INVESTIGATING LANGUAGE LAYERS AS THE MAIN PROBLEM OF LINGUISTICS

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Abstract *Language is increasingly recognized as a multi-dimensional system composed of interacting structural and functional layers. Rather than existing as a uniform entity, language operates through interconnected phonological, lexical, grammatical, semantic, and pragmatic levels. This research examines language layers as a central theoretical issue in linguistics and evaluates their role in meaning construction and communication. Using descriptive and analytical approaches, the study demonstrates that linguistic meaning emerges through the interaction of multiple layers. The results indicate that understanding language layers contributes significantly to linguistic theory, discourse analysis, and modern language pedagogy.*

Keywords: *language layers, linguistic levels, structural linguistics, functional analysis, communication.*

Introduction Language represents one of the most complex human cognitive and social phenomena. Modern linguistic theory no longer considers language as a simple collection of words and rules; instead, it is understood as a structured system consisting of several interconnected layers. Each layer performs a specific function while contributing to the overall communicative process.

The investigation of language layers has become a major issue because meaning is formed through cooperation among different linguistic levels. Sound organization affects lexical realization, grammatical patterns influence interpretation, and contextual factors shape communicative intention. Consequently, linguistic research must address how these layers interact rather than studying them separately.

The aim of this study is to analyze language layers as a fundamental problem of linguistics and to determine their theoretical and practical significance within contemporary linguistic research.

Literature Review The concept of layered language structure originates from structural linguistics. Ferdinand de Saussure introduced the idea of language as a system of signs governed by internal relations. Roman Jakobson further developed structural analysis by emphasizing functional relationships between linguistic components.

Generative linguistics, represented by Noam Chomsky, proposed deep and surface structures, showing that linguistic processes operate at different abstract levels. Functional linguistics, particularly the work of M.A.K.Halliday, interpreted language as a social semiotic system shaped by communicative needs and contextual factors.

In Turkic and Uzbek linguistics, Sh.Safarov contributed significantly to pragmatic and communicative aspects of language, emphasizing the role of context and speaker intention in meaning formation. His research highlights the importance of pragmatic layers in understanding real communication processes.

Recent studies integrate cognitive and sociolinguistic perspectives, arguing that language

Orthographic Layer (Written Language)

The orthographic layer focuses on the writing system of a language. Alphabet or Script: Symbols representing sounds or meanings (e.g., Latin, Cyrillic, Kanji). Spelling Rules: Standards for writing words correctly. Punctuation: Marks used to clarify meaning (e.g., commas, periods). Orthography standardizes written communication and preserves language across time and space.

Interconnection between Layers

The layers of language are interdependent and cannot be fully understood in isolation:

- Phonology ↔ Morphology: Pronunciation may change based on word structure.
- Morphology ↔ Syntax: Word inflections influence sentence structure.
- Syntax ↔ Semantics: Word order affects meaning.
- Semantics ↔ Pragmatics: Context determines meaning nuances.
- Lexicon ↔ All Layers: Vocabulary integrates into every linguistic process.

Jakobson identified multiple functions of language, including the referential, emotive, conative, phatic, metalingual, and poetic functions. Each function corresponds to different layers of language, illustrating the multifaceted nature of linguistic communication. Each language layer contributes uniquely to communication, from producing speech sounds (phonology) to constructing meaning in context (pragmatics). Understanding the interaction between these layers is essential for fields such as linguistics, translation, language teaching, computational linguistics, and artificial intelligence.

Conclusion

Language is a complex and multi-layered system where each layer plays a distinct yet interconnected role in communication. The phonological layer manages the sounds of speech, the morphological layer focuses on word formation, and the lexical layer provides the words and expressions that form the foundation of meaning. The syntactic layer structures these words into coherent sentences, while the semantic layer ensures meaning is accurately conveyed. The pragmatic layer adapts language to suit different social and contextual settings, and the orthographic layer represents language in its written form.

These layers do not function in isolation but work together seamlessly to enable humans to express ideas, share emotions, and convey information effectively.

Understanding the interplay between these layers highlights the richness and adaptability of language, reflecting its role not just as a tool for communication but also as a powerful medium for expressing identity, culture, and creativity. Through these interconnected layers, language remains one of the most essential and versatile tools for human interaction and understanding.

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