MODERN METHODS OF LINGUISTIC RESEARCH: REVIEW AND SYSTEMATIZATION BASED ON CLASSICAL WORKS

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Abstract: The article examines the main approaches and methods of linguistic research based on an analysis of classical Soviet works in the field of general linguistics. Using the works of B. A. Serebrennikov, Yu. S. Stepanov, V. I. Kodukhov, and Z. K. Tarlanov as examples, it demonstrates the dynamics of the systematization of linguistic methods, identifies key methodological principles, and highlights the significance of dialectical materialism as a general philosophical foundation. The study clarifies the specifics of individual methods and their interrelation with the general methodology of linguistic science.

Keywords: linguistic methods, Soviet linguistics, general methodology, dialectical materialism, classical works, methodological principles, systematization.

Introduction

The study of linguistic methods is a fundamental aspect of the general theory of language. Methods determine how linguists obtain knowledge about language, which linguistic aspects they investigate, and how they justify their conclusions. In Soviet linguistics of the 20th century—especially in the works of B. A. Serebrennikov and Yu. S. Stepanov—a pronounced tendency toward the systematization and classification of linguistic methods can be observed, as well as their correlation with the philosophy of science, particularly dialectical materialism.

This article examines the development of concepts of linguistic methods and their systematization based on key works of the 1970s–1990s. It also discusses the methodological role of philosophical foundations and the specificity of individual linguistic methods.

Methodological Foundations and the Structure of Method

In the fundamental work General Linguistics. Methods of Linguistic Research (1973, 2009), edited by B. A. Serebrennikov, the problem of methods is emphasized as a central issue in general linguistics because methods determine the nature of scientific development. The author proposes a classification of methods based on various branches of linguistics: Linguogenetic methods; Linguogeographic methods; Structural analysis; Typological methods

Methods of synchronous and diachronic description of languages

The importance of this classification lies in its reliance on specific linguistic objects and theories characterizing different aspects of language. Serebrennikov outlines a three-part structure of method: Theory of the method — includes linguistic foundations, application procedures, and philosophical principles of cognition. Set of research techniques — concrete

actions performed on linguistic material. Set of technical procedures — such as note-taking, systematization of data, etc.

Philosophical Basis: Dialectical Materialism

The dialectical-materialist approach is considered a universal foundation that does not replace individual methods but acts through them. It ensures the organic connection between general methodology and specific research procedures. This makes it possible to unify the materialist understanding of language with concrete linguistic practices.

Systematization of Methods According to Yu. S. Stepanov

Method, Methodology, Methodics

Yu. S. Stepanov (1975, 2009) distinguishes three key methodological concepts:

Methodics — a set of techniques of observation and experiment;

Method — a means of theoretical processing of observational data;

Methodology — the application of worldview principles to the cognitive process.

Dialectical materialism is also considered a universal method, while linguistic methods are understood as particular scientific methods.

Classification Based on Deep Foundations

Stepanov proposes classifying methods according to their underlying principles. This avoids superficial classifications and emphasizes theoretical foundations and implementation mechanisms. He structures methods according to historical and logical principles and incorporates semiotic approaches, reflecting the complexity of language as an object of study.

Method of Cognition vs. Method of Presentation

An essential distinction is drawn between: the method of cognition — procedures used to obtain new knowledge; the method of presentation — procedures for logically presenting research results. This distinction enhances the precision and clarity of scientific exposition.

Methodological Perspective of V. I. Kodukhov

In his textbook General Linguistics (1974), V. I. Kodukhov introduces a triad similar to Stepanov's framework:

Methodology — the study of scientific method in general and individual methods; Method — a way of cognizing nature, society, and thinking; Methodics — the procedure for applying the method, a concrete technique. He emphasizes that methodology encompasses an integrated system of research aspects and methods differentiated by procedure and technique. System Approach and Linguistic Levels in Z. K. Tarlanov's Classification

Z. K. Tarlanov (1979, 1995) highlights the extensive repertoire of linguistic methods and techniques, stressing the need for their clear systematization. His organizing principle is the concept of **linguistic levels**, viewed as subsystems. This allows researchers to classify methods according to: phonetics, morphology, syntax, and other levels of the language system. This approach supports a comprehensive and structured analysis of linguistic data.

Summary and Prospects for Development

The reviewed classical works show the evolution of linguistic methodology in Soviet scholarship—from attempts to describe separate methods to their systematic organization based on philosophical principles and theoretical models. Dialectical materialism acts as a universal scientific foundation ensuring unity and coherence of methodology. At the same time, individual methods—such as structural analysis, linguogeography, or typology—develop according to the specific characteristics of linguistic objects and research aims. The development of linguistic methodology continues to integrate new approaches, such as semiotics and logical-semantic analysis, reflecting the complexity and multidimensional nature of linguistic reality.

Table: Classification of Linguistic Methods (Based on Serebrennikov and Stepanov)

Category of Methods	Example of Methods	Brief Description
General Scientific Methods	Dialectical Materialism	A philosophical foundation ensuring systemic integrity.
Methods of Synchronic Analysis	Structural Analysis	Study of a language at a specific moment in time.
Methods of Diachronic Analysis	Historical Method	Study of the development of a language over time.
Typological Methods	Comparative-Historical Method	Comparison of languages to identify common features.
Category of Methods	**Example of Methods**	**Brief Description**
General Scientific Methods	Dialectical Materialism	A philosophical foundation ensuring systemic integrity.

Conclusion

A review of classical works on linguistic methodology confirms that modern linguistics possesses a diverse and systematized set of research methods. Their development relies on a deep understanding of philosophical and theoretical principles, as well as on a clear distinction between methodology, method, and methodics.

The ongoing advancement of linguistic methodology requires an integrative approach that accounts for new aspects of the linguistic system and meets the challenges of contemporary linguistics, including interdisciplinary research.

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