



On the Question of Differential Forms in Russian Linguistics

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Abstract: *This article is devoted to the phenomenon of linguistic variability as an object of various linguistic studies. There is also a phenomenon of linguistic differentiation. The problem of variability is sent to all places of the language system: phonological, morphological, lexical, and syntactic. As a result of these scientific studies, various theories of linguistic variation have been presented.*

Keywords: *variation, variance, modern Russian language, language variant, language differentiation, language level.*

Introduction.

Languages evolve as societies develop, and variation is a natural result of this process. In this regard, it is impossible to objectively consider the issue of variability without taking into account the socio-historical conditions of life of native speakers. On the other hand, variability is an obligatory property of a living literary language.

Language variation is considered not only in relation to language levels but also in relation to the language as a whole. As a result, independent linguistic sciences of variology and variantology with their own specific tasks were formed. It should be noted that a broader scientific discipline is variology, which considers the ability of a language to varying as a universal category that ensures the dynamics of its system. In turn, variantology is understood "as an integral part of variology, namely: the theory of lexical modifications of the word" [2] and studies the results of linguistic variation.

Results and Discussion.

Within the framework of this theory, the property of a language to express one or another essential semantics by different means is denoted by the variance of the term, and variability, which is synonymous in most linguistic studies, in particular, by V.M. Solntsev.

The problem of linguistic variation, which has attracted the attention of many linguists, is one of the urgent problems of modern linguistics. A linguistic variance occurs at all levels of language in synchrony and diachrony. The phenomenon of linguistic variation (variation) in science is understood as "a difference in reproduction, consisting in a change in the sound composition or meaning of a structural unit of a language without losing its identity" [1, 72]. This means that linguistic variation is specific changes that do not lead to the emergence of something completely new, but as V.M. Solntsev writes, "it implies both variability and constancy, acting as a unity of change and constant" [7, 32]. Language variants are "different manifestations of the same essence, for example, modifications of the same unit, which remains itself with all changes" [2, 80].

O.I. Moskalskaya explores the phenomenon of variability at the text level. From the author's point of view, "variability appears as the coexistence in the literary norm within the same era and one style of equivalent parallel forms that are in relation to free variation and do not carry additional information compared to each other" [4, 58].



In connection with the problem of lexical variation, in some publications, in particular on the material of the Germanic languages, the phenomenon of the so-called linguistic differentiation is considered.

According to O. I. Moskalskaya, differentiation should be understood as a wide variety of linguistic oppositions, characterized by some additional information, for example, modern - outdated, normative - non-normative, neutral - bookish, etc., including linguistic differentiation on a territorial basis: German national variant - Austrian national variant - Swiss national variant [4, 61].

Formal lexical variants are equivalent in the sense that there are no contextual reasons to give preference to one form or another. In other words, there are no important linguistic conditions that determine the speaker/writer's choice of one or another variant form. In such cases, one can speak only about the purely personal characteristics of the speaker/writer who chooses this or that form. This may be ignorance of the second form, habit, personal preference, or tradition of use. In this case, one should probably talk about formal lexical variants from a sociolinguistic point of view.

The phenomenon of variability is also considered from a sociolinguistic point of view. The choice of variant forms by native speakers depends, firstly, on social differences (age, gender, education, place of birth) and, secondly, on the characteristics of the conditions of speech communication (formal/informal situation).

It seems correct to "introduce the concept of linguistic differentiation, opposed to variance" [5, 69]. When delimiting these concepts, the boundaries of variance become more distinct, and the number of words that can be attributed to variants is significantly narrowed. Thus, changes of a formal nature, which are accompanied by stylistic differences and are within the literary norm or go beyond it, cannot be attributed to the phenomenon of variance but should be interpreted as examples of linguistic differentiation.

The Russian language is characterized by linguistic differentiation on the basis of: normative – non-normative (means, Russian: *средства – средства*), neutral – stylistically colored (gold, Russian: *золото – золото*), common – professional (*Атом – атом*), literary – dialect (hours, Russian: *часы – часы*), neutral – vernacular (guys, Russian: *ребята – ребята*) [6, 84].

Conclusions.

Thus, it is necessary to distinguish between lexical formal variance and linguistic differentiation according to the main feature - the presence of additional characteristics in differential forms and their absence in variant ones, i.e. differentiation, in contrast to variance, implies the inequality of existing forms.

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