

Lecture №13

A functional paradigm of knowledge in modern linguistics (Part 1)

Functionalism as the principle of modern linguistics difficultly gives in to exact and unequivocal definition, and, moreover, unlike антропоцентризма hardly it is possible to name any direction or the doctrine about language which would not consider its functional aspect. Regulations about volume, that language is arranged functionally, by anybody and was never challenged and does not call in question as even at an intuitive level it is perceived as obvious enough and not demanding any scientific substantiation. Not casually, that any attempt of definition (definition) of language begins with that establishment, it carries out what function, and only after that step (definition of function) in a definition include other aspects of the language, considered essentially relevant within the limits of the corresponding approach to considered scientific object. Functionalism, thus, in the nature of language. The another matter, in what measure this property of language becomes independent, special aspect of scientific (linguistic) judgement, a scientific reflection.

Probably, it is necessary to agree with those who considers, that functionalism as the linguistic principle has been realized and formulated at the Prague school of structuralism (school of functional linguistics). And it is wrongful to oppose modern linguistic functionalism and classical structuralism. In fact all the basic postulates of structuralism – the notions “ language - speech ”, “ paradigmatics -syntagmatic”, “ internal linguistics - external linguistics ”, types of oppositions, etc. - are based on the functional nature of language.

The recognition of a priority of functions of language above its substance has allowed structuralism to transform linguistics not simply into the immanent theory of language, but first of all in such doctrine in which language is presented as functional system where relevant attributes are established through a network of intralinguistic oppositions. It is enough for it to recollect the receptions developed in structural linguistics for allocation of differential attributes of phonemes, members of opposition. Thus, functionalism has, as it is visible, deep roots in history of linguistics, and it is lawful to speak about continuous functional tradition in it. At the same time it is necessary to recognize, that in structuralism (except for, maybe, Prague linguistic circle) functionalism as the scientific principle was more likely auxiliary means of the decision of the primary goal, namely, establishments and descriptions of language as systems of pure attitudes, i.e. structures of language. Besides in classical linguistics, as is known, it was accepted to consider, that units of one level are in functional dependence on units of other, higher level of language.

The functional linguistics in its various versions in poststructuralism the period recognizes as the central problem an establishment and research of the basic functions of such tool what language of the person is. If to address to A.E.Kibrika's reflecting the tendencies of development of linguistics of the newest period as drift from "As-linguistics" to "What" already mentioned formula, that, probably, it is necessary to mention and about "What for-linguistics" from which the functional linguistics and its

problematics communicates. Really, without taking into account the target party of use of language in the speech communications it is impossible to present any linguistic theory, applying to be adequate to the object. An another matter when research of this aspect of language becomes the central problem for the whole direction or the concept in which basis representation about language as means of realization of the purposes and intentions those who uses language lays. In that case there are all bases to speak about a corresponding paradigm of knowledge or the independent branch of the scientific knowledge which has generated the initial conceptual positions, the postulates: “ the General postulate of functional linguistics are the regulations about volume, that language represents the tool, the instrument, means, at last, the mechanism for realization of definite purposes and realizations by the person of the certain intentions - as in sphere of knowledge of the validity and its description, and in certificates of dialogue, social interaction, interactions by means of language. Different schools functionalizm arise by virtue of that among various and diverse functions of language one or the several appear the most important; usually it or communicative, or cognition function of language, but is frequent - both that and another to which add also expressive-emotional, poetic ” (Kubrjakova 1995a, 217).

As it is possible to understand from the resulted citation, the subject domain and a problematics of functional linguistics is so wide and diverse, that it is difficult to name any independent branch of a science about language where "interests" of functional linguistics would not get. Difficultly therefore somehow precisely to designate a circle of those questions which make its priority area of interests, not speaking already about its exclusive competence. And the linguistic semantics studying the substantial party of units of language which is not that other as result of its functioning, and linguistic the pragmatist for which research of language as means of realization of definite purposes and intentions is one of the central problems, and the theory of speech certificates investigating principles and rules of speech behaviour, and stylistics which problem includes studying first of all functional styles of language, etc. Sections and branches of linguistics solve the problems to some extent making sphere of interests of functional linguistics. At the same time it is necessary to mean, that функционализм as the principle and functional linguistics as a direction have the essential and basic installation - studying of language in operation, language as realizations of the purposes and intentions of communicants, and also studying of mechanisms of use of language in speech. Such approach to language changes in many respects and the structural organization of linguistics as sciences. The classical approach to the description of language is guided, as is known, by the postulate consecrated by tradition about уронево́й the organizations of language system, a postulate realized in traditional hierarchy of sections of linguistics: phonetics (phonology)> morphemics and word-formation> morphology> syntax. Thus all these sections are guided by such unit of language, as a word through which prism other units are considered. Logocentral in linguistics allows to construct well given reason theory of language realized in so-called traditional (initial) grammar.