

The Linguistic Picture of the World in the Constructed Languages – a Research Project

Ida Stria, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland
istri@amu.edu.pl

Aim

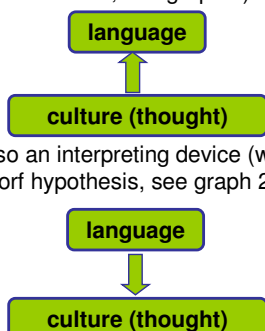
The notion of the Linguistic Picture of the World (henceforward LPW) is a part of the cognitive paradigm in linguistics. It is used in analysing natural languages. The aim of this poster is to show possible problems and results of applying this theory to a wide variety of artificial languages.

Theoretical background

Linguistic Picture/View of the World

- phenomena culturally important for a given group will be reflected and retained in the group's language (Bartmiński 2006).
- the LPW is a "certain set of beliefs more or less fixed in the language, contained in the meanings of words or implied by these meanings, which states the traits and moods of existence of objects from the non-linguistic world" (Anusiewicz et al. 2000: 28, see graph 1)

- language is also an interpreting device (weak version of the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, see graph 2)



Artificial languages

- Other names: *planned, constructed, universal, international auxiliary* language.
- The scale of „artificiality”: on one pole highly controlled sign systems (programming languages), on the other ethnic languages. In between e.g. standard Dachsprachen, Esperanto and pasigraphies (Schubert 1989).
- Functional classification includes artistic languages, universal/auxiliary and project languages (philosophical/logical/experimental etc.).

Methods

Choice of languages

only languages with active speaker community and texts (*[Semij]plansprachen*, Blanke 2000: 57nn.)

Grammar & Lexis

Bartmiński (2006) postulates analysis of both grammar and lexis. He refers to Wierzbicka's work creating his *cognitive definition*.

- analysis of phraseology in particular (Bartmiński 2006: 13)
- *cognitive definition* (Bartmiński 1980, 2006: 47nn.): analysis of *facets*, i.e. features of things or mental categories

Problems

• analysis of which languages?

Lojban is considered to be an experimental language, although it is said to have a communicative community

• whose language? the creator's or the user's?

the analysis may show the LPW of the author and not of the users as the definition requires that the culture influences the language; therefore, a language community is needed; although some experiments may be conducted as the LPW idea also refers to the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis

• not enough speakers/original texts

the only conlang with statistically significant speaking population is Esperanto

• which language? the analysed one or concepts from the native languages of the users?

research must be carefully designed and controlled for the influence from the speaker's native language

Expected results

Artistic languages

- control for agreement between the adopted world structure and the LPW
- native culture triggers changes in usage of concepts

Auxiliary languages

- native culture generates new language structures, e.g. idioms or collocations
- if and how new unfamiliar structures influence L1 – similar results as in standard L1-L2 research

References

- Allwood, J. (1983). Kan man tänka oberoende av språk? In Teleman, U. (ed.), *Tal och Tanke*, 11-33.
- Allwood, J. (2003). Språk och världsbilder. In Ilie, C. (ed.), *Language, Culture, Rhetoric: Cultural and Rhetorical Perspectives on Communication*.
- Anusiewicz J. (1999). Problematyka językowego obrazu świata w poglądach niektórych językoznawców i filozofów niemieckich XX wieku. In Bartmiński, J. (ed.), *Językowy obraz świata*, 261-290.
- Anusiewicz, J. et al. (2000). Językowy obraz świata i kultura. Projekt koncepcji badawczej. In Anusiewicz, J. & Dąbrowska, A. (eds.), *Język a Kultura 13*.
- Bartmiński, J. (ed.) (1980). *Słownik ludowych stereotypów językowych*.
- Bartmiński, J. (2006). *Językowe podstawy obrazu świata*.
- Blanke, Detlev (2000). Vom Entwurf zur Sprache. In Schubert, K. (ed.) *Planned Languages: From Concept to Reality*.
- Grzegorzczkova, R. (1999). Pojęcie językowego obrazu świata. In Bartmiński, J. (ed.), *Językowy obraz świata*.
- Lucy, J.A. (1992). *Language diversity and thought: a reformulation of the linguistic relativity hypothesis*.
- Schubert, K. (ed.) (1989). *Interlinguistics: aspects of the science of planned languages*.