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REVIEW

V.I. Kononenko (ed.) Comparative Typological Studies: Ukrainian on the Background of Related Languages. – Kyiv ; Ivano-Frankivsk ; Warsau, 2015. – 316 p.

The reviewed scientific edition is a collective monograph, written by the representatives of the Ivano-Frankivsk semantic and syntactic school of professor Vitaliy Kononenko and edited by this prominent Ukrainian linguist.

The subject-matter of the proposed complex research is a systematic comparative typological analysis of Ukrainian linguistic system on all its levels, mainly emphasized on grammar, syntax and vocabulary, in its interrelations with other European languages.

This kind of research has a long-time tradition in Ukrainian and foreign linguistics as well. But nevertheless the approach represented in the analyzed book seems to be innovative in terms of the direction of a scientific method. Almost all known previous studies in this field were basically concentrated on revealing differences and common features, divergent and convergent processes, as a result – of isomorphic and allomorphic components of linguistic systems from the viewpoint of foreign language study. The most teaching books and other linguistic scientific editions on contrastive and comparative linguistic typology were also addressed mainly to the foreign language students from the well understandable methodical and didactic reasons.

To the contrary, the central point of the proposed study is namely the native Ukrainian language as a basis for the comparative analysis, a kind of an etalon. This, we would say, Ukraine-centrism is the main innovative characteristic feature of the scientific edition in question.

Ukrainian is studied, as remarked by the authors, on a wide-ranged background of closely-related, related and non-related languages (p. 5). But more emphasized are still the first two of them. In terms of the relativity grade the Slavic languages have been preferred by linguists, who studied Ukrainian in a comparative dimension, for a long time. But Germanic and even Romanic ones still deserve the attention of the scholars, especially nowadays. This gap was to some degree filled in by the represented scientific edition.

The main aim of the analyzed study is formulated by the authors as follows – to characterize the native Ukrainian language in a wide time-and-space, as well as structural dimension (p. 5).

The monograph consists of four chapters. The general issues of a study are outlined by professor Kononenko in the introductory part «Comparative typological study of the modern Ukrainian».

In the first chapter «Ukrainian language in the context of English» the scientific analysis includes following issues: process of nominalization in Ukrainian and English (Y. Ostapchuk); mental predicates in Ukrainian and English (N. Mahas); imperative in Ukrainian and English (N. Kuravska); de-adjective adverbs in Ukrainian and English (O. Fedurko); derivative word-building paradigms in Ukrainian and English (B. Hreschuk). As we can see, the analysis,

completed on a rich empirical – lexicographic and textual material, covers the most essential fragments of the morphological, lexical and syntactic linguistic levels.

The chapter II «Ukrainian language in the context of German» is represented by just two articles devoted to the problems of the relict Past Perfect Tense in Ukrainian compared to the Plusquamperfekt in German (O. Andriyiv) as well as functional aspects of Ukrainian and German particles in literary texts

(M. Marusynets). But in our opinion, there are many other aspects of comparative analysis of Ukrainian and German that also require the scientific effort – e.g. categories of definitiveness/non-definitiveness, active and passive voice, reflexivity of verbs etc., which can reveal many specific but also common features in even genetically non-related languages.

The chapter III «Ukrainian language in the context of French» consists only of one single article dealing with the problem of Ukrainian and French Gerund (M. Kovbanyuk). We can state that there is an urgent need to draw attention of linguists-Romanists to such comparative typological studies from the viewpoint of Ukrainian, irrespective of the fact (or vice versa – due to the fact) that Ukrainian is obviously and definitively less-related to the Romanic languages than to the Germanic ones.

To the contrary, the final chapter IV «Ukrainian language in the context of Polish» contains three articles investigating important functional semantic and syntactic problems, such as: double-part and single-part sentences in Ukrainian and Polish (I. Kononenko); syntactic person in Ukrainian and Polish (O. Korpalo); prepositional-substantive constructions in Ukrainian and Polish (O. Vorobets). By all its fragmentary nature, this predominance of the syntax can be explained through the fact that the close lexical interrelations of Ukrainian and Polish vocabulary, numerous mutual borrowings etc. have been already studied in detail, but the functional aspect of their performance in syntactic structures and speech acts still needs the accurate linguistic research. We would say that the derivative processes and word-building models in Ukrainian and Polish can be also considered as important fields of study for the future, even from the linguistic cultural point of view.

To summarize our review we would say that the proposed study is characterized by the very adequate use of a scientific analytical methods. The theoretical ideas of the authors are supported by the rich empirical material. Most important is that this material is not limited to the lexicographic data, but extended through the literary and media text excerpts and corpora. That enabled the authors to draw the original, sometimes unexpected and intuitively non-predictable conclusions.

The study under analysis opens in our opinion also very perspective and promising dimensions of the further research. First of all, there is no doubt on the importance of comparative and typological studies of Ukrainian in comparison to the non-related Indo-European languages. The total predominance of Slavic languages in that kind of studies was logically understandable due to the closest relation with Ukrainian but seems to be less actual nowadays.

But even more important is the comprehensive investigation of the common European and global human cultural heritage accumulated in the system of language and its inner form as a «folk spirit» according to W. von Humboldt and O. Potebnya. It makes such studies extremely important for the needs of intercultural communication, especially in the age of globalization, European

integration of Ukraine and multimedia communication in the Internet, which is still possible almost totally by means of human language, even in a hybrid conceptually oral, but actually – written-oral form.

All mentioned above gives us the reason to be sure that the proposed monograph under review will be certainly interesting and useful for the wide scientific and social community in Ukraine and abroad.