

Sociolinguistic problems of international linguistic conferences

12th International Conference on the History of Language Sciences (Russian Federation, St. Petersburg University, August 28 – September 2, 2011).

The conference took place at the Faculty of Linguistics of the University. The participants of the conference were the researchers from Europe, Asia, the USA, Japan, Brazil and other countries. The reports of the participants presented new information in historical sociolinguistics and history of sociolinguistics. For example, we may stress the role of social factor in one of the oldest linguistic tradition. The speaker Paranzhap Binda from the University of Baranasu (India) confirms that formation of grammatical knowledge on Sanskrit was socially dependent since women were not engaged in the processes of language studies. Her ideas were supported by the fact that in the long list of grammatical works written over more than 2 thousand years there was no single female author. The conclusion of the author persuades that knowledge on language was part of social policy, a certain way of regulating the access to power through cognition. The other aspect of the problem was that woman was not represented in the illustrative material of grammar books. The absence of corresponding examples testifies to powerful traditions of patriarchy in the Indian society.

There were four sections at the conference where the questions, that traditionally research the history of linguistic studies, were discussed. Simultaneously, there were reports that posed the questions of language development or scientific knowledge about it under the influence of the society.

The first section 'European linguistics from Antiquity to the epoch of Enlightenment' reviewed the development of linguistic ideas over the period of ancient linguistics, at the epoch of Middle Ages and Resurrection. Here are the examples of topics that show the formation of the content of the category 'bilingualism' (Odile Leclereque. "Lexicography and structure of the French language in the 17th century/ Province University, France); 'codification' (Thomas Godard. The role of the French language in codification of English (1660–1780) / Cambridge University); demonstrated the interaction of language and ideology (Chobotova Kateryna. The theory of standard language from the position of official communist propaganda in Czech Republic; Kuznetsov Sergey. "Where is Marr leading? (Hidden motifs of the linguistic discussions of 1950ies). The researchers revealed the relations of social and individual (Yerofeyeva Yelena. Individual and social in the concept of Lev Shcherba and Boris Larin); described the interaction of language and power (Kibbi Douglas. Linguistic censor and appearance of linguistic absolutism in France of the 17th century) or language, knowledge and gender (Paranzhap Binda. History of grammar and women).

The second section was dedicated to the issues of developing linguistic ideas in the 19th century. During the third section 'Sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, anthropological linguistics: history of studies' the speakers discussed the issues related with the formation of sociolinguistic approach in the theory of language. The topics were the following: Olivia Walsh. Attitude of speakers to the French language in France: puristic or moderate? (Cambridge University, Great Britain); Marlen Lowdeiro. First Portuguese grammar for girls created by female author (Portugal); Victoria Gulida. Language of the city: parallels and discrepancies in research attitudes of the Soviet sociolinguistics of the 1920ies and American sociolinguistics of 1970ies; Tatiana Nikolayeva. Linguistics in inter-war period: chaos or fight of paradigms? (Russian Academy of Science); Olena Simonato. The Soviet phonology as a basis for 'language construction' (University of Lausanne, Switzerland).

The head of the research group from the University of Lausanne Prof. Patrique Serio delivered his speech at the plenary session. The topic of his speech was: "Yakobson, Voloshynov and refusal from causal relations". The report "Soviet and world linguistics" was delivered by the Russian linguist Vladimir Alpatov taking into account only the ideas of Moscow and St. Petersburg linguistic schools.

24th International congress in onomastics (Spain, University of Barcelona, September 5-9, 2011)

The topics of the reports at the conference, which unites the researchers of the world once in three years, were centered around the major problem 'Name in everyday life', which pointed attention to sociolinguistic analysis. For describing daily being of the person the correlative interaction may be applied: proper name and age, sex, social group and ethnic belonging.

There were 12 sections at the conference, where more than 60 researchers from different universities and research centers took the floor. Thus, the participants of terminological sections discussed the apparatus of onomastics, which is often different in various onomastic traditions. One of the reports of the section 'Theory of onomastics' is dedicated to definition, subject sphere, characteristics and functions of social onomastics, which is a new branch of research. This report was delivered by the Norwegian professor Akselberg Gannstein from Bergen University, who stated: in view of names as illustrative material of social onomastics, its problematic should be described in the context of sociolinguistics, which makes an integrating mode of research. The section 'Onomastics and linguistics' reviewed the interaction of ideas which form modern theory of onomastic research. For example, in the report by Prof. Bohdan Azhniuk a clear sociolinguistic component could be followed: 'Translation of proper names in the countries – successors of the USSR: intercultural and sociolinguistic perspective.' The reports of this section discussed the aspects of forming the categorical basis of onomastics, development of describing the problem under the influence of contemporary linguistic paradigm. In particular, the report by Professor Halyna Matsyuk 'Urban name as a marker of interaction of language and power in Ukraine (Soviet and post-Soviet periods)' substantiates the need of integrating the ideas of sociolinguistics, linguistic landscape, lingual cultural studies, onomastics etc.

Reports at the section 'Name in the society' also demonstrated clear sociolinguistic content discussing the role of proper names in situations of interpersonal communication. For example, the following topics were discussed: Felekan Olivu 'Gypsy names: anthropological identity/assimilation', Brilla Eva 'Modern view on proper names in

Sweden from the position of identity', Bergien Angelika 'Cultural dimensions of metaphorically used names'; Blluthuft Garrit, Shraagen Mariyin 'Changes in fashion for names in different generations of social classes', Leino Antti 'Man, woman or me? Conflict identities liable to trans-gender changes in names' etc. There were sections on anthroponomastics, toponymy, onomastics and history, onomastics and geography, onomastics and culture, cartography and local names, onomastics and standardization processes, section of Catalan onomastics.

25th International Congress in Onomastics will take place in 2014 (Glasgow, Scotland).