

## 1.2. CONTRASTIVE LINGUISTICS

More close cooperation between the peoples of different countries after the Second World War and the difficulty of learning and teaching foreign languages, of translating and interpreting foreign texts were the cause of appearing of numerous comparative investigations of foreign and native languages – textbooks, manuals, articles and essays.

Centuries before, studying African and Indian languages of different tribes some of which existed in oral form, scientists compiling alphabets and writing grammar books for these languages, paid attention to some similarities of the phonetic and grammatical elements in the structure of some languages or all of them. As a result of the research into the specific and similar characteristics of African and Indian languages the first typological linguistic studies appeared.

Synchronous comparative contrastive investigations of two or more languages and typological investigations of a group of languages, which were vigorously developed in the second half of the 20th century, gave rise to a new branch of linguistics – **contrastive linguistics**.

Traditionally, contrastive linguistics is defined as a branch of general linguistics which reveals and studies specific individual linguistic characteristics of some phenomena of the given language and other languages and typological characteristics common to a group of languages.

It is essential to distinguish between comparative (contrastive) analysis and typology which are different parts of the same branch of linguistics. Yu.A. Zhluktenko points out that contrastive linguistics is not an independent science but a part of contrastive linguistics. The object of its study is different languages, their structure, characteristics and individual peculiarities (ЖЛУКТЕНКО Ю.А., 1979). The close relation between comparative (contrastive analysis) and typology was emphasized by the assertion that contrastive linguistics is a part of general linguistics was stated by Y. Uhlisch (1973) who wrote that contrastive analysis was the first step to typological analysis.

Contrastive linguistics is not a purely practical branch of linguistics, it is a theory of language types and classification of languages according to their types.

The problem of synchronous comparison of different languages attracts the attention of the linguist at present.

The first attempt to describe comparative characteristics of speech units of different European languages was registered at the beginning of the 20th century.

W. Wiëtor (1904) compared some phonetic characteristics of German, English and French.

A.I. Tomson, a professor of Odessa University, published some articles and essays devoted to the comparative description of Russian, Ukrainian and Armenian languages (Томсон А.И., 1912, 1922).

Russian scientists I.A. Baudouin-de-Kourtenay, V.A. Bogoroditsky, E.D. Polivanov and others outlined some principles of language comparison and compared Russian with some other languages (Бодуэн-де-Куртенэ И.А., 1912; Боглродитский В.А., 1915; Поливанов Е.Д., 1928).

In 1936 V.M. Matesius, a representative of a well-known “The Prague Linguistic Circle”, pointed out the importance and the necessity of the synchronic comparative linguistic analysis. V.M. Matesius wrote that synchronic comparative method of investigations contributed to a more thorough analysis of the language.

In 1953 W. Weinrich, another representative of “The Prague Linguistic Circle”, put forward an important scientifically substantiated suggestion about differential description of the languages.

Another linguist, E. Naugen brought forward a new theoretical conception. E. Naugen in his two-volume monograph “Norwegian Language in America” (1953) brought up the concept of “dialinguistics” – synchronous comparative investigations of the individuals who have a complete command of two languages.

At the same time Daniel Jones, the “Father of English Phonetics”, was one of the first who systematically compared a foreign language with the pronunciation of the native tongue of his learners – French. In all the reprints and editions of his well-known book “An Outline of English Phonetics”, comparing English pronunciation

with the French, one he recommends French learners how to avoid mistakes in English which is a foreign language for them.

The primary task of the explorer carrying out the comparative analysis of two or more languages is to choose the basis of comparison i.e. the model with the help of which the languages will be compared.

Two bases of contrastive analysis are usually mentioned by the linguists.

1. Contrastive analysis is termed **unilateral** when languages are compared on the basis of one of the analysed languages and one of them is used as a model. Unilateral contrastive analysis is widely used in the analysis of foreign languages comparing them with the learners' native language.

2. Contrastive analysis, according to which both compared languages are studied from the point of view of some third language system, is termed **bilateral**.

The third language may be:

- a living language which may function as an intermediary in communication;
- a dead language which is fixed in the invariable state (Latin, Ancient Greek);
- an artificial language applied in the process of typological analysis of a number of languages;
- a special metalanguage created as a system of methods to ensure most objective and exact description of other languages.

A unilateral method of contrastive analysis is the most widespread one.

A bilateral method of contrastive analysis is less widespread than a unicentral method.

Semantic and grammatic characteristics of the metalanguage are used as a model of analysis in the case when the explorer is in great need of absolutely exact results of the comparison.

In Ukraine comparative (contrastive) linguistics and typological analysis of different languages began to be applied in the middle of the 20th century.

In 1952 systematic synchronous comparison of the foreign and the Ukrainian speech sounds, based on experimental investigations, were published: "Comparative

analysis of consonants in contemporary Ukrainian and German languages” (Прокопова Л.И., 1952) and “Comparative analysis of systems of English and Ukrainian vowels and consonants” (Бровченко Т.А., 1952).

In 1957 the first contrastive manual, “Contrastive Grammar of the Ukrainian and English languages”, a fundamental textbook written by a group of linguists appeared (Баймут Т.В., Бойчук М.К., Волинский М.К., Жовтобрюх М.А. и Самойленко С.П., 1957).

In the 1960s a fundamental textbook for teachers, “Comparative Grammar of Ukrainian and English languages” (Жлуктенко Ю.О., 1960) and the manual “English Phonetics”, based on the experimental bilingual contrastive analysis of phonetic systems of English and Ukrainian languages (Brovchenko T., Bant I., 1964) were published.

The scientific works mentioned above, the results of original contrastive investigations, were valuable not only for the teachers and learners of English and German languages whose native language was Ukrainian, for translators and interpreters, but contributed to some extent to the theory of contrastive phonetics.

In the collective monograph, “Intonation of Speech” published by the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (1963) an article written by I.V. Borisjuk, “Intonation characteristics of rhetoric questions in Ukrainian and French dialogical speech” was the result of comparative experimental investigation of the intonation of rhetorical questions in French in comparison with the native language of the learners – Ukrainian (Борисюк И.В., 1968).

The intonation structure of English and Ukrainian utterances in dependence on the position of the semantic centre was investigated by T.A. Brovchenko in the article “Intonation contour of semantic centre in English and Ukrainian speech”. The comparative analysis made it possible to reveal acoustic characteristics of the intonation structure of the utterances with different positions of the semantic centre common in English and Ukrainian and those specific in each of the analysed languages (Бровченко Т.А., 1979).

Some of the essays published in Ukraine were devoted to the role of contrastive linguistics in the process of teaching foreign languages in special higher schools (Михайленко В.А., 1979) and to some peculiarities of teaching foreign languages on the basis of contrastive linguistics (Розенбаум Е.М., 1979). In the collection of scientific articles, edited by the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in 1979, three of them were devoted to the problems of contrastive linguistics (Жлуктенко Ю.А., Бублик В.Н., Бровченко Т.А.).

Yu.A. Zhluktenko in his article, “Contrastive analysis as a method of speech investigations” (1979), emphasized that contrastive linguistics is not an independent science but is a branch of linguistics that has the same subject and aim, investigates the nature and peculiarities of different languages and differs from linguistics only in its method – synchronous comparative method.

Yu.A. Zhluktenko asserts that the main requirements to contrastive investigations are:

- the choice of the most important and effective language elements for the analysis;
- the choice of an adequate and reliable basis for comparative analysis;
- taking into consideration interlanguages equivalence, which as a rule is not connected with the equality of form (Жлуктенко Ю.А., 1979).

V.N. Bublic in his article, “Gnoseological basis of Contrastive analysis” analyses, from the point of gnoseology (theory of science), psychological treatment of the process of learning a foreign language on the basis of the native language and describes the peculiarities of this process, its difficulties and complexity (Бублик В.Н., 1979).

The collective monograph, “Comparative investigations of English, Ukrainian and Russian languages” published in 1980 by the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, edited by Yu.A. Zhluktenko, was devoted to the problems of comparative analysis of phonological, morphological and syntactic peculiarities of the three languages.

In the introductory section, “The foundation of the contrastive analysis of speech”, Yu.A. Zhluktenko gives a survey of the history of development of contrastive linguistics, discusses and develops further its main problems – the subject of contrastive linguistics, the discrimination between contrastive and typological studies, connection between theoretical and pragmatic aspects of contrastive and typological analysis, the choice of the model of contrastive analysis and others (ЖЛУКТЕНКО Ю.А., 1981).

In the section, “Comparative analysis of English, Ukrainian and Russian phonological systems”, T.A. Brovchenko came to theoretically and practically well founded conclusions about the main specific and common phonetic peculiarities of the speech sounds characteristics of the phonematic systems of the two examined languages. A list of the most typical mistakes of Ukrainians learning English and the methods of avoiding them was presented (БРОВЧЕНКО Т.А., 1981).

In the monograph, “Typology of speech intonation”, E.A. Nushikyan gave a detailed analysis of acoustic characteristics of various types of emotions in English in comparison with the corresponding emotional variants in Ukrainian, and presented an original classification of English and Ukrainian emotions (НУШИКЯН Э.А., 1982).

In the monograph, “Intonation of modality in sounding speech”, by T.M. Koroljeva the phonetic structure and functions of modal utterances in English and Ukrainian speech were investigated. Original systematic semantic approach and electronic experimental analysis made it possible to determine intonation peculiarities of the main types of modal utterances and their variants (КОРОЛЁВА Т.М., 1989).

Contrastive linguistics continued to be developed vigorously since the 1970s up to the end of the 20th century in different countries of the world. Similar rapid development was observed in the sphere of comparative phonetics as well.

Contrastive linguistic phonetic investigations may be divided into three main trends:

- a. the theory of contrastive linguistics;
- b. the methods of contrastive linguistic analysis of speech;

c. comparative linguistic analysis of phonetic characteristics and the structure of different languages.

It should be taken into consideration that the division of comparative investigations is formal to some extent. On the one hand, systematic comparative researches may be not purely theoretical and are often supplied with some definite results of comparison between or among linguistic phonetic phenomena. On the other hand, systematic practical comparative descriptions may contain some theoretical considerations and conclusions.

For the sake of convenience some contrastive investigations of the 20th century may be divided into the three mentioned above groups.

### *I. Theory of contrastive linguistics*

Weinreich U. *Language in Contact*. – Paris, 1970.

Nikel Y., Vagner K. *Contrastive linguistics*. 1971.

Кошечая И.В. *Типологическая структура языка*. – Киев, 1972.

Болинджер Д.Л. *Интонация как универсалия*. 1972.

Burschmidt E., Gotz D. *Kontrastive linguistik. Deutch, Englisch. Theorie und Anwendug*. – Munhen, 1974.

Ярцева В.И. *Типология языка и проблемы универсалий*. – Москва, 1976.

Haliday M. *System and function in language*. – London, 1976.

Білодід І.К. *Типологія інтонації мовлення*. – Київ, 1977.

Жлуктечко Ю.О. *Контрактивный анализ – прием мовного дослідження*. – Київ, 1979.

Николаева Т.М. *Интонационно-типологическое изучение языковых контактов*. – Новосибирск, 1986.

Кантер Л.А. *Системный анализ речевой интонации*. – Москва, 1988.

Петрянкина В.И. *Функционально-сематический аспект интонации*. – Москва, 1988.

Николаева Т.М. *Фразовая интонация славянских языков*. – Москва, 1988.

Аракин В.Д. *Типология языка и проблема методического прогнозирования*. – Москва, 1989.

Хромов С.С. Теоретические принципы изучения русской интонации. – Москва, 1989.

## *II. Methods of contrastive linguistics*

Гак В.Т. К проблеме типологического построения высказывания. – Москва, 1966.

Виноградов В.В. Методы типологии. – Москва, 1972.

Ласка І.В. Деякі проблеми порівняльної іноземної і рідної мов. – Київ, 1972.

Опельбаум Е.З. Деякі проблеми контрастивного вивчення лексики далекоспоріднених мов. – Київ, 1972.

Кодзасов С.В. Комбинаторная модель фразовой просодии. – Москва, 1996.

Атабекова А.А. Когнитивный подход в рамках системного анализа интонации текста. – Москва, 1999.

## *III. Comparative and typological phonetic description of different languages*

Гак В.Г., Розенберг Е.В. Очерки сопоставительного изучения французского и русского языков. – Москва, 1965.

Бровченко Т.А. Словесное ударение в английском языке (в сопоставлении с украинским). – Одесса, 1971.

Delatre P. Comparing the phonetic features of English, German, Spanish. – Heldenberg, 1975.

Метлюк А.А. Взаимодействие просодических систем в речи билингва. – Минск, 1986.

Нушикян Э.А. Интерферирующее влияние родного языка при обучении. – Одесса, 1987.

Хромов С.С. Универсальные и типологические характеристики интонационных систем языков Африки (в сопоставлении с русским). – Москва, 1995.

Бубнова Г.И., Кардашина И.А., Кошелева Г.А. Контрастивная просодия русского и французского ударного слога. – Москва, 1999.

Михайлова О.Г. Сопоставление вокальных последовательностей и сочетаний с [j] русского и английского языков. – Москва, 1999.

In the 21st century theoretic and applied problems of contrastive linguistics have been elaborated as well. Theoretic and practical investigation of contrastive linguistics and the phonetic interference of the peculiarities of the native language into the characteristics of the foreign language pronunciation were emphasized by numerous linguists.

Some main problems of contrastive linguistics were put forward and discussed at the beginning of the 21st century. They are mentioned in the publications given below.

The methods of investigating the perception of phrase intonation (Светозарова Н.Д., СПб, 2001).

Acoustic and perceptual characteristics of native and foreign languages (Щербакова Л.П., 2004); perceptual characteristics of word stress in Russian and Bulgarian (Строева Т.М., 2001).

Comparative analysis of phonetic peculiarities of male and female voices (Потапов В.В., 2004).

Prosodic structure of functional semantic types of text (Бровченко Т.А., Волошин В.Г., Григорян Н.Р., Петлюченко Н.В., 2004).

Prosodic Typology: The phonology of intonation and phrasing (Sun-Ah-Jun, 2004).

Dolores Ramires. The nature and patterning of native and non-native intonation, 2005.