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The Development of Linguistics in America and Europe

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا

تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ

صِدْقَ اللَّهِ الْعَظِيمِ

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Dedication

*I would like to dedicate this research to : People
who have helped and supported me so much ...My
Family , my Friends and my Supervisor*

Acknowledgement

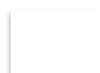
First of all, All praise is due to Allah , lord of the worlds , sincerely thank for God .Special thanks are due to my supervisor Asst.prof.Firas Abdel Moneim Jawad for his assistance, guidance insightful supervision and pricefess instructions during the various stages of this work.Great Thanks are also due to teaching Staff at the department of English,College of Education for Human Sciences .and Sincere appreciation to my family for their encouragement and support.

Abstract

This paper aims to conduct a thematic study on the development of Linguistics in Europe and America. This research paper consists of an Four chapters. The first chapter consists of the introduction, Chapter Two deals with the development of linguistics in Europe, and Chapter Three deals with the development of linguistics in America , chapter Four deals with differences in development of linguistics in Europe and America.

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Chapter One

Introduction

This present study illustrates the development of linguistics in America and Europe, how it has developed and how the most important linguists have contributed to the development of linguistics, and how the development of linguistics in America has differed from development of linguistics in Europe.

1.1 Problem /

Q1/ How has linguistics developed in Europe ?

Q2/ How has linguistics developed in America ?

Q3/ What are the basic contributions to linguistics in Europe and America ?

Q4/ why has linguistics in Europe and America developed differently ?

1.2 Objective /

The following objectives are targeted in the present study :

1_ Showing the development of linguistics in Europe.

2_ Showing the development of linguistics in America.

3_ Showing linguistic contributions in America and Europe.

4_ Identifying the reasons behind the different ways of development of linguistics in America and Europe.

1.3 The limited of the study/

The present study is limited to study the Development of linguistics in America and Europe.

1.4 Procedures /

The procedure followed in the study include :

1_ Presenting a theoretical framework about the development of linguistics in Europe.

2_ Presenting a theoretical framework about the development of linguistics in America.

3_ Identify the difference in development for linguistics in Europe and America.

1.5 The Value of the study /

It is hoped that the present study will be of some theoretical value to those who are interested in the history of linguistics.

Chapter Two

The Development of Linguistics in Europe

2.1 Introduction :

Linguistics was first studied in Europe through what is called "Traditional grammar". Traditional grammar refers to the type of grammar study done prior to the beginnings of modern linguistics. Traditional grammar can be traced back over 2,000 years and includes grammars from the classical period of Greek, India, and Rome; the Middle Ages; the Renaissance; the 18th and 19th century; and more modern times. Linguistics in Europe developed over the years and was influenced by many scientists, philosophers and schools that changed their course since Greeks and Romans till 21st century. Before the 19th century, language in Europe was of interest to philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle.

2.2. Historical linguistics

It is the study of the developments of languages in the course of time, of the ways in which languages change from one period to period and of the causes and results of such changes both outside the languages and within them.

2.2.1 Sir William Jones (1746 – 1794)

He was an English philologist, and jurist. While serving as a judge of the high court at Calcutta, he became a student of ancient India and founded the Asiatic Society of Bengal. He was best known for his famous proposition that many languages come from a common source.

Aitchison(2003:26) writes that in 1786 Sir William Jones points out that Sanskrit, Greek, Latin, Celtic and Germanic all had structural similarities. These languages must come from one source. ' This

discovery could be considered as the birthdate of linguistics. There started comparative Grammar. Linguists started to compare various members of the Indo-European Language Family. They started to relate languages according to their origin and drew trees and diagrams for them.

In 1786, Sir William Jones discovered that all languages (Sanskrit), Old Indian (Greek, German, and Latin) were spring from the same origin. Jones' clear understanding of the fundamental principles of scientific linguistics provided the foundations upon which Rusk, Bob, and Grim built the distinctive structure of comparative Indo-European studies.

2.3 Modern linguistics

De Saussure was the founder of modern structural linguistics. His time witnessed the rapid rise of descriptive linguistics as opposed to historical linguistics.

2.3.1 Ferdinand De Saussure (1857 _ 1913)

Campbell (2017:107) points out that The Swiss linguist, whose ideas about structure in language set the basis for much of the approach and advance of linguistic science in the 20th century, in 1916 (*Course in General Linguistics*), De Saussure's students reconstructed his lectures based on student notes carefully prepared by his junior colleagues Charles Balli and Albert Sichihae. The publication of his works is considered the starting point for structural linguistics in the 20th century. De Saussure is considered by many to be the founder of modern structuralist theory, of which his language and parole are an integral part. It was believed that the meaning of a word depended less on what it referred to and more on its structure de Saussure considered the key figure in the shift from nineteenth-century to

twentieth-century attitudes Saussure, who first introduced himself to the scholarship.

2.3.2 John Rupert Firth (1890_ 1960)

He was an English linguist and a leading figure in British linguistics during the 1950s. He was Professor of English at the University of the Punjab from 1919–1928, who perhaps was the most famous British linguist until shortly after his death. Firth believed that linguists should study language in use and emphasized the importance of studying meaning in context. Khan (2022) writes that the London school of linguistics along with phonetics, focuses on the semantic side of language. Moreover, it follows the "Saussure" path of synchronization, which "rejects discourse concepts of collective and social experience, and examines one's speech".

2.3.3 The Prague school:

It started in 1926 as a group of linguists, philologists and literary critics in Prague. Prague School , was an influential group of literary and linguistic critics in Prague. The Prague School of Linguistics was heavily inspired by the work of Saussure. The founder of the school was Willem Mathesius (1926). Khan (2022) points out that the Prague school Takes the step of integrating formal linguistics with functional linguistics. This means that a relationship has been created between the structure of the language (which looks at patterns within the language) and its communicative properties (that is how language works). However, the school has a more functional focus (Wollsdorf 1994). Other prominent members of the Prague School of Linguistics are Nikolai Tropitskoy and Roman Jakobson. The school developed the famous "characteristic analysis" of sounds. This means that each sound has a number of distinct sound characteristics and there can be two distinct similar sounds if one of these sound characteristics is different in the vicinity of the other similar sound. Unlike de

Saussure, this European school favors descriptive linguistics to a limited extent, putting the social aspect of linguistics in the picture.

2.3.4: Michael Halliday (1925 _ 2018)

He was a British linguist who developed the internationally influential systemic functional linguistics model of language. Tikkanen (2022) writes that in his early work, known as “*scale and category linguistics*,” Halliday devised four categories (unit, structure, class, and system) and three scales (rank, exponence, and delicacy) to describe language. He also did work on intonation (*Intonation and Grammar in British English*, 1967) and on discourse analysis (*Cohesion in English*, 1976). His later theory, sometimes called *systemic linguistics*, was that language has three functions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual.

Chapter Three

The Development of Linguistics in America

3.1 Introduction

Linguistics in America began as a branch of anthropology. At the beginning of the 20th century, anthropologists were keen to record the rapidly dying culture of American Indian tribes, and the Amerindian languages were one aspect of this. Although these early linguists were often interesting, most of their work was haphazard and lacked coherence. There were no firm guidelines for linguists to follow when they tried to describe exotic languages. This situation changed with the publication in 1933 of Leonard Bloomfield's comprehensive work *Language* simply, which attempted to establish strict procedures for describing any language.

3.2 Franz Boas (1858_ 1942)

Franz Boas is considered the founder of American linguistics and American anthropology. Obtaining information about Native American languages and cultures before they disappeared was a major concern for him. His work was dedicated to obtaining accurate information while possible. Campbell (2017:109) points out that the methods developed by Boas and his followers to describe these languages became the basis of American structuralism, a dominant force in twentieth-century linguistics. This approach reflects Boas's famous "linguistic relativity" and its emphasis on avoiding generalization. He published studies of Native American languages, and "Handbook of the American Indian Languages" in 1911. His other publications included "Primitive Art" in 1927, "Anthropology and Modern Life" in 1928 and "Race, Language and Culture" in 1940.

3.3 Edward Sapir (1884_ 1939)

He was an American Jewish anthropologist-linguist, who is widely considered to be one of the most important figures in the development

of the discipline of linguistics in America. Sapir was (Boas's student). Widely published in both linguistics and anthropology.

3.4 Benjamin Lee Whorf (1897_ 1941)

He was an American linguist, Whorf is widely known for his ideas about linguistic relativity. In his theory of linguistic relativity, Allan (2009: 244) points that Whorf argues that culture and language informed thinking and that multiple logical systems revealed unnecessary narrowness in the core assumptions of Western science. For over 50 years, several scholars have recognized the relevance of Whorf's work. He had been known for his theory Sapir-Whorf hypothesis (Linguistic relativity).

3.5 Leonard Bloomfield (1887_1949)

He was an American linguist who led the development of structural linguistics in the United States during the 1930s and the 1940s. He is considered to be the father of American distributionalism. Campbell (2017: 110) points out that Bloomfield is considered a milestone in linguistics, and the basis of American structuralist language thinking. From this book, Bloomfield stated that showed Saussure's thinking on every page. Bloomfield was also heavily influenced by behavioral psychology. Agreed to prohibit generalization, but at the same time denied the importance of "Mind"; That is, he opposed the mentality that characterized the American linguistics of Boas and Sapir and their students. He is especially known for his book *Language* (1933), which greatly influenced the subsequent course of linguistics in the United States for the first half of the twentieth century. His work helped establish linguistics as an independent scientific discipline. Avoiding cognitive processes and other non-observable processes, Bloomfield applied behavioristic principles to the field rejecting the view that the structure of language reflects the structure of thought. While his approach established linguistics as a scientific discipline, his isolation of linguistic phenomena from their non-linguistic mental

and social environment was a serious limitation, as human beings are social beings and language is an essential tool of communication.

3.6 Noam Chomsky (1928)

He is an American linguist and he is the best linguist alive. Noam Chomsky is an eminent American theoretical linguist, cognitive scientist, and philosopher, who radically altered the field of linguistics by assuming that language is a unique biological human cognitive ability. He proposed that innate traits in the human brain generate both language and grammar. Chomsky is best known for his influence on linguistics, specifically the development of transformational grammar. Campbell (2017:111) writes that Chomsky believed that formal rules were directly responsible for a person's ability to understand and interpret mere speech. His works.. He created or co-created the universal grammar theory, the generative grammar theory, the Chomsky hierarchy, and the minimalist program. Chomsky also played a pivotal role in the decline of linguistic behaviorism, and was particularly critical of the work of B. F. Skinner. Hikmet (1999: 54) writes that Between 1933 and 1957, linguistics itself developed the task of mastering "strict discovery procedures", that is, finding a set of principles that would enable the linguist to discover the grammar of a block of data collected from the informant (usually the original speaker). In 1957, in the highest structuralist influence on linguistic studies, Modern Language professor Avram Noam Chomsky at the Massachusetts Institute of Linguistics and Technology published a 108-page study entitled Grammar Structures. This book challenged many of the fundamental beliefs of linguistics in his theory of linguistic structure known as T.G.G(Transformative Generative grammar).

Chapter Four

The Development of Linguistics in America and Europe

4.1 Introduction

Both European and American approaches developed rapidly. In America, the development of detailed procedures for the study of spoken language also led to progress in phonetics and phonology and a special attention was paid to morphology and syntax. While in Europe linguistics developed through grammar and the language was written.

4.2 In Europe

The development of linguistics in Europe began from traditional grammar before the 19th century. Traditional grammar means the Aristotelian approach to the nature of language as embodied in the works of ancient Greeks and Romans, the speculative work of the Middle Ages and the instructive approach to 18th century grammar, after that a new era began with historical linguistics in 19th century. Historical linguistics is the scientific study of how languages change over time, which seeks to understand the relationships among languages and to reconstruct earlier stages of languages. Our primary focus is on historical Indo-European linguistics – the history and development of the Indo-European family of languages, which includes English. In the 18th century James Burnett, Lord Monboddo analyzed numerous languages and deduced logical elements of the evolution of human language. His precursive concepts of biological evolution. Some of his early concepts have been validated and are considered correct today. In his *The Sanskrit Language* (1786), Sir William Jones proposed that Sanskrit and Persian had resemblances to Classical Greek, Latin, Gothic, and Celtic languages. From this idea sprung the field of comparative linguistics and historical linguistics. In the 19th century, modern linguistics began with Ferdinand de

Saussure. Through the 19th century, European linguistics centered on the comparative history of the Indo-European languages, with a concern for finding their common roots and tracing their development. Modern structural linguistics can be said to have begun with the publication of Ferdinand de Saussure's *Lectures, A Course in General Linguistics*, in 1916. Behind de Saussure, stretching back over 2000 years lies the era of traditional grammar. De Saussure was the first person to point out clearly that language was a highly organized structure in which all the elements are interdependent. From him, we date the era of 'structural linguistics'. The development of linguistics arises out of the aims and methods of 19th C. comparative philology, with its focus on written records and its interest in historical analysis and interpretation. The beginning of the 20th C. saw a sharp change of emphasis with the study of the principles governing the structure of living language being introduced by the Genevan linguist Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913). Saussure's early work was in philology, but he is mainly remembered for his theoretical ideas, as summarized in the *Course in General Linguistics*, which is widely held to be the foundation of the modern subject. Robins (1967) points out that in De Saussure's *Linguistics*, he was the founder of modern structural linguistics. His time witnessed the rapid rise of descriptive linguistics as opposed to historical linguistics. Allan (2009) writes that the Neo-Traditional Grammarians represent the period from traditional grammar to structural grammar. They follow the traditional concepts but come up with new methods of collecting data. They refute the traditional view concerning the insistence that Latin contains some sort of universal rules and one should return to Latin, in order to find these rules. This was the difference between traditional grammar and Neo-traditional grammar, yet they have the same concept. In addition, they began to base their rules and descriptions on real data part of which was gathered from native speakers, but much of it was taken from the works of great linguists.

4.3 In America

Linguistics in America developed through phonetics because there was no written language, no text, no grammar, because the Amerindian tribes could not write because they had no writing system. So anthropologists had to analyze the word through sound and divided it down into smaller units called phonemes. Linguistics in America gradually developed over time. Leonard Bloomfield had the greatest influence on the development of linguistics in the 19th century. Noam Chomsky also played a major role in the development of linguistics, not just in America, but throughout the world. Hikmet (199: 47) points out that Modern linguistics began to develop from the end of the 18th century to the present day. The development of linguistics in America started when American anthropologists were interested in establishing good descriptions of Amerindian languages and cultures before they disappeared. The most important effects that took advantage of new field study methods was initiated by a small group of American anthropologists at the turn of the century. They wanted to bring Christianity to the American Indian tribes and translated the Bible into many tribal languages. However, there were no records to rely on. Also, Indian languages were found to be different from any language with which they were familiar. Therefore, fieldworkers found themselves without guidelines. So they relied on sound analysis methods recording hundreds of sounds. Then temporary alphabets were created they copied the important sounds of the language. The most important contributions of structural linguists were in the areas of phonology (sound structure) and morphology (word structure). The pioneer in this field was Franz Boas (1858-1942) who published the first volume of *the Handbook of American Indian Languages* in 1911. He was a German-born anthropologist who spent most of his life studying American-Indian cultures. He became the first professor of anthropology at Columbia University in 1899. For many years, he dominated the discipline in America. He was a very active and productive field worker. He was spoken of by his colleagues in terms of 'genius'. Their achievements could be summarized by first they were working to identify phonemes, Second,, they had to find the phonemic sequence consisting of

language words (to learn how to combine these phonemes into meaningful unit forms) and finally, they had to analyze the syntax of the language and record it. However, the syntax was not given due importance. Robins (1967) points out that (after the publication of Boas' book), another anthropologically oriented book appeared, *Language* by Edward Sapir (1884-1939). He was a student of Boas in which he outlined the scientific procedure to be followed in linguistic studies. They depended on speech to supply data. They wanted to describe most of the American-Indian languages. They insisted that a command of the language is an indispensable means of obtaining accurate and thorough knowledge, because much information can be gained by listening to conversations of the natives and taking part in their daily life. Structuralism in America was an offspring of the field-workers. The relation between Boas and Sapir was similar to that between Sapir and Bloomfield. Both have books entitled *Language*. These two basic books led to the study of Modern linguistics in America. Hikmet (1998) writes that after that Leonard Bloomfield was the lead developer of the Twentieth century Structural in America. He published his introduction to the language study in 1914 and later his famous book *The Language* in 1933. This book dominated linguistic thinking for over twenty years, presenting numerous descriptive studies of grammar and phonology. His theory is based on "rigorous discovery procedures". He and his followers based their descriptions of English truths on actual, empirically verifiable statements. Ignoring references to semantics, they focused on providing accurate descriptions of the structure of English sound, word, and sentence. They considered the study of meaning a weakness in the study of language, and Bloomfield himself asserted that it was premature for this generation to deal with semantics. Thus, according to them, the linguistic levels begin as follows: phonology, morphology and syntax. Hikmet (1999) points out that Bloomfield presented a detailed outline of the principles of structural language analysis. He stressed the importance of using empirical data. To him, the grammarian's task was only to collect as much language data as possible. Then, he analysed and classified the data on the basis of objective evidence to reach a conclusion. He

maintained that a grammar could be defined as a perfect, objective description of language and the ultimate goal of a linguist was to find rules that led to such grammar. Allan (2009) states that in 1957, linguistics took another path when Noam Chomsky published a (108) pages monograph entitled *Syntactic Structures*. This book challenged many of the basic beliefs of linguistics in his theory of language structure known as T.G.G. (Transformational-Generative Grammar).

Conclusion

This paper investigates the development of linguistics in Europe and America, and some of the most famous linguists who contributed to the development of linguistics and their theories, and how the development of linguistics in America differed from that of Europe. In Europe, linguistics developed through the traditional grammar of ancient times of Plato and Aristotle. Sir William Jones was one of the most influential in the development of linguistics, proving that Indo-European languages come from a one single source. In America linguistics was developed first by anthropologists who sought to codify the languages of Amerindian tribes, and their entry into this field was through phonetics and spoken languages. The development of linguistics in Europe differed from that in America. The reason for this is that in Europe there were texts and there were books and references and the language was written. And there were many scientists and linguists who had a direct and significant influence, and after the 19th century, there were many schools of language and linguists.

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