

Actual Problems of Bilingualism in a Multi-Ethnic Environment

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ABSTRACT

This article highlights issues related to the coverage of a range of problems in language contacts: issues of bilingualism, language interference, convergence of languages in terms of contacts. In connection with the peculiarities, the study of the situation of bilingualism is of paramount importance. Particular attention is paid to the issues of language interference. The factors of manifestation and the linguistic nature of the interference observed at various levels are indicated.

Keywords: language contacts, bilingualism, language interference, language convergence, phonological level, grammatical level, lexical level.

Introduction

It is known that language is the most important means by which people communicate with each other, express their feelings. The cohabitation of people of many nationalities in the same territory has a huge impact on both the native language and other languages of the speakers. One of the characteristic and important features of the processes of interaction and mutual enrichment of languages is that these processes are not one-sided. In addition, as a result of contacts, not only bilateral direct borrowings take place, but also parallel processes occur in word formation, syntax, phraseology and other areas, i.e. language contact occurs [5].

The main part

Over the past decades, the literature on linguistic contacts, both linguistically proper and mixed with it, has grown enormously. The scientist U. Weinreich introduced the term "language contacts", which many linguists began to use. The linguist G. Shuhardt introduced the term "mixture of languages" into linguistics. This term, like the concept of "mutual influence of languages", continues to be used to this day. Both of these concepts, as well as the term "borrowing", which is often used in relation to the phenomena of contact in general, and not only in the field of vocabulary, represent a complex process of language contacts as a relationship in which one or another of two (or more) languages enters as a side "giving" as opposed to another "taking", or in which both languages "enrich each other" [4].

L.V. Shcherba put forward the thesis that the process of language contacts consists in the convergence and generalization of signifieds while maintaining differences in signifiers. Also, that this or that course of this process is due to different types of bilingualism. The works of L.V. Shcherba outlined a program for studying and describing language contacts as an interference process, the essence of which is linguistically determined by the mutual adaptation of the language of the speaker and the language of the listener to the corresponding changes in the norms of both contacting languages. Such a functional and

dynamic consideration of the process was quite consistent with the tasks of linguistics, and was characteristic of many scientists [4].

Stimulating the development of research were the works of A. Martinet, who introduced the term "language contacts" into use in modern times. The theory of language contacts is only at the stage of formation. For many linguists, the study of bilingualism, the interference of contacting languages has already become a topical and important matter both theoretically and in connection with the needs of modern society. The circle of ideas discussed in the latest works on language contacts thus relates to three main problems: bilingualism, interference, and convergence of languages in terms of contacts. "Bilingualism implies the duplication of both languages in all spheres of their written and oral use, or the differentiation of their social functions." [4] Regular switching from one language to another depends on the situation of communication. This raises two questions, the solution of which goes beyond the theory of contacts. The first of them concerns the definition of the difference between languages and the degree of this difference, the second - the degree of mastery of languages. As a rule, it is assumed that bilingualism occurs whenever a person switches from one language code to another in specific conditions of speech communication, regardless of whether it is a transition from one national language to another, from a national language to a dialect, or to the language of intertribal (interethnic, international) communication.

In connection with the peculiarities, the study of the situation of bilingualism is of paramount importance. Changes in the language in the course of contacts, the direction and speed of these changes depend on socio-historical conditions. How and to what extent the socio-historical conditions of communication of speakers of other languages determine one or another course of the process of contacts becomes clear only when the connection between the speech behavior of bilingual people and the social situations of bilingualism is known. L.V. Shcherba drew attention to this connection, pointing out that the nature of the existence of two languages in an individual depends on the conditions for mastering a non-native language. If a native speaker A acquires language B in communication with a native speaker of the latter who does not know language A, and communication takes place exclusively in language B, and the native speaker of this latter occupies a peripheral place in society A, i.e., his ties with this society are limited to a small number of to the same non-essential functions, then languages A and B form in the speaker of language A two separate systems of associations that do not have contact with each other. If, however, the assimilation of a folk language occurs in such a way that the speakers of two languages, communicating in various and numerous socially important situations, switch from one language to another, "translating" thought first into one language, then into another, then there is a generalization of the two languages up to the formation a single language in terms of content with two ways of expression. Types of bilingualism identified by L.V. Shcherba, are only two extreme cases of varieties of multilingualism. Bilingualism research has greatly expanded our understanding of bilingual situations in ways that are far more diverse than we might have imagined. From a linguistic point of view, the description of situations of bilingualism could be presented as a set of linguistic variations that bilingual individuals have, and the rules for their use, depending on one or another sphere of their social and personal relations. The speaker can always (and many people are especially gifted in this regard) learn to reproduce with absolute accuracy a certain number of models of a foreign language without mastering this language as a whole generative system, i.e. without acquiring the ability to produce an infinite number of correct combinations of the elements of this language. It may also happen that some

statements, generated by the system of one language, accidentally turn out to correspond to the rules and norms of another language. A "microscopic" examination of the phenomena of language contact on the material of the behavior of individual bilingual speakers can be opposed to a "macroscopic" study of the effects of one language on another. In the "microscopic" approach, the consequences of bilingualism are considered against the background of the linguistic behavior of monolingual speakers. The "macroscopic" approach compares the language that is considered to be affected by the contact with neighboring in space or time participants of the same language, relative to which it is assumed that they were not affected by the contact. The speech behavior of different bilingual speakers is very different. Some master several foreign languages as well as their native ones, and their interference is negligible.

Others speak a second language much weaker than their native language, and strong interference is constantly observed in their speech. Some easily switch from one language to another depending on the situation; others do it with great difficulty. The same person can behave in completely different ways in different situations of bilingualism. Thus, language contact is defined as the "alternate use of two or more languages by the same persons", who are called speakers of two (or more) languages or bilingual speakers.

The imposition of two systems during language contact in the process of speech leads to interference.

Interference is defined as "cases of deviation from the norms of a given language that appear in the speech of bilingual speakers as a result of their familiarity with two or more languages". Interference has been invoked by many linguists to explain language evolution most directly in the area of vocabulary development, but also to explain phonological and morphological innovations. Interference (from lat. Infer - among themselves, ferio - touch, hit) - in physics, interference is considered as mutual amplification or weakening of waves when superimposed; in psychology, interference is "such an interaction of skills in which previously acquired skills influence the formation of new skills"; in language, the phenomenon of interference is defined as the use of past linguistic experience, i.e. the experience of speaking in the native language, regardless of the will of the speaker; linguistic phenomena that occur periodically in speech do not become widespread, do not become the norm, and belong to the area of interference. In the methodology, interference is considered as a negative result of the transfer of previous linguistic experience, i.e. this is an involuntary assumption in speech in a non-native language of various inaccuracies under the wagging of the native language.

Linguistic dictionaries also give different definitions of this phenomenon. The encyclopedic dictionary of a young philologist gives the following definition: Interference - errors in a foreign language, the cause of which is the native language. Interference can also be in vocabulary, i.e. in the use of words, and in morphology and syntax. When interference appears in phonetics, it is usually called an accent and one speaks of a German, French, English, Bashkir accent in Russian, or a Russian accent in speech in these languages.

The dictionary-reference book of linguistic terms considers interference as the transfer of features of the native language to the target language. The modern dictionary of foreign words gives the following definition: Interference is the linguistic interaction of two language systems in the context of bilingualism. The most complete definition of the phenomenon of

interference is given by the Big Encyclopedic Dictionary. Interference (from lat. Infer - among themselves, ferio - touch, hit) - the interaction of language systems in the conditions of bilingualism, which develops either during language contacts or during individual mastering of a non-native language; expressed in deviations of the norms and systems of the second language under the influence of the native.

Interference is considered as a foreign language accent in the speech of a person who speaks two languages; it can be stable (as a characteristic of speech) and transient (as a feature of someone's dialect). Interference is capable of covering all levels of the language, but is especially noticeable in phonetics (emphasis in the narrow sense of the word). The main source of discrepancies in the system of interacting languages: different phonemic composition, different rules for the implementation of the phoneme, different compositions of grammatical categories and (or) different ways of expressing them, different intonations, different ratios of differential and integral features. The term "interference" is also used to refer to its result. Interference that occurred in the past can leave traces in the language system in the form of a substratum and a superstratum. There are many reasons for interference. Interference is the result of bilingualism. The linguist A.A. Reformatsky said that the cause of interference is "not the mastery of a foreign language, but the struggle with one's own language."

Linguists distinguish the following factors on which the appearance of interference depends:

Structural discrepancies between native and studied languages.

The program of using the native language that has developed in the mind of a bilingual.

Insufficient knowledge of the lexical and grammatical material of the Russian language and the lack of strong skills and abilities to apply what has been learned.

Psychological barrier (fear of making contact).

Thus, there are many reasons for the appearance of interference, each cause affects, to one degree or another, the appearance of interference.

By origin, interference can be internal (within the native language) and external (into another language).

According to the nature of the transfer of native language skills to the target language, direct (transfer of the norms of one's language to another language) and indirect (errors are observed in the use of such linguistic phenomena that are absent in the native language) are distinguished.

By the nature of the manifestation, interference can be explicit (elements of one's own language are introduced) and hidden (simplification, impoverishment of the expressive capabilities of the language: something that can lead to errors is excluded), which is difficult to notice and deal with it.

By linguistic nature, interference is observed at various levels:

a) Phonetic interference is associated with various deviations from pronunciation norms. At this level, differential features are compared, as well as the rules for the distribution of phonemes. Interference at the phonological level can be caused not only by the erroneous establishment of phonological correspondences, as Haugen rightly notes: "... even

considerations of a semantic order can prevent the unambiguous reproduction of the phonemes of the language S by the phonemes of the language P".

b) grammatical interference occurs when the rules of arrangement, agreement, choice or mandatory change of grammatical units included in the system of the language S are applied to approximately the same chains of elements of the C language, which leads to a violation of the C language, or when the rules that are mandatory from the point of view of the grammar of the language C do not work due to their absence in the grammar of the language S.

Failure to distinguish between C grammatical categories that have semantic meaning is very common in situations of language contact.

c) Lexical interference is also well spread. Due to the ease of distribution of lexical units (compared to phonological and grammatical rules), minimal contact between languages is sufficient for borrowing words. With mass bilingualism, the lexical influence of one language on another can reach enormous proportions. Under certain sociocultural conditions, bilingual speakers experience something like the merger of the vocabularies of the two languages into a single fund of lexical innovations [6; 7].

Lexical borrowings can be studied from the point of view of phonological, grammatical, semantic and stylistic ingrowth of new words into the borrowing language.

From a phonological point of view, transferred lexemes can either undergo changes aimed at bringing them into line with the syntagmatic and paradigmatic rules of the C sound system, or, on the contrary, an attempt can be made to keep their sound shell intact and treat them as a kind of phonological quotations from the S language.

From a grammatical point of view, lexical borrowings are also subject to assimilation within the C language system.

From the point of view of semantics and stylistics, the borrowed vocabulary may at first be in a position of free variation with the old vocabulary, but later, if both native and borrowed words survive, specialization of meaning usually occurs. Thus, bilingualism is understood by most linguists as the possession of two languages and regular switching from one to another, depending on the situation of communication. Absolute ownership (duplication), apparently, does not happen. The distinction is made depending on who the speech is addressed to in one of the languages, under what circumstances, what should be said.

From a linguistic point of view, the description of situations of bilingualism can be represented as a set of language variations that bilingual individuals have and the rules for their use, depending on one or another area of their social and personal relations.

Due to bilingualism, interference phenomena are observed in the speech of a bilingual speaker. Interference is considered by many linguists as a deviation from the norms of the native language, which appear in the speech of bilingual speakers as a result of their acquaintance with several languages.

The facts of interference phenomena can be found at the phonological, grammatical and lexical levels of the language. Interference with special force makes itself felt in the morphological design of meaningful features [6; 7].

Conclusion

So, the study of bilingualism and interference has become a topical and important matter both theoretically and in connection with the needs of modern society.

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