EXPLANATION OF THE ESSENCE OF THE CONCEPT OF DISCOURSE IN LINGUISTICS

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Abstract: This article is devoted to revealing the essence of the concept of discourse, which is widely studied in modern linguistics today. It discusses the process of gradual development of the meaning of the term "discourse" and the role of the anthropocentric paradigm in the study of discursive phenomena. The article also pays special attention to non-linguistic (extralinguistic) factors that are important in the emergence, expression and correct understanding of discourse.

Keywords: Discourse concept, text, anthropocentric paradigm, linguistic and non-linguistic (extralinguistic) factors.

INTRODUCTION

The concept of discourse is a unique phenomenon that is widely studied in modern linguistics. The term "discourse" can be found not only in linguistics, but also in other fields of science, such as literary studies, sociology, philosophy, political science, medicine, law, and journalism. Research in these fields has shown that discourse is a complex social phenomenon and plays a special role in the personal development of a person and the development of society. Despite the fact that the term "discourse" has been repeatedly used in linguistics over the past 20 years, there is still no clear and unified definition of this word that would be agreed upon by scholars and would encompass all its uses. As mentioned above, the relevance of the concept of discourse is increasing in other scientific areas, along with linguistics. Naturally, this trend gives rise to different approaches to revealing the content and essence of the phenomenon of discourse and makes it difficult to come to a unanimous conclusion about its interpretation.

MAIN PART

Various paradigms (dimensions) in linguistics have played a significant role in elucidating the essence of the concept of discourse. From the second half of the 20th century to the present day, new scientific paradigms have emerged in the field of linguistics. Linguists who conducted research during this period based their approaches and views on these paradigms. However, there is still no consensus among linguists about the number of scientific paradigms. Most linguists recognize that there are three main paradigms in the field of language: comparative-historical, system-structural, and anthropocentric [1: 144]. In modern linguistics, there is a special emphasis on the anthropocentric approach, that is, the approach that places the human factor at the center of research. attention is paid to. The term anthropocentrism, derived from the Greek words "anthropos" and Latin "centrum" meaning center, considers man, who is the center of the universe, as its main subject of study. We can see such an approach in any field of science. For example, in fields such as medicine, law, sociology, philosophy, politics, and ecology, it is clear that the human factor and its interests are put above everything else. Especially since language plays an important role as the main object of communication in any activity that takes place in human life, paying special attention to the individual factor in linguistics has become

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the main task of research. The adoption of the principle of anthropocentrism in linguistics has required the study of language in a broad socio-cultural context.

Before the emergence of modern discourse theory, there were many attempts to clarify the essence of the concept of discourse. One of the ancient meanings of this term is derived from the French word "discours", which meant dialogical speech. Historically, the general meanings of the word discourse have become more complex and have changed over time. The Collins Concise English Dictionary (1988) lists seven different meanings of the term discourse.

Meanings related to the noun phrase:1) verbal communication, conversation;

2) verbally in relation to the (selected or discussed) topicor written communication;

3) a text containing more than one sentence, used by linguists to analyze linguistic phenomena

Meanings related to the verb phrase:

4) to be able to logically justify something (archaic);

5) to speak or write about something formally;

6) to have a discussion;

7) to create music, to transmit music (archaic)" [2: 13].

This dictionary also provides the etymology of the word discourse, which comes from the Latin discurere, which means to run from one place to another; in 14th-century Latin, discursus, which means to debate.

The modern explanatory dictionary in electronic form, "Cambridge Dictionary", provides the following five definitions of the word discourse, related to noun and verb categories:

1) the use of language to communicate, either orally or in writing, or a pattern of such communication;

2) discussion or debate (formal or political dispute), an example of discussion or debate;

3) a speech or text on a particularly serious topic;

4) verb: to speak or write at length about a certain topic (this indicates that the author of the speech or text has a lot of knowledge about the topic);

5) oral or written discussion [3].

If we compare the definitions given for the word discourse with the meanings of the word discourse given in the Collins Concise English Dictionary, we can see that there has been a significant change in the meanings of this word over a certain period of time.

American linguist Z. Harris, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, first published an article on discourse analysis in 1952. He was one of the first in linguistics to popularize the distributive analysis method, which analyzes language units based on a syntegmatic approach [4]. That is, the linguist showed in his work that each language unit in a sentence should not be studied separately, but should be analyzed as a whole text, connected in a semantic sense.

Linguist D. McDonnell in his book "Theories of Discourse" cites several linguists who have played a significant role in the development of discourse theory in linguistics. The scientist deeply analyzes the differences between the interpretations of the concept of discourse given by M. Foucault, B. Hindes, P. Hirst, L. Alsuser, V. Voloshinov and M. Bakhtin. McDonnell recognizes that the dependence of the phenomenon of discourse on the existing society and social context played an important role in the views of each of these scientists. In particular, he writes that "Dialogue is the first condition of discourse: every speech and text is a social phenomenon. Discourse differs depending on who is speaking and who is listening, their position, the society to which they belong and the existing context," [5: 146].

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Therefore, discourse is the result or process of communication that arises from a particular social reality and contributes to the sustainability of that reality, and social institutions and contexts play an important role in its emergence and practical application.

Dutch linguist T.A. van Dijk emphasizes the need for a comprehensive, step-by-step analysis of the concept of discourse. Based on his observations, the scientist The broad interpretation of discourse explains it as a complex communicative event that occurs between a speaker and a listener (observer) in a certain period, place, and other social context. This communicative event can be an oral or written reality consisting of verbal and nonverbal elements [4: 24]. For example, a dialogue between a teacher and a student, a presentation on a topic, a conversation between passengers in transport, the process of reading information from a website or newspaper, etc. can be taken as examples of a communicative event. According to Dijk, in the narrow sense, discourse is an oral or written text consisting of verbal content. In this sense, discourse means the completed or ongoing "product" of a communicative event, as well as the oral or written result. The linguist's concept can be said that the consideration of the principles of language functioning in society should be carried out not only on the basis of a pragmatic approach to discourse, but also taking into account certain social factors (the speakers' opinions, social and ethnic status, etc.) [4: 25]. That is, in such an analysis, special focus should be paid to the speakers' specific personal characteristics, along with their goals, feelings, emotions.

The model of understanding the discourse phenomenon is interconnected with the model of its cognitive consideration. This makes discourse a subject of cognitive linguistics. Since the essence of the knowledge necessary for both the emergence and understanding of speech is reflected in the discourse, in this process the strategy of selecting information that is significant for the existing context and communicants is implemented. Thus, according to the linguist E.V. Temnova, discourse is a very broad concept, encompassing a large number of factors with linguistic and non-linguistic characteristics. This allows researchers to consider discourse as a product of a speech act that is spiritually consistent, relevant and tied to a certain context, genre and views. In addition, it should be noted that in the implementation of this speech act, the society, culture and even historical period in which this act takes place are taken into account [4]. Therefore, discourse is shaped by social norms, cultural values, historical realities, and specific communicative goals. Discourse, whether formal or informal, written or oral, plays a very important role in understanding and perceiving the world around us. **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, it can be said that whether we analyze written or oral discourse, in order to correctly understand and study this discourse, along with the linguistic units used in it, the context of this discursive communication or discursive text, or all the physical and abstract extralinguistic factors that affect them, also play an important role. When communicating with each other, whether orally or in writing, communicants use these factors directly and indirectly both to communicate and to correctly understand the spoken or written discourse. Therefore, in order to correctly understand the discourse, the language used in the discourse must be analyzed in its entirety with the sociological, pragmatic, psychological, culturological and political factors related to it. It follows that discourse is a complex social reality, an integral part of human life, a communicative phenomenon that is important for the formation and expression of a person as a person.

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