

## 21ST CENTURY LINGUISTICS: THE HUMAN, CULTURE, AND DISCOURSE

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**Abstract:** This article examines the main principles and developmental trends of modern linguistics. In the twenty-first century, interdisciplinary integration, the anthropocentric perspective, and the close relationship between language, communication, and culture have become dominant directions within the humanities, including linguistics. The paper analyzes the essence and interconnection of such principles as integrativity, anthropocentrism, communicativity, dialogicity, discursivity, and cultural centrism. Furthermore, the study substantiates the necessity of examining language as an integral system closely related to human consciousness, cognition, and cultural experience. It is argued that contemporary linguistics should be viewed as a complex, cognitively oriented, and culturally grounded integrative discipline.

**Keywords:** integrativity, anthropocentrism, communicativity, dialogicity, discursivity, cultural centrism, cognitive linguistics, language and culture, communicative strategy and tactics

During the twentieth century, systematicity and structuralism were considered the dominant methodological principles in linguistic studies. However, in the twenty-first century linguistics has undergone a significant shift toward a new scientific paradigm. The contemporary social and academic environment requires interdisciplinary collaboration, consideration of the human factor, and the synthesis of knowledge from various fields of study.

Consequently, language is no longer viewed solely as a formal structural system. Instead, it is increasingly understood as a complex phenomenon closely connected with human activity, cognition, and cultural practices. Within this framework, modern linguistics emphasizes several key methodological principles, including integrativity, anthropocentrism, communicativity, dialogicity, discursivity, and cultural centrism.

Integrativity represents one of the fundamental characteristics of contemporary linguistic research. This principle presupposes the study of language in close interaction with other scientific disciplines. Fields such as psychology, anthropology, sociology, neurolinguistics, and cultural studies play a significant role in understanding linguistic phenomena.

The integrative approach enables researchers to:

- analyze linguistic phenomena from multiple perspectives;
- reveal their connections with human cognition and cultural processes;
- promote the development of new cognitive and interdisciplinary approaches in linguistics.

As a result, this methodological orientation has significantly contributed to the emergence and development of cognitive linguistics.

The anthropocentric principle places the human being at the center of linguistic research. From this perspective, language functions as an expression of human cognition, a tool for social interaction, and a repository of cultural experience.

A human being simultaneously acts as a speaker, a listener, and a creator of meaning within communicative processes. Therefore, language cannot be adequately studied

independently of the individual who uses it. The anthropocentric approach has laid the theoretical foundation for the development of communicative and dialogic perspectives in modern linguistics.

The communicative approach interprets language primarily as a means of human interaction. A communicative situation typically includes several essential components:

- the speaker;
- the listener;
- the message or content;
- language as a code;
- the text;
- the communicative context.

Communication is inherently purposeful and context-dependent. However, language functions not only as a means of information exchange. The same linguistic expression may convey different meanings depending on the communicative intention and situational context. Consequently, meaning emerges through the process of interpretation within specific communicative environments.

Dialogicity reflects the fundamentally social nature of language. Even monologic speech possesses an implicit dialogic dimension. A text can therefore be viewed as a communicative space in which interaction occurs between the author and the reader.

The dialogic approach focuses on:

- the interaction and coexistence of meanings;
- the confrontation and negotiation of different perspectives;
- the polyphonic nature of discourse.

Texts are open to multiple interpretations because readers perceive them through the lens of their personal experiences, cultural background, and worldview.

Discourse represents the intersection of language, culture, and society. It encompasses not only the text itself but also the social context, communicative goals, cultural values, and the background knowledge of the participants involved in communication.

Discursive activity is characterized by several important features:

- goal orientation;
- interactivity;
- the integration of verbal and nonverbal communicative means.

Within discourse analysis, the notions of communicative strategy and tactics play a significant role. A strategy refers to the overall communicative plan, while tactics represent specific methods used to achieve communicative goals.

Cultural centrism emphasizes the inseparable relationship between language and culture. Language not only reflects cultural values but also preserves and shapes them. Individuals perceive and conceptualize the world through the framework of their native language and cultural traditions.

Proverbs, sayings, and phraseological units vividly reflect the national worldview and cultural mentality of a particular speech community. Each language constructs its own cultural representation of reality. Therefore, the study of language cannot be separated from the study of culture.

Modern linguistic research increasingly focuses not only on the external structure of language but also on the deeper cognitive layers of human consciousness. Language is closely connected with mythological thinking, religious beliefs, artistic expression, and symbolic representation.

Poetry and symbolic language are often regarded as important means of expressing human inner experience. In this sense, language functions as one of the fundamental mechanisms through which individuals construct their worldview.

Contemporary linguistics is developing within a new scientific paradigm characterized by interdisciplinary integration and a strong anthropocentric orientation. Principles such as integrativity, anthropocentrism, communicativity, dialogicity, discursivity, and cultural centrism highlight the necessity of studying language in close relation to human consciousness, cultural processes, and social interaction.

Language should therefore be understood not merely as a tool of communication but as a fundamental form of human existence. By exploring the deep semantic foundations of language and its connections with human cognition and culture, modern linguistics contributes to the broader integration of knowledge within the humanities.

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