

THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF LANGUAGE, THOUGHT, AND COGNITION: INSIGHTS FROM PSYCHOLINGUISTICS AND COGNITIVE LINGUISTICS

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the dynamic relationship between language, thought, and cognition through the perspectives of psycholinguistics and cognitive linguistics. Psycholinguistics, emerging from the synthesis of linguistics and psychology, investigates speech formation, perception, and acquisition, as well as the psychological mechanisms supporting language ability. Cognitive linguistics, rooted in the Latin term *cognitio* ("knowledge"), explores language as a cognitive capacity for acquiring, organizing, and applying information, emphasizing the role of metaphor and conceptual systems in linguistic comprehension. Drawing upon interdisciplinary insights from psychology, sociology, anthropology, and philosophy, the paper highlights how recent paradigms have shifted the focus of linguistic research from mere information transmission to the orientation of individuals within their cognitive domain. By underscoring the significance of linguistic consciousness and the individuality of the speaking subject, this study demonstrates that language is both a communicative instrument and a reflection of human cognition. Together, psycholinguistics and cognitive linguistics offer a comprehensive framework for understanding how language shapes human consciousness and facilitates engagement with the world.

Keywords: Psycholinguistics, cognitive linguistics, language and thought, cognition, linguistic consciousness, interdisciplinary paradigm

INTRODUCTION

The human mind is regarded as one of the most complex and fascinating domains studied by scholars. Linguists today increasingly direct their attention beyond classical linguistics, engaging with interdisciplinary fields to explore new research topics. Psycholinguistics and cognitive linguistics have emerged at the crossroads of linguistics, psychology, and related sciences, offering new perspectives on the relationship between language, thought, and cognition (Humboldt, 1836/1999).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Psycholinguistics: The Study of Language and Thought in Interaction

Psycholinguistics emerged from studies of the interrelationship between language and thought. It investigates the formation of speech, its reflection in consciousness, the systematic consideration of linguistic features and units, language development, and the relationships among its levels. As prof. Sh.Safarov (2006) interprets, psycholinguistics is a field at the intersection of psychology and linguistics that studies human speech, its emergence, the

transmission of information, and its functions. At the center of this science lie problems of philosophy and psychology, as well as the nature of human language and consciousness. According to G.Nasirova (2010), psycholinguistics emerged as a synthesis of linguistics and psychology, studying processes such as speech analysis, speech perception, and language acquisition. Today, the psycholinguistic paradigm has advanced to a point where new scientific paradigms are beginning to take shape, raising increasingly relevant questions about how humans use language and the psychological mechanisms that support linguistic ability. Recent research integrating cognitive, sociological, and cultural approaches underscores the importance of the individual characteristics of the speaker in examining the central linguistic problem—the human personality in language.

RESULTS

Cognitive Linguistics: Language as a Cognitive Process

The term cognitive linguistics is derived from the Latin *cognitio*, meaning “perception, knowledge.” Cognitive linguistics studies language as a capacity for acquiring, organizing, and utilizing information. Introduced in the 1970s by the American linguist George Lakoff in his work on metaphor, the term reflects a new approach to language based on the premise that language comprehension occurs through the cognitive system (Lakoff, 1987).

Cognitive science, more broadly, investigates human knowledge, language, consciousness, and related mental and psychological processes, including imagination and thought. The object of cognitive science is cognition itself—encompassing all processes of acquiring, processing, storing, and using knowledge. Cognitive linguistics, therefore, belongs to the sciences concerned with human cognitive activity, alongside psychology and artificial intelligence theory.

In modern linguistics, the concept of linguistic consciousness illustrates the complexity of the field, arising at the intersection of psychology and linguistics. While language is the object of linguistics and consciousness the domain of psychology, linguistic consciousness is studied by both psycholinguistics and cognitive linguistics. Thus, cognitive linguistics represents the development of linguistic theories and methodologies grounded in ideas about cognitive processes in language. These ideas, refined by numerous scholars over time, have shaped a major paradigm in linguistics that enables deeper understanding of language and its role in shaping our comprehension of the world.

DISCUSSIONS

Interdisciplinary Perspectives

Recent contributions from psychology, cultural studies, sociology, philosophy, and anthropology have transformed the traditional linguistic outlook. It has become evident that the primary function of language lies not merely in transmitting information or referencing reality, but in orienting individuals toward their cognitive domain. Language, therefore, may be viewed as a system of guiding behaviors in which, according to prof. M.Daniyeva (2018), connotation plays a decisive role. This underscores the increasing importance of the speaker’s individuality in linguistic research, as language serves as both a communicative tool and a reflection of personal and collective consciousness.

CONCLUSION

Psycholinguistics and cognitive linguistics collectively provide valuable insights into the dynamic interplay between language, thought, and cognition. By integrating interdisciplinary perspectives, these fields highlight language not only as a communicative instrument but also as a key to understanding human consciousness and cognitive processes. Together, they contribute to the ongoing development of paradigms that shape contemporary linguistic theory and enrich our comprehension of the human experience through language.

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