



LINGUISTIC PERSONALITY IN THE LIGHT OF ANTROPOCENTRIC PARADIGM: BASIC NOTION, BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

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ABSTRACT

The present stage of development of linguistics is characterized by anthropocentric paradigm of scientific researches which are conducted within psycholinguistics, cognitive linguistics, linguoculturology, linguopragmatics, the paper examines the basic notion of which is considered to be linguistic personality. As many researchers note, the model of linguistic personality is not a constant, it is open for further additions, elaboration and specification. This case necessitates scientific development of this problem and determines its theoretical importance. The study of the problem of linguistic personality on the material of literary discourse in the integration of semantic-stylistic, communicative-pragmatic, cognitive, culturological characteristics makes it possible to construct the multilevel model of it that reflects mental essence of this phenomenon.

KEY WORDS: Antropocentric Paradigm, Linguistic Personality, Verbal-Semantic, Linguopragmatic, Linguocognitive, Discourse.

Introduction

The current stage of linguistics is characterized by the obvious transition to the anthropocentric paradigm which focuses attention on the “human factor” in language. This paradigm embraces such trends of linguistics as psycholinguistics, cognitive linguistics, linguopragmatics, ethnolinguistics, linguoculturology, gender linguistics. With regard to new directions, needless to say, this science by its very nature has always been oriented to the “human factor”, linguistic personality and mental processes a person is engaged in during literary communication. These links can also be ensured by the common theoretical framework. These sciences rest on the following principles:

- language is regarded as a mental phenomenon, as a cognitive mechanism;
- language is characterized by variability and creativity;
- language is not only an external system of language forms, but also an internal system of knowledge representations;
- language studies focus on a text.



In the process of evolutionary development in linguistics three scientific paradigms were allocated:

- Comparative-historical paradigm
- Systematic-structural paradigm
- Anthropocentric paradigm.

The emergence of the first scientific paradigm, comparative-historical paradigm – is connected with the emergence of a comparative-historical method in linguistics. The researches of that period's linguists were conducted in the following various aspects:

- the study of relationship of languages which is understood historically and genetically;
- the establishment of degree of relationship between languages (creation of genealogical classification of languages);
- the reconstruction of parent (father) languages by investigating diachronic processes in the history of languages, their groups and families;
- Etymology of words.
- Basic theoretical positions of structuralism are the followings:
- language is the sign (semiotics) system correlating to other sign systems in the sphere of semiotics;
- in the language system all units are connected by paradigmatic and syntagmatic relations;
- synchronism which is the research of language system at some point is considered to be more prior in comparison to the study of its history;
- language and speech are different essence;
- the major place in the researches of structuralism is occupied by the technique which applies exact description of structural units of the language.

Within the systematic-structural paradigm linguists managed to achieve dazzling success in the investigation of a structure and organization of language units in system. However, the excessive involvement in the formal side of a language, and isolative representations of structuralists led them to crisis, and by the end of the 20th century, obviously, there was a need for the change of a scientific paradigm. Consequently, a new anthropocentric paradigm took the dominating turn.

The anthropocentric paradigm switched the interests of researchers from object to subject, i.e. a person is analyzed within a language and vice versa. Thus, Baudouin de Courtenay claims



"language only exists in individual brains, in souls, in mentality of the individuals or individuals representing this language society". The idea of anthropocentricity of language is a key notion in modern linguistics. In linguistics the use of the principle of "the person in language" (Benvenist, 1985), that is the anthropocentric principle, takes a special place. According to the principle of anthropocentrism, language is learned in close interrelation with the person, his activity and culture.

Methodology/ Conceptual assumptions

Communicative stylistics has been developing intensively due to a new scientific paradigm – anthropocentric paradigm, which focuses attention on the "human factor". That means that the categories of the addresser and addressee should be included in the study of linguistic mechanisms. In this respect the notion of linguistic personality is of paramount importance. The term was first introduced by V.V. Vinogradov who brought up the problem of the "author's image". Later the theory of linguistic personality was in full measure elaborated by Yu. Karaulov on the material of Russian language. The scholar designated a model of linguistic personality consisting of three levels: 1) verbal-semantic; 2) pragmatic; 3) cognitive. This model makes the basis of all other researches related to the structure of linguistic personality and lays foundation for new ideas. In further researches, this model was to some extent modified and specified. For example, on the material of the English language, the problems of linguistic personality and its structure in conformity with the regularities of a fictional text were discussed in our doctoral thesis.

Linguistic personality as a manifold, multi-component and structurally organized set of language competences, a certain linguistic correlate of spiritual world of a personality in the integrity of his social, ethnic, psychological, aesthetic characteristics, his communicative abilities, knowledge and cultural values.

At present, the term "linguistic personality" has several implications:

1. the denomination of complex means describing the linguistic ability of the individual that connects systematic representation of language with the functional analysis of texts;
2. the type of representation of personality based on the discourse analysis of language bearer from the point of view of use of system means of this very language for reflection of vision of a certain reality and for achievement of specific communicative goals, i.e. communicative personality;
3. dictionary/lexicographic personality which is the basic national and cultural prototype of the carrier of a certain language that is predominantly attached to the lexical system and is reconstructed on the basis of the world outlook settings, valuable priorities and behavioral reactions reflected in the dictionary.

The literary review of linguistic personality from pragmatic point of view makes it inevitable to introduce the new term – "discourse". The term "discourse" (from french "discourse"; from latin "discursus" - "running backwards-forward; movement; succession; conversation")



contains more than ten various definitions, and sometimes they even tend to contradict each other.

On the one hand, discourse is concerned with the pragmatic situation, which is involved in the determination of discourse connectivity, its communicative adequacy, and in clarification of its implication and presupposition, and also its interpretation, on the other hand, discourse is concerned with the mental processes of participants of communication: ethnographic, psychological and sociocultural rules and strategies of discourse processing in these or those conditions that define necessary speed of speech, the degree of its relation, the correlation of general and concrete, new and known, subjective and conventional, explicit and implicit maintenance of discourse, the measure of its spontaneity, the choice of means for achievement of purpose, fixation of the speaker's point of view, etc.

We consider that discourse is a culturally conditioned and socially oriented communicative activity and it is a text in dynamics. It is a purposeful social activity based on interaction of language and cognition. Discourse has become the key notion in modern linguistics, which is focused on the anthropocentric side of language. The discourse is an integral part of the communication (addresser – text – addressee) which allows to study the person in language.

We propose similar structure of linguistic personality in literary discourse and differentiate three levels of it:

1. The semantic-stylistic level characterized by abundance, convergence of expressive means and stylistic devices describes the inner psychological state, feelings and emotions of the personage and reveals his emotional attitude of mind;
2. The linguo-pragmatic level, which presupposes the analysis of pragmatic factors describing various characteristics of the communicants: their age, sex, nationality, social status, role relations, cultural and educational levels;
3. The linguocognitive level deals with the thesaurus of the personage, his individual world picture, judgments and convictions, key notions and knowledge structures. The most conspicuous in this respect is represented speech; it expresses the character's inner thoughts and at the same time reveals his linguistic personality .



Philosophical aspect	Psychological aspect	Levels of LP structure	Elements of levels		
			1	2	3
			Units	relations	stereotypes
Language	Semantic level	Verbal-semantic	Words	Grammatical-paradigmatic, semantic-syntactic, associative - “verbal network”	Models of phrases and sentences; object contains components; object is made of components; components are allocated in the object; object is divided into components
Mind	Cognitive level	Thesaurus	Notions (ideas, concepts)	Hierarchic-coordinative, semantic field – “world picture”	Generalized statements
Substance (reality)	Pragmatic level	Motivational	Functional - communicative needs	Sphere of communication, communicative situation, communicative roles – “communicative network”	Images (symbols) of precedent texts of culture

STRUCTURE OF LINGUISTIC PERSONALITY

Let us turn to the analysis of each level with the aim to define peculiar features of linguistic personality presented in character’s image. The first level characterizes the inner psychological state of the personages, their feelings and emotions. In literary discourse linguistic personality is regarded as a linguistic correlate of the person’s spiritual features, his communicative abilities, knowledge, aesthetic and cultural values.

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“Dear, dear Norland!” said Marianne, “when shall I cease to regret you! When learn to feel a home elsewhere! –Oh! Happy house, could you know what I suffer in now viewing you from this spot, from whence perhaps I may view you no more! And you, ye well-known trees! – but you will continue the same. No leaf will decay because we are removed, nor any branch become motionless also we can observe you no longer! -No; you will continue the same; unconscious of the pleasure or the regret you occasion, and insensible of any change in those who walk under your shade! But who will remain to enjoy you? (S.Maugham).

The dialogue expresses the individual emotive perception of the notion “life”. The speech of the character is highly emotive, full of expressive, graphic means and stylistic devices: epithets (unfortunate, pleasant, ugly, cruel, sinful, difficult, unusual), simile: (as stranger in wonderland); metaphors: (wandered in ocean of life, life was a gift); allusion (Sodom and Gomorrah); antithesis (pleasant/ugly, difficult/easy); syntactical stylistic means (nominative sentences, gradation, repetition, rhetorical question).

The lexicon and manner of conversation of linguistic personality (LP) can indicate to certain age (youth, adulthood, maturity, old age). Age characteristics of LP's speech defined as a specific system of the relations of lexical-syntactic elements, and their special combination that reflect age features, the vision of the world and psychological traits of LPs.

We will analyze the example from D. Salinger's novel so-called "The catcher in the rhye" where age characteristics of LP are shown.

«What the hellyya doing, anyway?» I said.

«Wuddaya mean what the hell am I doing? I was tryna sleep before you guys started making all that noise. What the hell was the fight about, anyhow. Wuddaya want the light for?»...

«Jesus!» he said. «What the hell happened to you?» He meant all the blood and all. «I had a little goddam tiff with Stradlater, listen, I said, do you feel like playing a little Canasta?»

«Oh, you're still bleeding, for Chrissake. You better put something on it. Ya wanna play a little Canasta or don'tcha? ... «Only around!» Ackley said. «Listen. I gotta get up and go to Mass in the morning, for Chrissake. You guys start hollering and fighting in the middle of the goddam-What the hell was the fight about, anyhow?»

«It's a long story. I don't wanna bore ya, Ackley. «Do you happen to have any cigarettes, by any chance? – Say 'no' or I'll drop dead».

«No, I don't, as a matter of fact. Listen, what the hell was the fight about?»

I didn't answer him. «About you», I said. ... I was defending your goddam honor, he made cracks about your religion.. Stradlater said you had a lousy personality. I couldn't let him get away with that stuff»[p.8].



The early age of LP is characterized by its independence, impudence, timidity, joy and pleasure of youth. The typical feature of young people is considered to be their use of jargonisms (*little Canasta*), slangs (*hollering, made cracks about your religion, little goddam iff, I'll drop dead*), vulgarisms (*the hellyya, the hell, the goddam, goddam tiff*), elliptical sentences (*What the hellyya doing, anyway, I was tryna sleep, Wuddaya want the light for?*), interjections (*Jesus, oh*), reductions, types of informal and colloquial conversation peculiar to youth lexicon (*Wuddaya mean what the hell am I doing? I was tryna sleep before you, ya wanna play a little Canasta or don'tcha, I gotta get up, I don't wanna bore ya*).

The next fragment illustrates the old age of LPs.

– *I remember I was very idealistic in those days, a real prig about Western decadence. On the other hand I was very patriotic and really didn't much care for foreigners. Man and boy – for the whole of his life, your good lady – a man's wife, constitutional – a walk taken to keep oneself healthy. Each according to his needs, expropriation of the expropriators. Splendid time was it, it's decent of me.*

– *Blair Are you in any sort of trouble? yes, excellent and nice time, I didn't forget, the life that is pleasant to remind...*

– *Purvis Well, one had a bit of a crise, you know. Can you remind me, what was the gist of it? – the moral and intellectual foundation of Western society in a nutshell (P. James «The wings of eagles» p. 148).*

The given dialogue is about the meaning of life which appears to be one of the major topics in the conversation of the elders. Specific characteristic of this dialogue is addressing to the past, memories of youth. In this example it is expressed by frequent use of verbs of past tense which are emotionally colored (*splendid time was it*), by the use of adjectives with positive connotation (*idealistic, decent, splendid, nice, excellent*), stereotypic expressions of the past (*each according to his needs, expropriation of the expropriators*), social-historical context (... to the moral and intellectual foundation of Western society in a nutshell). Presence/occurrence of intrinsic system of values, principles and convictions, individual lifestyle and philosophy finds reflection in a high modality of the speech (If we are to speak we must speak as equals).

Thus, rather complete information about the social status of LP can be provided within a literary dialogue in literary discourse. The social status of LP includes factors such as profession and education, financial position, social environment belonging, social status, and cultural level.

The conducted research confirmed our conviction about the need in linguistic interpretation of these or those pragmatic factors which characterize LP's social status (profession and education, financial position, social environment belonging, social status, and cultural level), the role relations as well as inner individual psychological state.

The cognitive level of LP deals with the thesaurus of the personages, his individual world picture, judgments and convictions, key notions and knowledge structures. The most



conspicuous in this respect is represented speech; it expresses the character's inner thoughts, and at the same time reveals his linguistic personality. The personage's image, its cognitive structure is clearly excerpted from Galsworthy's "Man of property".

– *Why should you think that beauty, which is the most precious thing in the world, lies like a stone on the beach for the careless passers –by to pick up idly. Beauty is something wonderful and strange that the artist fashions out of the chaos of the world in the tornement of his soil. And when he has made it, it is not given to all to know it! To recognize it you must repeat the adventure of the artist. It is a melody that he sings to you, and to hear it again in your own heart you want knowledge and sensitiveness and imagination*

Many other examples of represented speech, descriptive contexts, stylistic devices, poetic details, used to characterize the main hero, his inner world, thoughts, and reflections upon life, admiration for beauty and youth.

The implications and inferences drawn from this extract are indicative of the particular conceptual structures and cognitive habits that characterize an individual's world view. Thus, the efforts put forth in the systemic description of LP makes a certain contribution to the development of anthropocentric linguistics, theories of discourse, problems of interpretation of literary discourse, and also new trends in linguistics (cognitive linguistics, pragmalinguistics, linguopersonology, linguoculturology). The disclosed and systematized parameters of LP in this research (semantic-stylistic, pragmatic, cognitive) and particularities of their verbalization are important for further scientific researches in this field.

In the capacity of further investigations of complex linguistic nature of LP it is possible point out the followings:

- the study of LP on material of various types of texts;
- ethnopsycholinguistic description of LP;
- individual and psychological parametrization of LP;
- the linguodidactive principles of the analysis of LP in the process of interpretation of literary text.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion the major points may be summarized as follows:

1. LP is a manifold, multicomponent, structurally organized set of linguistic competences, a certain linguistic correlate of the spiritual world of a personality in the integrity of his social, ethnic, psychological aesthetic characteristics;
2. Although different linguists define discourse in various ways, they all back up the claim that discourse is interpreted in the context and based on specific situation.
3. It is the belief of majority prominent linguists that in the process of discourse analysis, particularly in literary review, linguistic, social, pragmatic, cultural, psychological factors of communication should be taken into consideration.



4. In fictional texts LP is presented in the image of the author and that of the personage, the latter is manifested in literary dialogues, descriptive and situational contexts, poetic details, represented speech;
5. The semantic-stylistic level, characterized by abundance, convergence of expressive means and stylistic devices reveals the psychological state of LP, his emotional attitude of mind;
6. The pragmatic level displays various characteristics of LP; his age, sex, nationality, social status, role relations, cultural and educational level;
7. The cognitive level of LP deals with the thesaurus of the personage, his individual world picture, key notions, judgments and convictions, knowledge structures in literary text.

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