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IS STANDARD SUPERIOR WHILE LEARNING LANGUAGE?

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Abstract: Language is considered to be a tool helping people to communicate with each other. It can be developed throughout the years in parallel with society due to diverse factors. In consequence, different variations of the same language may occur. With a range of different variation people may have to decide on a model as a standard to use in mass media or to educate at different educational institutions. How do people choose a variation as a standard? Are there any criteria for a language to be considered as a standard? While teaching a language which one is supposed to be taught? This article will provide some answers regarding to these questions.

Keywords: Variations, dialect, standard, systematically structured, hypercorrection, idealized speech, superior, inferior,

Each language has its own systematic peculiarities that differ one from another. However, there is also a systematic difference within the language that refers to sharing one language, yet using different words to express the same meaning. This kind of variation is called as an internal variation.

Everything tends to change throughout the years, so does language. With the development of technology neologisms, borrowings enter the language.

One of the main reasons causing this kind of systematic change is geographical division. Since people living in the same place and speaking the same language moved far away from each other they lost communication and their language also developed on its own way. Another reason for this is language contact. If two people speaking different language will contact they tend to produce and use similar language. These are only some reasons for appearing the variations and dialects. Despite the fact that all language dialects are linguistically equal, there is a standard utilized in media, schools, or by political leaders and higher socio-economic classes as being something that is generally accepted as “true” or “sample”. However, in linguistics it does not mean that standard dialect is superior and others are considered to be inferior.

According to Mihaliček and Wilson (2001) standard dialect is the option of a language that is often preferred to be used by higher classes of society including politics, media. It is acknowledged that almost all existing languages have standard dialect that usually serves to teach the language for both native and non native learners of a language. It gives us a clear

understanding that standard tends to be a model of a language and idealized by people since it is generally used in media or by politics. Moreover, the language which we learn or are taught at school is also standard. For example, in Uzbekistan we have different variations of the Uzbek language in diverse regions. However, the language used to be taught in schools or used in mass media and publications around the republic is the Uzbek academic language which was created on the basis of the dialects of Tashkent and Fergana.

The authors further state that even if standard is generally accepted, one is not to consider standard to be superior and other non standard dialects to be inferior. Standard gained its status due to its utilization by prestigious people but other variations are used by people in their daily lives. That is to say, many other variations of a language serving as a tool of communication between people and their status of being non standard does not necessarily mean that this variation is a wrong way of communication. Moreover, sometimes even non acceptable grammar mistakes may occur in standard and cause this type of dialect to be unsystematic in terms of grammar. Thus, the hypercorrection can sometimes be witnessed while listening that idealized speech of politics.

Higgins (2017) asserts that the language mistakes made by the current president of the USA Donald Trump in social media cause us to use our red pens more and more to correct these mistakes. As a vivid example, she provides several statements including grammar and syntax mistakes made by current president of the USA, and criticized the following statement "*...she gave us ISIS. Because her and Obama created this huge vacuum and a small group came out of that huge vacuum.*" Here, we can see that the statement is not correct judging by prescriptive standard due to the wrong usage of possessive pronoun instead of personal pronoun and this can be considered as grammatically unsystematic. However, some linguists may argue that these kinds of mistakes intuitively tend to be correct and some may accept this as a right way of speaking just because of the usage by prestigious politics.

This kind of examples gives us a clear understanding that there is no any right or wrong variation and both of them may include some grammatically unsystematic or systematic structures.

Stamper (2013) criticizes the president Obama for his grammar. The usage of comparative adjective in the following statement made by him was considered as grammatically incorrect:

"No one is madder than me about the fact that the website isn't working as well as it should..."

Unlike the grammar mistake made by president Trump, we can acknowledge that this statement seems to be grammatically systematic- as

the word “mad” has one syllable and comparative forms of adjectives having one syllable are formed with adding suffix “er”. Nevertheless, according to prescriptive rule the word “madder” is supposed to be used as “more mad”.

Having analyzed the topic, we can consider that both standard and non standard variations can be considered equal and both may sometimes have systematic or unsystematic structure which means the idea that standard is free from mistakes and always grammatically correct is not true.

In addition, while teaching foreign language to L2 learners, we as facilitator are supposed to help our students enhance their communicative skills and be able to use the language they are learning in both formal and informal situations while interacting. That is to say, they are not likely to need standard dialect while communicating with their friends from different parts of oversea country in a friendly atmosphere. Or, vice versa when they are writing an academic paper such as articles, reports, they have to follow the rules of standard dialect. In both cases language learner should be able to understand the information intended to be acquired, and of course be understood while interacting in L2. That means while teaching L2 one of the tasks of facilitator is to make learners aware of different dialects and standard language and to emphasize that standard language may sometimes possess grammatically systematic or unsystematic structure. Moreover, in our modern world it is essential to utilize authentic materials and language using for example, British or Michigan Corpora that can provide learners with a huge amount of words and word collocations which learners may come across in real life situations.

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