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Summary

The article deals with a brief review of the literature on the theme of language contacts as a significant factor of language vocabulary enrichment. There have been described the types of language contacts in the Transcarpathian Region.

THE NATURE AND CAUSES OF LANGUAGE CHANGE

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The integration of studies on language change, language acquisition and language universals remains one of the most important challenges facing linguists today. Furthermore, the study of language change contributes to our understanding of how social, cultural and psychological factors interact to shape language. Besides, the study of language change provides the insight into the creative process of speech production. This predetermines the topicality of the research conducted in this article which is aimed at defining the nature of language change and overviewing its principal causes.

Language change is both obvious and rather mysterious. The English of the late fourteenth century, for example, is so different from Modern English that it is difficult to understand without special training Chaucer's works. The existence of such a difference between early and later variants of the same language raises questions as to how and why languages change over time.

All languages undergo changes. English has undergone continuous and dramatic change throughout its three major periods [1]. While Chaucer's Middle English is at least partially comprehensible today, Old English looks like a completely foreign

language. It differs from the present-day English in many respects: significantly in morphology, in pronunciation, differences in word order are also readily apparent. In addition some Old English words have disappeared from use. Still other words have been maintained but with a change in meaning.

A striking fact about language change in general is its regularity and systematic character. Thus, the development of a fixed subject-verb-direct object word order affects all the verbs [3;4]. In Modern English they all appear before the direct object.

The inevitability of language change is guaranteed by the way in which language is passed from one generation to the next. Children do not begin with an intact grammar of the language. They must construct a grammar on the basis of the available data [2]. In such a situation it is hardly surprising that differences will arise from one generation to the next. Moreover, since all children use the same psychological and cognitive endowment in learning language, it is to be expected that the same patterns of change will be consistently and repeatedly manifested in all languages. As it might be expected, most sound changes have a psychological basis. They typically result in articulatory simplification. A minor, but nevertheless important, source which originally meant of change is spelling pronunciation. Since the written form of a word can differ significantly from the way it is pronounced, a new pronunciation can arise which seems to reflect more closely the spelling of the word.

Cognitive factors also play a role in change in all components of the grammar. Two sources of change having a cognitive basis are analogy and reanalysis. Analogy reflects the preference of speakers for regular patterns over irregular ones. It typically involves extension or generalisation of a regularity on the basis of the inference that if elements are alike in some respect, they should be alike in others as well. Both phonological and semantic characteristics can serve as a basis for analogy. Students of English as a foreign language often create forms such as *goed* by analogy with regular past tense forms like *played*. Or on the basis of phonological similarity with verbs such as *sting/stung*, *swing/swung* in some dialects bring has developed a form *brung*.

Reanalysis is particularly common in morphological change. Morphological reanalysis typically involves an attempt to attribute an internal structure to a word that formerly was not broken down into component morphemes. A classic example in English is a word *hamburger* which originally referred to the type of meat patty deriving its name from the city of Hamburg in Germany. This word has been reanalysed as consisting of two components, ham + burger. The latter morpheme has since appeared in many new forms including *fishburger*, *chickenburger*, and even as a free morpheme *burger*.

Another cause of language change is language contact. It refers to the situation where speakers of a language frequently interact with the speakers of another language or dialect. As a consequence, extensive borrowing can occur, particularly where there are significant numbers of bilinguals or multilinguals. Although borrowing can affect all components of the grammar, the lexicon is typically most affected [3].

Language, as well as dialect, contact also results in another minor but nevertheless important source of language change, hypercorrection. It occurs when a

speaker who is attempting to speak another dialect or language overgeneralises particular rules. For example, most Americans speak a dialect in which no distinction is made between intervocalic [t] and [d] so that words such as *latter* and *ladder* are both pronounced with the intervocalic flap. Another example is the use of *I* in constructions such as *She saw Mark and I*. This usage is an overgeneralisation of the rule that only *I* should be used in subject position, never *me*. Accordingly, *Mark and I are singing* is correct but *Mark and me are singing* is incorrect.

Morphological changes in English resulting from analogy and reanalysis involve the addition or loss of affixes. Borrowing has been a very important source of new affixes in English. Syntax is also subject to change overtime. Syntactic changes can involve modifications to phrase structure rules or transformations.

Furthermore, the question of how linguistic innovations spread is very important as well. There are two types of spread, one involving the way in which an innovation is extended through the vocabulary of a language and the other way in which it spreads through the population. Some linguistic changes first manifest themselves in a few words and then gradually spread through the vocabulary of a language. This type of change is called lexical diffusion [3]. A very common example in English involves an ongoing change in the stress pattern of words such as *import*, which can be used as both a noun and a verb. Although the stress initially fell on the second syllable regardless of lexical category, in the 16th century words (*rebel*, *outlaw*, *record*) with the stress on the first syllable began to be used as nouns. This stress shift was extended to an increasing number of words, including *import*. This shift has not been diffused through the entire vocabulary of English (e.g. *report*). This ongoing change can be observed in progress in Present-Day English.

The changes influenced by analogy also spread word by word. Thus, the transition of the Germanic strong (irregular) verbs to the weak (regular) subclass is an ongoing change. Therefore, in Present-Day English both regular and irregular forms are heard (*learned/learnt*, *shined/ shone*)[5].

In addition to this, for a language change to take place, the particular innovation must be accepted by the linguistic community as a whole. Social pressures often play an important role in spreading the innovation through the entire linguistic community [3]. Since speakers can consciously or unconsciously alter the way they speak to approximate what they perceive to be a more prestigious or socially acceptable variety of speech, once a change has appeared in the speech of a high prestige group it may gradually spread to other speakers and affect the entire linguistic community.

To conclude, the causes of language change find their roots in the psychological and cognitive factors. All components of grammar are subject to change overtime. Analogy, reanalysis, language contact are particularly important factors in morphological changes not only in Present-Day English, but also during the history of its development. Social factors can play a significant role in determining whether or not a linguistic change is adopted by the linguistic community.

Literature

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Резюме

У статті розглядаються природа мовних змін і причини, які їх викликають. Англійська мова протягом усіх трьох історичних періодів зазнала значних змін, деякі з них тривають і по сьогоднішній день. Особливо цікавим є те, що усі зміни характеризуються регулярністю і носять системний характер. Причини мовних змін криються у психологічних та когнітивних чинниках. Серед причин, які мають когнітивну основу, виділяються аналогія та зворотній аналіз. Морфологічні зміни також виникають під впливом мовних контактів. Соціальні фактори відіграють визначальну роль у вирішенні того, чи закріплюється зміна мовною спільнотою.

THE POSSIBLE INFLUENCES OF CULTURE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

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In Purnell's paper [Purnell, 2003] **culture** is learned first in the family, then in school, then in community and other social organizations such as church. Culture may be defined as: „the shared, learned meanings and behaviors that are transmitted from within a social activity context for purposes of promoting individual/societal adjustment, growth and development. [Marsella 1999:436].

Cultural diversity is variety of cultural groups and differences among them. Major influences that shape peoples' worldview and degree to which they identify themselves with and adhere to their cultural group of origin are called the primary and secondary characteristics of culture. The primary characteristics are nationality, race,