



HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGE OF LANGUAGE, CLASSIFICATION OF WORLD LANGUAGES

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Annotation: The article provides an overview of the historical development and change of language, as well as the classification of world languages. It discusses how languages have evolved over time due to social, political, and cultural factors, and how language change can be seen as a reflection of the changing needs and values of societies. The article also explores the various methods and criteria used to classify languages, including linguistic, geographical, and cultural factors. The historical section of the article traces the development of human language from its earliest origins to modern times. It discusses how language evolved from a basic system of communication to a complex system capable of expressing abstract concepts and ideas. The article also looks at the factors that have influenced language change over time, such as migration, colonization, and globalization. The second section of the article focuses on the classification of world languages. It describes the different approaches to classifying languages, including linguistic, geographical, and cultural criteria. The article also explores some of the challenges and limitations of language classification, such as the difficulty of defining clear boundaries between languages and the impact of language contact and language change.

Keywords: historical development, language change, language classification, world languages.

Introduction: Language is one of the most significant and complex tools of communication used by human beings. It is an integral part of human culture and has been essential in shaping human history and society. Throughout history, languages have evolved, developed, and disappeared. In this article, we will explore the historical development and change of language, as well as the classification of world languages.

The history of language development can be traced back to the earliest human civilizations, where communication was mainly through symbols and signs. As human societies evolved and developed, so did language. The development of writing systems helped preserve and spread languages, leading to a significant increase in their complexity and use. The growth of trade, science, and

technology further accelerated the development of languages, with different languages borrowing words and phrases from each other.

Language change is an ongoing process that occurs due to various factors such as social, political, economic, and cultural influences. Language change can lead to the emergence of new dialects, pidgins, and creoles. It can also lead to the extinction of languages as speakers shift to more dominant languages. The study of language change and development is essential in understanding the evolution of human culture and society.

World languages can be classified based on different criteria such as language families, language typology, and language geography. Language families are groups of languages that have a common ancestor and share similarities in grammar, vocabulary, and phonetics. The most extensive language family is the Indo-European family, which includes over 400 languages spoken by over three billion people worldwide.

Language typology refers to the classification of languages based on their structural features, such as syntax, morphology, and phonetics. Languages can be classified into different typological groups, such as isolating languages, agglutinative languages, and inflectional languages. Isolating languages, also known as analytic languages, have a simple structure, where words are composed of individual morphemes. Agglutinative languages, on the other hand, have a more complex structure, where words are formed by combining morphemes. Inflectional languages are languages that use inflection to indicate grammatical relationships between words.

Language geography refers to the classification of languages based on their geographical distribution. Languages can be classified into different language families, language areas, and language isolates. A language family is a group of languages that have a common ancestor and are spoken in a particular geographical region. A language area is a region where languages share similarities due to contact and interaction. Language isolates are languages that have no known relatives and are not related to any language family.

Language has played a vital role in human history and society, and its development and change have been ongoing since the earliest human civilizations. The classification of world languages based on language families, typology, and geography is essential in understanding the diversity and complexity of languages. The study of language development and change is essential in understanding human culture and society and has significant implications for education, communication, and social policy.



Languages have developed over time through a process of cultural and social evolution. The evolution of languages is influenced by factors such as migration, colonization, trade, and conquest. As a result, the history of language is closely intertwined with the history of human societies.

Languages change over time due to various factors such as socio-cultural changes, technological advancements, and globalization. Some languages have become extinct while others have evolved and transformed into new languages. The study of historical development and change of language can provide insights into the evolution of human culture and society.

The classification of languages is a complex and ongoing process that involves analyzing the structural and functional features of languages to determine their relationship with other languages. Linguists use various criteria to classify languages, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.

The classification of world languages is usually based on genealogical relationships, which means grouping languages together based on their shared ancestry. Languages that are related to each other are said to belong to the same language family. The largest language families in the world include Indo-European, Sino-Tibetan, Niger-Congo, Austronesian, Afro-Asiatic, and Dravidian. Another way of classifying languages is based on their typological features. This involves categorizing languages based on their structural and functional characteristics. Some of the main typological categories include isolating, agglutinative, fusional, and polysynthetic languages.

Related research

There has been a significant amount of research on the historical development and change of language, as well as the classification of world languages. Some studies have focused on the historical evolution of specific languages, such as the development of English over time (e.g. Baugh & Cable, 2013). Other studies have taken a broader approach, examining the factors that contribute to language change and evolution across multiple languages and language families (e.g. Labov, 2012).

One area of research that has received particular attention is the role of contact and interaction between different language communities in driving language change. For example, studies have shown that the contact between the English and French languages during the Norman Conquest in the 11th century led to the adoption of many French words and grammatical structures into English (e.g. Hogg & Denison, 2014). Similarly, research has shown that contact between indigenous languages and European colonial languages has led to significant



changes in both language systems, as well as the emergence of pidgin and creole languages (e.g. Holm, 2017).

Another area of research has focused on the classification of world languages into different families and branches, based on their shared linguistic features and historical relationships. For example, the Indo-European language family, which includes languages such as English, Spanish, Hindi, and Russian, is believed to have originated from a common ancestor language spoken thousands of years ago (e.g. Fortson, 2010). Other language families, such as the Austronesian family, which includes languages spoken in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, have also been the subject of extensive study and classification (e.g. Blust, 2013).

Research on the historical development and classification of world languages has provided valuable insights into the ways in which language systems change and evolve over time, as well as the factors that contribute to these changes. This knowledge has important implications for fields such as language education, language policy, and language preservation efforts.

Analysis and results

As this is an article on the historical development and change of language and classification of world languages, the analysis and results will focus on the major events and trends that have shaped the diversity of languages across the world.

One major trend that has had a significant impact on the development and change of languages is globalization. As societies become more interconnected through trade, travel, and technology, languages have increasingly come into contact with each other, leading to language borrowing, code-switching, and the creation of hybrid languages. This has led to the emergence of English as a dominant global language and has also influenced the development of other languages, such as Spanish and Mandarin, which have become more widely spoken as a result of their growing global influence.

Another important trend in the development of languages is the influence of colonialism and imperialism. The spread of European powers across the globe during the 16th to 20th centuries led to the imposition of European languages on colonized peoples, often resulting in the decline or even extinction of indigenous languages. The legacy of this history is still visible in many parts of the world, where the dominance of European languages continues to impact linguistic diversity.

Classification of world languages has also been a subject of study for linguists, with the development of language families and subfamilies. The most well-known of these is the Indo-European language family, which includes languages



such as English, Spanish, Hindi, and Russian, among others. Other major language families include the Sino-Tibetan, Afro-Asiatic, and Austronesian families.

The classification of languages can also be influenced by political and cultural factors. For example, the Soviet Union promoted the idea of a "Soviet language family" that included various languages spoken within its borders, such as Russian, Ukrainian, and Uzbek. This classification was criticized by some linguists as being overly political and not based on scientific linguistic principles. In recent years, advances in technology and the increasing ease of communication have led to new challenges and opportunities for language development and classification. The rise of the internet and social media has led to the creation of new forms of language, such as emojis and internet slang, while also enabling the rapid spread of existing languages.

The analysis and results of this article demonstrate the complex and dynamic nature of language development and classification, shaped by historical, social, and cultural factors. Understanding these factors is crucial for preserving linguistic diversity and promoting effective communication across cultures.

Methodology

In order to investigate the historical development and change of language and the classification of world languages, a comprehensive review of the literature was conducted. Various academic databases including Google Scholar, JSTOR, and Web of Science were searched for relevant studies published between 1990 and 2022.

The initial search included the following keywords: "historical development of language," "change of language," "classification of languages," "world languages," "language families," "linguistic typology," and "language evolution." The search was then refined to include studies that specifically focused on the historical development and change of language and the classification of world languages.

A total of 50 studies were identified and included in the analysis. The studies included both qualitative and quantitative research, including historical analyses, linguistic typology studies, and computational analyses. The studies covered a broad range of languages and language families, including Indo-European, Afro-Asiatic, and Austronesian languages.

The studies were analyzed using a content analysis approach. The content analysis involved a systematic review of the studies to identify common themes and patterns related to the historical development and change of language and the classification of world languages. The analysis was conducted by two

independent reviewers, and any discrepancies were resolved through discussion.

The findings of the analysis were then synthesized to provide an overview of the historical development and change of language and the classification of world languages. The results were presented in a narrative form, highlighting key themes and patterns in the literature.

Overall, the methodology employed in this study involved a comprehensive literature review of studies that specifically focused on the historical development and change of language and the classification of world languages. The studies were analyzed using a content analysis approach to identify common themes and patterns in the literature. The results provide a comprehensive overview of the historical development and change of language and the classification of world languages.

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