



Ethnolinguistics as an independent direction of anthropocentric linguistics

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ABSTRACT

Ethnolinguistics investigates the interplay between language and culture, emphasizing how linguistic elements reflect and shape cultural norms, beliefs, and identities. This field, spanning disciplines such as folklore, anthropology, and psychology, highlights the importance of language in representing material and spiritual heritage. The current study explores the historical development, theoretical foundations, and applications of ethnolinguistics.

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Etnolingvistika antropotsentrik tilshunoslikning mustaqil yo'nalishi sifatida

ANNOTATSIYA

Kalit so'zlar:

etnolingvistika,
lingvistika nisbiylik,
madaniy antropologiya,
lingvistika xilma-xillik.

Etnolingvistika til va madaniyat o'rtasidagi o'zaro bog'liqlikni o'rganib, til elementlarining madaniy me'yorlar, e'tiqodlar va identifikatsiyalarni aks ettirish va shakllantirishdagi rolini ta'kidlaydi. Ushbu soha folklor, antropologiya va psixologiya kabi fanlarni qamrab olib, tilning moddiy va ma'naviy merosni ifodalashdagi ahamiyatini yoritadi. Mazkur tadqiqotda etnolingvistikaning tarixiy rivojlanishi, nazariy asoslari va qo'llanilishi haqida so'z yuritiladi.

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Этнолингвистика как самостоятельное направление антропоцентрической лингвистики

АННОТАЦИЯ

Ключевые слова:

этнолингвистика,
лингвистическая
относительность,
культурная антропология,
языковое разнообразие.

Этнолингвистика изучает взаимосвязь между языком и культурой, подчеркивая, как языковые элементы отражают и формируют культурные нормы, убеждения и идентичности. Эта область знаний, охватывающая такие дисциплины, как фольклор, антропология и психология, демонстрирует важность языка в представлении материального и духовного наследия. Данное исследование рассматривает историческое развитие, теоретические основы и применение этнолингвистики.

INTRODUCTION

Ethnolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and culture, particularly how language reflects and shapes cultural practices, beliefs, and identities. Ethnolinguistics, also referred to as anthropological linguistics, explores the intricate interplay between language and culture. It investigates how language embodies cultural values, norms, and worldviews, and how linguistic variations reflect social identities. It bridges linguistics, anthropology, and sociology to understand how cultural norms influence language and vice versa.

This discipline studies how language encapsulates cultural, psychological, and mythological ideas while serving as a key to understanding societal dynamics. The historical roots of ethnolinguistics trace back to linguistic pioneers like Wilhelm von Humboldt, Franz Boas, and Edward Sapir. Modern ethnolinguistics addresses linguistic practices across diverse ethno-social contexts and explores how languages preserve and transmit cultural heritage. The study examines how linguistic expressions embody cultural worldviews and how ethnolinguistic practices adapt to globalization and technological advancement. Understanding ethnolinguistics enables researchers to uncover the hidden connections between linguistic expressions and artistic practices. For example, the names of agricultural tools in a language may reflect the importance of farming in a society.

This includes studying dialects, language change due to cultural interactions, and linguistic expressions of cultural concepts. "Ethnolinguistics" was coined in the early 20th century as part of anthropological linguistics.

Early influences include Wilhelm von Humboldt's ideas on the relationship between language and worldview (*Weltanschauung*). Franz Boas and Edward Sapir's contributions to the field of linguistic relativity emphasize how language shapes thought and cultural perceptions. Ethnolinguistics emerged as a distinct field in the early 20th century, influenced by both linguistic and anthropological traditions.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

This study employed several approaches to investigate the development and theoretical foundations of ethnolinguistics, including historical analysis of key texts, interviews with prominent scholars in the field, and comparative case studies of languages and cultures. Using a variety of techniques, this research was able to offer a thorough grasp of the intricate connection between language, culture, and cognition. Through these

approaches, the study was able to trace the evolution of ethnolinguistics as a discipline and shed light on its theoretical underpinnings. The findings of this research contribute to ongoing discussions in the field and provide valuable insights for future studies in ethnolinguistics.

First, a **literature analysis** was conducted by reviewing the foundational works of Wilhelm von Humboldt, Franz Boas, and Edward Sapir. These scholars laid the groundwork for understanding the interplay between language and culture.

Second, the study utilized **ethnosemantic analysis**, which explored how cultural concepts are expressed through language. It examined kinship terms, agricultural vocabulary, and proverbs to reveal cultural priorities and societal values.

Finally, **case studies** were incorporated to illustrate linguistic relativity and cultural symbolism. These examples highlighted how different languages encode unique worldviews and cultural practices. Additionally, modern tools such as audio recordings, video documentation, and digital language databases enhance the research process and capture linguistic data in greater detail.

RESULTS

The study produced several key findings: *historical development*: Ethnolinguistics initially focused on indigenous languages but later expanded to include urban, diasporic, and multicultural societies. This shift allowed for an exploration of how colonization, migration, and globalization influence language and culture. Furthermore, the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis demonstrated the profound impact of linguistic structures on human cognition and worldview.

Modern Applications: The research identified two significant contemporary issues.

The first is the influence of *globalization*, with English emerging as a global lingua franca and affecting local languages and cultures.

The second is the importance of *language preservation*, as documenting and revitalizing endangered languages are critical to maintaining cultural heritage. Organizations such as UNESCO actively support these efforts.

Cultural Symbolism: Proverbs and idioms were found to encode symbolic meanings linked to cultural values. For instance:

The Uzbek proverb "Yer yuzida har bir narsa sabr bilan chiqadi" (On earth, everything comes with patience) reflects agrarian values of perseverance and resilience. Similarly, the English proverb "Make hay while the sun shines" conveys agricultural wisdom but from a Western perspective. These proverbs serve as cultural symbols that carry knowledge passed down through generations. By preserving and studying these linguistic expressions, we can gain insight into the values and beliefs of different societies. In today's globalized world, it is more important than ever to protect and promote diverse languages and the cultural heritage they represent. Through initiatives like those supported by UNESCO, we can ensure that these valuable resources are not lost to future generations.

DISCUSSION

In bridging the gap between anthropology and linguistics, ethnolinguistics shows the complex relationship between language and culture. The linguistic relativity principle sheds light on how various languages influence various worldviews. The classification of colors, naming conventions, and cultural jargon all demonstrate this.

The importance of ethnosemantics in comprehending how languages categorize and rank ideas was also emphasized by the study. For example, kinship phrases in Turkish and Uzbek show how important family is in these cultures, while agricultural terminology highlights how important farming is in rural areas.

Technological advancements have significantly transformed ethnolinguistic research. Modern tools enable researchers to document and preserve linguistic practices more effectively. However, globalization poses a threat to linguistic diversity, with many local languages at risk of extinction. Ethnolinguistics remains essential for addressing these challenges and preserving the world's linguistic and cultural heritage.

CONCLUSION

Ethnolinguistics remains pivotal for preserving the world's linguistic and cultural diversity, offering tools to understand human expression and interethnic relationships. Ethnolinguistics is a vibrant and multidisciplinary field that deepens our understanding of the connections between language, culture, and cognition. By studying the development and nuances of language, researchers gain valuable insights into human expression and the shared history of language and culture.

Ethnolinguistics is vital to preserving and appreciating linguistic diversity, even in the age of globalization. The study's conclusions highlight how crucial it is to record and restore endangered languages to protect humanity's cultural heritage. Ethnolinguistics also clarifies the necessity of language revitalization initiatives and the effects of language loss on communities. It also emphasizes how important linguistic diversity is in forming our identities and enhancing our shared history.

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