TO THE QUESTION OF SYNCHRONY AND DIACHRONY IN THE THEORY OF LANGUAGE

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Abstract: this paper discusses synchronicity and diachrony as correlated but at the same time completely different linguistic phenomena, as well as their distribution and use in the social sciences in general.

Keywords: linguistics, aspect, synchronicity and diachrony, linguistic phenomena, historical approach, process.

In the 19th century, ancient languages and the search for a "primordial language" were considered a worthy object of linguistics as a science. The study of living languages was left to the school, sharply separating this field from science. The successes of dialectology, which describes living languages, the study of the languages of peoples living in colonial dependence, and the need for a more serious teaching of native and foreign languages put before linguists new tasks: to create methods of scientific description of the current state of the language without regard to its origin and past.

The largest scientists of the end of the XIX-beginning of the XX century. - F. F. Fortunatov, I. A. Baudouin de Courtenay, F. de Saussure and others - put forward theoretical foundations for the scientific description of a given language in a given era. F. F. Fortunatov developed the principles of descriptive grammar, I. A. Baudouin de Courtenay divided linguistics into static and dynamic Ho, perhaps, the most detailed consideration of this issue was given by F. de Saussure. His main thesis is that "at any given moment speech activity implies both an established system and evolution; at any given moment language is both a living activity and a product of the past". Hence the idea of synchrony and diachrony.

Diachrony and **synchrony** are two opposing aspects of linguistics. The notions were introduced by Ferdinand de Saussure, who justified "synchronic" analysis by contrasting it with the "diachronic" analysis generally accepted in the 19th century. According to de Saussure, diachronic analysis compares synchronous language systems, even if they belong to different time periods [1]

Diachrony (from greek δια "through, through" and χρονος "time") is the consideration of the historical development of certain linguistic phenomena and the language system as a whole as a subject of linguistic study.

It is opposed to **synchrony** (from greek συν "together" and χρονος "time") - consideration of the state of language as an established system at a certain point in time. The term has also become widespread in semiotics, literary studies and other social sciences in the sense of a historical approach to the phenomena under study.

De Saussure's basic thesis is that "at any given moment, speech activity involves both an established system and evolution; at any given moment, language is both a living activity and a product of the past" [2].

Speaking about language as a sign system, as a system of linguistic units of different levels, first of all, we mean a system of interrelated and interacting units, which functions in a certain period of language development, i.e. in its synchronic aspect. But this system is simultaneously in a stage of continuous development and change, i.e. in its diachronic state. Hence, it can be studied both in its synchronic and diachronic aspects. This applies to the language system as a whole, to its separate parts, elements, units of language levels studied in different sections of linguistics.

To date, linguistics considers synchronicity and diachrony as similar but also fundamentally different phenomena. Synchrony and diachrony are similar in that they represent certain forms of temporal existence of the same linguistic phenomena. The difference between them is that they represent "different systems of measurement. In one of these systems of measurement, we establish relations between existing elements... In the other system of measurement, comparing one immediate datum with another, we establish relations of continuity or relations of substitution..."[3].

Language diachrony in modern linguistics is mostly understood unambiguously. It is characterized as "the historical sequence of linguistic phenomena"[2], "the sequence of linguistic phenomena in time"[4], "the path in time that each language element overcomes as part of the language system"[5], "the process of regular replacement of the previous structural state of linguistic units (categories, etc.) by their subsequent state"[6]. All of the above and many other definitions of linguistic diachrony by their content can be united into one general definition: diachrony in language is a process of change in the language system, its historical development as a result of the replacement of one state by another.

Synchrony in linguistics is understood as the state of a language system or its individual elements at a certain moment (time interval) of language development. In linguistic literature it is defined, for example, as "the state of a language at a given moment as a ready-made system of interrelated and interdependent elements: lexical, grammatical and phonetic, which have value, or significance..., regardless of their origin, but only by virtue of the relations among themselves within the whole - the system"[7]. At the same time, the concept of moment in the process of linguistic development is explained differently in different sources. Some linguists under the moment in the development of language in determining its synchronous state understand a moment, an instant, a mathematical point in time, while others have in mind a known period of time, a certain epoch. In such an explanation of the synchronous state of a language, the fundamental distinction between synchronicity and diachrony is lost, since changes in the language system, which concern one or another of its units, are possible and occur in any period of time, at any historical stage of linguistic development.

Recently, some linguists have made some clarifications to the traditional understanding of linguistic synchronicity. Synchrony is defined, for example, as "a piece of objective reality, a slice selected from the general flow of language development (history) on the basis of a number of certain features, in particular, by the absence of changes"[6].

There are cognitive tasks for the solution of which the methods of diachronic or synchronic research are sufficient. At the same time, when building a theory that claims to be a complete description and explanation of a developing system, either of these approaches is insufficient in itself. The laws of diachrony and synchronicity are not absolutely independent of each other, since the state of the system at a given point in time and its inherent structure impose significant limitations on the range of possible transformations of the system.

The notions of synchronicity and diachrony are also used in relation to the science of language, linguistics, to different sections of linguistics. For example, synchronic (descriptive) and diachronic (historical) phonetics, synchronic and diachronic lexicology, synchronic and diachronic word formation or derivatology, synchronic and diachronic grammar, as well as synchronic and diachronic linguistics as a whole.

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