LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY – AN ASSET TO THE REAL WORLD

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Abstract:

Human beings are the proficient communicators in the animal world. They are the only animals that can use language clearly. Language is the tool used to communicate with each other. It is vital tool for the transmission of cultural knowledge and the primary means by which we gain access to the contents of other's mind. Linguistics is the study of human speech including the units, nature, structure, and modification of language. It helps the experts understand human cultures; scientists explain human mind and computer programmers reshape how to interact with technology. Linguistic Diversity is a way to talk about varied types of traits including, language, family, grammar and vocabulary. The paper aims to study how linguistic diversity proves to be an asset to the world.

Keywords: Language, Linguistics, Linguistic Diversity

Introduction:

Language is a systematic form of communication that can take a variety of forms. Systematic refers to the fact that language is an important part of Culture, elements of Knowledge, ideas, beliefs etc that are passed along form one generation to another. Language is a great vehicle for knowledge because people use it to tell their children stories and other lessons that will guide them through life. As an element of culture, language helps people with proper knowledge to communicate with others. Communication takes place for variety of reasons but one basic objective is it helps people to work efficiently in groups. Analysis of language is referred as Linguistics.

The person who devotes themselves to analyze the structure of language is titled as 'Linguistics'. They concentrate on the history of the language, some study the way children learn to speak; some just learn the English grammar. Different parts of linguistics can be studied in different ways for different reasons. If the history of language is taken into consideration then the Latin, Ancient Greek and the old languages from Germanic region have influenced the development of the English Language, which itself has gone through a series of major shift. The oldest version is called Old English, which was followed by Middle English and then by the current Modern English spoken in many societies today. Linguistics deals with the study of particular languages and search for general properties common to all languages or large group of language.

Applied Linguistics:

Applied Linguistics uses the linguistic theory to solve the real world problems, mostly in the field of Language Education. It refers to a broad range of activities that involve solving language related problems and addressing concerns related to language. The term was first officially recognized as an independent course at the University of Michigan I 1946. During the span of 1950 -1960, the term applied linguistics was eventually broadened to include what was at that time referred as 'automatic translation'. Early work to improve the quality of foreign language teaching by professors Charles Fries (Michigan University) and Robert Lado (Georgetown University) helped to bring definition t the field as did the 1948 publication of a new journal, Language Learning: A Quarterly Journal of Applied Linguistics. Applied Linguistics focuses on many complex areas of society where language plays pivotal role. In addition to foreign language teaching, a partial sampling of issues considered essential to the field of applieSd linguistics today includes topics such as language for specific purposes such as language and communication aspects related to aviation, law, medicine, science, technology, administration etc.

Socio-linguistics

Sociolinguistics is the study of the relation between society and language. It studies the way language is used in different situations. It determines both how language affect social nature of human beings and how social interactions shape language that ranges vastly from the study of dialects across regions to the analysis of the way a language is spoken in certain situations. There are three stages of the main channel of information from the speaker to the listener; the linguistic that is the formulation of the message; the psychological that deals with the expression or reception of the signals used; and the acoustic that is both external and common to both speaker and listener (Michael Garman, 1990). Sociolinguistics is a kind of linguistics which is closely related to sociology, the study of groups of people. It investigates how language functions within populations in terms of both how language affects the population and how population affects the language. The basic characteristics of sociolinguistics are that language is diverse and inconsistent, as a result of which it is neither uniform nor constant. The English speakers have lesser hold in learning other language, partially because of the prominent influence of English all over the world, which makes it less necessary for it. But the ability to speak more than one language is more common than monolingualism (Peter Stockwell, 2002)

Psycholinguistics

Psycholinguistics is closely tied to the relation between language and human mind. Psycholinguists are keen to know how mind acquires and processes language, both physically and conceptually. The use of language and speech as a window to the nature and structure of the human mind is called psycholinguistics (Thomas Scovel, 1997) Psycholinguistics combine methods and theories from psychology as well as linguistics to derive complete understanding of language. It imbibes experimental methodology from psychology along with knowledge about processes in perception, memory, learning and problem solving. It draws its descriptions of specific languages, grammar and the nature of human language (Osgood and Sebeok, 1967). The basic concern that instituted psycholinguistics as a discrete entity was the problem of psychological reality of linguistics concepts. The matter of psychological reality applies to all levels of language structure and usage ranging from articulatory phonetics, auditory phonetics, morphology, phonology, syntax, lexicon, semantics and pragmatics. This applies to all the constructs of linguistics like grammar, rules, paradigms, component phonemes and distinctive features. Exploration of the psychological reality of linguistic structures leads us to two inter connected fields of study. First one is developmental psycholinguistics that is the study of child language acquisition (Fletcher and MacWhinney 1995). And even more difficult issue involves how rules of grammar might be processed in the brain.

Computational Linguistics

Linguistics plays a vital role in the field of programming. Computational Linguistics uses computers to build models of languages. The models are used extensively in the computer industry to improve how we interact with technology by essentially teaching computers human languages. It is application of Computer Science to analyze and comprehend written and spoken language. Computational Linguistics, as an interdisciplinary field, combines

linguistics with Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence, which aims to comprehend language from a computational perspective. The need to develop complete 'understanding 'systems mandated Computational Linguistics to develop research areas that are sufficiently explored by conventional sciences. The objectives of researches in Computational Linguistics are broadly diverse; the key motivation is the development of specific practical systems that involve natural language. (Ralph Grishman; 1986)

Many of the work in computational linguistics have both theoretical and applied elements and is aimed at working on the connection of basic language with computers. It involves creating artifacts that can be used to process and produce language. Creating these artifacts requires data scientists to analyze huge amount of written and spoken language in both structured and non-structured formats. Computational Linguistics is typically used in Machine Translation, Application Clustering, Sentiment Analysis, Knowledge Extraction, Natural Language Interfaces and Content Filtering.

Linguistic Diversity

We live in a multilingual world. Approximately there are seven thousand spoken languages and numerable spoken dialects, some with million speakers and some with only few. Linguistic Diversity is an inherently enabled condition for mankind. Linguistic diversity is the term used to differentiate between the different languages and the different ways in which people communicate with each other. Various aspects such as language, vocabulary and grammar comprise linguistic diversity. A region may have many languages and the tribal groups who are more remote from the world are the ones who speak different language. Linguistic Diversity helps in assessing the focus of a particular language in different areas.

Sharing of linguistic traits of certain groups and communities with each other leads to the development of language family that is composed of languages that is made up of common elements. The diversity in language is one of the characteristic feature and integral part of language.

Conclusion:

The world has flourished itself in all the fields which is achieved by group efforts. If consistency is to be established in the world then surely it is necessary to flag the benefits and rewards of language diversity in our local community. We can do this by supporting frontline practitioners in public service who require knowledge of their diverse client population, assisting communities' efforts to maintain linguistic and cultural heritage and equipping students with the knowledge of the world that they need in order to take on leadership positions in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

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