

LANGUAGE IN FUNCTIONS IN MODERN LINGUISTICS

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Abstract. *The use of language for particular function comes under the definition of communication. The function may be requesting, apologizing, complaining and so on. Language functions are used within certain social contexts. A person can choose particular function to express his/her intent with the help of various language exponents while addressing the addressees. A sound knowledge of language functions according to particular social context is needed for effective communication including the knowledge of target language forms and meanings. Besides this, negotiation of meaning is also needed to use appropriate language functions within a particular situation. This article overviews scholarship in functional linguistics, and focuses on constituency, a specific problem which has attracted significant attention from functionalists. It examines constituency from the perspective of a natural outgrowth of functionalism in linguistics, namely a concern with the function of grammar in its ecological habitat, conversational interaction. Functional approaches to patterning in language, then, have recently shifted the focus away from synchrony to diachrony and grammaticization.*

Keywords: *Language, evolution, vocal organs, brain, thought, organization of words, human functions, gift of speech,*

Verbal communication is characterized by the use of spoken words to convey meaning and ideas. It involves both the production and comprehension of language, which are complex cognitive processes that require the coordination of multiple brain regions. The main tasks of language include expressing thoughts and emotions, conveying information, and establishing social relationships. Language is also used for creative purposes such as storytelling, poetry, and humor. The origin of language in Homo sapiens is still a topic of debate among scholars. Some theories suggest that language evolved gradually over time through natural selection, while others propose that it emerged suddenly as a result of a genetic mutation or a cultural innovation. Paleanthropologists have studied the fossil record and the behavior of early humans to try to understand how language developed.

Daniel Dor argues that language is a technological invention because it allows humans to communicate complex ideas and coordinate their actions in ways that are not possible with other forms of communication. He also suggests that language is a cultural artifact that reflects the values, beliefs, and practices of a particular community (Daniel Dor2016).

The invention of language has had profound effects on human societies. It has enabled the development of agriculture, trade, and technology, as well as the creation of art, literature, and philosophy. However, it has also led to conflicts between different groups who speak different languages or have different cultural norms. The study of linguistics and paleoanthropology can help us better understand the role of language in human evolution and social dynamics.

Humans belong to the class of Mammals and the order of Primates, which emerged about 80 million years ago and comprises about 400 species, including prosimians (tarsiers and lemurs), monkeys and anthropomorphic apes. The Hominid family, which includes our species, separated from the latter about 5–7 million years ago. The most significant characteristic that distinguishes

hominids from other primates is the bipedal gait (Manzi 2017). Adapting to bipedal locomotion brought about a series of anatomical modifications, concerning the conformation of the lower limbs and feet, and important physiological transformations at the level of the respiratory system and central nervous system. The bipedal gait modified the respiratory rhythm allowing for an extended expiratory phase, a fundamental requirement to develop the ability to laugh, sing and speak (Provine 2000).

The rules that determine the organization of words within a sentence are called ‘syntax’. Each language has specific syntactic rules. For some, such as Latin, word order has only rhetorical significance. In fact, in Latin there is little difference between the sentences: “hominem videt femina” or “femina videt hominem”, while in English the order of the words is very important: the sentence “the child eats the chicken” means something very different from the sentence “the chicken eats the child” (Sapir 192).

The word «function» (from the Latin *functio* - «fulfilment») has several meanings. In everyday use, it means such things as: meaning, purpose, role; duty, terms of reference; work, activity; a certain phenomenon, depending on another, the main phenomenon and serving as a form of its manifestation, implementation. In various meanings this word is used as a scientific term, i.e. has a variety of special meanings. As a linguistic concept, it is also multivalued. According to some linguists, this term has several meanings in the science of language

Furthermore, there are cultural and social constraints that influence the use of language. For example, certain words or expressions may be considered taboo or offensive in certain contexts or communities. The rules of grammar and syntax also vary across languages and can affect how ideas are expressed and understood. In addition to verbal communication, humans also use nonverbal cues such as facial expressions, body language, and tone of voice to convey meaning and emotions. These nonverbal signals can sometimes contradict or reinforce the verbal message, and they can also vary across cultures. Language is a complex and dynamic system that plays a crucial role in human communication and social interactions. Its evolution and use reflect both biological and cultural factors, and its study can provide insights into the nature of human cognition and behavior.

According to many authors, language is a form of communication (Miller 1975, 1987). Therefore, language is not the only way to communicate, and we should appreciate and learn from the various forms of communication that exist in the natural world. Recently, Daniel Dor argued that language is a technology aimed at sharing imagination (Dor 2014, 2015, 2016). According to this perspective, the task of the speaker is to provide clues about their own mental representations, while the addressee tries to reconstruct the mental representations of the speaker through a chain of interpretative processes (Scott-Phillips 2015). In fact, for every “literal meaning” of a word or a sentence, there are infinite possible modulations of meaning (also related to pragmatic aspects). This fact determines one of the most typical characteristics of language, namely the “pervasiveness of indeterminacy” (Scott-Phillips 2015). This is a limitation given that verbal expression does not allow a direct (literal) grasp of reality; at the same time, it allows a varied range of interpretative possibilities. Learning from these forms of communication can also enhance our own ability to communicate. For instance, studying animal communication can provide insights into how to effectively convey information without relying solely on language. Additionally, being aware of nonverbal cues in human communication can improve our interpersonal skills and help us better understand others.

Talking about language functions, Cook (1999:26) mentions that specialists in linguistics sometimes claim that if non-specialists are asked what the function of language is, they will reply that it is 'to send information' or 'to tell other your thoughts'. People are not as simplistic as this, even a moment's reflection leads to the conclusion that language has many more functions.

While language is a powerful tool for communication, it is not the only way to effectively convey messages. By appreciating and learning from the various forms of communication that exist in the natural world, we can expand our understanding of how to communicate effectively and improve our ability to connect with others.

The source of human knowledge is not only specific language units, but also certain language categories, in particular grammatical ones. For example, a noun as a part of speech means an object (in a broad sense), an adjective is an object feature, a numeral is a number, a number of objects, a verb is an action, a process. The same can be said about the lexical and grammatical categories of nouns, adjectives and other parts of speech, categories of number, gender, animation, degree of comparison, time, mood, etc.

Language functions are essential for academic success as they allow students to engage with content in a meaningful way and effectively communicate their ideas to others. By developing their language skills and understanding these functions, students can become more confident and proficient in their academic work.

Despite the differences between human and animal communication, there are also some similarities. Both humans and animals use communication to establish social bonds, coordinate group activities, and transmit information across generations. Additionally, both humans and animals can learn new communication skills through observation, practice, and feedback. Language is a fundamental aspect of human communication and culture, but it is not the only way that we communicate. Nonverbal cues and animal communication systems also play important roles in conveying meaning and facilitating social interactions. By studying these different forms of communication, we can gain a better understanding of how humans and other animals interact with each other and with their environments.

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