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SIGNIFICANCE OF SOCIO LINGUISTICS AND THE SOCIOLOGY OF LANGUAGE FOR LEARNING ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract

Sociolinguistics is the branch of linguistics; it attracts scholars because it is study of language in relation to society. It can also be called the process by which human beings learn language from society. The word sociolinguistics refers to society and language. Society can be described as a group of people drawn together for particular purpose or purposes. The term language can be defined as what the people of a particular society speak. Sometimes the people of one society speak more than one language at that time people would be called multilingual. In the other words language and society both are dependent on each other. If we sight an example of newly born baby, he starts grasping language what he listens. It makes no difference in which country he born. If he is born in India and has been sent to America then definitely, he will be speaking English only because he listens English from his mother and society. It has been proved that the accent a baby listens and starts speaking in a same way. That's the reason geographical location has no significance for learning language but that's the people and society with whom the baby has been brought up. Same thing with the language if the people or the society will not be in the existence then there will not the existence of that language what they speak and it will be counted as endangered language. Comparatively other linguistics branches, sociolinguistics has a vital significance for a learner of language. It is society and culture of an individual that teaches him how to behave and react towards the situation through language communication. Learning language has no direct relation to religion but society, if majority of any religion exists in any locality, then definitely the speaker of that language will be more which is spoken by majority. We can say that society is the school of language and mother and members of the society are the teacher of language¹

Keywords: Sociolinguistics, Knowledge of Language, Culture.

Introduction

Knowledge of Language: since the language is medium of communication, when two people use a common set of symbols then we call it language. Without knowing the all-grammatical concepts and mastering over LSRW skills people can communicate in any language which is common among them. David crystal, a professor of linguistics said during first Global conference in Gujarat. 'Before understanding the language, the culture of that language has to be understood.' During the communication people feel misunderstanding when they do not find themselves suffice lexically. As lexical is like a sea, while communication words are used in a different way because one word can be used in different situations.

Language, Society and Culture: All these three concepts are interdependent. All Languages are completely influence by their society and culture. That's the reason if incorrect English is spoken in American or British accent can mesmerize the audience. And audience will consider him or her as a good English speaker. Same thing with the Urdu language if any shaiyari is chanted in Sanskrit it will not catch the attention of the audience. That's the reason language is communal possession.

Language, Dialects and Varieties: As we have discussed every language has its internal variation. But what do we mean by variety? Here Hudson (1996, p.22) defines 'a set of linguistics items with similar distribution,' the variety of language like variety in sounds, variety in grammatical structure, and in semantics. He further defines that the Canadian English, London English and English of football commentary will be different from each other. According to Hudson all the languages has varieties on the basis of their social distribution. As far as the dialects of any language are concerned, after every hundred to two hundred kilometer it is changed. Variations can be found in their pronunciation, voice and accent. So undoubtedly, it can be said every language has its own geo linguistics factors.²

Sociolinguistics and the sociology of language: the term sociolinguistics can be defined as micro sociolinguistics and the sociology of language can be used as macro-sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistics describes the relation between language and society and how language functions in communication and sociology of a system explains how the structure of society can be understood through the study of language.



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According to Trudgill, Labov has addressed himself to issue that the relationship between language and social class. His target not to learn more about different societies to find out the relationship between linguistics and social concept, but to understand more about the language such as mechanism of linguistics change. Trudgill (1978). ‘While everybody would agree that sociolinguistics has something to do with language and society, it is clearly also not concerned with everything that could be considered “language and society”.’ Chambers (2002, 2003) addressed that sociolinguistics is the branch of linguistics which requires a reference of society. Haugen (1966a) has said that language and dialect are ambiguous terms.

Regional Dialects: it is the easiest way to find out the change in pronunciation if we travel to a wide geographical area, we shall easily notice that the one language is spoken with different pronunciation, such varieties are called regional dialects of the language.

Social Dialects: At a one particular geographical location people live from different religion and societies and when the people of same class and society meet, they communicate in their own language with their own dialects, this term can be described as social dialects. Regional dialect based on geographical location and social dialect based on class, religion and ethnicity.

Pidgin: a simplified speech used for communication between the people of different languages. It can be explained as a language with no native speaker, so it can be called as a contact language. The process of pidginization probably requires a situation that involves at least three languages (whinnom, 1971), in other words, when the people from different regions and languages want to communicate, obviously they will have to use that language which is common for smooth communication, otherwise the process of communication will not take place and the process of pidginization will not occur.

Diglossia: it is called a situation when one community speaks more than one dialect or language (speaking two languages). In India almost every cast and religion have diglossia and they use it when they find the person whom they are going to talk would be able to communicate in the same language. We can sight an example of south Indian people when they meet the person of a similar region or state they communicate in their regional languages like Tamil and in Maharashtra people like to communicate in Marathi otherwise they communicate in Hindi or in English which means almost every Indian speak more than one language.

Lingua Franca: in publication concerned with the use of vernacular language in education published in Paris in 1953, UNESCO defined a lingua Franca as ‘a language which is used habitually by people whose mother tongues are different in order to facilitate communication between them.’ Samarin (1968, p.661) lists four: a trade language (e.g., Hausa in West Africa or Swahili in East Africa); a contact language (e.g., Greek Koine in the Ancient); an international language (e.g., English throughout much of our contemporary world); and an auxiliary language.³

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