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Language communication functions

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Article Info

Abstract
The communicative function contributes to the formation of three aspects that make up the nature of language (the ideological tool; the signic nature of language). These three aspects are intimately linked and inseparable on the common basis of the social nature of language. To understand the social nature of language, it is first necessary to understand the functions of language. Starting from the above statement, we choose to learn the communication function of the language as an object to gradually approach other functions of the language and the ultimate goal is to understand the nature of the language.

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1. Introduction

The communication function of language is one of the important functions of language. And the very content of this function sets out many directions, many aspects for those who are interested. With the vast connotation of the communicative function of language, we have no desire to present all our understandings and thoughts about the subject, but only focus on an approach that I think is appropriate. For my own understanding and for those interested, it is to look at this function from the perspective of social relations. At the same time, I also hope that this direction will contribute to clarifying the theory of the communicative function of language in particular and contribute to strengthening the subject theory: General Linguistics.

1.1. Research in General Linguistics
General Linguistics is a course in linguistics and linguistics Theoretical Linguistics
Since the ancient Greco-Roman period, language studies have been interested in learning. However, over thousands of years of history, language has not laid foundation bricks. Only in the early years of the 20th century, when General Linguistics Syllabus Ferdinand de Saussure's work presented at the University of Geneva (1906-1911) and published later (1916) [12] greatly influenced Europe and North America when General Linguistics was born. And it can be said that since then linguistics has been officially recognized as a science of language.
In Vietnam, General Linguistics was introduced around the early 70s of the twentieth century with F.de Saussure's Textbook of General Linguistics (translation, first printed in 1973) [12] and later. Are works such as: Foundations of General Linguistics, 1984 by Ju. Stepanov [4]; Lectures on General Linguistics , 1997 by V. Rozdextvenski [5]; Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics, 1997 by J. Lyons [10]; Basic elements of General Linguistics , 1998 by VB Kasevich [6].
However, it must be recognized that, in Vietnam since the 60s of the twentieth century, Linguistics has been interested in theoretical linguistics and has begun to teach part of linguistic theory in parallel with the teaching of linguistics. Vietnamese linguistics. Thematic works can be mentioned such as: Lecture on Phonological Analysis Methods of Prof. Doan Thien Thuat (2007) [11], Introduction to descriptive linguistics and direct elemental analysis (IC) method, prepared by Prof. Phan Ngoc (1964). But the official appearance of General Linguistics was not marked until the late 70s and early 80s. This subject was officially taught at the University.

HANOI General School. And since then, this subject has constantly developed and affirmed its "*backbone"* position in Linguistics.

Along with the fact that General Linguistics has affirmed its position, a series of research works on the subject by Vietnamese linguists have appeared. Absorbing the achievements of linguists in the world and Vietnamese linguists in the previous period, a series of textbook works appeared. The following works can be mentioned: First of all, the Textbook of *General Linguistics* (2 volumes) by Do Huu Chau and Bui Minh Toan published in 1991; *Lectures on General Linguistics* by Nguyen Lai (2002)… It can be said that these works have also provided readers with general theoretical knowledge about linguistics at different levels. And especially, the work that is considered basic, systematic, elaborate, topical, and especially connects the achievements of world languages with Eastern linguistics and Vietnamese linguistics. Project: *General Linguistics-Important Contents* by author Dinh Van Duc has just been published [8]. This is a researched and verified work by the author's research and teaching practice for 30 years.

1.2. Research on the communicative function of language

It can be affirmed that in all the research works on General Linguistics, the authors have the same opinion: The communicative function of language is one of the important functions of language and lies in the in the form of language. Some studies on this subject can be reviewed such as:

First of all, the original view of F. de. Saussure was gathered and presented by three outstanding students: Charles Bally, Albert Sechehaye and Albert Riedlinger in the book "*General Linguistics Textbook*": "*Language is a multi-layered sign system accepted by native speakers. Receive, remember, understand and use while communicating with the community*". And at the same time, he also said that language is an intermediary medium in the process of communication because the symbolic nature of language has confirmed that language is a medium of communication. This can be considered an important discovery because for the first time language has been officially confirmed as a communication tool of a human community. This is the foundation for studies on the communicative function of language in the later stages.

N. Chomsky accepted the research results but at the same time rejected Saussuare's inaccurate arguments [3]. In his arguments on the problem of the communicative function of language, Chomsky said that humans only inherit the biological mechanism from which language is expressed, while language does not inherit language with its properties. Way is a product of society. "Language depends on the communication environment". Thus, Chomsky has gradually affirmed: language serves society with the function of communication, existence and development to serve the community.

Different from linguists, German writer W. Humboldt commented: "*Language is the spirit of the nation expressed in language*" [9]. From this comment, Humboldt has shown that: language is a characteristic to connect individuals in a community and that community exists thanks to that common language. This has shown that language and community are an interconnected block, interrelated and influencing each other. And there are many different opinions when presenting views on the communicative function of language in different research works in the world in general and in Vietnam in

particular. However, due to the scope of the study, I focus on presenting a brief view of the communicative function of language.
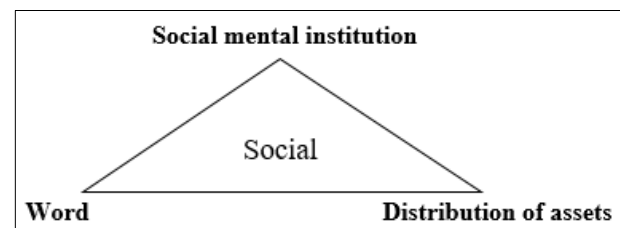
2. Content
2.1. Outline some problems of the communicative function of language

2.1.1. "*Language is born out of the needs of society, it serves social interests and develops in interaction with society*" [8, 25]. Language is a need, an indispensable potential of every person. However, language is a phenomenon that is not as simple as people think, but it is a complex phenomenon. Language is complex because it is a communication tool, an expression of thought, a material for expressing human thoughts. Each individual is an independent individual, with his own thoughts and ways of reflecting the world. Therefore, in a language community with many relationships and connections, the complexity of language becomes stronger. The complexity multiplies when the language in the function is always governed and bound by social communication conditions.

Language is a phenomenon of life related to all human acts and activities. Language is born in the productive labor of the human community and it becomes a social phenomenon. However, unlike other social phenomena, language only plays the role of a means and a tool to express human thoughts and exchange information.
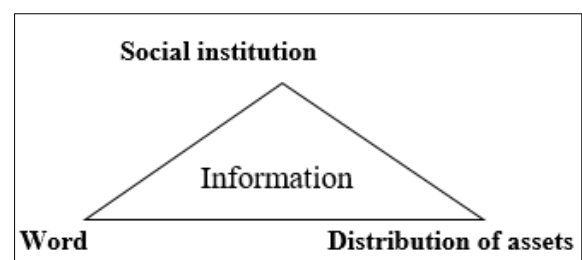
Ternary model

The source: [8, 28]

Fig 1

2.1.2. Language appears due to human needs (appears in productive labor), it exists and serves society. Language does not depend closely and changes according to the changes of society, but it is a "conservative factor" - little change. Language plays a role as a connecting tool of society. All relationships in society are sucked into the rotation of the trinitarian model that K. Marx said: man is *"the sum total of social relationships"*:
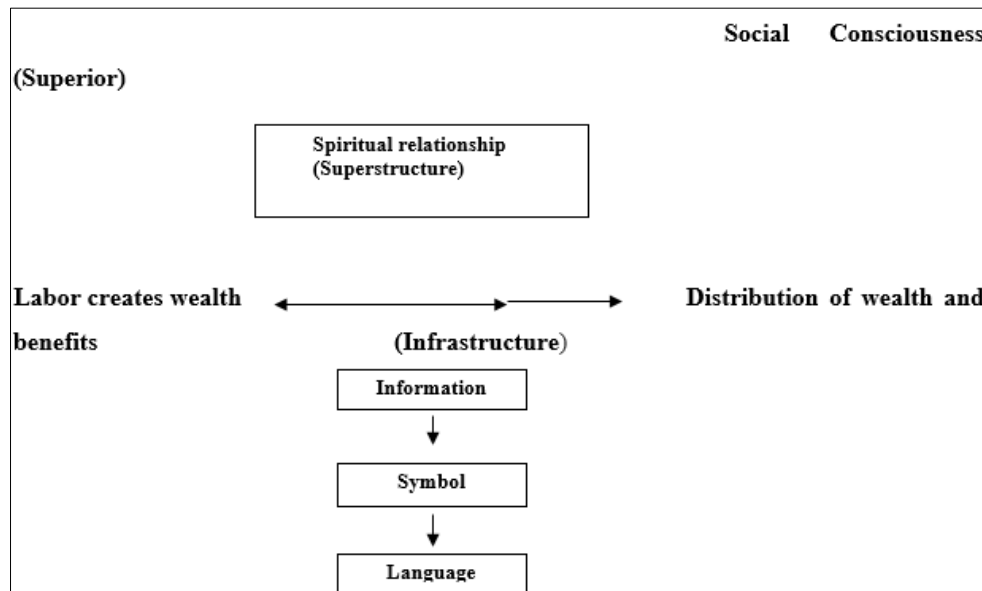

The source: [8, 32]

Fig 2

It can be said that looking at the above threefold model, all social relationships are aimed at a common relationship: information relations. Thus, it can be affirmed that the need

to exchange information is an indispensable need of each individual in society.

2.1.3. Man escapes from the animal world thanks to labor, consciousness and language. However, in the three factors mentioned above, there is a strong mutual relationship between language and consciousness because language is used to convey consciousness. Human consciousness is the result of the abstraction of the production process. It is this ability of man that has gradually helped him to move higher in the evolutionary ladder when he not only knows how to use tools of work but also creates tools of work. And the role of language is increasingly confirmed when until today when people have entered a society considered modern with an explosion in all aspects, but language still asserts its central position. This can be better understood by the following diagram:

The source: [8, 33]

Fig 3

Looking at the diagram we see that society exists with many relationships and those relationships form a certain structure. This structure is maintained based on the need to exchange information. In other words, it is through information relations (created by the need to exchange information) that social relations are realized. And on the basis of establishing information, people not only operate but also maintain regular and continuous social relationships. In language, information relations are closely associated with interpersonal relationships.

It can be said that language is a tool for people to exchange information with each other. However, how the language is operated depends on and many factors such as: circumstances, topics, objects... Among those factors, the relationships between the objects involved in the exchange of information is one of the most important factors. It is important because from these relationships will govern other factors and the information exchanged is regulated to different degrees.

We can imagine the exchange of information (communication) taking place according to the following model:
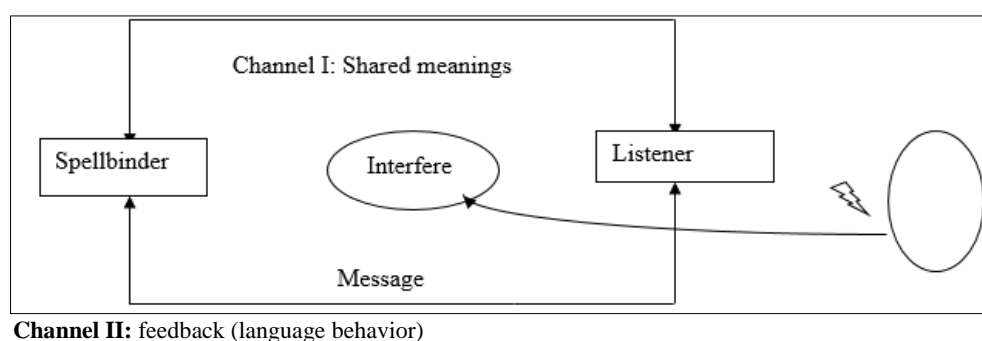

Channel II: feedback (language behavior)

Fig 4

Thus, in the above model, the speaker and listener act as source and destination. Language is realized through messages which are spoken words. When receiving messages, listeners will perceive the quality of the news and this generates the ability to respond. In this process, other factors will influence the response of the listener and the reception of the speaker such as: topic, situation, level of relationship. And it is the level of relationship between individuals. The strongest influence on the listener's response level.

2.2. Functions of communication
2.2.1. Notification function
Each completed utterance conveys a message. Through the utterance of events, the facts are expressed. Information exchange and information transmission is considered the most important function of communication. Therefore, when communicating, both the speaker and the listener find a psychological effect.

On the level of available languages, each individual uses different linguistic abilities and cultural values are accordingly expressed. Information transfer can be seen. Notification function: used to convey and receive information, to express, thereby promoting the adjustment of human actions.

2.2.2. Interpersonal function
This is a function that from 1970 onwards is often mentioned by linguistics due to the success of ethnolinguistics and sociolinguistics. In a particular communication, in order to realize his communicative intentions, the speaker needs to express himself through the language with an honest attitude. That is, the speaker must be able to show the characteristics of the individual, the social class to which he or she belongs, the language area that he and his class prefer to use (vocabulary, idioms, proverbs used, etc.) favorite rhetoric...), sentence structures, utterances to reveal the message according to the speaker's characteristics.

The interpersonal function is the most obvious social function because the nature of language, after all, is to make a connection between people in a defined community. Sometimes we speak not to transmit information, but to learn about each other, sympathize with each other...

Language when put into operation helps the process of information exchange take place in the right direction. In the process of communication, the characters tend to "get close" to each other to share and understand information. And from there comes the interpersonal relationship. Language makes people become close to each other, communicate with each other to understand information. Therefore, interpersonal relationships are necessary and mandatory "Relationship is also a kind of human-relationship in language". [8, 50].

Interpersonal relations are considered on the coordinate system of the language. Can model as follows:
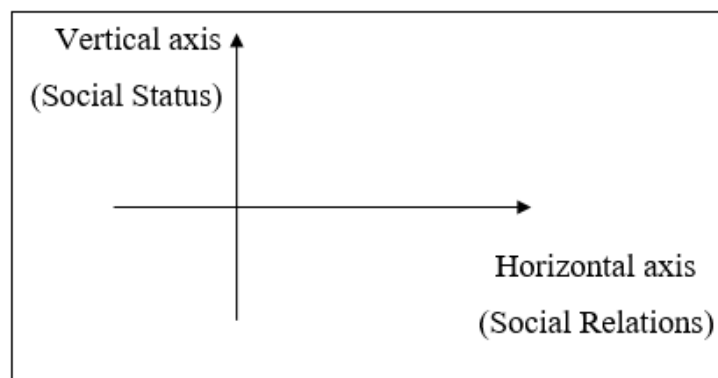

Fig 5

The coordinates show the social position, the hierarchy, the authority, the social position, the equality in communication, the difference of power. The scale characterizes the close relationship - that is, the distance of communication near or far.

When making communication, there are several stages to go through. In other words, there are similarities between objects. The transmitter acts as the source of the communication process. That's why there are needs, wants, and requirements. And when the source is emitted, there are very specific orientations and purposes. This directionality lies in the speech that comes from the source but not only in the intention of the source but also in the messages.

3. Conclusion
Language is a medium that is widely used everywhere, at all times in social activities. All branches operating outside the sign system for their own use still have to use language as a common tool, mainly for communication. Without using language, communication will immediately be ineffective or stop. Because of that, most of humanity's massive intellectual, thought and emotional treasures have been stored, transmitted and brought into full play by language.

The most important function of language is as the main tool for social communication. All other means of communication, despite their certain advantages, are only important complementary means of communication.

The communication function of language is formed from sub-functions such as: notification function, interpersonal function, communication function, etc. Each of these sub-functions represents different positions. If the notification function helps to convey information conveniently with what the speaker wants to express and the listener understands - in response, the interpersonal function helps individuals "chain" together than. This has made human-to-human communication activities convenient and diverse.

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