

MAIN ASPECTS OF COMPARISON IN MODERN LANGUAGE RESEARCH

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Summary

The study presents an overview of the main and modern trends in comparative linguistics in the direction of conducting contrastive investigations in order to identify common and distinctive features in related and unrelated languages. The investigation presents the concept of a reference language and the features of its application in comparative studies, and also draws attention to the shortcomings of such an approach. The concept of tertium comparationis and its place in modern comparative linguistics and translation studies are investigated. The features of comparative comparison of related and unrelated languages are characterized. The study demonstrates the applied aspect of tertium comparationis on the material of various linguistic studies in order to determine individual lexical, semantic, formal and syntactic correlations in the Ukrainian and English languages. The investigation also presents the main parameters of comparison for one's own semantic and cognitive, semantic and functional comparative study of irrational vocabulary on the material of the Ukrainian, English and German languages. Prospects for further linguistic research are identified within the framework of a more detailed comparative conceptual analysis of rational vocabulary to denote a rational, reason-based way of perceiving the world by a person in the Ukrainian, English, and German languages in a comparative aspect.

Key words: contrastive research, contrastive parameters, linguistics, contrastive linguistics, tertium comparationis, reference language.

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1. Introduction

At the current stage of linguistic progress, the number of contrastive research is constantly increasing because of social demand for a high level of foreign language skills. The results of comparative studies, which present similarities and differences at all levels of language structure (from phonological one to morphological, syntactic, and even lexical) are helpful.

Materials and methods. O. Demenchuk, A. Kinashchuk, I. Garbera, Zh. Chorna and others research the issue of identifying common and dissimilar constitutive properties in different languages investigating the comparative lexicology of the Ukrainian, English, Polish, German etc. languages. P. Budnik and S. Subota investigate the morphological structure of a noun in English and Ukrainian; G. Sklyanichenko carries out a comparative analysis of pluralia tantum nouns in the English and Ukrainian languages, considering the criteria for distinguishing plural nouns, their sources of origin and the main lexical and semantic groups within which they function; N. Lebedeva, G. Bevzo, G. Malinska study the comparative lexicology of Ukrainian and English, characterizing their isomorphism and the peculiarities of phraseological units translation; I. Lukyanenko, E. Boeva outline the comparative typology of English and Ukrainian at the phonetic, lexical, morphological and syntactic levels; A. Alieva compares the morphological features of adjectives in English and Ukrainian; O. Kovtun, O. Boyvan carry out

a comparison on the characteristics of pronoun words in English and Ukrainian, determining the division of pronouns into groups by meaning, the features of such a division in the compared languages, isomorphic and allomorphic features of the named part of speech, comparing pronoun word-formation and word-inflection characteristics, as well as differences in the systems of grammatical categories of Ukrainian and English, etc.

The aim of the study is to characterize the main aspects of comparison in modern linguistic research on the material of related and unrelated languages.

The aim is achieved by the solution of such tasks as:

- to specify the notion of the concept of comparison in modern linguistics;
- to identify the main aspects of comparison in comparative research;
- to characterize the specifics of the procedure for comparing the material of related and unrelated languages;
- to determine the prospects for further comparative research on the basis of languages of different structures.

The research uses general scientific methods, such as: comparison and generalization, analysis and synthesis, as well as a special linguistic method of analyzing dictionary definitions for analyzing the theoretical material of linguistic works by other authors.

2. Results

The ability to compare the selected parameters is possible only in the process of thinking, since comparison is called one of the most important types of mental operations among analysis, synthesis and abstraction. In the English dictionary, the concept of “comparison” is interpreted as “the act of comparing or the process of being compared (a statement or estimate of similarities and differences); the quality of being similar or equivalent; likeness: no comparison between the two books; modification or inflection of an adjective or adverb to denote the positive, comparative, and superlative degrees, as in English, along with the equative degree in certain other languages, such as Irish Gaelic (TFD).

N. Borysenko interprets the concept of “comparison” as a general scientific method that makes it possible to identify common and distinctive features of the phenomena being studied, and is also the basis for comparative and historical, comparative and typological methods (Borysenko, 2024), where the first focuses on identifying identities and differences in certain linguistic phenomena of related languages (methods of internal and external reconstruction, chronology, cultural and historical interpretation, etc.), and the last two identify specific features of a certain language regardless of its affinity or typological affiliation. In the process of such a comparison the language under study, the linguistic phenomenon under study, and the results of the description are important. The comparison itself can be carried out for the purpose of studying lexical or syntactic compatibility, synonymous, antonymic, hyponymic and hyperonymic, predicate and actant, etc. relationships, metaphors, concepts, etc.

The most optimal comparison is based on a reference language which is a theoretical, universal language system that serves as a standard of comparison and description, since it has certain universal categories (causality, temporal category, modality, etc.). The reference language is not any of the real language systems, but is presented as an ideal sample, which includes all the linguistic features that are being studied. However, scientists note a certain conventionality, one-sidedness and relativity of research using a reference language. In order to conduct a comparative analysis more qualitatively, scientists use the concept of *tertium comparationis*, which denotes one or more features that become the basis of comparison (semantic

model (Demenchuk, 2014; Kinashchuk, 2022), vertical syntactic concept (Lemish, 2014), category of processuality (Ivanytska, 2009), cognitive system (Romaniuk), etc.). In addition, the analysis of dictionary definitions of lexemes of the studied languages according to explanatory, etymological, synonymous, antonymic, etc. dictionaries becomes an auxiliary in comparative analysis. The isolation of certain components in the found definitions and their interpretation may also help in finding one's own *tertium comparationis* on the way to determining what is common and different in each of the cultures represented in a particular language. As I. Karamysheva notes, during the period of digital development of the late twentieth century, a new era began for comparative research and the application of *tertium comparationis* in particular, since with the growth of migration, the level of international travel, the need to comprehend intercultural features only grows, and the section of comparative linguistics becomes helpful in this, which is now armed with not just a comparative method with its constant parameters of comparison, but also *tertium comparationis*, which may be used in corpus contractive studies (Karamysheva).

In own research on the subject of identifying identities and differences in the irrational (intuitive, not controlled by logic) worldview of Ukrainians, Englishmen and Germans, the comparison of the corpus material of the appropriate languages was carried out in the semantic and cognitive aspect (concept structure (figurative component, information content, interpretative field), lexical-semantic group (quantity, part-of-speech affiliation, commonality of generic meanings), derivational field (methods of word formation of nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, semantics of word-forming affixes), hypo-hyperonymic relations (hyperonyms, hyponyms, co-hyponyms for nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs), synonymous relations (synonyms for nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs, identity and similarity of meanings), conceptual metaphors (number, commonality of ideas underlying the metaphor), image-schematic models (number of image-schemes, commonality of concepts underlying image-schemes)) and semantic and functional aspect (predicate-actant models (thematic groups of predicates, actants and specifiers)) aspects (Kinashchuk, 2022: 89).

3. Conclusions

Thus, it has been specified the notion of language comparison and defined a set of certain features, on the basis of which a comparison of two or more related or unrelated languages may be carried out. The number of different aspects to contrast depends on the purpose and material of the linguistic research. The prospects of the following studies concern with the isolation of the main parameters of comparison for the conceptual characterization of rational vocabulary in Ukrainian, English and German in a comparative aspect.

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