

Mental Aspects of Discourse

Aspects mentaux du discours

Aspecte mentale ale discursului

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Abstract

The article touches upon the nature of inner speech intensifying its compressive character. In this respect the compression includes not just linguistic means on all levels of language hierarchy but should be perceived as the nature of mental processes of apperception and reality representation influencing upon the verbal representation thus demonstrating language and mentality interconnection.

Résumé

L'article est consacré à la nature du discours intérieur révélant sa nature compressive. La compression est sousentendue non seulement comme un outil linguistique à différents niveaux d'hierarchie de la langue, mais comme le processus mental de la perception de réalité, ce qui démontre le lien indissoluble de la langue et de la pensée. On cite des exemples linguistiques ayant à la base le discours électronique moderne.

Rezumat

Articolul de față tratează natura discursului interior subliniind caracterul său comprimat. În acest sens, compresiunea include nu doar mijloacele lingvistice la diferite niveluri de ierarhie a limbii, ci și cum ar trebui să fie percepută ca natura proceselor psihice ale apercepției și reprezentarea realității care influențează reprezentarea verbală demonstrând astfel, interconexiunea dintre limbă și mentalitate.

Key words: *compression, inner speech, mental aspects, digital discourse.*

Mots-clé: *Compression, discours intérieur, processus mental, discours électronique.*

Cuvinte cheie: *compresiunea, discursul interior, aspectele psihice, discursul digital.*

Introduction

Inner speech is the basic and universal means of mental activity and consciousness of a human being. In inner speech language and thought are joined into a whole unity. Inner speech having regulation and planning as its functions is characterized by a condensed structure in comparison with external speech. In other words inner speech possesses a compressive nature. Such a compressive nature of inner speech may be observed due to the fact that there are such

processes as visual thinking, abstraction, coding apart from verbal representation in it. It should also be mentioned that inner speech makes it possible to turn to an automatic reorganization of speech acts with the help of adhesiveness (association) and typical units' representation helping to avoid the repeated building of the latter. Due to the existence of automatic mechanisms in associative thinking there is a ground for language or lingual subconsciousness with elements of the language system interacting automatically and spontaneously within it. A result of associative thinking is kept in subconsciousness. Thus a set of associative units of the discourse is formed within the sphere of subconsciousness providing the choice of proper units in case of the discourse. It's a well-known fact that inner speech is focused on:

- self communication (characterized by the presence of a complete verbal representation or on the contrary avoiding it), depending on the situation and features of a certain person;
- the process of reflection before the further audio representation which includes the understanding of the motive of communication, setting of goals, features of the addressee being taken into account, pointing out the subject of speech, determining the key idea. The pragmatic nature of speech is observed at this level since the latter is characterized mainly by its characteristics of being addressee-oriented for the better achievement of its purposes.

It should be pointed out that the above-mentioned processes of self communication and reflection concern the further digital representation as well within the digital discourse being the transitional point.

Another description of inner speech points out a silent speaking through one's thoughts which coincides with the audio representation of speech anticipating it.

The problem of inner speech has always attracted prominent linguists' attention. Among them there are I.R. Galperin, N.I. Zhinkin, V.A. Zvegintsev, A.A. Leont'ev, A.R. Luriya and others. V.A. Zvegintsev stated that the predicative wordless character of inner speech does not mean that thinking is going on with the help of the non-language extralinguistic forms. Language is the basis for the process of thinking in the form of inner speech. In the speech of the deaf and dumb we come across the same elements: structure relations, types of segmentation, patterns and schemes of speech making process. All these constituent parts of the language apparently influence upon the forms of inner speech of the person speaking a particular language. This gives evidence to the fact that inner speech is not characterized by a universal character independently of the peculiarities of a certain language. On the contrary, it by all means depends on them [1].

Units of thought and units of speech do not coincide. The speech process and cognitive processes go hand in hand and are characterized by uniformity but they are not equal. They are interrelated by complex mechanisms, passages, transformations; though, they can't be replaced by each other. The peculiarities of perception and verbal representation within the digital world come under review. We take the phenomenon of compression for the key issue regarding both the process of perception and apprehension as well as the process of verbal representation to say nothing of its linguistic functioning as a linguistic means.

The condensation, predicativeness and fragmentariness of inner speech as relevant features of the digital discourse

Inner speech is a necessary stage of transfer into an outward extended speech. At this stage the implied idea is being transformed into a set of extended meaningful syntactic structures; semantic structures are being decoded into a properly organized structure of a following extended syntactic statement. It is a fact that inner speech differs greatly from the outward speech by its morphological structure having a compressed amorphous character and functioning mainly as a predicative structure. Inner speech is free of redundancy - a characteristic feature of all non-artificial languages. The distinction of speech for oneself and others results in outer and egocentric types of speech - a transition link to inner speech. Egocentric speech is characterized by compression, condensation and at the point of being transformed into inner speech it is almost totally presented by predicative syntax only. This becomes possible due to the subject being

known, apperception – features providing a predicative type of inner speech. Thus we may assume the predicative structure of its syntax. The inconsistency of inner and outer speech of both forms – oral and written is sometimes realized in an incoherent presentation of the study material. . Though one may understand oneself in inner speech i.e. the implied idea is considered to be received and evident. Thus the representation of the idea within the process of reflection and apperception leads to a coherence of the idea itself. It is commonly known there are different views on discourse. According to V.G. Borbotjko discourse is a thought and language making process activating all the language system to represent a verbal image reproduced by the human consciousness [2]. The mentioned author reminds us that there may be no oral or written representation of the discourse as the process of language consciousness operation. In other words it may be realized as inner speech only”. It is a true fact that the message to a great degree is just implied, our inner speech is partially represented orally, and common background knowledge is omitted. In this respect Borbotjko speaks about the word as being vague. The ways of perception and comprehension of specialized terms such as “sailyard”, “fore mast”, “jib” while reading stories about sea adventures are under the matter of analysis as one of the examples of the phenomenon. It is absolutely natural when we don’t penetrate into the essence of such words with no loss of contextual meaning and comprehension. And even after having looked these words up in a specialized dictionary we may soon forget the exact meaning of the words returning to its vague character. The essential moment is that the semantization of the whole is quite adequate and does not lead to any misunderstanding and miscomprehension of the text.

The condensation, predicativeness and fragmentariness of inner speech lead to the situation when it seems to the producer of speech that he knows the subject of speech quite well (for example, the student at the lesson) since one understands oneself on the level of inner speech. In fact one catches the idea developing certain combinations and interconnections of a given subject and pointing out its predicates in the inner speech i.e. to oneself. Though as a rule this prevents the producer of speech from giving a message in a proper understandable coherent way. There is a discontinuity and gap between inner and outer forms of speech. It concerns both types of outer speech: oral and written. Taking into account the above-mentioned example of the student it is clear that the student is aware of the logic as it is perceived by him or her but the given message is incoherent and incomplete. That is why it is preferable to get ready with the verbal representation of the message before it is already given. In this case its clear coherent accurate character is properly achieved.

N. I. Zhinkin’s research work gave proof to the fact of a much higher speed of inner speech in comparison with its outer form. In inner speech the usage of words and the reflection over images and schemes go hand in hand. That is to say the subject of speech may be imagined as image-schema and not named at all. Inner speech includes separate words as well as their potential combinations and linkages.

These conclusions point out a well-known fact about language and mentality interconnection and continuity conveying the suggestion that the key moment is the compressive nature of apperception as well as verbal representation of reality. These processes should be considered to be characteristic features of inner speech producing a further verbal message. These mechanisms are apparently carried out with the help of generalization, i.e. summarizing of the already known facts, recollection of various situations of reality, the previous experience leading to a new verbal representation variant of a particular situation. The modern digital discourse has made it possible for us to communicate daily through local and worldwide networking and is absolutely natural for a global citizen. Moreover, this type of communication often prevails over non-digital communication. Thus the era of digital natives has already started giving rise to a crucial change in our mentality and information interchange. By means of linguistic investigation, observation and analysis we have analyzed the digital discourse via Internet and mobile phones proving the interconnection and interdependence of the compressive nature of inner speech and digital discourse

within its condensed format with particular attention to the compression not just as a linguistic phenomenon but the way the processes of perception and reality representation are realized [3].

Conclusion

Thus it should be pointed out that compression is a complex phenomenon as it evidently includes not just linguistic means on all levels of language hierarchy but should be perceived as the nature of mental processes of perception and reality representation which influences upon the verbal representation thus demonstrating language and mentality interconnection. We hereby underline the compressive nature of mental mechanisms of language operating with particular attention to mental aspects of inner speech and discourse. Problems at issue being mainly theoretical may undergo further empirical research on the basis of various types of language material.

We have stressed out the peculiarities of mental aspects of discourse giving modern digital discourse as an example being the objective of our previous research. The significant influence of modern IT resources on the character and ways of processing: getting information as well as its representation virtually and face-to-face, is obvious and undeniable. The essential thing is that, this is the case both in inner and outer speech in the situation of a face-to-face conversation free of digital devices as well as communication with the help of modern IT. This phenomenon gives us the ground to draw a conclusion that a virtual reality providing its digital discourse is a world giving rise to a particular mentality, a specific verbal representation, its own guiding landmarks of value and assessment.

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