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**SPEECH AND LANGUAGE COMPETENCE
AS A BASIS FOR FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION
OF THE WORLD LANGUAGES**

Kalmykova L. O.

*Doctor of Psychological Sciences, Professor
Hrygorii Skovoroda University in Pereiaslav*

Kharchenko N. V.

*Doctor of Psychological Sciences, Professor
Hrygorii Skovoroda University in Pereiaslav*

Mysan I. N.

*Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Assistant Professor
Hrygorii Skovoroda University in Pereiaslav
Pereiaslav, Ukraine*

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With the development of psycholinguistic science since the 1950s, there have appeared other opportunities for functional classification of languages. Man, his speech and language skills, the functions of the world's languages in everyday communicative practice appear in the center of functional

classification, by changing the functional-typological classification of languages, according to which the distribution of world languages is carried out under certain taxonomic headings in keeping with the number of social functions performed by them, to the classification according which the individual, subjective and personal functions of these languages become the basis of grouping. *Functional-psycholinguistic bases* for classification of the world's languages are becoming a new reality in psychological science, creating preconditions for convenient and comfortable use of the different types of poly-functionally oriented languages to achieve individually meaningful specific communicative goals and the realization of its specific linguistic values. This applies both to the whole modern polylingual world and to the conditions of a separate, especially poly-ethnic and multicultural society.

Psycholinguistic paradigm in the classification of languages by their functional psychosocial orientation allows us not only to present in a new perspective the problems of language psychology, but also to create prerequisites and conditions for maximum verbal harmonization of planetary society, its evolution through functionally oriented languages, and to achieve «appropriate communication» [4], ensuring realization of language rights and freedoms of every person.

The presented classification suggests the psycholinguistic bases, which were previously unknown in the psychology of language, for grouping the world's languages (natural and artificial languages; state; official; national; regional languages; languages of national minorities; native language, interethnic language; international language; the language of business; the language of interethnic communication; the language of international communication; the language of science; the language of philosophy, etc.) in the areas of their functioning in the communicative and speech experience of each person both in individual countries and on a global scale, regardless of one or another particular ethnic language.

By the *area* of languages implementation, which is the basis for their functional-psycholinguistic classification, we understand the role of functionally oriented languages in the processes of human speech communication.

In this regard, we present a new view of *language* as a *biopsycholinguosocial* phenomenon and, accordingly, create the preconditions for other theoretical positions, including functional-psycholinguistic ones, to approach the choice of the grounds for classifying ethno-languages according to their functions in individual human speech behavior. The world's languages, which perform different functions in the discourse of a particular individual, have recently had the need to be framed as a separate

concept and its allocation into a separate group under certain taxonomic headings in accordance with the number of functions they perform in the psycholinguistic world of a man. In our opinion, such concepts and corresponding terms can be phrases: 1) «primary functional languages» and 2) «secondary functional languages» [3]. Primarily functional languages are those languages which, according to the state of evolution in phylogeny and sociogenesis, perform in speech behavior of the members of this or that society only cognitive, communicative and related to them other functions necessary for communication and existence of people in society within a particular ethnic group. Secondary functional languages are mostly multifunctional. According to the state of their development they are able to be poly-functional, performing various functions, for example, functions of international language, metalanguage, scientific language, state language, interethnic language, etc. The functions of the primary functional language are also inherent in any secondary functional language.

Until now, the term «functional language» has been used only in the context of programming as a language that supports and encourages functional style in programming. We propose to use the term «primary and secondary functional languages» *to nominate and group different names of languages (abstracting from specific ethnic languages) according to their functional role in the communicative and speech activity and behaviour of an individual.*

Thus, if we consider language as a person's competence (ability) to generate utterances, perceive and comprehend information (psycholinguistic approach), then the basis for the classification of the world's languages, based on this approach, will be the *functions* performed by a one or another kind of ethno-language in the human life. Therefore, the classification of languages can take place not only by ethnic (English, German, Russian, etc.), but also by functional-psycholinguistic criteria.

In accordance with the functions performed by ethno-languages in organizing the human mental activity in various spheres of the social life and social existence, it is possible to distinguish at least the following secondary functional languages: a) state; b) official; c) national; d) regional; e) languages of national minorities; f) native language; g) interethnic language; h) the language of interethnic communication; i) international language; j) the language of international communication; k) the language of business; l) the language of science; m) the language of philosophy [7]. The names of these types of *primary and secondary* functional languages are at the same time the nomination of those functions that are performed by these languages. All these and other, not named in this context, types of languages are multi-functional and can be combined into one typological group in

accordance with *higher mental functions*, performed by means of these types of languages in people's lives and in various activities of the subjects, regardless of the country and ethnic language [3]. The higher mental functions in psycholinguistics include verbal perception, imagination, thinking, image, and memory – the leading mental processes, the dynamics of which occurs through the implementation of speech by means of natural languages and due to the functions that are situationally performed by these languages in the human life.

Analysis of the types of the world's languages, carried out on the principle of performing certain functions in the lives of people in society by each of them and their interaction in society and the world as a whole, revealed that: different types of languages, united by their functional purpose, present the current area of scientists' interest, who represent various branches of science. Among these sciences, primarily are psychology and its branch – psycholinguistics.

One of methodological positions is the functional-psycholinguistic approach proposed in such context, which provides taking into account non-social functions of language in the classification system, but individually subjective and personal language functions in the human speech experience.

In this regard, psychology of language can become a science that should present theoretical and methodological principles for their scientifically substantiated association into one group according to their important functions in human life; psycholinguistics, the subject of which is speech and language phenomena of an individual, human personality, the processes of language acquisition, internal and external language generative systems and many other important anthropological psycholinguistic problems, should be devoted to carrying out a direct classification of the world's languages, functionally oriented to solve human psycholinguistic problems. After all, a language in any of its functions is primarily a tool of «*thinking and speaking*» [1], «*human heritage, the means of people's existence in society*» [2], «*constellation of cognitive abilities*» [6], «*biological object*», «*biolinguistic program*», «*generative process, neurally encoded*» [5].

The phenomenon of «*primary and secondary functional languages*» cannot be studied in isolation from the psycholinguistic development of a man, beyond his psyche, diverse and multicomponent activity in society. Therefore, we consider all types of functionally centered languages in two meanings: 1) in a narrow sense – as a biosocial phenomenon, genetically inherent and socially developed in ontogenesis; 2) in a broad sense – as a biopsycholinguosocial object, represented by a kind of individual linguistic means of externalization and internalization when expressing intentions in the process of generating statements, their perception and comprehension.

The language is identified in psychological and psycholinguistic interpretations with human speech, people's ability to use language means in utterances, to communicate using oral and written codes (signs). Therefore, the classification of the world's languages we carried out primarily on the basis of the society needs, and the needs of a man for language in the process of life in the society. Therefore, the advantage of functional and psycholinguistic classification of the world's languages over traditional – functional and social classification is obvious.

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