

Some General Observations on Linguistic Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Since linguistics is the scientific study of language, one of the most essential and critical ideas in contemporary linguistic studies is (Linguistic Analysis). The expression (Linguistic analysis) is used to specify some aspects of a particular language, each level is employed and used in its own techniques to enable learners and researchers to get information about one aspect and to look for another aspect, every level can be analysed and discussed with various features, i.e., in studying pronunciation we study phonetic levels and some basics of phonetics.

Societies are established by the efficiency and developing their languages, and vocalizations reflect the significant thoughts and perform everything associated with meaning exactly.

Keywords: Linguistic Analysis, Descriptivism, British Studies, Halliday, Crystal, Structuralists.

بعض الملاحظات العامة عن التحليل اللغوي

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الملخص

بما أن علم اللغة هو الدراسة العلمية للغة، فإن من أهم الأفكار الأساسية في الدراسات اللغوية المعاصرة هو (التحليل اللغوي). يستخدم تعبير (التحليل اللغوي) لتحديد بعض جوانب لغة معينة، ويتم توظيف كل مستوى واستخدامه بتقنياته الخاصة لتمكين المتعلمين والباحثين من الحصول على معلومات حول جانب واحد والبحث عن جانب آخر، ويمكن تحليل كل مستوى

ومناقشته بمميزات متعددة، أي أننا في دراسة النطق ندرس المستويات الصوتية وبعض أساسيات علم الصوتيات.

تقوم المجتمعات بكفاءة لغاتها وتطورها، وتعكس الألفاظ الأفكار المهمة وتؤدي الى ما يرتبط بالمعنى بالضبط.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التحليل اللغوي، الوصفية، الدراسات البريطانية، هاليداي، كريستال، البنيويون .

1– Introduction

Linguistic analysis progressively separates intricate utterance units into morphemes as the definitive components appeared with the accurate meaning and separate the smallest semantic structures into their definitive factors, these factors are known as (Distinctive Features).

In conformably, language and linguistic analysis ought to be mentioned separately, i.e., the semantic level requires simple and compound expressive structures from the morpheme to speech in contrast, the feature level interested in simple and compound structures which provide simply the recognition and to supply the expressive and meaningful structures. (Jacobson and Halle, 1956:14).

The linguistic analysis notion is recognized as (Tagmemics View), it is firstly appeared in various expressions. According to Pike (1945), it is a usage for a grammatical investigation and its steps are similar to the structures put in immediate constituent classification and need the similar notions of requisite sentence and development, but with some significant variations which the requisite sentence frameworks are sophisticated frameworks. (Robins, 1964: xix).

2– The Studies of Linguistic Analysis

In British Studies, linguistic analysis appeared with the expression (Context of Situation), it is an expression suggested and improved by Malinowsky and Firth as a system of clarification of the importance and treatment of language in the world. According to this foundation the

contexts of situation, the researcher or the examiner assumes to mention the connections of utterances to the conditions and circumstances where or they could be pronounced.

In the context of situation, the pronunciation or the consecutive sentence structures are performed with various connections with the pertinent elements. Language provides a numerous diversity of targets, and utterances present different domains of functions. It is significant to admit that there is discernible variation in language usages, some usages distinct vocabularies, and composition while many usages relying on a shared lexicon and grammar. In showing some uses of language, one may recognize poetry, rhetoric, narrative and historical speeches, ritualistic and festival words, the style of juristic, political mercantile and managerial procedures, occupational communications, educated and academic individuals.

Additionally, the main purposes of speaking and composition is to take part the daily communication of each person with his family and friends and others in society. (Robins, 1964:27).

3– Linguistics and Linguistic Analysis

Linguistics is pointed to the usage of linguistic analysis, employing commonly notions and approaches relevant to the systemic–functional approaches, linguistics promoted by Halliday's systemic grammar and functional grammar, the fundamental requirements of linguistics are all linguistic applications encodes ideological types or rational structures which mediate performances of the world in a language, the various applications, i.e., various sociolinguistic kinds or lexical selections or syntactic re–writings. In this sense, language mentions a social exercise. (Malmkjær, 2013: 118).

Descriptivism is a remarkable direction in linguistics at the beginning of the 20th Century, descriptivism thoughts and theories provide an explicit behaviour toward language and linguistic research.

Descriptivism is objected by prescriptivism; prescriptivism is an item which is used to perform a linguistic school of thought in which persons research to develop specific difference of a language and contrive its basics. Descriptivism aim is to show language as fulfill science and reasonable one, and it indeed occurs at an appointed view in time and place. Descriptivists represent events about a specific spoken and written language and they observe popularization on data, and they make results to an investigation of the human beings' languages commonly. (Chapman and Routledge, 2009: 57).

The thoughts and approaches of the linguistic analysis are regard as the points in the program of recent linguistic analysis. The linguists concern on language acquires fundamental motives from the evolution of logic that occurred in the second half of the 19th century in that period the new imagination of the logic as a familiar way of contemplation planned the direction to the new imagination of logic as an essential and accurate exemplary science.

The classical attention of linguistic analysis is the structure of sentences, and the modern methods show numerous attentions for analysing the sentence structures in succession to generate symmetrical extensions of language. There are two important methods appeared.

1– Discourse Analysis

It concentrates on the foundation of ordinary speaking, i.e., discourses as talking, meetings, criticism and different addresses.

2– Text Analysis

It emphasizes on the foundation of written language, i.e., articles, reports, declarations and public signs.

Moreover, this relationship is ambiguous and there are various applications for discourse and text analysis. Discourse analysis and text analysis can be applied in a wide direction to contain the language structures with specific communicative part in spoken or written

language. Many linguists discuss spoken and written discourse analysis and other discuss spoken and written text analysis.

In many modern schools, the word (Linguistics) is generally mentioned and used for the discussion of the linguistic factors containing the structure of all types of a text. These methods of analysis include a general interest and they point out to the necessity of language as an effective, satisfactory and interactive case with speakers or listeners, writers or readers. Sometimes, people do not notify the meaning by one sentence structure but with different complicated modifications, with these modifications, the persons' satisfactions and interceptions take part between the environment and the condition of realization where they exchange their ideas. (Crystal, 2005:260).

Linguistic analysis needs classifying and mentioning the structures and sounds of a particular language and trying to clarify the connections between them. Linguistics is a scientific field focuses on the investigation of language in various directions, and linguists are in necessity to regard how the particular factors of language connect and share. (Chapman, 2000:8).

4– Linguistic Analysis and Linguistic Levels

In modern linguistic analysis, the linguists suggest different levels of linguistic analysis, but the most common levels are the six levels. The linguists arrange these levels according to the characteristics of the sounds and how the human being can produce and create language structures and to the context around the speech occurrence. The levels of linguistic analysis from the most particular to the broadest one, they are:

1– Phonetics

It investigates the individual speech segments (phonemes), and it deals with how to create these segments. Phonetics is the primary and major level of analysis, because the human being uses the accurate

segments to produce words and sentences. Different languages use different sounds to explain and notify the meaning.

2– Phonology

The main goal of phonology is to realize the domain of phonemes and how are they arranged in languages. Phonology discusses what type of foundations a language keeps to decide how specific structures of words must be uttered.

3– Morphology

It studies the structures of words when the human being uses the sounds with each other. Morphology can provide why the people recognize new words they never heard before.

4– Syntax

Syntax is analogous with morphology but syntax deals with the sentence structure analysis. Syntax indicates to the principles and foundations the speakers use to arrange and form their word structures and well-formed sentences. In studying syntax, the people can realize how the sentences may contain various meanings in one structure at the same time.

5– Semantics

Semantics concentrates on exploring the meanings of words, semantics is the link between the words and the world. The realization what particular words or sentences refer to is to realize the meaning behind these words. In addition, semantics identifies different structures, i.e., one word may refer and how it makes vagueness in meaning and incomprehensible.

6– Pragmatics

Pragmatics is close and related to semantics, pragmatics investigates words, Phrases, clauses, sentences and utterances, pragmatics scrutinizes and discusses how the sentence structures activate the context and what the purposes of each utterance are.

5– Linguistic Analysis and Linguists' Thoughts

The investigation of language has been a permanent process with more or less scholars and researchers for many decades. From the beginning periods and before the appearance of linguistics as an independent universal science, people were familiar with the fundamental role of language. Many linguists and researchers prepare linguistic surveys and they extremely ignore the attention in the common studies the human nature. Correspondingly assumed by N. Chomsky and by his followers. The major remarkable and popular disagreement between Chomsky's ideas and the Descriptivists' ideas is the approach of research. In Chomsky's ideas the sufficient provenance of information of the linguistic analysis is the self-reflective assessment of the native speakers of one language.

Descriptivists prefer the common order of words in a sentence of the English language and this must be treated in the English grammar. The using of information from self-reflection instead of experimental test needs more attempts out of the linguistic analysis. (Sampson, 1980: 150–151).

J.R. Firth Clarified his idea on language in his two publications (***Speech***) in 1930 and (***The Tongues of Men***) in 1937, these books show the functionalism thought and relativism contemplation in searching the language structures, Firth preferred to choose (Descriptive Linguistics) for his ideas, Firth expanded the theory of language and his books and writings are similar to Sapir and Bloomfield's ideas. Actually, Firth did not elaborate a way of linguistic analysis, but he presented a multi- disciplinary notional method and recognized language as a framework of signs that we use for solving problems, making questions, etc. In this sense, language is found in many situations in various conditions.

According to Firth, language is relatively fascinating thing, and the linguistic analysis is the thing that the human beings possess from the childhood. (Strazny, 2005:345).

Charles F. Hockett is one of the major linguists in America, and he was a student of Sapir and Bloomfield. Hockett's behaviourist opinions of language and structuralist method to linguistic analysis are surpassed by the Transformational Grammar by Chomsky.

Chomsky's innovative linguistic ideas that criticized the ideas of structuralism and behaviourism and ignore semantics. Hockett declined the authenticity of Transformational Grammar suggestions.

Hockett was satisfied with the linguistic analysis and should be started with the sound system and continued to the grammatical level of inflection and word structure and to the syntactical level, the principles controlled by the orders of words in the sentence.

Any element of these levels of language must be treated independently. This refers that the grammatical structures could not be implied to mark the distinctive segments of one language, i.e., phonemes. European linguists, for instance, Prague School linguists saw the phonemes containing a group of characteristics which might slightly interfere with another phoneme. Hockett regarded each phoneme as an individual unit and he declined the idea of partial phonemic interfere with the linguistic analysis.

One of Hockett's declining is Transformational Grammar ideas and the "top-domain" method for linguistic analysis starting with Syntax and semantics not with phonology. (Strazny, 2005: 476-477).

The linguistic analysis takes some of its features from Prague School and from stratificational grammar structures suggested by S. Lamb, the four elements of strata are presented in language structures for sentence analysis. (Robins, 1967: 226).

6– The Linguistic Analysis and the Text

The linguistic analysis allows the linguist to describe and analyse why and how the structure presents and what it is, for instance, the usage of grammatical structures show the characteristics of the text and the reader must observe how the text is arranged. In this sense, the meaning is inside the text

and the comprehension is clarified and concluded immediately from this analysis. In general, the analysis does not share something only, but it truly specifies the realization of the structures and meaning. The linguistic analysis can help the reader to state what is the structure. Is it an authentic or touching one according to its aims? And in what ways the text achieves something? And in what points it neglects something? This aim is very difficult, because it needs a clarification of the text structure and the dynamic connections between the context and text structure. (Wildowson, 2004:18).

The texts in linguistics have enormous common usages and how linguistic notions and expressions are occurred, there are different efforts for expansion and growth the common patterns of linguistic analysis of structure more than for one sentence. (Trask, 2007:42).

7– New Models of Linguistic Analysis

A recent model of analysis distinguishes three levels of linguistics: grammar, semantics and pragmatics, these levels are limited to the study of language rules and language usage.

Halliday mentions a five–level model of language analysis which identifies the three main aspects of linguistics, which are: Substance, Form and Situation.

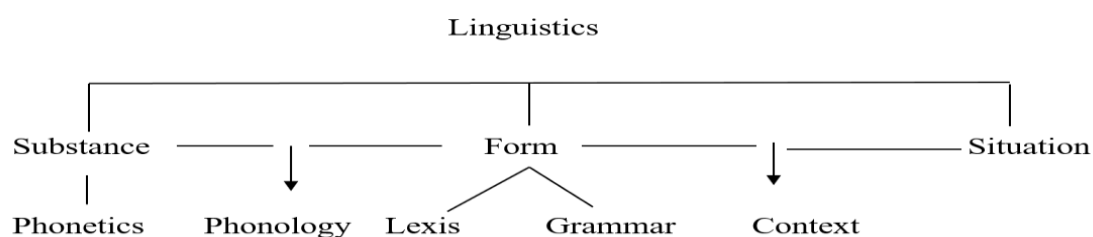


Fig. (1) Halliday's Five-level Model of Language Analysis

The analysis of substance is a fundamental point, i.e., the analysis of phonetics is the model which contains (Form). (Form) can be grammar or lexis and the relationship between substance and form is the area of phonology, and the relationship between (Form) and (Situation) is the context.

Halliday uses the word (Semantics) instead of context, because semantics is an extra- linguistic dimension.

Halliday's analysis contains a social dimension to language and it is supposedly the first model which has a social dimension and Halliday calls it (Socio-semantics).

Another model is mentioned by the American linguist Sidney Lamb. Lamb's analysis is known (Stratification), Lamb uses grammar strata referring to the three levels to analyse language. In stratification grammar, every stratum is ordered according to a group of strata of linguistic structure systems and every system deals with an aspect which has mentioned separately for the structures working with each stratum.

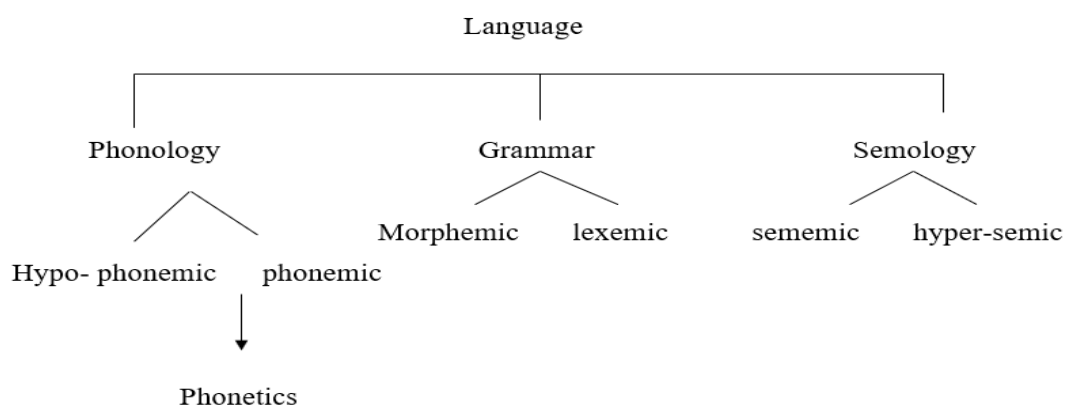


Fig. (2) Lamb's Model of Linguistic Analysis

The idiom (Sememe) is implied to mention the minimal structure of meaning, and it is identical to the meaning of a morpheme. Sememe is a feature of meaning and similar to the idea of stratum which is treated with systems of semantic relation between elements, and it is

distinct from the hyper-semantic stratum. In this stratum, the connections of language and external world are prominent.

Crystal presents a multi – dimensional geometric style to hold the idea of levels, Crystal's style mentions how the levels are connected. Crystal's levels are appeared as:

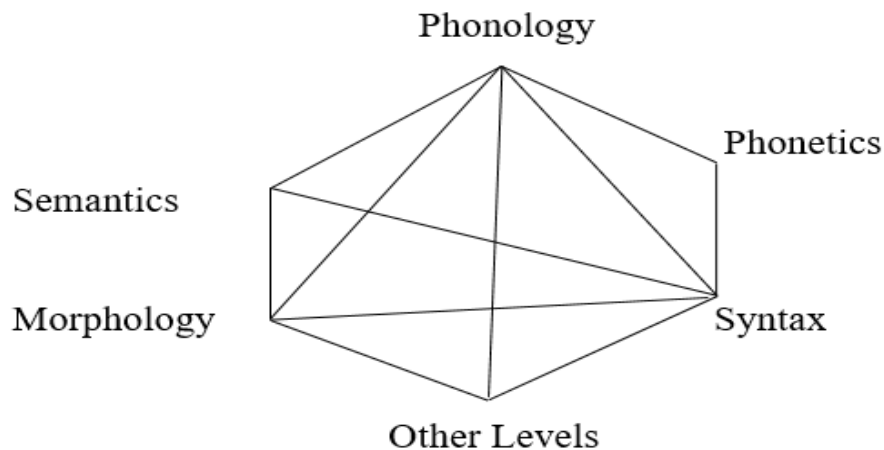


Fig. (3)

Crystal's Levels of Linguistic Analysis

8– Conclusions

This research sheds light on some general observations on linguistic analysis and it discusses some significant points and fundamental ideas when the researchers need with linguistic analysis. This research also mentions the importance and aspects of linguistic analysis, this research comes with the following conclusions:

- 1– Language usage is a basic style of human beings in life, and speaking has deep influence in the instantaneous social meetings, the human being is a part of the world which is the main area of the humanity experience. Creating speech has its sources and principles in the complicated experience of fundamental universe.
- 2– The concepts and meanings of Language can be performed in linguistic expressions if the issue is divided by the analysis in sequence of identical elements.

3- The first element of linguistic analysis is to differentiate between the system and structure. The systems are put to mention the paradigmatic significance of the elements. The structures contain elements inside syntagmatic connections, and the elements include their positions in the arrangement of reciprocal expectancy.

4- The phonetic or phonological style can be considered as a component of a group at an element, and the components of prosodic and grammatical groups can be frequent or infrequent, separated or unseparated. The fundamental notion is the reciprocal expectancy of the parts rather than one direction sequence of phonemes.

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