



RECENT AREAS OF RESEARCH IN LANGUAGE

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Abstract

Research is a natural instinct which can be found in each and every living being on this planet. It is a never ending process which converts the unknown into the known and it transforms the known into the more known. Language has been an indispensable part of human life. It is a means to us to realize the tangible and intangible world around us. It is language that enables us to research each and every aspect of this universe. And in the course of time language has itself become a significant phenomenon for research activity. Presently the researchers are engaged in research in language which can be diachronic and synchronic in nature. However, with advancement of information and technology, research in every discipline has undergone a noticeable change and it is supposed to be in pace with the necessities of the new times. The emergence of new fields of knowledge and the advanced technology has proved to be a boon for research activities in language. Similarly, the diversity of currents of thoughts in the present scenario across the world offers a welcome call to research in language. Accordingly, the present paper is a humble attempt to consider the recent areas of research in language across the disciplines.

Keywords: *research, language, information and technology, fields of knowledge*

Rationale:

Language is a means of human communication. It is basically a social phenomenon. It allows a member of human community to share ideas, feelings, knowledge and information with other members. This means without language it is very difficult to exchange ideas, knowledge and information easily. With the social, cultural and scientific advancement new fields of knowledge have emerged and these fields cannot be conceived without language. 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century have emerged as milestones in the history of human life with a substantial change across all domains due to the revolution in information and technology. However, without language the innovations remain beyond attainment and realization. Each and every domain today is advancing with innovations. Language is used to document, search and research these innovations. Accordingly, there has been the emergence of use of language specific to these domains of life which has given rise to the new areas of research in language. And the present paper tries to highlight the same.

Objectives of the study:

1. To enlist the recent areas of research in language.
2. To consider the recent areas of research in language.

Hypothesis:

Research is a life encompassing activity. It is found in all the species and spheres of life. The ultimate aim of a research is to solve a problem. Language is a means of research for human beings. It is used to realize, conceptualize and internalize every tangible and intangible thing around. Accordingly, as per the emergence of the new disciplines of knowledge, the horizons of language use keep widening and there emerges discipline-specific language which has to be mastered by the scholars of disciplines. And such new disciplines, in turn, develop new areas of research in language. Hence, it is hypothesized that: ‘New areas of research in language emerge with the advent of new disciplines of knowledge.’

Methodology:

The investigator has used qualitative research method which includes several methods out of which natural observation method which offers the space to present the observations about the topics to be researched. The present paper is composed of the observations of the investigator about research in language by considering its various aspects in relation to new disciplines of knowledge.

Explanation:

All the species in this world are engaged in a kind of research. The animals and birds engaged in migration can be considered the

instances exhibiting research instincts. They are continuously engaged in a kind of problem-solving endeavours. Similarly, human beings, it can be observed, learn to do everything after a kind of research effort. When we do something for the first time, we do that by observing how other do it. Then we do that in our own way by using our experience and experiences of others. There involves research in performing the day-to-day activities. In fact, research is a subconscious activity that we are involved in at all times. No doubt, the routine activities cannot have documentation as such. Essentially, research is a process to find out new knowledge to get solutions to a problem. The word, 'research' is made of two components: 're'-means 'again' and 'search' means 'to find out' or 'discover. This means that in research we take up an activity to look into one of its aspects once again or we wish to look for some new information about something. To be more particular, research is a course of steps used to collect and analyze information to increase our understanding of a topic or an issue. Research has three steps: a question, collection of data to answer the question, and presentation of an answer to the question. Research exhibits certain other qualities such as: a prearranged / structured enquiry, acceptable scientific methodology to solve problems and creation of generally applicable new knowledge. Research is a creative process to develop better understanding of all the issues. Hence, it should be useful to those who wish to apply the research findings in developing new policies for the public betterment.

Research is an activity that enables us to find out new facts, information, help us in verifying the available knowledge and facilitates us question things that are difficult to understand as per existing data. It is a continuous activity in the majority of disciplines and professions. It is useful in critical assessment of the way we work, execute policies, and give instructions in our professions. It is a systematic observation of processes to find better ways to do things and to reduce the effort being put in to achieve an objective and identifying the validity of the targets. It is, it can be observed, in all the walks of life. And language, it can be seen, has been one of the most productive areas as far as research is concerned.

Language is a purely human phenomenon. That is why it is referred to as species specific-species uniform. Actually, language has become a string of human world. Without language the human life would be a

chaos. It would not be exaggeration to refer to language as oxygen of human progress. Language is used to conceive, realize, to refer to all the tangible and intangible things around us. It is only because of language we can store and transfer the knowledge about the world from generation to generation. It is used as a means of not only communication but realization and internalization of things, ideas, concepts, imagination and feelings and everything between the hell and the heaven and even beyond them. It is language that enables us to deal with every physical entity as well as imaginary body. Language can be considered a key to human progress. Since ages language has been one of the chief areas of research which has caused the emergence of the studies like linguistics, phonetics, morphology, phonology, syntax, semantics, morphophonemics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and recently applied linguistics 'which connects the knowledge about language to the decision-making in the real world' (Simpson, 2011:1). As there can be nothing human without language, every field that we have generated could not have been possible without language. The advent in science and technology has given rise to a considerable number of new areas of knowledge. Subsequently with the emergence every new field there is a scope for research in language. This paper is a modest attempt to enlist and consider in brief the recent areas of research in language.

Even though researched repeatedly phonetics, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, morphophonemics will continue to be the areas of research all the time. In addition to them there are many areas where research in language can be pursued intensively. Let us see them one by one:

Colonization imposed the language of the colonizers upon the colonized. Then there came the tide of globalization that turned the globe into a village. This brought about the encounter of two or more languages in the world under the influence of science and technology. Subsequently the world today needs research in language policy and planning.

With advent of the concepts like Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization, business communication has become a buzz word. Every language that has come in the contact with the modern world is being used for the purpose of business. Therefore there is a scope for research in business communication.

As per the need of the time every language across the world is expected to attain

certain stages. Language can be considered as a living entity. It keeps growing. In the course time as per growth of the knowledge in the world around, lexis in a language increase and subsequently lexicography becomes a recent area of research in language. There is a need to produce variety of dictionaries to bring into light various aspects of language and to help and enable the users to use language effectively.

It can be observed that media has become an important part of life today with the emergence of internet and television. Earlier it was mainly restricted to the newspaper. Language and communication is at the centre of media which is constantly changing and growing. The language of media provides an extensive scope for research in language. The emergence of science and technology has offered the world many new fields of knowledge such as engineering and medicine. Each and every field of science and technology has become a new area of research in language. For instance, research can be carried on in the areas such as communication in medical science, clinical linguistics, language and ageing, forensic linguistics and many others.

Furthermore, the field of commerce and management can be very productive for research in language. The corporate world has a considerable influence on life currently. It has tremendously influenced language. Hence, there is a substantial scope for research in language in the corporate world.

Language education has undergone a very big change under the influence of technology. Language teaching and learning is an interesting area of research which includes language teaching aids and methodologies, technology and language learning, language teacher training, language for academic purposes, language for specific purposes, language testing and many others.

Globalisation has influenced the world both positively and negatively. At some places the world becomes a melting-pot where the people belonging to different cultures and ethnicities come together and live amicably. On the other hand, at some places the world becomes a raging antagonism where the people keep fighting for culture, identity, and ethnicity. A language is a cultural and ethnic identity. Hence, culture, identity, gender, ethnicity, migration and multilingualism and even sign language become new areas of research in language. The prime purpose of language is to attain communication which keeps languages in the world in constant use. Accordingly, language in use becomes a substantial area of research in

language. This includes research in discourse analysis, critical discourse analysis, neurolinguistics, psycholinguistics, linguistic ethnography, literacy, stylistics and many others.

To conclude, there is no limit to the areas of research in language. The expansion of the horizons of diverse fields of knowledge leads to creation of new areas of research in language. These areas can be intralingual as well as interlingual. With the help of digital technology the research in language has become more productive and specific. Digitalization of language is itself a recent area of research in language.

References:

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