

DATA COLLECTION IN SOCIOLINGUISTICS

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The most interesting contribution of sociolinguistics to general linguistics is the methods of working with linguistic phenomena. Sociolinguistics is a young science (the development began in the 60s of the 20th century) and its theoretical results at the moment seem to be less significant than those approaches to working with language that were developed in this science. It is also important that sociolinguistics almost did not develop in the USSR, therefore, most of the important achievements belong to scientists from Great Britain and the United States.

There are different opinions about the scientific status of sociolinguistics and its place in the system of linguistic and socio-historical disciplines. According to one of the points of view, sociolinguistics is a borderline, interdisciplinary branch of knowledge, in which linguists and representatives of other sciences participate – sociologists, historians, psycholinguists, ethnographers. Being only a field of interaction between different social sciences, linguistic sociology naturally uses the methods of all these sciences in order to consider linguistic processes as part of social processes. Modern sociolinguistics, solving a large and varied range of problems associated with the global problem of “language and society”, refers to the methods, techniques and specific procedures of a number of sciences, including linguistics, sociology, history, ethnography, social psychology, mathematical statistics and a number of other social and natural sciences. The use of the methods of these sciences for solving sociolinguistic problems makes certain adjustments to specific methods and procedures, changes them, differentiates, adapts to working with new material and to solving new research problems. In a number of cases, on the basis of the synthesis of various methods and techniques, qualitatively new research methods arise.

The most common methods of collecting sociolinguistic data include: 1) direct observation; 2) questioning; 3) interviewing; 4) analysis of documentary sources; 5) conducting experiments.

Questioning is one of the most common methods in sociology and sociolinguistics for obtaining mass material in the form of answers to questions of a specially compiled program. It is mainly used when examining large groups of speakers, that is, in macrosociolinguistic studies. The content of the questionnaires, the wording of the questions, the order of their arrangement, the nature and completeness of the answers to them, etc., vary depending on the specific objectives of the research.

The simplest type is a questionnaire, which aims to establish the fact of the presence of one or another socially marked linguistic phenomenon in a certain social, professional, age, etc. environment, for example, the prevalence of jargon words.

Usually the questionnaire is carried out in order to obtain statistical results, therefore the overwhelming majority of the questions contained in the questionnaires are either closed or can be closed during their processing.

Sociolinguistic questionnaires can be divided into two types: some are aimed at an objective study of the functioning of the language in society, others – at the study of the speech *usus*, at the assessment by native speakers of competing language options.

Filling out the questionnaires can take place in two ways: the respondent either fills out the form himself, or the interviewer does it according to his words. It should be borne in mind that with a sufficiently massive survey, the researcher and the interviewer can be different persons. In this case, it is very important that the interviewer has special training and his view of the problem being studied does not differ from that of the researcher. It is helpful to have specific instructions for the interviewer.

Questioning, as one of the monitoring mechanisms, is a rather difficult process. This is due to the fact that the human factor plays a decisive role in the survey. That is, a person acts as a “sensor” during measurements, and often a person is also evaluated. It is in this case that it is necessary to very carefully and carefully approach the

assessment of the results obtained and, especially, to their publication (Vorozhcova, Krylov & Shestakov, 16-26).

One of the most important stage is the automation of the questionnaire process, which makes it possible to carry out computer processing of score cards, mathematical processing of the results of the questionnaire. Naturally, this dictates certain conditions for the preparation of score cards, but at the same time greatly simplifies the work of experts.

For faster data processing, you should contact programmers or engineers to create various programs, depending on the purpose of surveys, questionnaires. At the moment, there are various tools for conducting online surveys, both paid and free. The most popular service used in distance learning is Google forms. Among the advantages of this platform: an unlimited number of questionnaires, displaying results in the form of graphs, uploading answers to a Google spreadsheet, various design themes. It should be noted such services as Survey Monkey, Survio, Typeform, Simpoll, Anketolog, Online Testpad, SurveyGizmo.

References

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