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ANALYSIS OF TRADITIONAL AND INNOVATIVE METHODS IN COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS

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Abstract. Contrastive linguistics, one of the important areas of modern linguistics, is aimed at identifying the structural, semantic, functional and cultural characteristics of different languages through the comparative study of them. This field, along with identifying the uniqueness and commonalities of language systems, serves to reveal the complex relationships between language and thought, language and culture, language and society. The importance of comparative linguistics is increasing, especially in the process of globalization, in the context of the expansion of interlingual dialogue and intercultural communication.

Key words: Contrastive linguistics, cultural characteristics, comparative study, uniqueness, language systems, complex, society, globalization, interlingual dialogue.

Introduction

Historically, comparative linguistics was formed in the 19th century and initially developed on the basis of the historical-comparative method aimed at determining the genealogical kinship of languages. At this stage, language units were analyzed mainly in formal and structural terms. Later, with the development of structural linguistics, comparative analysis began to be carried out systematically at the levels of phonetics, morphology and syntax. During this period, traditional methods formed the main methodological foundation of comparative studies.

However, starting from the second half of the 20th century, a fundamental shift occurred in the paradigm of linguistics. Language began to be interpreted not only as a closed system, but also as a social, cultural and cognitive phenomenon. As a result, new - innovative methods appeared in comparative linguistics. Approaches such as cognitive, pragmatic, discursive and corpus linguistics made it possible to study language in the process of real speech, inextricably linked with human thinking and cultural context.

Today, in comparative linguistics, traditional and innovative methods are used together. At the same time, the question of which of them is more dominant, and in which case which method gives more effective results, remains relevant. While some researchers consider traditional methods to be outdated, others argue that the theoretical foundation of innovative approaches is not sufficiently solid. In fact, these two methodological approaches do not contradict each other, but are effective only when used in harmony with each other.

The main purpose of this article is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of traditional and innovative methods used in comparative linguistics, to reveal their scientific and methodological characteristics, and to determine their place in modern linguistic research. The theoretical foundations, object of analysis, and practical possibilities of these methods are considered in a comparative manner.

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The relevance of the article is that today, at a time when interdisciplinary integration is increasing in linguistics, the issue of choosing a method in comparative research is gaining importance. In particular, the use of effective methods in the fields of foreign language teaching, translation theory, and linguoculturology is scientifically and practically important.

Research methods

This study is aimed at analyzing traditional and innovative methods in comparative linguistics, using a number of general and special linguistic methods. The research methodology is based on systematic, comparative and theoretical-analytical approaches.

First of all, general scientific methods were used - analysis and synthesis, induction and deduction, comparison and generalization. With the help of these methods, common and different aspects between different linguistic approaches were identified and theoretical conclusions were developed. At the initial stage of the study, scientific sources, monographs, textbooks and articles on comparative linguistics were studied.

Within the framework of traditional methods, historical-comparative, structural and typological analysis methods were used. The historical-comparative method analyzed the origin, stages of development and genealogical relationships of languages. The structural method allowed for a formal comparison of phonetic, morphological and syntactic units. The typological method identified the general structural models of languages and determined their specific features.

Cognitive, pragmatic, discursive and corpus linguistics approaches were selected as innovative methods. The cognitive method compared the conceptual systems and mental models reflected in languages. The pragmatic approach served to conduct an analysis taking into account speech acts and the communicative situation. The discursive method made it possible to study the socio-cultural context of the text and speech.

The use of the corpus linguistics method strengthened the empirical basis of the research. Statistical data was analyzed based on the corpus of electronic texts, and the frequency of use of language units in real speech was determined. This made it possible to verify the theoretical conclusions obtained using traditional methods.

The following criteria were used to compare the methods: the object of research, the level of analysis, the attitude to the context, the level of empiricism and the possibility of practical application. These criteria played an important role in determining the effectiveness of the methods.

Results

The results of the study showed that traditional and innovative methods in comparative linguistics have their own advantages and limitations. Traditional methods, first of all, allow for a clear and systematic analysis of the language system. The historical-comparative method identifies common roots, phonetic and morphological similarities of languages. Structural analysis provides high accuracy in comparing grammatical categories.

However, these methods cannot sufficiently illuminate the communicative and pragmatic aspects of language. Language units are often analyzed in isolation from the context, which creates certain limitations in explaining the real speech process.

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Innovative methods, on the other hand, allow for the study of language as a dynamic and functional phenomenon. While the cognitive approach is effective in identifying conceptual differences between languages, pragmatic and discursive methods reveal the social and cultural aspects of speech in more depth. Corpus linguistics allows for conclusions based on empirical data.

The results showed that innovative methods have a wider analytical scope than traditional methods, but their effectiveness often increases in combination with traditional methods.

The results of this study once again confirm how complex and multifaceted the issue of methodological approaches in comparative linguistics is. The differences between traditional and innovative methods are manifested not only in the means of analysis, but also in the general scientific attitude to language. Therefore, in this section, the results obtained are analyzed in comparison with existing linguistic research and their theoretical and practical significance is discussed.

Traditional methods, in particular historical-comparative and structural approaches, have been leading in linguistics for many years. The results of the study show that these methods have not lost their scientific significance even today. They allow us to determine the internal structure of the language system, to accurately determine the formal similarities and differences between languages. In this regard, traditional methods serve as a theoretical basis in linguistics, and many innovative approaches are based on this methodological foundation.

However, modern linguistic research shows that it is not enough to study language only as a structural system. Language is a means of social communication, which is closely related to human thinking, culture, and communicative needs. The results of the study showed that innovative methods excel in illuminating precisely these aspects. The cognitive approach allows us to determine how language units are conceptualized in the human mind, which serves to reveal deep semantic differences between languages.

The results obtained through pragmatic and discursive methods clearly demonstrate the dependence of language units on the speech situation. For example, grammatically similar units can perform different communicative functions in different languages. This fact is often overlooked within the framework of traditional structural analysis. From this point of view, innovative methods significantly expand the functional capabilities of comparative linguistics.

Discussion

The use of the corpus linguistics method serves to strengthen the empirical basis of comparative research. The results of the study showed that the analysis based on real speech materials increases the reliability of theoretical conclusions. At the same time, using corpus data, it is possible to determine the frequency, contextual use and stylistic characteristics of language units. This allows you to verify and supplement the results obtained by traditional methods.

However, there are also problems associated with the widespread use of innovative methods. As it was found during the study, these methods often require high technological capabilities, skills in working with large amounts of data, and interdisciplinary training. This does not create equally favorable conditions for all researchers. In addition, innovative methods in some cases

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may not pay enough attention to the formal aspects of the language system, which leads to the abstraction of general theoretical conclusions.

In this regard, the issue of methodological integration is of particular importance. The results of the study show that by combining traditional and innovative methods, more perfect and reliable results can be achieved in comparative linguistics. For example, the differences identified on the basis of structural analysis can be confirmed by corpus data, or the cognitive approach can be enriched with pragmatic analysis. Such an integrative approach increases the objectivity of scientific research.

The results of the study also once again confirmed the inextricable link between comparative linguistics and applied fields. The use of innovative methods in translation theory and practice helps to effectively solve semantic and pragmatic problems that arise in the translation process. In teaching foreign languages, methods developed on the basis of comparative analysis serve to reduce interference problems in students.

In the process of discussion, it should also be noted that modern comparative linguistics is becoming interdisciplinary. Integration with psychology, sociology, cultural studies, and information technologies is giving impetus to the development of innovative methods. This situation is expanding the scope of comparative research and bringing linguistics into the global scientific arena.

In conclusion, the results of this study indicate the need to maintain a balance between traditional and innovative methods. A one-sided approach — relying only on traditional or only on innovative methods — limits the scientific potential of comparative linguistics. On the contrary, methodological pluralism and an integrative approach ensure the sustainable development of this field. Therefore, the issue of choosing a method for future comparative studies should be resolved based on the purpose, object and practical tasks of the research.

Conclusion

This study was aimed at analyzing the scientific and methodological characteristics of traditional and innovative methods used in comparative linguistics. In the course of the study, the formation, development, possibilities and limitations of these two approaches were considered on a comparative basis. The results obtained showed that the issue of choosing a method in comparative linguistics is important not only theoretically, but also practically.

The analysis showed that traditional methods — in particular, historical-comparative, structural and typological approaches — constitute the foundation of comparative linguistics. With the help of these methods, the genealogical relationships, grammatical system and formal structure of languages are studied in a clear and systematic way. The strength of traditional methods is their logical consistency, theoretical solidity and the possibility of a deep formal analysis of language units. These methods retain their importance, especially for comparative studies conducted at the levels of phonetics, morphology and syntax.

However, the results of the study also showed that traditional methods cannot fully cover the functional, communicative and cultural aspects of language. Issues such as the use of language units in real speech, speech situation, speaker's intention and cultural factors are

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relegated to the second level within the framework of the traditional approach. This does not fully meet the requirements of modern linguistics.

Innovative methods serve to fill this gap. Approaches such as cognitive, pragmatic, discursive and corpus linguistics interpret language not as a static system, but as a dynamic, social and cognitive phenomenon. As it was found during the study, innovative methods allow studying language units in context, in the process of real speech and inextricably linked with the cultural environment. This significantly increases the scientific potential of applied linguistics.

In particular, the use of the corpus linguistics method allows obtaining statistically reliable results based on empirical data. The cognitive approach serves as an important tool for comparing conceptual systems expressed through languages. Pragmatic and discursive methods allow for a deeper analysis of the differences and similarities that arise in interlingual communication. This brings comparative linguistics closer to such practical areas as translation theory, foreign language teaching, and linguoculturology.

At the same time, the results of the study showed that innovative methods also have certain limitations. In particular, these methods often require a strong technical base, a large amount of data, and interdisciplinary training. In addition, when innovative approaches are used without traditional methods, problems may arise in theoretical generalization.

Based on the above analysis, it can be noted that it is scientifically inappropriate to contrast traditional and innovative methods in comparative linguistics. On the contrary, combining them on the basis of an integrative approach gives the most effective results. While traditional methods provide a solid theoretical basis for research, innovative methods enrich and expand this basis to the level of modern scientific requirements.

In conclusion, modern comparative linguistics should be based on methodological pluralism. The mutual harmony of various methods allows for a comprehensive, deep and objective analysis of language phenomena. Such an approach is of great importance not only for the development of theoretical linguistics, but also for the areas of applied linguistics - translation, language teaching, intercultural communication. Therefore, the complex and systematic use of traditional and innovative methods in future comparative research should be considered an urgent scientific task.

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