ISSN:3030-332X
Impact factor: 9,493
International journal of scientific researchers

THE IMPORTANCE OF SPEECH IN LINGUISTICS

Mamatkulov Abdulxapiz Latipovich
Professor of the Department of Foreign Languages
at the Andijan Branch of Kokand University

Mamatov Ravshanbek Rustamovich
Docent of the Department of Foreign Languages
at the Andijan Branch of Kokand University
https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20019009

Abstract: This article examines the significance of speech within linguistic theory and practice, exploring its role in communication, cognition, social interaction, language acquisition, and technological applications. Drawing on theoretical frameworks from structuralism, functionalism, sociolinguistics, and psycholinguistics, the study highlights how speech serves as a bridge between linguistic competence and performance. Furthermore, the paper discusses the implications of speech analysis in modern fields such as discourse analysis, pragmatics, and artificial intelligence. The findings demonstrate that speech is not merely a secondary aspect of language but a fundamental component essential for understanding linguistic behavior and human interaction.

Keywords: speech, linguistics, communication, discourse, pragmatics, language acquisition, sociolinguistics

Speech constitutes one of the central phenomena in linguistics, serving as the primary medium through which language is realized, transmitted, and interpreted. While language as an abstract system (langue) has been widely studied, speech represents its dynamic and functional manifestation in real communicative contexts.

Linguistics, as the scientific study of language, encompasses a wide range of subfields that analyze both the abstract structure of language and its practical use. One of the most essential aspects of language is speech, which represents the actual use of language in real-life situations. Speech is the audible, temporal, and context-dependent realization of linguistic competence, allowing individuals to convey meanings, express emotions, and engage in social interaction.

The distinction between language and speech was first systematically introduced by Ferdinand de Saussure, who differentiated between *langue* (the abstract system of language) and *parole* (the individual act of speaking). While structural linguistics initially prioritized the study of language systems, contemporary linguistic research increasingly recognizes the importance of speech as a dynamic and functional component of communication.

This article aims to explore the multifaceted role of speech in linguistics, emphasizing its importance across various domains, including communication, cognition, social identity, and technological development.

In structural linguistics, speech was traditionally viewed as secondary to the underlying system of language. Saussure argued that while language is a social product shared by a community, speech is an individual act. However, despite this distinction, speech provides the empirical data necessary for linguistic analysis. Without speech, the abstract system of language would remain inaccessible.

Functional linguistics places speech at the center of linguistic inquiry, emphasizing language as a tool for communication. Scholars such as Michael Halliday argue that language must be understood in terms of its functions in social contexts. Speech, therefore, becomes the primary medium through which these functions—such as informing, persuading, and expressing emotions—are realized.

In generative linguistics, speech is seen as the output of an internalized grammatical system. Psycholinguistics further investigates how speech is produced and processed in the human mind,

examining aspects such as speech planning, articulation, and comprehension. These perspectives highlight the cognitive complexity underlying spoken language.

Speech is the most immediate and natural form of human communication. Unlike written language, speech allows for real-time interaction, enabling speakers to adjust their messages based on feedback from listeners. This interactive nature enhances clarity and mutual understanding.

Speech is not limited to words alone; it includes paralinguistic features such as intonation, stress, rhythm, and pitch. These elements contribute significantly to meaning, conveying emotions, attitudes, and nuances that are often absent in written communication.

The meaning of speech is heavily influenced by context. Pragmatics, a subfield of linguistics, studies how context shapes interpretation. Speech acts, such as requests, promises, and apologies, illustrate how meaning extends beyond literal expressions.

Speech production involves a complex sequence of cognitive processes, including conceptualization, formulation, and articulation. Speakers must select appropriate lexical items, organize them grammatically, and produce them through coordinated motor movements.

Speech perception is equally complex, requiring listeners to decode acoustic signals and interpret them as meaningful linguistic units. This process involves both bottom-up (sensory) and top-down (cognitive) mechanisms.

Speech plays a crucial role in shaping thought. According to the theory of linguistic relativity, language influences cognitive processes. Inner speech, or silent verbal thinking, is an essential component of reasoning and problem-solving.

Speech varies across different social groups, reflecting factors such as age, gender, ethnicity, and social class. Sociolinguistics ուսումնասիր how these variations contribute to identity and social dynamics.

Speech is a powerful marker of identity. Accents, dialects, and speech styles signal belonging to particular communities. Individuals may modify their speech (code-switching) to adapt to different social contexts.

Different cultures have distinct norms governing speech, including politeness strategies, turn-taking, and forms of address. Understanding these norms is essential for effective intercultural communication.

Children acquire language primarily through exposure to speech. Interaction with caregivers provides essential input, enabling children to develop phonological, lexical, and grammatical competence.

In second language acquisition, speech plays a critical role in developing communicative competence. Speaking practice enhances fluency, pronunciation, and confidence. Interaction through speech facilitates language learning by providing opportunities for negotiation of meaning, feedback, and correction. Discourse analysis examines how speech is organized beyond the sentence level. Spoken discourse is characterized by features such as spontaneity, redundancy, and interactional markers.

Speech fulfills various pragmatic functions, including informing, persuading, entertaining, and aintaining social relationships. Advances in technology have led to the development of speech recognition systems, enabling machines to interpret spoken language. These systems rely on linguistic models of phonetics, phonology, and syntax. Speech synthesis technology allows computers to produce human-like speech. Applications include virtual assistants, language learning tools, and accessibility devices. In artificial intelligence, speech plays a crucial role in human-computer interaction. Natural language processing (NLP) systems aim to understand and generate speech in a way that mimics human communication. Speech is highly variable, influenced by factors such as speaker characteristics, context, and environment. This variability poses challenges for linguistic analysis.

Capturing speech in written form requires transcription, which may not fully represent its dynamic features. Researchers must develop methods to accurately analyze spoken data. Despite advancements, speech technologies still face limitations in accurately recognizing diverse accents and spontaneous speech.

Speech is a fundamental component of linguistics, providing the primary means through which language is realized and experienced. It serves as a bridge between abstract linguistic systems and real-world communication, encompassing cognitive, social, and cultural dimensions. The study of speech enriches our understanding of language as a dynamic and multifaceted phenomenon. As linguistic

research continues to evolve, the importance of speech becomes increasingly evident, particularly in fields such as sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, discourse analysis, and artificial intelligence. Recognizing the central role of speech not only enhances theoretical insights but also contributes to practical applications in education, technology, and intercultural communication.

REFERENCES

1. Saussure, F. de. (1916). Course in General Linguistics.
2. Chomsky, N. (1965). Aspects of the Theory of Syntax.
3. Halliday, M. A. K. (1978). Language as Social Semiotic.
4. Crystal, D. (2003). A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics.
5. Mamatov R. A review of the lives and works of nobel prize laureates in modern german literature //international conference on science, engineering and technology. – 2026. – Т. 3. – №. 3. – С. 72-73.