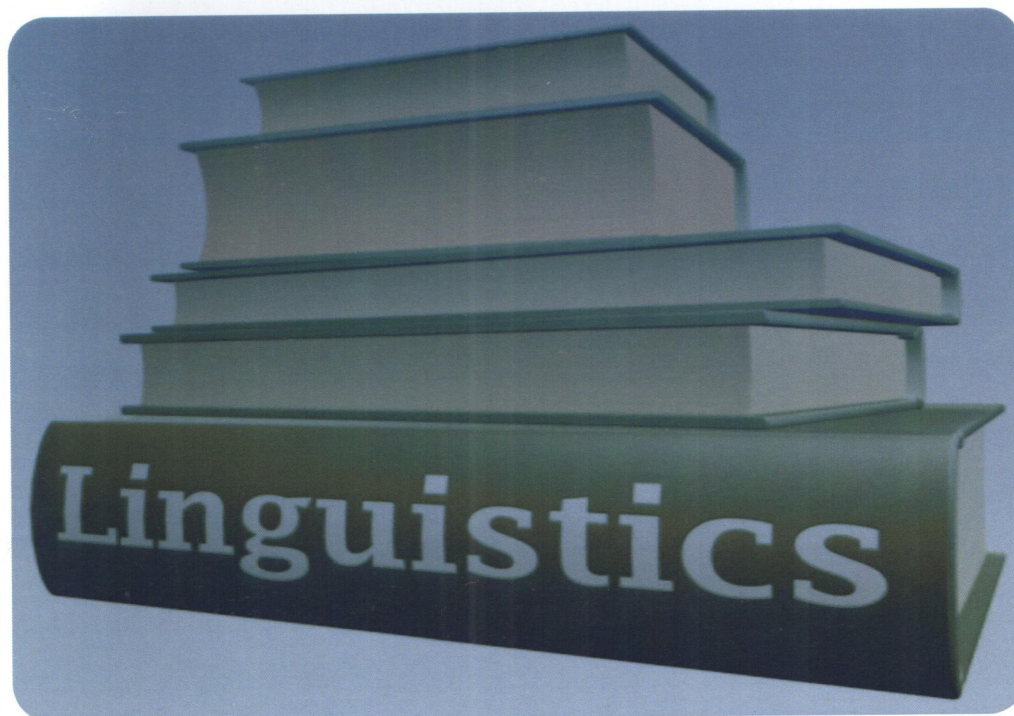


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THE WORLD OF LINGUISTICS

Учебно-методическая разработка



УДК 81'42
ББК 81.2Англ
Т 18

*Рекомендовано к изданию Ученым советом
факультета филологии, литературоведения и мировых языков и
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Т 18 Тексты по лингвистике «World of Linguistics»: учебно-методическая разработка по английскому языку для студентов факультета филологии, литературоведения и мировых языков. – Алматы: Казак университеті, 2013. – 47 с.

ISBN 978-601-04-0054-2

Предлагаемая разработка содержит подборку тематических текстов с упражнениями на английском языке, для расширения кругозора студентов и магистрантов в данной области знаний. Тексты подобраны из новейшей оригинальной английской и американской литературы по специальности.

Предназначена для студентов факультета филологии, литературоведения и мировых языков.

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ISBN 978-601-04-0054-2

1. ABOUT LANGUAGE

Almost nothing we do can be done without speech, and yet nothing we do is taken so much for granted as talking. This is not because talking is easy. It took mankind centuries to learn to talk, and it takes most of us a long time to really master our own language. The story of language goes through the whole of human history. Many of the important facts in history and geography become more significant when presented from the standpoint of how languages grow.

No matter how far back we go into history, we still find that words are tools which help us, in countless ways, to make the best of our life.

People need language in order to work together. Scientists and inventors need words in order to design spaceships. Men on those spaceships will talk to each other as they explore the universe. Many of the words that spacemen and scientists use in their work are new, although language itself is as old as an ancient cave man. But there was a time when all words were new. Ancient men were not born knowing how to talk. They had to create language.

People are making up new words all the time. People do this today and they did it long ago. Prehistoric men had to make up every word — or they had to borrow the word from someone else who had made it up.

A new word was born every time two cave men agreed to use a certain combination of sounds to stand for a certain thing. Then when they had agreed on a word, they could make still more. The more words they made, the easier it was to make still more. But language was slow to grow first when only a few words had been made up. After tens of thousands of years human beings finally broke out of the lonely world of silence.

Nobody knows when speech began, but some experts suspect that it probably started when people first made stone tools. Tools and language were important to each other. Each helped the other to develop. It seems probable that language was fully developed by about 25,000 years ago. Of course, no one can be sure. All we know for certain is this: Long before men had learned to preserve their words in writing, they had invented an astounding number of languages.

Experts say there are about 6,000 different languages used in the world today and they know of several hundred more that have died out. Behind this great number of languages lies one simple idea: sounds can