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NEW PERSPECTIVES OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS

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Linguistics is conventionally divided into theoretical, sometimes it is also called “scientific linguistics” or “theory of linguistics” and “applied (practical) linguistics”; the latter is distinguished by the most popular and broad view, which is generally defined as the activity of applying the scientific knowledge on the structure and functioning of the language in various non-linguistic scientific disciplines, in different spheres of human practical activity in line with theoretical comprehension of this activity.

Modern applied linguistics is as diverse as the areas of human practical activity. It studies methods for solving practical problems related to the use of language – teaching, translation, terminological activity, etc. Applied linguistics is based not only on the achievements of general linguistic theory, but also influences its development itself. Usually, to solve practical problems, special studies are required, which make up the main content of the PL. The main directions of AL: fixation and storage of speech information – the creation of alphabets and scripts, spelling, practical transcription and transliteration, the creation of information languages; transmission of speech information – the theory of translation (mainly scientific and technical), the creation of automatic translation systems; automatic speech recognition and synthesis, the theory of teaching a non-native language, deaf pedagogy (teaching the language of the deaf and dumb) and typhlo-surdopedagogy (teaching the language of the blind and deaf and dumb), the theory of speech intelligibility (to optimize speech transmission over communication channels); automation of intellectual activity related to the use of language, the creation of artificial intelligence systems (automated) information retrieval systems, systems for automatic annotation and abstracting of information; the use of language in medicine – neurolinguistics, etc.; the use of language as a means of mass communication – language planning, language building, language standardization; creation of international artificial languages, description of unexplored languages, study of the influence of language on human behavior (content analysis, linguistic theory of advertising, propaganda, etc.).

American Association for Applied Linguistics defines applied linguistics as “an interdisciplinary field of inquiry that addresses a broad range of language-related issues in order to understand their roles in the lives of individuals and conditions in society. It draws on a wide range of theoretical and methodological approaches from various disciplines – from the humanities to the social and natural sciences – as it develops its own knowledge-base about language, its users and uses, and their underlying social and material conditions”.

Nationally and internationally, the annual AAAL conference has a reputation as one of the most comprehensive and exciting language conferences. At each conference new ideas are generated, disciplinary boundaries are crossed, and research is shared about the role of language in all aspects of cognition and social action, including language learning and teaching.

The AAAL conference is known for its in-depth symposia and focused workshops on key issues in applied linguistics; sessions on a wide range of research studies, in progress or completed; its stimulating and often provocative plenaries; and access to the latest publications via the book exhibit. Finally yet importantly, the AAAL conference is the place for networking, for established and new professionals, and for graduate students (more information on the upcoming conference at: <https://www.aaal.org/history-and-future-dates>).

The conference gathers researchers from all over the world to share their experience on the following fields:

- Bilingual, immersion, heritage, and language minority education (BIH)
- Language cognition and brain research (COG)
- Corpus Linguistics (COR)
- Analysis of discourse and interaction (DIS)
- Educational Linguistics (EDU)
- Language, culture, socialization and pragmatics (LCS)
- Language and ideology (LID)
- Language maintenance and revitalization (LMR)
- Language, planning and policy (LPP/POL)
- Second and foreign language pedagogy (PED)
- Phonology/Phonetics and Oral Communication (POC)
- Research methodology (REM)
- Second language acquisition, language acquisition, and attrition (SLA)
- Sociolinguistics (SOC)
- Language and technology (TEC)
- Teacher education, beliefs, and identities (TED)
- Translation, Interpretation and Language Access (TRI)
- Text analysis (written discourse) (TXT)
- Vocabulary and Lexical Studies (VOC)

The breadth of the view promotes the “potential” of the applied linguistics to substantially increase and intensify “the contacts of linguistics with the most diverse sciences”. Interdisciplinary studies of a language functioning make a decisive influence on linguistic theory, contributing to the renewal of the conceptual apparatus of modern linguistics.

From the functional point of view, applied linguistics can be defined as a scientific discipline in which ways of optimizing the functioning of the language are studied and developed. The optimization of the communicative, social and cognitive functions includes such disciplines as translation theory and practice, machine translation, social linguistics, language planning and language policy, etc. The epistemic function is somehow manifested in lexicography, terminology and terminography, corpus linguistics, etc, while the optimization of the cognitive function is concentrated in computer linguistics, psycholinguistics, quantitative linguistics, etc.

Consequently, the general scientific view of terminology is largely influenced by its relationship with applied linguistics. “Undoubtedly, terminology as a discipline is one of the privileged branches of applied linguistics. From an epistemological point of view, it could be classified among the ‘applied sciences’ because it has to develop both a theory and praxis. This praxis is evaluated through scientific principles, mainly through the so-called glossaries or lexicons, which are its end results”.

Another important question is what approach of applied linguistics is supported within the scope of the following research. The working definition of applied linguistics as the “theoretical and empirical investigation of real-world problems, in which language is the central issue”, urges the very discipline to investigate these real-world problems within gender issues at a terminological level.

At the moment, the most promising area of modern applied linguistics should be considered computational linguistics associated with hypertext technologies that have emerged with the development of the global Internet.

Over the past few decades, as a result of the intensive computerization of society, the corpus linguistics as a new and perspective direction in the linguistic science has developed significantly from theoretical elaboration to empirical implementation, into a rich paradigm that addresses applied linguistics, in particular lexicography, automatic translation, comparative linguistics, terminology, cognitive linguistics, computer linguistics, etc. It is generally defined as a collection of linguistic data selected in accordance with relevant linguistic criteria to be used as a model of a particular language, which contains the body of texts allowing an instant search for the necessary elements and revealing their qualitative, quantitative and statistical characteristics. Moreover, its representative and replenishing character determines its importance in solving theoretical and practical issues of applied linguistics.

In general, the corpus linguistics is based on three methods of analysis – the automatic isolation of linguistic data from the corpus of linguistic units (corpora); their further processing with the help of a number of statistical procedures and techniques evaluating the interpretation of the data obtained. If the first two methods are purely mathematical, then the latter requires, undoubtedly, the participation of the human intellect.

Intensive works directed to compilation, study and description of electronic corpora of various subjects are currently under way. One of the topical areas of the corpus linguistics is the study of the translation process by means of corpora. Regarding the study of the translation process in the corpus linguistics, a parallel corpus of texts takes a significant role.

A parallel corpus of texts, by some researchers is interpreted as a translational corpus, which consists of a set of texts in the original language and their interpretation in the language of translation. Such a corpus allows setting a translational equivalence between the searching elements of the corpus, revealing at the same time their frequency and providing the list of contexts in which those units have been used.

The attention may be focused on monolingual reference corpus as well, which can be effectively used to raise awareness of the translator and terminographer in his/her conceptualization the world within GM discourse. As Sara Laviosa rightly defines, “monolingual corpora can also be used in experimental interpreting studies,

where there is a trade-off between the need to control the numerous variables affecting the process of interpreting”.

It is worth noting that on April 15, 2022, eight research institutes of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, Literary Research Institute, Research Institute of Translation Studies, Research Institute of Foreign Language Teaching Methods, Research Institute of Media and Communication, Ecological Research Institute have been established at the Uzbek State University of World Languages Institute, Validation Research Institute, Social Process Research Institute. One of the institutes' missions is to acquaint scientists of the Republic with the new research of applied importance conducted in the world scientific community and establish contacts.

Naturally, such changes are based on several years of international cooperation, exchange of experience, research, analysis and scientific findings of young scientists. The main goal is to further improve the quality of the education system in the country in line with the achievements in the field of applied linguistics and to expand the opportunities for our university to enter international rankings.

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