

BILINGUALISM FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF MODERN LINGUISTIC SCIENCE

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Abstract:

The article offered to attention attempts to isolate and describe the linguacultural component of modern bilingualism, to give a theoretical generalization to the analysis of the studied information. Sociolinguistic interpretation of bilingualism allows us to look at the associative indicators of this linguacultural phenomenon in a slightly different way.

Keywords: bilingualism, Uzbek and Russian languages, main language, guest language, code switching and mixing.

Introduction

We are currently experiencing the beginning of a new culture of humanity. The culture of the third millennium is a culture of synthesis. "There is a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together." The beginning of a new era is the time to create a holistic information space of culture that will unite all the most interesting things in science, philosophy, the best in art and the centuries-old spiritual experience accumulated by humanity. Today it is especially important to see the unity in the diversity of its manifestations, to learn to listen, feel and understand others. In other words, to know yourself as part of the world and the world as part of yourself. At the present time, when the mixing of peoples, languages and cultures has reached an unprecedented scale, and the problem of cultivating tolerance for other cultures, awakening interest and respect for them, overcoming the feeling of irritation from the excess, insufficiency or simply dissimilarity of other cultures has become more acute than ever, the problems of bilingualism in intercultural communication are becoming especially relevant.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Over the past 4-5 decades, interest in the problems of language contact has increased in linguistics, including the "eternal" topic of sociolinguistics – bilingualism. Bilingualism is an integral feature of language situations around the world, including multinational Uzbekistan. The very concept of "bilingual" has undergone significant changes over time. Initially, bilinguals were people who spoke two languages equally well.

For example, in the famous work of W. Weinreich "Language Contacts" we read the following definition: "alternating use of two languages". Here the level of language proficiency is not indicated, and, following this definition of bilingualism, everyone who knows two languages can be called bilingual [3].



We find something similar in L. Bloomfield: "bilinguals are individuals who speak two languages like native speakers" [2].

However, due to the globalization of the economy and the intensive development of contacts between countries, the concept of bilingualism has acquired a broader meaning. Modern researchers define bilinguals as individuals or groups of people who acquire the necessary communication skills of varying degrees of professionalism in oral and/or written form. Accordingly, bilingualism can be defined as a psychological and social state of individuals and groups of people that is the result of linguistic interaction using two or more codes (including dialects), regardless of their level of proficiency.

In this regard, according to V.N. Gerashchenko, it seems possible to formulate an approximate definition of bilingualism, allowing us to distinguish between its two main types – social (natural) and educational (artificial) [4: 4]. Social and individual bilingualism is understood as a process, an activity, and not as a state or quality.

The communicative competence of a bilingual, in addition to knowledge of linguistic codes and referential meanings, also implies a person's ability to use language in accordance with the socio-cultural context, as well as the ability to understand the functions of a particular language accepted in a given language community.

As a rule, bilinguals include in their speech both individual words, word forms, phrases, and entire sentences from both languages that they speak. But at the same time, equally good proficiency in both languages is very, very rare, compared to, for example, higher linguistic competence in one language and, accordingly, lower competence in the other. Therefore, one language will be considered the main, matrix language, and the other - the "guest" language. There is no such thing as absolutely literate and equal proficiency in two languages, one language is always the main one, and the other is the guest language. J. Laponse, for example, believes that "the dominant language always suppresses associations associated with the other language." [1, p. 196].

Thus, bilingualism is currently understood to mean not only the so-called natural bilingualism, but also artificially acquired bilingualism with priority proficiency in one of the languages. This category includes those people who have mastered a high level of knowledge of a second (non-native, foreign) language through independent study at school, university, etc.

In modern linguistic science, there are many different classifications of bilinguals:

- 1) by level of language proficiency: bilinguals with approximately equal proficiency in both languages and using them equally; bilinguals who know one language better than the other and prefer to use it more in communication;
 - 2) by age at which the second language is acquired: early, late bilinguals;
 - 3) by pragmatic criterion: forced bilinguals; bilinguals who decided to be so;
 - 4) by social criterion: bilinguals who know languages as a result of everyday communication or out of necessity (for example, representatives of small nationalities within a large country); bilinguals who know languages as a result of elite communication (for example, highly cultured people who received part of their education in a foreign language);
 - 5) by cultural criterion: bilinguals are bearers of two cultures; bilinguals are bearers of one culture.
- Based on this, it can be stated that bilinguals include a wide range of people, starting with bilinguals who speak both languages well, ending with people making their first attempts to express themselves in a new language. In addition to interference, the speech of bilinguals includes



a phenomenon known in sociolinguistics as code switching and mixing. Researcher G.N. Chirsheva defines code switching as a specific ability of a bilingual to successfully participate in a bilingual type of communication, choosing a language in accordance with extralinguistic factors, combining units of two languages in one statement, sentence or phrase, without violating the grammatical norms of either of them [7: 48]. The above classifications confirm that bilingualism is the ability to switch between two languages in the process of a communicative act depending on the interlocutor, the topic of conversation, the degree of formality, the communicative situation, pragmatic and psychological factors. This ability of bilinguals to use elements related to different language systems in communication is commonly called code switching in modern science, that is, the variable use of two languages within one phrase. Thus, A.I. Cherednichenko claims that in intercultural communication, code switching occurs in the process of communication, or code switching, when the speaker switches from one language to another depending on the conditions of communication [6: 246]. In this case, the transition occurs, most often, subconsciously, has no special purpose and is a consequence of the speaker's bilingualism, who at a certain moment often unconsciously uses one or another language. In this case, the speaker simply resorts to the language that is activated first and pronounces the word that comes to mind, which may be associated with the frequency of use of a given lexical unit. In other words, a bilingual is able to unconsciously switch codes, for example, from Uzbek to Russian, if a certain lexical unit is more frequent in Russian, even if he knows the corresponding equivalent in Uzbek.

Analysis of the speech behavior of bilinguals shows that even in the case of communication with speakers of the same language, it is impossible to use one language. There is no person who would be only monolingual. Bilinguals consciously or unconsciously use the familiar means of their dual code, which is one for them, that is, in their communication it actually acts as one.

Scientists believe that there are several reasons for code switching in communication. For example, a change in the addressee to whom the speaker is addressing. Code switching may be due to a change in the role of the speaker himself, for example, in the role of a father, a teacher, a colleague at work. If such a switch does not occur, then the interlocutors will not understand him, and he will not achieve his goal, in other words, he will suffer a communicative failure [5: 61].

Therefore, answering the question of who are modern bilinguals, it is necessary to dwell on the main functions of this phenomenon:

- 1) referential: in cases where the speaker feels a lack of linguistic means in one language or experiences certain difficulties in expressing thoughts, he switches to another language;
- 2) address: in certain situations, by switching codes, you can exclude an unwanted interlocutor from the conversation or, conversely, attract interested third parties to the conversation;
- 3) expressive: by switching codes, interlocutors emphasize their mixed identity, using two languages in the framework of one communicative act;
- 4) phatic: code switching can indicate a change in the tone of the conversation in order to attract the attention of the interlocutor, to create a more serious or, conversely, comic effect;
- 5) metalinguistic: variable use of two languages in conversation in order to impress the interlocutor with your linguistic competence;
- 6) stylistic: when the process of code switching involves stylistic devices such as pun, irony, metaphor, hyperbole, etc. The ability of people to switch from one language to another indicates a fairly high level of language proficiency and a certain communicative and general culture of the person.



CONCLUSION

Bilingualism helps to achieve an adequate picture of the world in the consciousness of an individual. Bilingualism, firstly, helps communication, cooperation, rapprochement and mutual assistance in socio-political life; secondly, it helps to spread a wide cultural exchange between peoples; thirdly, it can reduce to a minimum language barriers in communication between people of different nationalities, acting as a means of eliminating the possibility of mutual isolation of peoples; fourthly, it helps to widely disseminate the language of interethnic communication; fifthly, it helps to mutual enrichment and mutual influence, replenishment and expansion of the vocabulary of each of the languages participating in the general and unified process.

Thus, bilingualism is one of the fundamental conditions for successful communication in the modern world. The interaction of languages, peoples and cultures is becoming an increasingly common phenomenon in our multilingual world. This means that it is necessary to study this phenomenon from the point of view of linguistics, sociolinguistics, cultural studies, psycholinguistics and contact linguistics.

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