Секция «Лингвистика: Когнитивные и лингвокультурные аспекты иноязычной коммуникации»

ROLES DEFINED THROUGH LANGUAGE: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NOUNS DENOTING FAMILY RELATIONS IN ARMENIAN, ITALIAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

Научный руководитель – Мкртичян Артур Ервандович

Григорян Офелия Гагиковна

Аспирант

Ереванский государственный университет, Факультет социологии, Ереван, Армения

E-mail: ofelia.grigoryan1993@gmail.com

Although the scientific study of language is mainly implemented in the frames of linguistics, its scientific branches also study language from different aspects. Current research is an attempt to find out the peculiarities of societies by comparative analysis of languages. The interconnections and interactions between the language and the society will be done in the frames of sociolinguistics. The main purpose of the article is to analyze the nouns denoting family relations in Italian, Armenian and English languages.

Examining the connections between language and family, it is important to have a look at the approach of the anthropologist Cl. Levi - Strauss who spoke about the way linguistic rules can affect our understanding of structural relations, and especially structure of kinship [4]. Although L. Strauss's view is of basic significance, in the frameworks of this study sociological viewpoint is adopted. The explanations are based on two sociological theories: the Structuration theory of A. Giddens and the theory of Language Code of B. Bernstein.

A.Giddens states that the language reflects the form of thinking, and when people speak the same language, they all share the same rules and linguistic practices, give or take a range of relatively minor variations [3]. The new generations usually adopt the ways of thinking through socialization, in other words - the process of learning to behave in a way that is acceptable to society [5]. Learning the native language is also a part of socialization as a result of which the person adopts the linguistic patterns in a certain society. After the learning a language the person think in some social and linguistic frames, as it expands the cognitive skills.

Besides the above-mentioned theory, this research is also based on the ideas of a British sociologist Basil Bernstein. Speaking of the role of the language in the society, he claims that the word moderates between the expression of feeling and its social recognition, in other words, the verbalization of a feeling gains a particular value [1]. B. Berstein distinguished two types of codes - elaborated and restricted. In case of usage of the elaborated codes, there is a huge diversity of meanings and each time the listener is obliged to choose between alternatives of meanings. The restricted codes took up a wider layer of society, so it is used even more commonly. As a result, the meaning becomes more predictable in case of usage of restricted codes. Language is considered as one of the most important means of initiating, synthesizing, and reinforcing ways of thinking, feeling and behavior, which are functionally related to the social group [2]. By studying restricted codes, the whole society can be understood, as these are the codes which are used by the members of all social groups.

So, in the frames of current research the structuration theory is interesting for its given role to the language in society - the practices that are reproduced in the society through linguistic patterns. From the language code theory, the idea of restricted codes is valuable, as they are

the ones which are used by all members of society like the nouns which are observed during the research.

While comparing the existence of these nouns in the languages, it becomes obvious that some of them does not exist at all, the others are used in various forms, the third ones have the exact equivalents and so on. Meanwhile, the aim is not only to characterize the nouns and speak about the existence of this or that word in a language, but to give explanations and to mark the reasons of it. Some explanations become clear in the result of comparison of societies, traditions. Hence, it is interesting to connect the linguistic peculiarities of these nouns with the social aspect.

The results in the final article are presented in groups with their detailed explanations. In the first group there are the nouns which show the closest relationship - "mother, father, parents, sister, brother, siblings". Even these mostly used nouns are not common in three languages and have some peculiarities. The next group shows the situation for "grandparents, grandmother, grandfather, child, son, daughter, grandson, grand-daughter". Examining the last ones even some gender issues occur. There is a group consisting of the nouns "aunt, uncle", which is not so much easy in case of Armenian. The same situation is for the noun "cousin" but in case of English and Italian languages. English and Italian languages are more confusing while speaking about a person's spouse and his/her relatives. This is shown for "mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law". By the way, if in English and in Italian, each of them has 2-4 meanings, in Armenian each of these relations are characterized by a certain word. Other groups of nouns are devoted to "foster parents, foster children, step-parents, step-children, godmother, godfather, godchild".

While giving explanations, the structure of a family was also considered as important factor: in extended families, where people live with their relatives, the interactions become closer. Another important factor is the education level which also effect on the way of communication. The results of the analysis show that in Armenian each relation has its own word to be described with, which means that familiar roles are more important for Armenians, there is need in the society to name these relations. Besides, the society is more collectivistic and the role of a group and a family is important in the society. Meanwhile, in English and in Italian the nouns are commonly used to refer to many categories of people as family roles are not as much important in individualistic societies.

Источники и литература

1) Bernstein, B. (1971). Class, Codes and Control (Volume 1) – Theoretical Studies Towards A Sociology Of Language. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

2) Bernstein, B., (2010) A Public Language: Some Sociological Implications of a Linguistic Form, The British Journal of Sociology, Vol. 61.

3) Giddens, A. (1984) The Constitution of Society. Outline of the Theory of Structuration, University of California Press.

4) Levi-Strauss, Cl. (1951) Language and the Analysis of Social Laws, American Anthropologist, New Series, Vol. 53, No. 2, pp. 155-163.

5) Oxford Dictionary, https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/socialization, accessed 10.02.2018