



FROM LOCAL DIALECTS TO GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING: THE ROLE OF LINGUISTIC UNIVERSALS IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION

DOS DIALETOS LOCAIS À COMPREENSÃO GLOBAL: O PAPEL DOS UNIVERSAIS LINGUÍSTICOS NA COMUNICAÇÃO INTERNACIONAL

MARIA OVSYANNIKOVA

Moscow Aviation Institute – Russia

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1548-6341>

E-mail: maroats@yandex.ru

TATIANA TSOY

Moscow Aviation Institute – Russia

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-0641-1319>

E-mail: tsoyt@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

Objective: This study aims to explore the concept of linguistic universals and their role in international communication. The research focuses on analyzing and categorizing the principal linguistic universals, leading to a comprehensive classification.

Methods: Various linguistic and general scientific methodologies were employed in the research, including descriptive, comparative, structural, typological, and distributional analysis, along with synthesis. These methods were used to examine the universals across different languages, considering both synchronic and diachronic perspectives.

Results: The study identified several types of linguistic universals, such as diachronic, synchronic, absolute, statistical, implicative, deductive, and inductive. These universals demonstrate shared principles underlying the structure of various human languages and contribute to their mutual intelligibility. The findings highlight the importance of linguistic universals in understanding language structure and evolution.

Conclusions: The research underscores the significance of linguistic universals in facilitating global understanding and communication. It suggests that further scientific inquiry should focus on refining systemic and integrated approaches to address the challenges within linguistic universology. Understanding these universals not only enhances the comprehension of language structures but also provides insights into the historical development of languages.

Keywords: Linguistics. The study of language. Common features. Speech. Communicative unit.





RESUMO

Objetivo: Este estudo tem como objetivo explorar o conceito de universais linguísticos e seu papel na comunicação internacional. A pesquisa foca na análise e categorização dos principais universais linguísticos, levando a uma classificação abrangente.

Métodos: Diversas metodologias linguísticas e científicas gerais foram empregadas na pesquisa, incluindo análise descritiva, comparativa, estrutural, tipológica e distributiva, além da síntese. Esses métodos foram utilizados para examinar os universais em diferentes idiomas, considerando perspectivas sincrônicas e diacrônicas.

Resultados: O estudo identificou vários tipos de universais linguísticos, como diacrônicos, sincrônicos, absolutos, estatísticos, implicativos, dedutivos e indutivos. Esses universais demonstram princípios compartilhados que fundamentam a estrutura de diversas línguas humanas e contribuem para sua inteligibilidade mútua. Os resultados destacam a importância dos universais linguísticos na compreensão da estrutura e evolução das línguas.

Conclusões: A pesquisa enfatiza a importância dos universais linguísticos na facilitação da compreensão global e da comunicação. Sugere que investigações científicas futuras devem se concentrar em aprimorar abordagens sistêmicas e integradas para enfrentar os desafios dentro da universologia linguística. Compreender esses universais não apenas aprimora a compreensão das estruturas linguísticas, mas também oferece insights sobre o desenvolvimento histórico das línguas.

Palavras-chave: Linguística. O estudo da linguagem. Características comuns. Fala. Unidade comunicativa.

1 INTRODUCTION

The first studies of language as a phenomenon originated about six thousand years ago with the advent of writing in Mesopotamia. After this, the priests attempted to systematise the grammar of the Sumerian language and create hieroglyphs in Ancient Egypt. In India, linguistics has received significant development in connection with the need to ensure the inviolability of the sacred Vedic hymns, which were transmitted orally, as well as in the literary language – Sanskrit (Pablé, 2020; van Rij et al., 2019). The subject of linguistics is language in all its manifestations and aspects, which is a multifaceted concept with specific features inherent in it. Since the language consists of a set of different units, it can be attributed to the system of phonetic, lexical,





and grammatical means, the sound nature of the language is the basis for calling it a system of articulate sound signs. The language is characterised by continuous development, its close connection with speech, the ability to express any information (Kartushina, 2022; Lysenko, 2019; Ryabkova & Ovsyannikova, 2022; Steinert-Threlkeld & Szymanik, 2020). Language is of great importance for a human since it supports his needs for the exchange of information, communication, and knowledge of the world. Everything learned acquires linguistic expression, is fixed in the language, and owing to this it is not forgotten, remaining among the achievements of mankind, therefore, the role of language for society cannot be overestimated.

According to various sources, there are 2996, 5651, or 6809 languages in the world, but these estimates are relative since it is not always possible to distinguish between the language itself and the dialects. Thus, only on the island of New Guinea, where one of the highest concentrations of languages in the world is observed, from 300 to 1000 languages are distinguished. Nevertheless, the most acceptable is the opinion that there are almost 6.000 languages on the globe (Farese, 2018). Linguistics also pays attention to many missing, dead languages, one of which is, for example, the Latin language, preserved in a large number of texts. This language is well studied in modern linguistics, unlike others, in particular the Trojan, of which no traces remain (Barbieri, 2020; Lemanek, 2020; Lobben et al., 2020).

All languages have a different sound composition, grammatical structure, vocabulary, etc., but at the same time, they all have some common features due to the physiological similarity of people, the general structure of the brain, etc. These common features are linguistic universals. In linguistics, universals are understood as common features inherent in all-natural languages of the world. For example, absolutely every language has sounds, words, and sentences, therefore they are linguistic universals. For instance, the vocative case is not a linguistic universal, since it is not found in all languages of the world. Thus, the vocative case is present in all Slavic languages, except for Russian.

The history of the study of universals is rooted in very distant times. The predecessors of research in this direction were the ancient grammars, which formed the doctrine of the parts of sentences, and later – J.A. Comenius, R. Bacon, and others (Kang, 2018; Yang et al., 2017). The theory of linguistic universals considers and defines:

– common properties of all human languages, in contrast to the languages of





animals; for example, in a human language, the channel of communication in any language is voice and sound: in a human language, new messages can be easily created and easily received;

– a set of significant categories, one way or another expressed in each language; for example, all languages express the relationship between an object and a predicate;

– general properties of the linguistic structures, as applied to all language levels
– despite the remarkable diversity of languages in the world, they all have common features; despite all the limitless differences, it turns out that languages are created according to the same model, although only some of these properties of language are formally described, linguists in many cases know about their existence and use them to describe new languages. These common features of languages are called linguistic universals (Levinson & Evans, 2010).

The purpose of the study was to analyse and characterise the main linguistic universals, based on which the most extensive classification of the analysed linguistic universals was compiled.

2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the course of the research, various linguistic methods of scientific knowledge were used, such as the descriptive method, comparative, structural, linguistic typology, and distribution method. Of the general scientific methods of scientific knowledge, the method of analysis and synthesis was used, which is characterised by the decomposition of the object under study into its components for a more detailed examination, and then combining all these components into a single whole.

The essence of the descriptive method is a systematic inventorying of language units and an explanation of the features of their structure and functioning at a certain stage of language development in synchronicity. In the descriptive method, the following successive stages are distinguished: 1) highlighting the units of analysis (phonemes, lexemes, morphemes, constructions, etc.); 2) division of the selected units: division of a sentence into word combinations, word combinations into word forms, word forms into morphemes, morphemes into phonemes, phonemes into differential signs); 3) classification of selected units. The descriptive method uses





techniques of external and internal interpretation, which are of two types: according to the connection with extralinguistic phenomena (sociological, logical-psychological, articulatory-acoustic); according to the connection with other linguistic units (methods of interlevel interpretation). Sociological techniques are used in the normative-stylistic and historical study of the language, in the study of vocabulary, etc. Logical-psychological techniques are used in the study of the connection between the content of linguistic units and categories with units of thought (correlation of word and concept, sentence and judgment, relevant division of a sentence, etc.). Interlevel interpretation techniques are characterised by the fact that units of one level are used as a means of linguistic analysis of units of another level. Internal interpretation techniques involve different ways of studying linguistic phenomena based on their systemic paradigmatic and syntagmatic connections. The descriptive method is widely used, both to describe linguistic elements and to study the functioning of a language (Carr et al., 2020).

The comparative method is characterised by a set of techniques for studying and describing a language through its systemic comparison with another language to identify its features. This method is applied to the study of any language, related and unrelated, for comparison. The subject of research when using the comparative method is the study of the language structure in its similarities and differences. The method establishes a relationship of contrast between comparable languages at all language levels: diaconia (phonological differences), diamorphia (grammatical differences), diasemia (lexical differences). The comparative method is associated with the problems of language typology and universals.

Linguistic typology as a method was used to compile the classification of universals on various grounds. This method contributes to the comparative study of the structural and functional features of languages regardless of their genetic nature. Typology, the subject of which is the study of types of language with their internal organisation and structure, is called structural, and the typology which studies languages through the prism of functions performed is called functional.

The next method used – structural – is a method of synchronic analysis of linguistic phenomena only based on connections and relationships between linguistic elements. The basic ideas of the theory of structuralism can be reduced to the following provisions: it is not a separate fact that is real, but language as a system; relationships dominate the elements, oppositional relationships are the main ones; since the relationship is primary in the language, the mathematical method can be applied to





learning the language. The purpose of the structural method is to study the language as an integral functional structure, the elements and parts of which are correlated and connected by a strict system of lingual relationships. This method is implemented in the following four techniques: distributive, immediate constituents, transformational, and component analysis.

Let us consider the distribution methodology that was used in this study in more detail to compile a classification of linguistic universals. This is a technique for studying a language based on the environment (distribution) of individual units in the text. Based on the analysis of the distribution of language elements, distribution classes are distinguished; if two elements occur in the same environment, they belong to the same class. Linguists face the following tasks during distribution: segmentation of the text into units of a certain level; identification of selected units, i.e. combining them into certain classes (phonemes, morphemes, lexemes, etc.); identification of the relationship between the selected classes. Distribution has been widely used in linguistics since this technique can be used in the analysis of units of any level. With its help, it is possible to identify the system of phonemes and morphemes of any language, the meaning of polysemantic words, the semantic distance between words of a certain lexico-semantic category, etc. An effective application of this technique was found in lexicology, with its help one can easily distinguish the meaning of polysemous words. Distribution is closely related to the immediate constituent methodology.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 The concept of linguistic universals: history of origin and linguistic features

Linguistic universals were first mentioned in the second half of the 20th century after the publication of the article by W. Buht and E. Aginsky "The Importance of Linguistic Universals", published in the 1940s (Buht & Aginsky, 1948). Among Russian linguists, B.A. Uspensky, Y.V. Rozhdestvensky, and others worked on the development of the theory of universals. In the second half of the 20th century, experts in semasiology concluded that there are not only semantic laws but also semantic universals. At the same time, absolute semantic universals (synonymy, polysemy, homonymy, metaphor, narrowing and expansion of meanings) turned out to be





obvious, i.e. characteristic of each language. Statistical semantic universals have become more informative and significant, i.e. those that exist in many languages, but not in all; in particular, semantic transitions belong to them.

But primarily, the history of the study of universals is associated with attempts to conclude universal grammars, as a result of which in the 13th century the term "grammatica universalis" occurred. With the emergence in 1660 of the grammar P.-R.A. Arno and C. Lansloh, the problem of universals becomes one of the central ones in theoretical grammar (in general linguistics) (Hinzen, 2012). At first, universal grammar was associated with universal semantic categories, which were envisaged based on every human speech; specific languages were interpreted as variants. Variations in languages, i.e., their deviations from the invariant, were explained by the degradation of languages in their daily use. This complied with medieval philosophical ideas about the nature of language changes, according to which any language change was considered as its damage due to misuse.

The consequence of this was the identification of typology and genealogy, which was characteristic of linguistics until the 19th century, that is, the common character of form was naturally identified with the common character of origin. The desire to find the reasons for the difference in culture, language, national character, which arose in the 19th century, led to the search for the "internal form" of the language, and consequently to the establishment of various linguistic types and the creation of a morphological classification of languages. Interest in linguistic universals reappeared in the middle of the 20th century, due to advances in structural, generative, and functional linguistics. Linguistic universals by their nature are generalised statements about properties and tendencies inherent in any language, and which divide everything that is being spoken in this language, which is why universals constitute the most general laws of linguistics. The universals reflect and reveal some common essential features of the objects under study, therefore universals are, first of all, general ontological categories and properties inherent in all or most languages.

Practical research of linguistic universals during this period was mainly conducted in the direction of the typology of languages, and only gradually there was an awareness that typological linguistics and the linguistics of universals have their own purposes. The first explores the differences in the structure of languages, the second – the common characteristics between languages. At the same time, typology turns to universology, when the typological coincidence between languages cannot be





explained by either genetic or areal factors. Then the typology turns to the idea that this coincidence results from the general laws of human speech. In this regard, the works of J. Greenberg, who proposed his own inductive method of statistical sampling, were of great importance. Universology started developing after the New York Anthropological Conference in 1961, at which R. Jakobson made a presentation on the importance of universals for linguistics (which he already mentioned in 1957 at the 8th Linguistic Congress in Oslo) (Ushakin, 2016). In 1961 in New York, the "Memorandum on Language Universals" was announced (Greenberg, 1963).

General linguistics is interested in identifying the provisions characteristic of all languages, i.e. linguistic universals. According to J. Vendryes (1951), "... there is only one human speech over all latitudes, unique in its essence" (p. 84). The development of the theory of universals is often associated with the name of the aforementioned J. Greenberg, however, similar ideas were put forward in linguistics long before him. The theory of linguistic universals or linguistic universology studies all the languages of the world without exception, considering them as manifestations of a single human speech. Universology is interested in linguistic universals, i.e., general, essential features that appear in all or most of the languages of the world. Universals can be absolute, which means they have no exceptions and are characteristic of all known languages, for example, every natural language has vowels and consonants. They can as well be statistical, i.e., denoting phenomena of a high degree of probability but not covering all languages (quasi-universals). An example of statistical universality: almost all languages have nasal consonants (however, in some West African languages, nasal consonants are not separate phonemes but breakthrough allophones in the context of nasal consonants). Within the framework of semantic research, the theory of universals, in particular, led to the creation of various directions based on the concept of the universal semantic component of the metalanguage, primarily in the works of Anna Wierzbicka (Goddard & Wierzbicka, 2002).

J. Greenberg studied the general laws of languages and formulated the following universals:

1. If the nominal object is preceded by a verb, it is preceded by the verb forms subordinate to the main verb.
2. In the conditional constructions, the conditional part precedes the completion. This order is the usual word order for all languages.





3. In constructions, the desire and purpose of the subverb form always follow the main verb, and this is the normal word order; the only exceptions are those in which the object always precedes the verb.
4. When a question requiring a "yes-no" answer differs from the corresponding statement by differences in intonation, the features of differential intonation are more obvious at the end of a sentence than at the beginning.
5. If interrogative particles or affixes are fixed in relation to the entire sentence, it is more than likely that the initial elements are in languages with prepositions, and the latter are in languages with reductions.

Obviously, only some universals are presented here but based on this the conclusion can be drawn that universals are highlighted at all levels of the language. Thus, a number of absolute universals (often referring to a set of segments) are known in phonology, and a number of universal properties are distinguished in morphology.

All languages are different and have their own specifics, therefore, they differ from each other in one or another way. But all of them are the most important means of communication of the respective nations, all are the languages of people, all reflect the same real world, therefore, in addition to specific, distinctive characteristics, languages also have common features. Comparing the structure of several languages, for example, Russian, German, Azerbaijani, Chinese, etc., one can easily find that they all have a system of vowels and consonants. However, in one language there are fewer vowel phonemes and more consonants, while in another, on the contrary, the very composition of phonemes in each language has differences, etc.

Analysing the sound component of other languages, the authors of this study are becoming convinced that there is a system of vowel and consonant phonemes in each of them, thus, we cannot imagine a language where vowels or consonants would be absent. Therefore, the fact of the presence of a system of vowel and consonant phonemes in the structure of languages is generalised, universal; this feature is no longer a common feature, for example, only of Spanish, English, or Serbian – it is one of the general features of human speech in general. Such features, inherent in all languages without exception, are, for example, the sound nature of the language, its articulation, the existence in the language of morphemes, words and sentences, proper and common names, different in their content and grammatical properties of parts of speech.

In the overwhelming majority of languages known to science, there is, for





example, a form of the present tense of the verb. It can be argued that it also has a general, universal character, despite some differences; in the English language, in particular, there are two forms of the present, in contrast to the Russian or German languages. In addition, there are common features that appear in more or less of the languages, but not in all of them. Such a feature is, for example, the category of numbers (рука – руки (hand – hands)), the category of gender (красный – красная – красное (red)). In most languages of the world, the category of gender is absent, but at the same time, it is represented in many languages. Thus, such facts and similar ones are of a general linguistic nature, reflecting the patterns of structure that are inherent in all or most of the languages of the world.

Such common patterns and features inherent in all or most of the languages of the world are called linguistic universals (from the Latin "universalis" – "common"). In other words, a linguistic universal is certain features, properties, patterns of the language as a whole. Among the established universals (at the moment there are more than a hundred of them), most relate to the phonetic level of the language; beyond the phonetic universals, there are also grammatical, semantic, and interlevel universals. An example of an interlevel universality: the number of phonemes in a language system and a separate morpheme is inversely proportional, i.e. the more phonemes in a language, the shorter there are morphemes in it, this universal connects the phonetic level with the morphological. In linguistics in this regard, a special direction has long been distinguished – the linguistics of universals, which studies the general features of human speech.

Universals inherent in every language of the world, with no exceptions, refer to absolute, or descriptive universals. Absolute universals, like patterns, are inherent in all languages due to their general linguistic character, can be used to define universals inherent only in linguistic systems, unlike any other systems; for example, various semiotic systems. Thus, linguistic and extralinguistic universals should be discussed. Although, since absolute universals do not allow identifying specific features of individual languages or groups of languages, it must be recognised that those phenomena and facts of a linguistic nature that are presented not in all, but the overwhelming majority of languages and are transmitted by statistical universals, acquire more importance for typology. Thus, in a number of languages there is a case system, starting with 8, as in the Marathi language in Central India, and ending with 2 cases, as in the Scandinavian languages. On the other hand, the language family





includes a number of languages that lack cases in the noun system (Bulgarian, French, Spanish, English).

The grouping of languages according to the criterion of the presence-absence of a system of differences is an important typological feature of the classification of languages. In this case, the fact of the presence of a system of differences as a feature is common for a significant number of languages and can be considered as a linguistic universal. On the other hand, the absence of a system of differences is a feature that is also common in many languages and can also be considered as a linguistic universal. Thus, it is possible to obtain a classification indicator based on opposition – languages that have a declension system and languages that do not. Along with universals, which are descriptive or static in nature, and determine the typology of language in a synchronic sense, it is necessary to talk about diachronic universals that characterise the process of movement and development in a language. The logical structure of these universals is formulated as follows: for all x and all y, where x is an earlier and y is a later state of the same language. This means that the state x of the language changes to the state y; this process has common features in many languages, both genetically related and unrelated. This can be illustrated by a number of specific examples. Thus, in the Old Ukrainian and Old Russian languages, the phoneme [к] before the front vowels systematically passed into [ч], for example, "печь-печешь-печем", but "пёк-пекли". In Old English, the consonant [к] changed during the 9th-11th centuries, for example, cēosan> chesen> choose. The same process took place in the Swedish language, with the Swedish spelling retaining traces of this change; for example, Swedish "köpa" ['çø: pa] (to buy)> Latin "caupo", etc.

Each language has functions that are common to all languages of the world (common functions), functions that link them to some other languages (functions common to these languages), and functions that are unique to that language (specific, individual characteristics). The specificity of each language lies not only in its individual characteristics but also in how the general and universal properties of the language are violated in it. The concept of linguistic universals is associated with the process of combining linguistic factors, the establishment of common features characteristic of the systems of all or some groups of languages of the world, and the development of a special method for generalising linguistic phenomena. For example, universals include the following phenomena: in all languages of the world, sounds are divided into vowels and consonants; all languages of the world have pronouns, especially the first





and second pronouns; each language has its own name; common is the difference between semantically complete and function elements of the language; differentiation of a name and a verb; the ambiguity of words, etc.

3.2 Classification of linguistic universals according to various characteristics

The description of human speech from the point of universology is its vision as a system of closely related features that have a general character. Typology is limited to a number of those general features that are important for describing the corresponding linguistic type and adds specific features to them. Traditionally, universals are listed in the order from more general to more specific. An example is the following list: if there is a differentiation of parts of speech in a language, then there is a verb among them; if the language has a verb, then the language may or may not be differentiated by modes; if there is differentiation in the language according to the modes, then it has a real mode; if there is a certain kind of temporal opposition in the forms of the unreal modes, then the same opposition will be in the forms of the real mode, etc. Thus, in most cases, linguists interpret linguistic universals as "properties inherent in all languages or most of them. Universals can be divided into the following groups:

1. According to the method of formulating definitions regarding universals, deductive universals (obligatory in all languages; axiomatic) and inductive (fixed in known languages; empirical) are distinguished. A deductive universal is a theoretical assumption that some property *x* should be inherent in all languages. In such assumptions, deduction takes place – a logical conclusion about the property of individual objects based on a judgment about a class of similar objects. For example, all-natural languages have a level structure in the system of any natural language, as well as in speech activity in any natural language there is the opposition of the center and the periphery, etc. Inductive universal is a certain property *y*, revealed in all languages available for observation, and therefore considered inherent in all languages of the world. In other words, the property of individual objects is extended (induced) to the entire class of objects – to all languages of the world. For example: in every language, there is an opposition of obstruents and sonorants; every language has pronouns, etc.





Usually, in the process of searching and forming universals, there are both deductive and inductive operations. Deductive universals are built from observations and reflections on a limited set of specific languages, which are then inductively tested against more extensive linguistic material. The search for inductive universals begins with deduction – a hypothesis about what properties of languages can be universal and, accordingly, where to look for universals. Inductive universals often not only confirm but also concretise, thereby enriching deductive hypotheses. There is an opinion that only inductive universals have cognitive value, while deductive universals are conclusions or consequences from existing general theoretical ideas about the language, which means that it is not new knowledge, just presented in a new way. In other words, the advancement of deductive universals is not a problem of finding knowledge about a language, but a problem of presentation of knowledge.

2. According to the volume of the world's languages, absolute (complete) and statistical (incomplete) universals are distinguished. Some researchers believe that universology should consider only absolute universals, while for J. Greenberg and his followers it is precisely statistical universals that are of great importance.

3. By their structure, simple universals (the presence or absence of any phenomenon in the languages of the world) and complex universals (the correlation between various phenomena, the presence of relations of the implication type "if A, then B") are distinguished. Simple universals come in the form of simple inseparable statements: all languages have conjunctions; in most languages, pronouns distinguish between two numbers and describe some properties of languages independently of others. Implicative universals (or implications) establish a connection between two properties of languages. Constructively, they consist of two simple universals connected by the structure "if ..., then ...". For example: for all languages, there is a dual situation, i.e., plural; in all languages, if there is a gender difference in the plural of pronouns, then it also is in the singular; in all languages, if there is a gender difference in nouns, then it also is in pronouns.

4. Concerning the system of the language, the universals are distinguished by phonological, grammatical, semantic, etc. Thus, the following should be attributed to the number of phonological universals: in languages, there can be no less than ten and no more than eighty phonemes; if there is an opposition of consonants in terms of hardness and softness, then there is no opposition of tones. Semantic universals include the patterns of development of the meanings of words from the concrete to the





abstract: тяжелый (по весу) (heavy – by weight)> сложен (heavy – difficult); сладкий (по вкусу) (sweet – to taste)> приятный (sweet – nice); большой (big)> важен (big – important). The following universal testifies to the interdependence between various structural levels: if a word is always monosyllabic in a language, then it is one-morpheme, and there is an opposition of tones in the language, if the subject stands before the verb and the object stands before the verb, then the language has a case.

5. Concerning the axis of synchrony/diachrony, synchronic (static) and diachronic (dynamic) universals are distinguished. From a general linguistic point of view, some universals are easier to interpret as a result of dynamic processes, for example, a semantic metaphor – as a result of metaphorical semantic changes; the variant forms of significant linguistic units existing in all (or almost all) languages (for example, morphological alternation) – as a result of the diachronic process of naturally conditioned sound changes, thus, the distribution of universals into synchronic and diachronic really takes place in linguistic universology. Highlighting diachronic universals, J. Greenberg, C. Osgood, and J. Jenkins state that these universals are formulated with an emphasis on the fact that there are two synchronic states, one of which is a historical continuation of the other (Greenberg, 1963). The logical structure of diachronic universals is as follows: for all x and all y, where x is earlier and y is a later state of the same language. Further, diachronic universals are divided into phonological, grammatical, and semantic.

I.F. Vardul (1977), regarding the varieties of universals, draws attention to the following: “If universals are the essence of properties or relations between properties of a language system, the division into synchronic and diachronic is not applied to them. They are achronic, as well as these language systems” (p. 48). The scientist explains his statement by the fact that the typology is abstracted from the genetic and spatiotemporal connections of individual realisations of linguistic systems with each other and with extra-linguistic reality. Regarding this correlation of universals, N. B. Mechkovskaya puts forward a thesis, which, in the opinion of the authors of this study, is very substantial. The author notes that since universals are understood as properties inherent in any language, it is impossible to talk about "synchronic universals" – to the extent that oxymorons like the hot ice universal are prevented. The scientist also believes that in the linguistics of universals, taking into account the time factor is possible only based on opposition, which is in a different plane and concerns not synchrony / diachrony, but statics / dynamics. Most universals, stating the presence of



certain properties and phenomena in any language of the world, are the characteristics of languages in statics (Mechkovskaya, 1995).

Based on the foregoing approaches to the classification of linguistic universals, let us compose the author's classification (Figure 1).

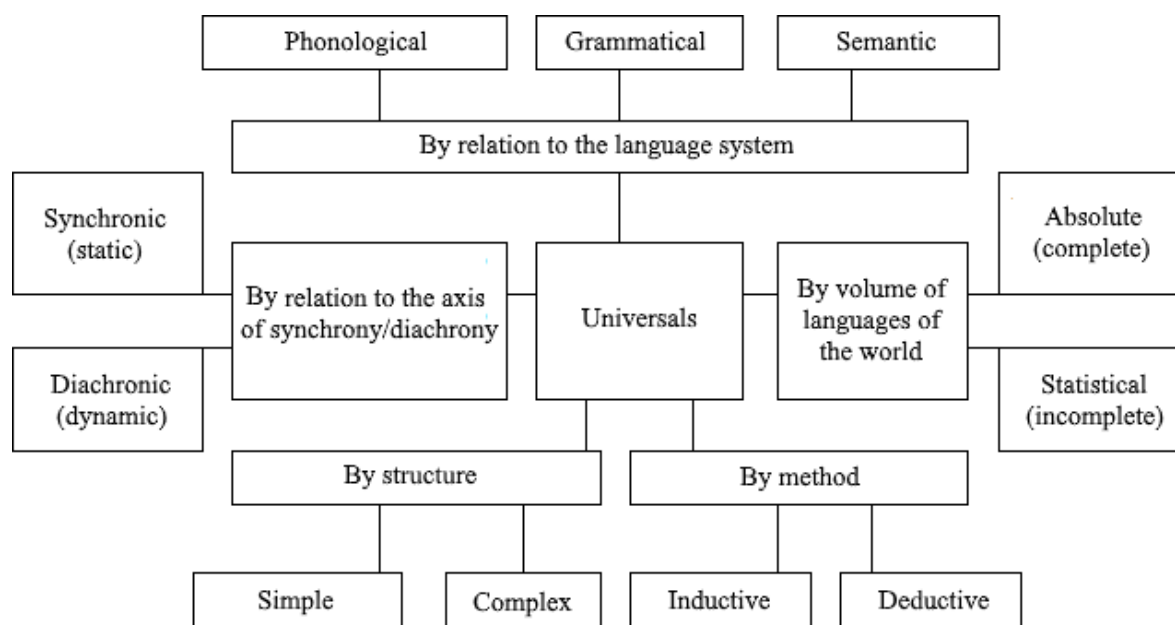


Figure 1. Classification of linguistic universals

It should be noted that the concept of universals is relatively new. Indeed, universal phenomena in language were first mentioned in the Middle Ages when the task was to create a universal grammar. But the mistake was that scientists of the time were trying to base universals on logical rather than linguistic categories. Thus, the development of the language was seen as a distortion, a deviation from the ideal standard, which in the West was considered Latin. Nowadays, the study of linguistic universals is facilitated by the expansion of the boundaries of the structural typology, as well as familiarity with the languages (in particular, non-written ones) of Africa, Oceania, Latin America, etc. Recently, researchers have been turning to the universals of text and order of components in syntactic structures. These universals are explained in the "picture of the world", which is understood through language.



4 CONCLUSIONS

The study of universals is most widespread in the field of syntax and semantics. Additionally, it is believed that the existence of universals in many linguistic theories confirms the existence of a universal grammar, the theory of principles and parameters is involved in the study of universals. Linguistics also deals with the study of universals in the framework of diachronic research. The analysis revealed many universal properties associated with the historical development of the semantics of morphological categories. Thus, given the types of universals, the authors of this study can conclude that universals are properties inherent in all or most languages. The theory of linguistic universals examines and defines: the general properties of all human languages, in contrast to the languages of animals; a set of significant categories, one way or another expressed in the language; the general properties of the linguistic structures themselves regarding all linguistic levels.

According to renowned classifications, there are different types of universals: diachronic and synchronic, absolute, statistical and implicative, deductive and inductive. Universals have different functions: they demonstrate similar principles of linguistic structure in all various human languages, they also explain why languages are mutually intelligible, and determine the strategy for mastering a foreign language. The study of universals helps to understand not only the structure of the language but also the history of its development. Universals are distinguished at the linguistic level: phonetic, morphological, syntactic. The study of linguistic universals is of great importance not only for related fields but also for linguistics itself; in addition, linguistic universals are deeply connected with the identification of models of the linguistic aspect of human behaviour and therefore are important for the development of sciences related to the study of behaviour.

The authors of this study see the prospects for further scientific research in the improvement of the systemic and integrated approaches to the problems of linguistic universology.

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