ARTICULATORY AND PERCEPTIVE ASPECTS OF TYPOLOGY OF SOUND SYSTEMS IN CONDITIONS OF MULTILINGUISM

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The problem of interaction between perceptive and articular aspects in foreign language teaching is investigated. The possibility of correct comparison of sounds in mother tongue and foreign language in these aspects is demonstrated and the method to define distinct criteria of typological identity is suggested. The experimental results show the effectiveness of the method of interaction and perception of foreign language under the conditions of bilingualism.

Lately, linguistics treats the problem of language systems interaction under conditions of bilingualism and multilingualism quite often. One of the most important aspects in this respect is the way the languages are to be perceived as a whole. This problem is of special interest for natural bilingualism that takes place under conditions of interaction between the speakers whose mother tongue is not the same. In formal bilingualism which occurs under par- ticular circumstances when a language is taught in educational institutions, these two forms differ from each other by their motivation. In the first case the principal aim is to exchange information while the forms of expressing ideas are more or less neglected. In the second occasion the pupils' attention is directed to mastering the language. In this situation the language system is reduced to influence of the pupil's mother tongue (MT) on the foreign language (FL) studied. In case of natural bilingualism a mutual effect of the contact of two languages can be noticed. Both forms are to be closely examined by linguists and specialists of adjacent sciences. Natural multilingualism is characteristic for the situation which has taken place in the Soviet Union. When Russian and national languages interact, their influence on sounds is doubled: the Russian language spoken by the representative of other nationalities acquires quite definite phonetic properties which are connected with the phonological and phonetic characteristics of either of national sound systems. Such interaction results in specific "national" variants of Russian language. This variant is typical not only for each of the languages but for Russians living in the Republic. It has been noticed that the peculiarities of sound realization are caused by the Russian language used in the Republic but not the national language of the Republic. It is known that the artificial form of contact can be regarded as a representation of natural language but for Russians living in the Republic. The role of mechanism of speech perception is of primary importance in making up one's mind. Trubetzkoy (1954) underlined that the perception of foreign language sounds is phonologically conditioned. It does not mean that a foreign language speaker interprets any unfamiliar sound as a known one, i.e., turns any sequen- tory model of natural processes and the other way round. Any experimental data available we can state that the exper- tise is capable of differentiating a larger number of sounds than the average person in his MT. Nevertheless, this ca- pability of a person is al- most independent of the criteria of typological relations, when per-

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the language studied in the group of bilingual (polylexial) results from the contact of phonetic systems in MT and FL. Such "harmfult" points can be ticked out on the basis of their interaction in contacting languages. Thus, there are attempts to group phonemes in MT and FL on the principles of their acoustic or articulatory similarity; one can find the following definition of "close group", "phonemes of relatively close group", "phonemes not coinciding in MT and FL" and the like. In the classifications of this kind one can see the criteria that underlie the act of typology-yet it is difficult to understand what is meant as phonemes, coinciding in MT and FL. It is quite doubtful that identical phonemes can exist in hetero-systemic languages, and the conclusion about coincidence of the whole number of English sounds /f/, /v/ with the corresponding Russian phonemes is not convincing, because two things are ignored: a clearly distinguishable opposition in the system of Russian consonant-palatal/hard sounds which do not occur in English (German) language and phoneme distribution, at the same time the correlation of paired palatal-hard phonemes along the same role in Russian phonetic system because, firstly, the largest amount of consonant phonemes are involved in this opposition and, secondly, palatal-hard consonants influence greatly the adjacent vowels and cause the whole range of particularities in allophones of vowel phonemes in speaking role in Russian phonetic system. But it is just to the point to say that when carrying out a typological research not only the existence of this opposition are to be taken into consideration but the place it occupies in the system of the whole language under discussion. Taking the above-mentioned fact into account we can't consider such phonemes as German /f/, /v/ and Russian /f/, /v/ as identical ones, though there is some definite articulatory similarity between them. The difficulty of mastering the identical German and Russian phonemes is caused by the following peculiarity of Russian articulatory base: 1) in position f-front vowel or voiceless fricative consonant there is no additional raise of the back part of the tongue; 2) in position f-vocalized fricative there is no any assimilation. The latter case causes such difficulty for reproduction because of presence of two different processes in the system of Russian Ukranian consonants, on the one hand, and German consonants, on the other hand: regressive assimilation in voicing and progressive assimilation in compare A(vj)anistan-A(lg)anistan. I am going to come to the conclusion that there are no difficulties for pronunciation of sounds in the German language. The results of perceptive tests show that the opposition voicing-invoicing in the German language is not so strong as in Russian or Ukranian (5,19), that is why the difficulties of German voiceless/Fortes/ voiced/Lenes/ consonants are not created even in intervocalic position (e.g. rain). It is a good thing to mention here A.Reformatsky's words: "One multilingual place where phonology does not feel at home is the methods of teaching foreign sounds of a foreign language. Quite often speakers who are regarded as orally native even in the Russian allomorph of certain sounds of Russian do not feel the pronunciation of the first group to increase the amount of errors in speech perception and articulation. Particularly, when the perception of the sounds of the first group is much more stable. The use of the criterion of identification of sounds in perception allows to reveal a clear-cut correlation between articulatory and perceptive aspects of speech under multilingual conditions." (11).