. Г. Общая теория языка в развитии / Людмила Георгиевна Зубкова: Уч. пособие. – М., 2002/ст.417
[13] Виттенштейн Л. Философские исследования / Людвиг Виттенштейн // Философские работы / Пер. с нем. М.С Козловой и Ю.А.Асеева / М.,1994/ст.275
[14] Look above

possibility of studying synonymy in speech at all, because speech activity is formed based on the individual views of each person.

As a general conclusion, it should be noted that the foundation of the formation of synonyms as a separate type goes back to a very long time. The fact that any change, any innovation went through certain processes and took a certain form is explained by the peculiarities of each era.

Concepts of the concept of synonymy are quite different from today's structure at the time of Plato, W. von Humboldt, A. A. Potebnya or F. De Saussure, but synonyms began to form as a result of these thoughts. That is, in order for a completely new category to appear, first of all, a view about it should be created, then this view should be improved, and finally, it should be scientifically based, thus it should be consolidated in the language.

So, it took a long time for synonyms to be called "Synonym" and the existence of this type proves how rich and beautiful each language is. There is no place to prove the superiority of this series, which is widely used by people of literature. Synonyms prevent taftology and ensure fluency of speech.

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