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THE EVOLUTION OF LANGUAGE FAMILIES

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Annotation:

This article explores the historical and structural development of groups of related languages, tracing how languages within a family have diverged and evolved from a common ancestral language over time. By examining phonological, syntactical, and lexical changes, linguists uncover connections and patterns within and across language groups, providing insights into human prehistory, migration patterns, and sociocultural transformations. This study highlights how languages change, split, or merge over generations, illustrating the dynamic and interconnected nature of human languages across the globe.

Keywords: language families, linguistic evolution, sociocultural transformations, linguists.

TIL OILALARINING TARAQQIYOTI

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Annotatsiya:

Ushbu maqola qardosh til guruhlarining tarixiy va strukturaviy rivojlanishini o‘rganadi, bir oila ichidagi tillar vaqt o‘tishi bilan umumiy ajdodlar tilidan qanday ajralib chiqqani va evolyutsiyasi ko‘rib chiqiladi. Fonologik, sintaktik va leksik o‘zgarishlarni o‘rganib, tilshunoslar tillardagi aloqalar va ularning uslublarini aniqlaydilar va til guruhlarini bo‘ylab insoniyat tarixi, migratsiyasi va ijtimoiy-madaniy o‘zgarishlari haqida tushuncha beradi. Ushbu tadqiqot tillarning avlodlar



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davomida qanday o'zgarishi, bo'linishi yoki birlashishini ta'kidlab, butun dunyo bo'ylab inson tillarining dinamik va o'zaro bog'liqligini ko'rsatadi.

Kalit so'zlar: Til oilalari, lingvistik evolyutsiya, ijtimoiy-madaniy o'zgarishlar, lingvistlar.

ЭВОЛЮЦИЯ ЯЗЫКОВЫХ СЕМЕЙ

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Аннотация:

В этой статье рассматривается историческое и структурное развитие родственных языковых групп, прослеживается, как языки внутри семьи расходились и развивались с течением времени от общего предка. Изучая фонологические, синтаксические и лексические изменения, лингвисты взаимодействуют, выявляют связи дают представление о закономерностях внутри и между языковыми группами, предыстории человека, моделях миграции и социокультурных изменениях. Это исследование показывает динамику и взаимосвязь человеческих языков по всему миру, подчеркивая, как языки изменяются, разделяются или сливаются на протяжении поколений.

Ключевые слова: языковые семьи, лингвистическая эволюция, социальные и культурные изменения, лингвисты.

One of the best examples of a cultural evolutionary system is a language. Although, in today's modernized world approximately 7000 languages are spoken, they are classified into few hundred groups. Over the years linguists have tried to identify connections between languages and patterns of their grammar, vocabulary and syntax. As result of this process, it has been found that language families are



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formed by not only environmental factors and social transformations but also historical events and geographic isolation.

The dynamic and interconnected nature of human languages have been merged or splitted over the years due to various reasons across the globe. Given that languages evolve through time in a manner similar to the evolution of biological species - through splits, extinctions and horizontal exchange - a language family can be approximated by a structural family tree (or phylogeny) that comprises set of languages spoken by actual human groups occupying geographical space. Importantly, the links between environmental factors and the structure of family trees often deviate from the predictions of neutral drift, suggesting that there are adaptive and non-adaptive forces rooted in the physical and social environment that affect the evolution of language families. Additionally, there is an emerging view that language diversification cannot be fully understood except in the wider context of physical, cultural and biological variation [1]. However, there is a reality that is just not a metaphor: languages can indeed be related to one another due to descent from a common ancestor [2].

The evolution of languages within language families unfolds across phonological, lexical, and syntactical dimensions. Phonological evolution in language families involves changes in a language's sound system. These changes can affect individual sounds (phonemes) or broader features, such as stress and intonation patterns. As for lexical evolution, it covers changes in vocabulary, often through borrowing, semantic shift, or creation of new words. When words are borrowed from one language to another, phonological rules are often applied to adapt these words to the borrowing language's sound system. For example, English borrowed many words from French, but adapted them to fit English phonological patterns [3].

Syntactic evolution involves changes in the structure and order of words in sentences, affecting how meaning is constructed. Word Order Changes: For example, Old English typically used a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) structure, whereas Modern English generally uses Subject-Verb-Object (SVO). Grammar of language families is also evolved in long-period of time. For instance, words may shift from lexical to grammatical functions, such as the Latin *habere* (to have) evolving into a future tense marker in French (*je vais parler*) [4]. Different language



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families exhibit unique evolutionary paths: Indo-European: Features both phonological shifts like Grimm's Law and lexical borrowing due to extensive contact with Latin and Greek. Sino-Tibetan: Features tonal evolution, where pitch changes denote meaning, as seen in modern Mandarin. Afro-Asiatic (e.g., Arabic and Hebrew): Often features root-based morphological systems, where trilateral roots generate various meanings with infixes and affixes, leading to unique lexical evolution [5].

In conclusion, even though there are about 146 language families all over the world, it is anticipated that the numbers of languages will increase in the upcoming years. Some of the known families will probably be adequately demonstrated to be related to other known families because of additional experiments related to this field of science.

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