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Descriptive Linguistics.

Linguistics in Language Teaching -ins  
Meaning of words 'langue' & Parole

Most linguists accept a distinction that was first made explicit by the Swiss linguist Saussure, <sup>there is diff. b/w</sup> lang as a speech act and langue as a system by which we succeed in understanding or producing utterances. Most linguists accept it as being ideal theory of distinction.

For de Saussure a language (langue) is shared by all members of a particular speech community. It is an institutionalized element of their collective consciousness and only because everyone shares in it, is it possible to understand one another.

If one was to examine the actual utterances of a group, everything that was common to their speech would be 'langue'.

If one took away what was ~~insider~~ idiosyncratic or innovative, langue would remain. 'Langue must "by definition" be stable and systematic'. Society conveys the regularities of 'langue' to the child so that he becomes able to function as a member of speech community by learning that bit of lang. which is stable.

By contrast each utterance, each act of speaking is a unique event. There is a complex and changing relationship b/w the lang. and situational and personal feature which means that no one act of lang. is ever quite like another. ~~is~~ The <sup>act of speech is distinguished by</sup> product of our personality, ~~are~~ our temperament or also our physical incapacities, and by these distortions in our speech which are not part of the system of language. ①



It is nec. there are elements that are not shared by all the speech community that act of speech ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> considered distinct from Langue and is termed "Parole". Given that there is a good deal that is idiosyncratic or not fully institutionalized, Parole cannot be stable and a systematic. Because it is therefore not considered suitable as a subject of linguist study.

Competence <sup>2</sup> performance A distinction of similar sort has been made by a contemporary linguist Noam Chomsky. His terms are 'Competence' & 'Performance' (Langue) (Parole).

They are not exact equivalents since Chomsky does not accept that competence could be described in terms of collective consciousness. On the contrary competence he says can be seen as a set of processes possessed by the individual and developed in him as part of his maturation.

The function of community in this process is little more than that of a triggering mechanism. None the less it is under the heading of competence and Langue that we find all i.e. systematic about a lang. Both Chomsky & De Saussure would say that it is this systematic & stable element of lang. that the linguist must set out to describe.

This Parole or Performance being unstable is not susceptible to adequate description. For Chomsky there is no point in looking at parole since much that needs to be said about Langue cannot be observed there. For De Saussure ~~if~~ while parole might not be object of study it does provide the data from which elements about Langue can be made. (2)



There were many historians Jany, whoever present were inspired by his writings wrote for next century to find the source of this language. Though the study was lopsided but this point was emphasised and looked at structural similarity and wrote comparative essays. They established that Proto-Indo-European language as the basis. They tried to reconstructing the ancestral language and proposing of the reason for the splitting of these languages. In mid 19th when Darwin gave the theory of evolution which was an evolution in that century differing the belief of Christianity.

The study of language gotten in with Darwin's writing, Darwin talked about, mutation, survival of fittest in which he emphasised that as the fittest survives, it changes its form. Emphasis on change, so the linguists also emphasised on the change of lang. In 19th, some philosophers say that actually the lang. changes regularly and not at random (Young Pamanians). → Principle of analogy → Any word of a given dialect. one sound change to another, the change will also effect all other occurrences of the same sound in similar phonetic surrounding.

eg. Kin-chin (inn). (75)  
The change from a k-sound to a ch-sound

③ affected all other k-sound which occurred at the beginning of a word before 'e' or 'i'



Langue - abstract language -> parole actual language in speech

Descriptive

Early to mid 20th is the era of linguistics. In early 20th emphasis changed on language ~~change~~ to language description as it actually was. Describing one single language at a particular time.

(Synchronic Linguistics). Credit of this goes to Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure (1859-1913)

① His crucial contribution, his <sup>explicit</sup> statement that all language items are essentially inter-linked

He two words, 'Langue' & 'parole' were made distinct by <sup>Ferdinand de Saussure</sup> Chomsky who talked about 'performance and competence' which gave him a clue to generative linguistics. A system of systems.

② He was first to distinguish a synchronic study of lang. from a diachronic study -

③ He was first to distinguish the abstract linguistic system which he called a "langue" from <sup>the</sup> actual speech which was the 'parole'

④ He insisted that essence of lang. is not in its external aspects but in its internal system -

(COMPETENCE + PERFORMANCE)

His insistence that a lang. was carefully structured of interwoven elements ~~the way~~ <sup>the way</sup> he ushered in the era of linguistics (structural)

Main Points -

① His insistence that lang. was a patterned structure composed of interdependent elements rather than a collection of unconnected individual items.