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## **FUNCTIONAL APPROACH IN LINGUISTICS: THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS**

### **Introduction**

Language acts as a means for communication, allowing individuals to convey their thoughts and emotions. Through language, people interact in response to various situations. It plays a crucial role in human life and fulfills multiple functions while doing so. The academic literature often places less focus on the functions of language, prioritizing the distinction between language and speech instead. The practical application of language is directly associated with its functions. The functions of language encompass its vital characteristics for humanity. As a social phenomenon, language illustrates its relationship with society. Consequently, the functions of language are particularly relevant in sociolinguistic studies. Individuals utilize language when engaging with one another, whether it be through greetings, seeking information, or providing answers. In these contexts, language demonstrates its functions within social interactions.

Language is a form of functional creativity due to its content and character. It emerges in human society and functions as a cognitive tool during interaction. Function is a phrase of Latin origin that implies "task" or "execution" [1]. Language units have a special role to play in linguistics. This implies functional dependency and interaction. In addition, language has a pragmatic function. This function expresses semantics through lexical and grammatical means. Functionality is a polysemantic terminological unit that investigates the broad typology of the functional approach to language and grammar in contemporary linguistics.

There is also a broader explanation of the functional approach to language as a whole. In this sense, the functional approach is compared with the formal approach.

In some cases, the functional approach is understood as a focus on the role played by a certain unit within a larger unit, in other words, its syntactic position. The functional approach to language as a whole also emerges when studying the "functional" (stylistic) stratification of language means used to perform various social functions. In this sense, one can talk about "functional dialectology", "functional stylistics", "functional differentiation and stratification of language", "functional types of language", "functional languages", "functional dialects",

“functional styles”, etc. In contrast to formal (structural) typology, which deals with the study of language functions and language situations in society, there is also talk of a functional typology of languages.

For many years in the 20th century, most research in the field of grammar was conducted in the direction of form-meaning. This did not allow learning the deep structure of the language.

Finally, from the end of the 20th century to the beginning of the 21st century, research was started in the direction that would allow achieving innovations in the field of linguistics. Currently, in linguistics, attention is paid to issues in the direction of form - meaning or meaning - form, closely related to the mutual form and meaning characteristics of any language sign [2, p.271].

From the 60s of the last century, different ideas about semantics, function, structure, anthropology and language development were put forward in modern language schools, and new linguistic approaches began to be applied. In this approach, the research conducted by linguistic schools of Copenhagen, France and St. Petersburg in the field of functional linguistics and grammar has gained great importance. In the Copenhagen Linguistic Association, the relations of system and functional characteristic speech meanings are defined. French linguistics schools pay attention to the grammatical aspects of speech from the point of view of the communicative function of the language [2, p. 237].

Since the 1980s, a new history has begun in the field of studying functional linguistics and grammar. Scientific-practical results were obtained by researching the functional-conceptual aspects of the emphasized linguistic schools.

Functionalism considers the functionality of language and its elements to be key to understanding linguistic processes and structures. Functional theories of language suggest that since language is primarily a tool, it is reasonable to assume that its structures are best analyzed and understood in terms of the functions they perform. These include the tasks of conveying meaning and contextual information.

The concept of functional grammar in modern linguistics was touched upon by the Prague School of Linguistics in 1926-1930. This concept is explained in relation to grammar, mainly syntax, on the basis of the theory of the actual membership of the sentence. Conducting research in this field began to develop starting from the 50s of the 20th century.

The concept of "generative transformational grammar" and "functional grammar" are equally valued as a continuation of structural linguistics. This concept appeared in America in the 1950s. This concept was first encountered in 1957 in the book "Syntactic structures" by H. Chomsky. Later, this concept was formed as a linguistic theory and practical training. Here, the interaction between semantics and function and the study of the expression of thought with concrete language means in that context are given a wide place [3, p.347]. The second training evaluates the

language as a cognitive-conceptual function of the brain by studying language more in the form of certain formal transformational models [3, p.254].

### **Discussion**

A set of linguistic schools and trends that pay more attention to the use of language as a means of communication; it arose as a branch of structural linguistics. I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay, F. de Saussure, and O. Jespersen and their other predecessors [4;5;6]. The main principle - the explanation of language as a purposeful system of means of expression (teleological principle) was advanced by R.O. Jakobson, N.S. Trubetskoy, S.O. Kartsevsky in the "The programmatic 1929 Prague *Theses*", and later developed in the works of other representatives of the Prague linguistic school, as well as K. Buhler, who substantiated the concept of the three functions of language [7;8].

Structuralists perceive the relationship between segments of language as a hierarchy. They insist that no linguistic element of a language can be properly assessed from an isolated point of view, that is, in isolation. Its correct assessment can only be possible when it is connected with elements existing in the same language. Functionalists, on the other hand, claim that each element of language can exist in isolation (sentence, word, morpheme, phoneme), because they have certain purposes and functions. This functional perspective is identified with a certain view of language. Communicative linguistics tools, on the other hand, perform certain functions [9; p.202] No language element can be fully understood and evaluated unless its relationships with other elements are analyzed. Its functions, especially its communicative function, must be taken into account. In the field of humanities, the terms "functionalism" and "functional analysis" are usually contrasted with hermeneutics, thereby approaching the classical cognitive direction [10; p.412].

According to functionalists, linguistic structures can only be understood and explained if their reference is the communicative and semantic structures of language. Since 1970, it has been further developed by the work of linguists such as S.C.Dick, O.Jespersen, D.Bolinger, M. Halliday, Chafe, and their works have contributed to the development of linguistic theory and various subfields within linguistics, such as syntax, discourse, language development, cognitive linguistics, typology, etc. [11;6;12;13;14]. The Functional Approach was defined by Simon Dick in the following ways: In the functional perspective, a language is primarily viewed as a tool for social interaction among individuals, utilized with the purpose of forming communicative relationships. Within this framework, the focus is on uncovering how language serves as a tool regarding what individuals accomplish and pursue through it in social interactions. To put it differently, a natural language is regarded as an integral component of the communicative abilities of its users.

The main goal of functionalism is to clarify the dynamic relationships between form and meaning. Functionalists believe that mental events and states occur inside

the human brain and have very important functions. Functional linguistics (functionalism) is a set of schools and movements that emerged as a branch of structural linguistics and are characterized by focusing on the functionalization of language as a means of communication. Despite its popularity in other fields of science, functionalism in linguistics still did not have a leading independent theory at the end of the 20th century. Systematic functional linguistics was developed in 1960 by Halliday, who was influenced by the works of the Prague School and the English linguist J.R.Firth. [15] The Prague and British linguistic traditions differed in their comprehensiveness, each studying the functional sources of language and focusing on specific linguistic problems. The completeness of the goals and comprehensive results of the scholars working in these traditions led to a broad assessment of the nature of language. The Prague School, which had its own unique approach to the study of language, was founded in the mid-1920s by Wilhelm Mathesius. According to the theses of the "Prague Linguistic Society", the synchronic analysis of modern factors is a good method for understanding the essence and character of language.

Functional methods to linguistics have made significant contributions to our knowledge of the relationship between language use settings and speakers' communicative skill within those contexts. Two linguistic traditions, the Prague School and the British tradition, provide valuable insights into this relationship. As an example of a functional approach, each is concerned with language as a tool that performs a variety of activities, as well as analysis in terms of the uses or functions that language serves. Michael Halliday's systemic-functional theory shows a convergence of both methods, and each tradition has had a distinct influence on his work. The Prague and British traditions differ in their exploration of a language's functional resources and their attention on specific linguistic difficulties.

An important principle for functional syntax is the direction from meaning to form, from semantic structures to language tools. In functional syntax, the principle from meaning to form is different language material with the same semantic structure. refers to the expression by means of language. In this principle, semantic structure elements of the same category are divided into meaning groups and considered.

The meaning-to-form principle is one of the functional approaches that allows to look at the functions of language from a wider context, format. For this reason, a number of scientists preferred to use other terms instead of the functional term, V. Gak, V. P. Danilenko, F. S. Bachevich, T. A. Kosmeda used the onomosiology term in their work, and V. A. Beloshapkova, I. G. Miloslavsky used the ideographic term. However, this term does not comprehensively cover all subtleties when using the language in the semantic plan" [16, p.188].

In his works, O. Jespersen raised the issue of studying the lexicon in the synthesis of external form and internal meaning and considered the problem of syntax in the description of language from meaning to form.

In modern linguistics, the concept of functional grammar was first studied in the Prague School of Linguistics in the 1920s-1930s. During the research, the essence of this concept was objectively clarified. Later, A.V. Bondarko introduced the concept of the functional-semantic field to functional grammar and this new grammatical writing practice [17].

Functionality defines or determines the following: the usual general opposite, opposite; the actualization of speech and the opposite of the language system; onomasiological-semasiological opposite; the opposite structure of quantity; the opposite of formal-grammatical lexical-semantic; the opposite of semantic formal-structure; the opposite of syntactic morphological and lexical features. Functional grammar is a new stage in the development of grammar.

In modern linguistics, grammaticocentrism has formed new types of descriptions of modern grammar: descriptive, derivational, functional, associative, active, passive grammars. These are interconnected and constitute the language-text, language-system, language-talent, and ability dichotomy. The main principles of functional grammar are semanticcentrism, attention to functional language signs, and a system description of functional units. Traditional grammar and functional grammar differ from each other in terms of object, purpose, direction of analysis, and genetic relationships. In the functional approach, the attitude towards an object is measured by its role in the overall context. For example, when talking about machine parts (engines), its engine, role in human life, etc. should be explained and shown. The main concepts and problems of functional morphology were discussed at the St. Petersburg School of Functional Grammar. The issues discussed are: Functional-semantic field (FSS), predicativity (aspectuality, modality, temporality), predicative (locativity), subject-object (subjectivity, personality, objectivity and qualitative-quantitative core). Active grammar, speech grammar - speaker's grammar (B. Norman), associative grammar (Y. N. Karaulov) is understood as a component of functional grammar. [18]

The functional learning concept of A.V. Bondarko is based on the synthesis of structural and semantic approaches.

The synthesis of analyzes in the form-meaning direction is more clearly explained on the example of the functional-semantic field and categorical situations. Here, the semantic category is taken as the basis, and all language means expressing a certain meaning are taken into account (morphological, syntactic means, lexical meanings). A.V. Bondarko was the supporter of the functional approach in Russian linguistics. His concepts were used in the development of functional syntax theory. In his works, scientists describe some features of the Russian language from the

point of view of a functional approach (classification of verbs, use of parts of speech, expression of time, space and causal relationships). His predecessors developed the concept of analysis and synthesis of language according to the essence of functional syntax, according to the relationship and direction between the semantic expression and the external structure of the language. Among the foreign works based on the functional direction of the language, the name of the Dutch scientist S. Dick can be mentioned. He described the differences between formal and functional concepts in language.

The research of a group of scientists under the leadership of the American linguist R.V. Vallin is of particular interest. Using models, they gave the semantic structure of language expressions. Studies in the field of cognitive grammar also deserve special attention. This grammar, in contrast to generative grammar, focuses on the relationship between reality and language [19].

A.E. Kibrik brought the term cognitive functional-semantic paradigm to science. This term is close to the study of syntax from the functional side. However, the first functionalist scientists, who think differently from the representatives of the Prague School of Linguistics, point out that the speaker's language mechanism is at the forefront [1, p.228; 20].

### **Conclusion**

Modern linguistic science, in recent years has been investigating, the emerging problems and ways of studying them by analyzing in the direction of linguistics and functional semantics as a result of close intercultural and interlinguistic relations. Thus, the functional approach to language learning, studying language in a functional aspect, studies language in relation to speech. Language phenomena study human behavior, morality and behavior, speech experience, together with the real act of communication. Investigating this problem in relation to the text, as well as language and its concrete realization, is also studied in a functional direction.

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## **RÖYA ABDURAHMANOVA** **DİLÇİLİKDƏ FUNKSIONAL YANAŞMA:NƏZƏRİ ƏSASLAR**

### **Xülasə**

Bu məqalə dilçilikdə mövcud olan funksional yanaşmanın nəzəri əsaslarına həsr edilmişdir. Funksional dilçiliyin meydana gəlməsi haqqında geniş məlumat məqalədə təqdim olunur. Məqalədə qeyd olunur ki, dilin və onun elementlərinin funksionallığının rolu danılmazdır və dilin düzgün ifadə olunmasında mühüm əhəmiyyət kəsb edir həmçinin dilin formalaşmasında linqvistik proseslərin və strukturların dərk edilməsində açar rolunu oynayır. Heç bir dil elementinin digər elementlərlə əlaqələri də təhlil edilmədikcə tam başa düşülməsi və qiymətləndirilməsinin mümkün olmadığı sübuta yetirilmişdir. Bundan əlavə, dilin funksional sistem kimi Praqa məktəbinin ilk fəaliyyətindən bəri təsəvvür edildiyi,

sistem termininin Ferdinand De Sössurun struktivist yanaşmasına istinad etdiyi düşüncəsi də nəzərə alınmışdır. Məqalədə dilçiliyə funksional yanaşma tərəfdarının bu istiqamətdə fəaliyyətləri barəsində söz açılır. Funksiya termini Vilém Mathesius tərəfindən dilçiliyə təqdim ediyi qeyd edilmişdir. Bundan əlavə, məqalədə funksional yanaşma haqqında müxtəlif fikirlər təqdim olunur. Məqalədə mövcud olan saysız-hesabsız tədqiqatlar göstərir ki, dilçiliyə funksional yanaşma ilə bağlı araşdırmalar müasir dövrdə daha çox diqqət tələb edir. Əlavə olaraq, bu məqalədə Simon Dik tərəfindən təqdim olunan funksional yanaşmanın xarakteristikası da müzakirə olunur. **Açar sözlər:** funksional yanaşma, Praqa funksional dilçilik məktəbi, funksional qrammatika, məna, forma, sintaktik qurulu

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**Summary**

The present article is devoted to the theoretical foundations of the functional approach existing in linguistics. The extended information about the derivation of the functional linguistics is presented in the article. It is mentioned in the article that the role of the functionality of language and its elements is undeniable, and it is important while expressing the language correctly, and it is the key to understanding linguistic processes and structures in the formation of the language. No language element is proved to be fully understood and evaluated unless its relationships with other elements are analyzed as well. Besides, the thought that the language has been conceived of as a functional system since the Prague School's early work, with the term system referring to Ferdinand De Saussure's structuralist approach, is also taken into regard. The article discusses the activities of a proponent of a functional approach to linguistics in this direction. It is estimated that the term function appears to have been presented by Vilém Mathesius. Furthermore, different thoughts about the functional approach are provided in this article. The innumerable research that can be produced by the existing in the article demonstrates that studies about the functional approach to linguistics require more attention nowadays. Moreover, the characterization of the functional approach provided by [Simon Dick](#) is also dealt with in this article.

**Key words:** functional approach, Prague Functional Linguistic School, functional grammar, meaning, form, syntactic structure



## РОЯ АБДУРАХМАНОВА ФУНКЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ПОДХОД В ЛИНГВИСТИКЕ: ТЕОРЕТИЧЕСКАЯ ОСНОВЫ

### Резюме

Данная статья посвящена теоретическим основам функционального подхода, существующего в языкознании. В статье упоминается, что роль функциональности языка и ее элементов неоспорима, и она важна при правильном выражении языка, и она является ключом к пониманию языковых процессов и структур в формировании языка. Ни один языковой элемент не может быть полностью понят и оценен, если его отношения с другими элементами не будут также проанализированы. Кроме того, мысль о том, что язык был задуман как функциональная система со времен ранних работ Пражской школы, при этом термин «система» относится к структуралистскому подходу Де Соссюра, также принимается во внимание. В статье рассматривается деятельность сторонника функционального подхода к языкознанию в этом направлении. Предполагается, что термин «функция», по-видимому, был представлен Вилемом Матезиусом. Кроме того, в этой статье приводятся различные мысли о функциональном подходе. Бесчисленные исследования, которые могут быть произведены существующими в статье, показывают, что исследования о функциональном подходе к лингвистике требуют большего внимания. Кроме того, в этой статье также рассматривается характеристика о функциональном подходе, предоставленная Саймоном Диком.

**Ключевые слова:** функциональный подход, Пражская Функциональная Лингвистическая Школа, функциональная грамматика, значение, форма, синтаксическая структура

**Rəyçi:** f.f.d., dos, F.F.Qurbanova