

Linguistic school

Kazan Linguistic School (KLS) is one of the most famous scientific schools in the world of linguistics. It was founded in Kazan university during the 70s of XIX century by a professor **Ivan Aleksandrovich Baudouin de Courtenay**. **The School** is related with the work of the following linguists: **I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay, N.V. Krushevskiy, V.A.Bogoroditsky, V.V. Radlov, A.I. Aleksandrov, A.I. Anastasiev, A.S. Arkhangelsky, S.K.Bulich, A.M. Selitshev**, etc.

Kazan Linguistic School was a basic theory school, which ideas of linguistic subject-matter, and methods, created a new paradigm of the world's linguistic science. Swedish scientist B.Collinder wrote: "*Young Kazan linguists became an avant-garde of contemporary structuralism*". In other words, the image of 20th century linguistics was determined by the scientists of Kazan. Due to their work, many scientific problems and several branches of linguistics were initiated, which started developing in XX century.

Kazan Linguistic School was also the first socio-psychological linguistic. Baudouin de Courtenay marked: "*Since language is common only for human society, apart from psychological aspect we should always note social aspect as well. Not only individual psychology, but also sociology (still not satisfyingly developed) should both serve as the foundation for linguistics*".

Developing the idea of a language's social essence, Kazan scientists considered the recognition of all languages' equality and full democratization of the target of research to be one of their fundamental principles. "*There are no privileged, aristocratic languages, all languages deserve the linguist's attention and in-depth study – that is the motto of Kazan linguistic school*" noted Baudouin de Courtenay. Devoted to their principles, Kazan scientists bid for the necessity of learning local languages –Tatar, Mari, and Chuvash. Thanks to rich history, Kazan University is in unique conditions in comparison to other Russian universities: it is situated in the area inhabited by the representatives of at least three language families – Slavic, Turkic and Finno-Ugric. That is why it should become the center of language study, culture, ethnical history. He brought back to life the department of Turkic and Finnish languages in the university, optional teaching of Tatar for all the interested, attracted Tatar students and actively supported them in studies. Following his teacher, **V.A.Bogoroditsky** deeply considered the problems of Turkic languages study. Among all of his students the most talented one was **G.Sharaf**.

KLS enriched the world science with the number of new research methods, including experimental phonetic method, method of relative chronology of language phenomena, statistical method, thus giving an origin to such branches of linguistics as experimental phonetics, quantitative linguistics, etc.

But the main methodical achievement of KLS scientists was the development of correlation between historical (diachronic) and depictive (synchronic) language study, language statics and dynamics. The existence of such approaches was known ever since the times of Humboldt. Drawing upon Humboldt's antinomy of stability and flexibility in the language, KLS scientists developed the study about dichotomy of dynamics and statics in the language; moreover, they developed it from a perspective of pure dialectics, observing constantly functioning and at the same time constantly developing phenomenon in the language. *"There is no immobility in the language, like in the whole of nature, everything lives, everything moves, everything changes. Calmness, pause, standstill is a seeming occurrence, and is a particular case of moving under condition of minimal changes. Language statics is just a particular case of its dynamics or rather cinematics"*. Baudouin's student from St. Petersburg academician L.V. Tscherba called his teacher's method "dynamic synchrony".

Main scientific problems developed by the members of KLS were briefly stated by Baudouin de Courtenay:

1. strict distinction of a sound and a letter;
2. distinction of phonetic and morphologic word divisibility;
3. distinction of pure phonetic (anthropophonic) and psychic elements in the language;
4. distinction of changes taking place regularly in a particular state of a language and changes used to happen in the history;
5. advantage of a living language examination;
6. importance of analyzing and dividing linguistic units according to their distinctive features;
7. aiming at theoretical generalizations, which are necessary for every real science.

All these principles determine the status of Kazan Linguistic School as truly scientific, basic theory school of European linguistics of that time, theoretical school with progressive research methodology.

Kazan linguists considered the language to be a constantly changing complicated system of heterogeneous units (phonetic, morphologic, syntactic, etc.). They

enriched the study of language systemacity by discovering key units of each linguistic level: a phoneme, a morpheme, a lexeme, a syntagm, etc. So Kazan scientists not only developed the language study as a system, but also presented the language system as a strict organization of its different aspects (layers, or levels, like they were called in the XX century) with a main unit in each level. Practically, all core linguistic units were discovered in Kazan University, and the upcoming scholar generations only had to study them in details; that is what we saw, looking back to linguistics' development in XX century.

I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay and his Kazan students were great scientists who glorified Russian science; all the next generations were keeping the traditions. The second birth and the development of these traditions touched upon all essential directions of modern Kazan linguistics. And such directions were:

- dialectology, headed by **E.K. Bakhmutova**, the first Head of Russian language Department in the reestablished faculty;
- experimental phonetic, which was born in the University of Kazan in the days of Baudouin, and then led by **L.V. Zlatoustova** who continued traditions of KLS;
- modern Russian language, which was headed by **N.A. Shirokova**, following Baudouin's objective of learning living languages;
- history of Russian language, followers of which try to reflect the main methodic principle of KLS in their research – study of the language as a developing and at the same time functioning phenomena, - was headed by **V.M. Markov**;
- in-depth study of Tatar language, originated by **V.A. Bogoroditsky** and is continued by modern scholars;
- linguistic typology, contactology and bilingualism (**E.M. Akhunzyanov**).

Modern generation of Kazan linguists commemorates outstanding scientists of Kazan Linguistic School. Thus, the anniversaries of N.V. Krushevskiy, V.A. Bogoroditsky, I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay were celebrated. Three international conferences dedicated to Kazan Linguistic School and its founders took place in Kazan university during 1995-2003, where scholars and representatives of Moscow, St. Petersburg, Saratov, Volgograd, Paris, Warsaw, Giessen, Granada, Lausanne scientific schools, the USA, China, and Yemen universities took part. Conferences demonstrated a growing interest in the whole world in scientific ideas of Baudouin de Courtenay and his Kazan students. Most of these ideas are still waiting to become fully developed, such as neurosurgery, delivering accurate data to neurolinguistics, application of mathematical methods

and procedures in a broad aspect to language and speech research, further convergence of natural sciences with humanities, human study in his relation to the environment and the peculiarities of psychic activity, and, of course, linguistics itself in various manifestations: psycholinguistics, ethnolinguistics, sociolinguistics, etc. All these and many other scientific problems date back to the ideas of Kazan Linguistic School, which to a great extent determined the development of XX century linguistics.