

The Main Trends of Linguoecological Research

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Abstract

The article shows linguoecology as a new integrated area of Linguistic research. Priority areas, significance, and form of linguoecological research have been defined. Linguoecology has been described as a new model of research in modern-world linguistics and the article provides an overview of the main directions of development. Linguoecology has been considered a tool for creating a harmonious human environment and social interaction with its specific features. In addition, the article analyzes the differences between the terms “Linguistic ecology” and “Ecolinguistics” which are used in recent studies. The multifaceted nature of linguoecological research requires the identification and separate consideration of areas of linguoecology, and the problem of classification of linguoecology arises. The article focuses on the newly formed interdisciplinary areas of ethics, emotion, and comparative linguoecology. Philosophical, orthological, cultural, social, and pedagogical directions of linguoecology are analyzed and research in this field is considered.

Keywords: emotional linguoecology, language viability, linguoecology, multilingualism

1. Introduction

Linguistic ecology is one of the new directions formed at the intersection of Linguistics and Ecology in the 90s of the XX century. Firstly, Linguoecology is the study of Linguistics about language preservation and protection, secondly, it identifies factors that negatively influence the development and use of a language, thirdly, Linguoecology introduces ways to improve language culture and language communication practices, fourthly, the energy of speech, its creative effect, direction, which considers the impact on the members of the relationship (Bekenova, Sagiyeva & Tuleusheva, 2021; Uzunboylu & Altay, 2021; Andolo-Kathungu, Meresia & Christine, 2022).

Based on ethnolinguistics, sociolinguistics, and socio-historical categories, it cares for language and people's relationship to it as an important tool for human interaction and conveying thought. It is considered to be a means of preserving the historical memory of the people, connecting generations, inherited from father to son. According to Skvortsov (2009), the subject of linguoecology is the language itself (past, present) and language carriers. New science gives a realistic assessment of the development of language at the present stage, identifies ways to prevent dangerous situations, and “heal” in the current situation (Tapalova, Zhiyenbayeva & Kamysbayeva, 2021; Blandul, 2022).

Linguoecology assesses the state of the national language, analyzes the prevailing trends, warns of the “environmental threats” and identifies ways to preserve the language. Its purpose is to protect the language, to preserve the purity and the health of a language environment; to identify the factors influencing the social nature of a language; fight against linguistic nihilism, and language aggression; to define the linguistic personality and its types, etc (Yesnazar et al., 2020; Kubieva, Sagiyeva, Sagiyeva, Salimgerey & Baiseitova, 2021). The objectives of linguoecological education are to form a linguistic personality that ensures the health of the language, the purity of the language environment, the viability of the language, fostering respect for the mother tongue, a sense of responsibility for the future of the language, to prevent linguistic nihilism.

2. Methodology

Research in the field of modern ecological linguistics is carried out mainly at two levels:

- at the macro-ecolinguistic level: issues of regional, public, state, and global significance. Researchers in this field have studied language conflict, language policy, language planning, language genocide, and others. One of the most important world-recognized achievements in this area is the linguoecological theory of the French linguist L. Calve - a gravitational model of languages (language galaxy). It supports the preservation of linguistic internal, external, horizontal, and vertical diversity, and classifies world languages as hypercentric, supercentric, central, and peripheral, based on which it proposes its environmental language policy to the state, society, and international organizations addressing language issues (Calvet, 1999; Rad & Ferdosipour, 2020; Karasheva et al., 2021) ;

- a branch of science at the microecolinguistic level, which studies the facts of language and speech from a linguoecological point of view, involving the sciences of sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and social anthropology.

Linguoecological research is conducted in three aspects: interlingual, intralingual, and translingual (Bernatskaya, 2003; Rahimi & Karimi, 2021). The interlingual aspect of linguoecology is related to multilingualism and the issues of linguistic diversity in the world, i.e., the protection and preservation of language. It is based on the study of not only the universal heritage of each language but also the role of individual national cultures in preserving their originality.

In 1991 professor S. Wurm used the term "language ecology" in this interlinguistic sense while studying the causes of language extinction. S. Wurm tried to determine the relationship between natural ecological catastrophes and the extinction of languages due to the displacement of the most competitive species by the weakest species, the rapid shrinkage, and the loss of their habitat.

The process of worldwide reducing the number of languages depends on international integration in the economy, social construction; the intensity of globalization, and political, economic, and military polarization of the world community. Today there is a «Red Book» of languages in the world, similar to the «Red Book» of flora and fauna.

3. Results

There are some examples of language classification, such as «healthy», «sick», «dying», «chronically ill», and «endangered» languages. Mechkovskaya (1992) adds to this series the group «revived languages». According to American ethnolinguist-scientist Willis (2010), «the extinction of a language is much more complicated than the extinction of another human dialect. The death of a language should be understood as the complete death of a culture».

In Krauss's (1992) opinion, an expert on endangered languages, the extinction of languages is very dangerous for the future of mankind. Because, firstly, the world is monotonous due to the gradual reduction of aesthetic, linguistic, and, accordingly, cultural diversity; secondly, it is another proof that the world is ruled not by ethics and human rights, but by the power of capital and weapons; thirdly, from a biological point of view, the need to preserve cultural diversity is as important as the need to preserve ecological diversity .

As for the author of «When languages die», Harrison (2008), languages disappear faster than animals and plants. For example, today more than 40% of languages are endangered, while only 8% of plant species are endangered . Self-consciousness is inextricably linked with the mother tongue, it represents a unique model of knowledge of the world and history, without which it is impossible to move forward, and therefore the destruction of language is the same as the loss of self-consciousness.

In 1991, the American Linguistic Society organized a special symposium on endangered languages as part of its 65th conference. The materials of this symposium were published in 1992 in the journal «Language». Since then, the number of publications on this topic is growing day by day and the scope of research on the issue is expanding. In 2006, Krauss developed the most modern and shortest system for determining the level of threat to languages. In this system, the natural transmission of language from generation to generation is very important in assessing the future potential of the language. According to Krauss (2006), language is at one of the following levels:

1. Safe: children learn the language as their mother tongue, linguists predict, based on scientific data, that this language will reach the next generation in this century, even up to 2100, during which time there will be at least one language community.

2. Danger of extinction:

a) regular languages: children learn this language as their mother tongue, but the status of the language does not allow it to be considered a safe language.

b) endangered languages:

- Unstable and declining languages: only some children speak this language;
- endangered languages: the language has passed the threshold of existence, it is not mastered as a mother tongue, the youngest generation that speaks it is the parent;
- Crisis, difficult languages: the youngest generation speaks this language, the third generation (grandparents), very few speak the other generation.

3. Dead languages: no one speaks or can speak this language because they do not remember, it is impossible to get a new document in this language.

Each language has its unique situation, there is no single solution to stop the extinction of languages. However, journalists are developing a system that determines the level of threat of extinction of languages. Lindsey (2020), studying the state of the modern Chuvash language, identifies three main reasons: physical, economic, and socio-political for the extinction of the language.

Scientists not only describe the state of languages but also suggest ways to revitalize them. Its main principle is to identify new possibilities of ancient uses, to give them a new impetus, and to preserve their originality. This is evidenced by the 2012 Google project Endangered Languages. It is an online resource for collecting samples of endangered languages, conducting research, advising professionals working to preserve linguistic diversity, and sharing experiences.

Scholars studying the ecology of language mainly focus on the study of language culture, stylistics, rhetoric, and violations of language norms, clarity, appropriateness, artistic use of language, and other communicative means of speech. This aspect of the study is called *intra-lingual*. The most studied aspect of the ecology of the Kazakh language is the *intra-lingual* background. The results of such research are summarized and developed in the works of previous researchers. In general, all the efforts of linguists in this area are aimed at reducing and eliminating the impact of negative trends in language use. Their purpose is to prevent the language crisis, and depletion of language resources. At this level, the relationship of language ecology with social sciences such as ethnography, culture, linguocultural studies, and jurisprudence is clear, and there is an opportunity to conduct linguoecological research within the paradigm recognized in terms of values (axiological) or «language preservation».

Although Chernyshov (2010) followed the psychological paradigm in the study of linguoecology, they considered it from a new angle. According to them, the main task of linguoecology is to preserve the language and to support the purity of the language of adults, children, and youth. Psychologists consider the purity of language not only in terms of individuals, but also in terms of factors such as the psychological stereotypes, moods, and ideological positions of the whole social group, and the psychological state of society. In their research, scientists conclude that the purity of the language of young people depends on their psychological adaptation and moral principles, so it is necessary to create a new state policy that prioritizes the linguistic issue (Cardinali & Barbeito, 2018; Cahyono et al., 2021).

According to Subetto (2006), the founder of noosphere education, the «globalization of culture» leads to an ecological catastrophe, the consequences of which are «distortion of ethnic stereotypes, ethnic degradation, marginalization, adaptation to the existing» local landscape. This can lead to a violation of the mechanisms of behavior, and, consequently, an increase in behavioral aggression, attempts to subdue nature, «attempts to take away what is not given» and «eliminate biological diversity».

The more the world civilization is diverse, the more humanity is complete with the higher culture. The reduction of cultural diversity and the simplification of the system leads to the decline of society. Therefore, the development of environmental science will be a response to the global environmental catastrophe. As for the ecological position in real linguistics, it seeks to preserve linguistic diversity. This is because the essence of any serious idea of the environment, ecosystem, and homeland is associated with fundamental problems, which in themselves are man and nature, society and nature, and nation and nature.

Since the creation of the world, Mother Nature has not adapted to the nature of life, on the contrary, life prolongs its life only by adapting to the nature of life. Therefore, a society that can recognize the nature of the ecosystem and take into account its nature has a great future (1997). The third aspect of linguoecology is the ability of scientists to convey the means of one language, the reality of one culture in the context and language of another culture, ie to use foreign texts as quotations, to translate from one language to another, etc., it is relatively named as *translingual aspect*. In today's world, living in peace and harmony, working in partnership, is achieved through a relationship based on tolerance and mutual respect. Therefore, the concept of intercultural communication is important. Language plays a key role here because language is the «spirit of the people» (Mamadaliyeva & Isomiddinov, 2020), a tool of «linguistic conceptualization of the world» (Solijonovich, 2022), «a form of national self-expression» (Nazara, 2019),

the creator of the «national image of the world», the manifestation of the «national spirit», the «storehouse of knowledge» and others.

4. Discussion

Scientist Ogdonova (2009) analyzes the conceptual basis of the linguoecological paradigms of scientific research as follows. «In our opinion, it is possible to show such interrelated areas of the modern linguoecological paradigm of scientific theories as philosophical, orthological, cultural, and social». The subject and task of linguoecology in the *philosophical direction* is to determine the general laws of language function and development as a sphere of human life, a means of human life, and the essence and dimension of human life. The results of the philosophical foundations' study of the Kazakh language's ecology should be sought in proverbs, idioms, oratory, poems of poets and poetesses, medieval thinkers, and the works of the great Abai and Shakarim.

According to foreign scholars who have studied the philosophy of linguoecology, language and the world develop based on interaction, as in the ecosystem. This direction was developed by Russian scientists. According to the orthological concept, the main purpose of linguoecology is to analyze the state of language culture in society and to study the processes that affect language (Heidari & Parvaresh, 2021; Toybekova et al., 2021). «Today, the struggle for our native language must be fought on two fronts, one is to expand the scope of social services of the Kazakh language, especially to make it the language of office work, science, and law, and the other is to raise the language culture. There must be a struggle to use our language not only correctly, but also effectively and beautifully, said academician Syzdyk (2009).

According to Skvorodnikov's (1997) formulation, the objective of Linguoecology is: «to study language problems and speech degradation (study of factors that negatively affect the development of language and its speech implementation) and problems of language and speech rehabilitation (study of ways and means of enriching the language and improving social speech practice) ». In the *cultural* concept, linguoecology covers the cultural and linguistic life of society and aims to preserve the ethnic mentality, folk traditions, and linguistic image of the world, which is reflected in the words, concepts, categories, and structures of the native language. Among the works written in this direction are the works of Russian researchers.

Social direction is a wide field in the research of foreign scientists. According to this direction, the main task of linguoecology is to study the phenomenon of the «extinction of languages». The works of Piyazbaeva (2021), and others who studied the phenomena of language viability and language shift in the field of Kazakh linguistics, contain ideas on issues in the social sphere of language ecology. Ogdonova (2009) notes that social linguoecology can be divided into such sections as linguoecology of languages with the status of the state language, linguoecology of national languages, and linguoecology of regional dialects .

We supplement the above with a *pedagogical direction* (Kovalcikiene & Daukilas, 2018). Because language ecology describes not only the state of language but also offers solutions to language health. It is implemented mainly through the education system. Therefore, research aimed at incorporating the results and achievements of language ecology into education includes the pedagogical direction of the linguoecological paradigm.

Increased language dynamics, the emergence of new slang (Internet jargon), the intensity of virtual communication, the influx of English words, non-compliance with the norms of literary language (including lexical) in the media, poor communication, the decline of oratory, gaps in linguoecological education - all this has led to an ecological crisis of language. Such environmental changes have not left the world scientific community indifferent, so today it is important to develop specific methods for implementing the linguoecological paradigm in education. This area of linguoecology is supplemented by new scientific approaches. Among the developers of this direction are Volkova, (2020), who developed a methodological system for teaching language skills, and speech culture, and Gabdulchakov (2014), who was engaged in defining the basics of language personality formation. The research of Lebedev, Bespalova & Pinkovetskaia, (2021) in Russian linguistics covers this area of linguoecological research. Therefore, *linguoecology is not limited to the description of the problem, it is aimed at solving problems at the micro- and macroecolinguistic levels.*

Although these areas are common to all languages, the priorities of linguoecological research are determined by the current state and peculiarities of the language, the main function of language ecology.

Figure 1 displays the direction of researchers on the topic of linguolinguistics.

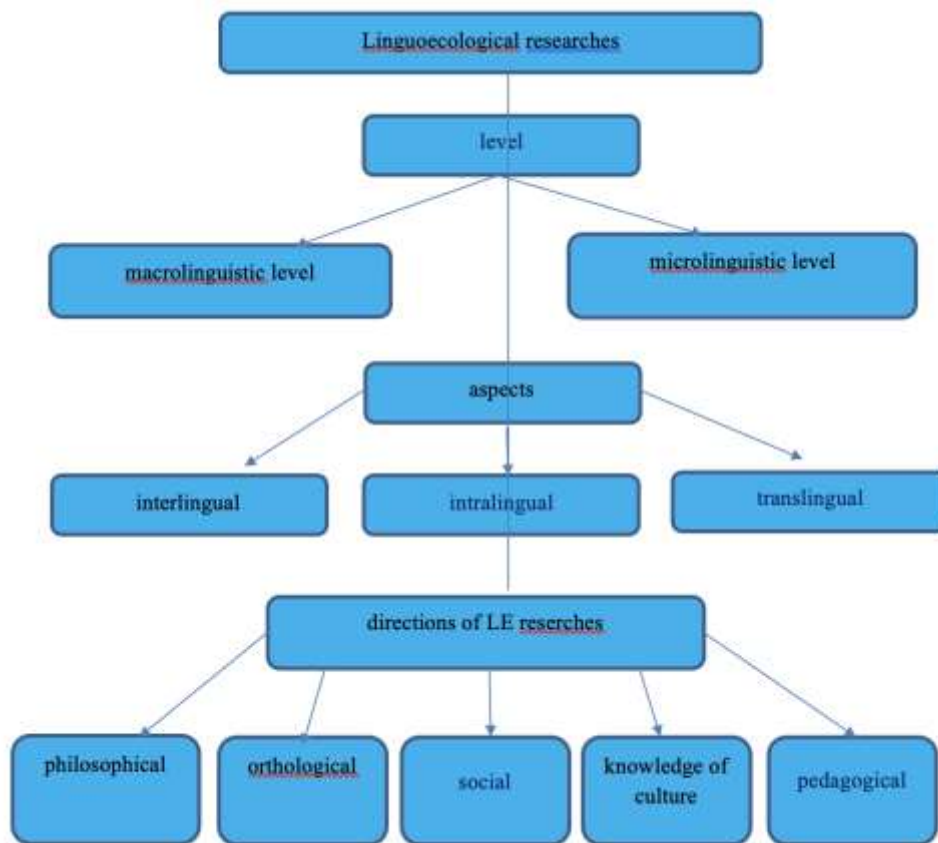


Figure 1. Directions of linguoecological researchers

5. Conclusion

Summarizing the above said, we can identify the following main tasks of modern linguoecological research:

- identify the causes, forms, functions, and consequences of linguistic diversity;
- take measures to preserve minority and endangered languages;
- achieve a balance of biological and linguocultural diversity;
- analyze language structure (grammar) in the presence of ecological and non-ecological elements;
- discursive analysis of texts dealing with environmental issues;
- development of pedagogical linguoecology.

The main tasks of the ecology of the Kazakh language, which should be studied comprehensively in the future, are:

- identify the factors that hinder the functioning of the Kazakh language and identify ways to combat them;
- to show ways to awaken a natural love for the mother tongue in the minds of language people;
- development of the basis for the formation of emotional intelligence of environmental participation;
- establishment of measures to ensure the viability of the Kazakh language;
- improving terminology, translation, taking into account environmental requirements;
- correct organization of the manifestation of language aggression in the onomastic space;
- to suggest the best ways to use the achievements of language ecology in the improvement of trilingual education and innovative technologies.

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