

CONTRASTIVE LINGUISTICS in UKRAINE

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Abstract. *This paper discusses the diachronic development of contrastive linguistics in Ukraine. The results obtained in any branch of typological investigation can be usefully employed both in theoretical linguistics and in teaching practice. Apart from this applied aspect, however, it also has a strong theoretical purpose, contributing to our understanding of language typology and language universals. In Ukraine comparative (contrastive) linguistics and typological analysis of different languages began to be applied in the middle of the 20th century. An important contribution to the 20th century theoretical and practical investigation of contrastive linguistics and the phonetic interference of the peculiarities of the native language into the characteristics of the foreign language pronunciation were made by Ukrainian scientists.*

Keywords: *the development of contrastive linguistics, comparative linguistics, contrastive analysis, the methods of contrastive linguistic analysis.*

Introduction. Numerous comparative investigations of foreign and native languages nowadays are caused by close cooperation of different countries and interest to learning and teaching foreign languages, translating and interpreting foreign texts that gave rise to issues of many textbooks, manuals, articles and essays.

It should be mentioned that contrastive studies took place centuries ago, studying African and Indian languages of different tribes some of which existed in oral form, scientists compiling alphabets and writing grammar books for these languages, paid attention to some similarities of the phonetic and grammatical elements in the structure of some languages or all of them. As a result of the research into the specific and similar characteristics of African and Indian languages the first typological linguistic studies appeared.

Synchronous comparative contrastive investigations of two or more languages and typological investigations of a group of languages, which were vigorously developed in the second half of the 20th century, gave rise to a new branch of linguistics – **contrastive linguistics**. Traditionally, contrastive linguistics is defined as a branch of general linguistics which reveals and studies specific individual linguistic characteristics of some phenomena of the given language and other languages and typological characteristics common to a group of languages.

Literature review. It is essential to distinguish between comparative (contrastive) analysis and typology which are different parts of the same branch of linguistics [6]. Yu. A. Zhluktenko points out that contrastive linguistics is not an independent science but a part of general linguistics. The object of its study is different languages, their structure, characteristics and individual peculiarities. The close relation between

comparative (contrastive analysis) and typology was emphasized by the assertion that contrastive linguistics is a part of general linguistics, contrastive analysis was the first step to typological analysis. Thus, contrastive linguistics is not a purely practical branch of linguistics, it is a theory of language types and classification of languages according to their types.

The problem of synchronous comparison of different languages attracts the attention of the linguists at present. The first attempt to describe comparative characteristics of speech units of different European languages was registered at the beginning of the 20th century. W. Wiëtor (1904) compared some phonetic characteristics of German, English and French. A. I. Tomson, a professor of Odessa University, published some articles and essays devoted to the comparative description of Russian, Ukrainian and Armenian languages [5]. Russian scientists I. A. Baudouin-de-Kourtenay (1912), V. A. Bogoroditsky (1922) and others outlined some principles of language comparison and compared Russian with some other languages.

One cannot speak about contrastive linguistics in Ukraine without taking into consideration the achievements of the researchers in the world [11, 14, 15, 16, 17] In 1936 V. M. Matesius, a representative of a well-known “The Prague Linguistic Circle”, pointed out the importance and the necessity of the synchronic comparative linguistic analysis. V.M. Matesius wrote that synchronic comparative method of investigations contributed to a more thorough analysis of the language [5].

In 1953 W. Weinrich, another representative of “The Prague Linguistic Circle”, put forward an important scientifically substantiated suggestion about differential description of the languages [18].

Another linguist, E. Naugen brought forward a new theoretical conception. E. Naugen in his two-volume monograph “Norwegian Language in America” (1953) brought up the concept of “dialinguistics” – synchronous comparative investigations of the individuals who have a complete command of two languages.

At the same time Daniel Jones, the “Father of English Phonetics”, was one of the first who systematically compared a foreign language with the pronunciation of the native tongue of his learners – French. In all the reprints and editions of his well-known book “An Outline of English Phonetics”, comparing English pronunciation with the French one, he recommends French learners how to avoid mistakes in English which is a foreign language for them.

The aim of the article is to consider the development of theoretical and practical investigation of contrastive linguistics in Ukraine.

The primary task of the explorer carrying out the comparative analysis of two or more languages is to choose the basis of comparison i.e. the model with the help of which the languages will be compared.

Two bases of contrastive analysis are usually mentioned by the linguists.

1. Contrastive analysis is termed **unilateral** when languages are compared on the basis of one of the analysed languages and one of them is used as a model. Unilateral contrastive analysis is widely used in the analysis of foreign languages comparing them with the learners’ native language.
2. Contrastive analysis, according to which both compared languages are studied from the point of view of some third language system, is termed **bilateral**.

The third language may be:

- a living language which may function as an intermediary in communication;
- a dead language which is fixed in the invariable state (Latin, Ancient Greek);
- an artificial language applied in the process of typological analysis of a number of languages;
- a special metalanguage created as a system of methods to ensure most objective and exact description of other languages.

A unilateral method of contrastive analysis is the most widespread one.

A bilateral method of contrastive analysis is less widespread than a unicentral method.

Semantic and grammatic characteristics of the metalanguage are used as a model of analysis in the case when the explorer is in great need of absolutely exact results of the comparison.

In Ukraine comparative (contrastive) linguistics and typological analysis of different languages began to be applied in the middle of the 20th century.

In 1952 systematic synchronous comparison of the foreign and the Ukrainian speech sounds, based on experimental investigations, were published: “Comparative analysis of consonants in contemporary Ukrainian and German languages”(L.Y. Prokopova, 1952) and “Comparative analysis of systems of English and Ukrainian vowels and consonants” (T. A. Brovchenko, 1952).

In 1957 the first contrastive manual, “Contrastive Grammar of the Ukrainian and English languages”, a fundamental textbook written by a group of linguists appeared (T. V. Baimut., M. A. Zhovtobryux, S. P. Samojlenko, 1957) [2, 7, 4].

In the 1960s a fundamental textbook for teachers, “Comparative Grammar of Ukrainian and English languages” (Yu. O. Zhluktenko, 1960) and the manual “English Phonetics”, based on the experimental bilingual contrastive analysis of phonetic systems of English and Ukrainian languages (Brovchenko T., Bant I., 1964) were published.

The scientific works mentioned above, the results of original contrastive investigations, were valuable not only for the teachers and learners of English and German languages whose native language was Ukrainian, for translators and interpreters, but contributed to some extent to the theory of contrastive phonetics.

In the collective monograph, “Intonation of Speech” published by the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian (1963) an article written by I. V. Borisjuk, “Intonation characteristics of rhetoric questions in Ukrainian and French dialogical speech” was the result of comparative experimental investigation of the intonation of rhetorical questions in French in comparison with the native language of the learners – Ukrainian (I. V. Borisjuk, 1968).

The intonation structure of English and Ukrainian utterances in dependence on the position of the semantic centre was investigated by T. A. Brovchenko in the article “Intonation contour of semantic centre in English and Ukrainian speech”. The comparative analysis made it possible to reveal acoustic characteristics of the intonation structure of the utterances with different positions of the semantic centre common in English and Ukrainian and those specific in each of the analysed languages (T. A. Brovchenko, 1979).

Some of the essays published in Ukraine were devoted to the role of contrastive linguistics in the process of teaching foreign languages in special higher schools. (V. A. Mykhajlenko, 1979) and to some peculiarities of teaching foreign languages on the basis of contrastive linguistics (E. M. Rozenbaum, 1979). In the collection of scientific articles, edited by the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in 1979, three of them were devoted to the problems of contrastive linguistics (Yu. A. Zhluktenko, V. N. Bubyk, T. A. Brovchenko).

Yu. A. Zhluktenko in his article, “Contrastive analysis as a method of speech investigations” (1979), emphasized that contrastive linguistics is not an independent science but is a branch of linguistics that has the same subject and aim, investigates the nature and peculiarities of different languages and differs from linguistics only in its method – synchronous comparative method.

Yu. A. Zhluktenko asserts that the main requirements to contrastive investigations are:

- the choice of the most important and effective language elements for the analysis;
- the choice of an adequate and reliable basis for comparative analysis;
- taking into consideration interlanguages equivalence, which as a rule is not connected with the equality of form [6].

V. N. Bublic in his article, “Gnoseological basis of Contrastive analysis” analyses, from the point of gnoseology (theory of science), psychological treatment of the process of learning a foreign language on the basis of the native language and describes the peculiarities of this process, its difficulties and complexity (Bublic, V. N., 1979).

The collective monograph, “Comparative investigations of English, Ukrainian and Russian languages” published in 1980 by the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, edited by Yu. A. Zhluktenko, was devoted to the problems of comparative analysis of phonological, morphological and syntactic peculiarities of the three languages.

In the introductory section, “The foundation of the contrastive analysis of speech”, Yu. A. Zhluktenko gives a survey of the history of development of contrastive linguistics, discusses and develops further its main problems – the subject of contrastive linguistics, the discrimination between contrastive and typological studies, connection between theoretical and pragmatic aspects of contrastive and typological analysis, the choice of the model of contrastive analysis and others (Yu. A. Zhluktenko, 1981).

In the section, “Comparative analysis of English, Ukrainian and Russian phonological systems”, T. A. Brovchenko came to theoretically and practically well founded conclusions about the main specific and common phonetic peculiarities of the speech sounds characteristics of the phonematic systems of the two examined languages [5]. A list of the most typical mistakes of Ukrainians learning English and the methods of avoiding them was presented [5].

In the monograph, “Typology of speech intonation”, E. A. Nushikyan [12] gave a detailed analysis of acoustic characteristics of various types of emotions in English in

comparison with the corresponding emotional variants in Ukrainian, and presented an original classification of English and Ukrainian emotions (E. A. Nushikyan, 1980).

In the monograph, "Intonation of modality in sounding speech", by T. M. Korolova [9] the phonetic structure and functions of modal utterances in English and Ukrainian speech were investigated. Original systematic semantic approach and electronic experimental analysis made it possible to determine intonation peculiarities of the main types of modal utterances and their variants (T. M. Korolova, 1989).

Contrastive linguistics continued to be developed vigorously since the 1970s up to the end of the 20th century in different countries of the world. Similar rapid development was observed in the sphere of comparative phonetics as well.

Contrastive linguistic phonetic investigations may be divided into three main trends:

- a. the theory of contrastive linguistics;
- b. the methods of contrastive linguistic analysis of speech;
- c. comparative linguistic analysis of phonetic characteristics and the structure of different languages.

It should be taken into consideration that the division of comparative investigations is formal to some extent. On the one hand, systematic comparative researches may be not purely theoretical and are often supplied with some definite results of comparison between or among linguistic phonetic phenomena. On the other hand, systematic practical comparative descriptions may contain some theoretical considerations and conclusions.

In the 21st century theoretic and applied problems of contrastive linguistics have been further elaborated. Theoretical and practical investigation of contrastive linguistics and the phonetic interference of the peculiarities of the native language into the characteristics of the foreign language pronunciation were emphasized by numerous linguists: A. Bagmut, T. Brovchenko, A. Kalita, T. Korolova, O. Valigura, V. Taranets, V. Voloshin [1, 8, 13, 16] and others. Some main problems of contrastive linguistics were put forward; special attention was paid to phonetics and the methods of investigating languages; the following topics are to be mentioned: acoustic and perceptual characteristics of native and foreign languages, comparative analysis of phonetic peculiarities of male and female voices, prosodic typology, mathematic methods of working with acoustic data, etc.

Interest to the Ukrainian language in global community, want of the systematized linguistic data that can be involved into any sphere of communication promotes new opportunities to researches in the field of contrastive studies.

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