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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Cognitive Analysis of English and Uzbek Phraseological Euphemisms</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>Dildora Bakhridinova</i>	
<b>Methods of Developing Intercultural Competence of Future Teachers in The Condition of Teaching a Foreign Language</b>	<b>9</b>
<i>Feruza Kurbanova</i>	
<b>Politeness Language Patterns in Request</b>	<b>17</b>
<i>Feruza Yuldasheva</i>	
<b>Methodology of The Perceptual-Auditory Experiment</b>	<b>23</b>
<i>Gulmira Madyieva &amp; Kondybaeva Raushan &amp; Kuralova Aidana</i>	
<b>Translation in Fashion and The Art of Dressing</b>	<b>31</b>
<i>Laylo Khaydarova &amp; Sarvinov Norova</i>	
<b>Types of Translation and Their Features</b>	<b>35</b>
<i>Makhmud Babaev</i>	
<b>Students' Knowledge Observation by the help of Informative Program Tools</b>	<b>40</b>
<i>Malikajon Fayzieva</i>	
<b>Analysis of thematic classifications of euphemisms</b>	<b>44</b>
<i>Mokhidil Rabiyeva</i>	
<b>The Methods of Lexical Transformation: Filling Lexical Lacunas in Chinese-Uzbek Translations</b>	<b>49</b>
<i>Nargiza Ismatullayeva</i>	
<b>ELT Teachers' Perception About the Use of Authentic Materials in Kazakhstani Classrooms</b>	<b>58</b>
<i>Nazerke Biyakhmetova</i>	
<b>Cognitive Metaphors Usage in Medical Discourse</b>	<b>65</b>
<i>Nodirabegim Haydarova</i>	
<b>The Importance of Learning Foreign Languages in s Person's Life</b>	<b>70</b>
<i>Nodira Salixova &amp; Ruxsorabonu To'ymurodova</i>	
<b>Scientific Opinions of Scholars on the use of The Term "Future" In Slavic and Persian</b>	<b>74</b>
<i>Ruslan Radjabov &amp; Dilshodbek Tilavov</i>	
<b>Improve Fluency by Problematic Method</b>	<b>78</b>
<i>Rakhima Norova</i>	
<b>The Cultural Basis of Scenarios and Semantic Coherence in Cognitive Linguistics</b>	<b>84</b>
<i>Raykhon Kurbonova</i>	
<b>Dominants of Socio-Psychological Factors in The Origin of Postmodernism</b>	<b>89</b>
<i>Saida Ismatova &amp; Bakhtigul Sodikova</i>	
<b>The Historical Development of The Problem of Language Economy</b>	<b>92</b>
<i>Khayrulla Saidov</i>	
<b>The Study of Phraseology and Its Theoretical Features</b>	<b>97</b>
<i>Saodat Saidakbarova</i>	
<b>Phraseology's That Express Emotions</b>	<b>102</b>
<i>Shakhzoda Khasanova</i>	
<b>The Cultivation of Intercultural Pragmatic Competence in The Teaching of Second Language Under Native Language Environment</b>	<b>107</b>
<i>Xiao Chen &amp; Gulmira Madiyeva</i>	
<b>Teaching Creative Writing at The Tertiary Level in China: A Case Study</b>	<b>123</b>
<i>Zhencong Liu &amp; Ruizhe Zhang</i>	
<b>Applying Inductive Method as An Innovative Approach in The Methodology of Teaching Foreign Language Grammar</b>	<b>135</b>
<i>Zukhra Shermatova</i>	

## The Historical Development of The Problem of Language Economy

Khayrulla Saidov

Bukhara State University, Uzbekistan

**Abstract:** *The aim of the article is to study the peculiarities of language economy in the modern English- and Uzbek-language. The methods of research which have been used in the work include the method of continuous selection of terminological material, method of reconstruction of word-formative models, methods of definitional and component analysis, methods of qualitative and quantitative analysis, etc.*

**Key word:** *Language economy, economical distribution, the law of least effort, saving linguistic*

### **Article History**

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## INTRODUCTION

The development and functioning of the language is due to numerous processes. One of the fundamental processes of language development is the principle of saving linguistic means. This trend is universal and affects all levels of the language system, which is why the principle of linguistic economy from a certain point of view can be considered as one of the reasons for linguistic changes.

The fact that the tendency to economize on linguistic means is the basic law of language development is recognized by the majority of linguists, who also attribute to it the status of one of the main driving forces of the evolution of the language as a whole. In world linguistics, this trend is called differently: G. Paul – “economy of linguistic means”, F. de Saussure – “the law of least effort”, O. Jespersen – “theory of convenience”, A. Martinet, G. Sweet and P. Passy – “the principle of economy”, and the Russian linguist E. D. Polivanov called it “human laziness”<sup>1</sup>.

## MAIN PART

Despite the variety of names, the essence of linguistic economy is as follows: linguistic economy is a universal category inherent in all languages of the world, characterized by the desire to save money, avoid excessive costs of physiological and psychological efforts when using speech, and manifests itself at all levels of the language system.

The interest in economy as a linguistic phenomenon has always been the focus of linguists' attention. However, its role in the development and improvement of the language system is assessed in different ways. Some scholars recognize it as the main law of the development of language (I.A. not all changes occurring in the language system can be explained by this law (F. de Saussure, O. Espersen), and still others deny the role of economy in the development and functioning of language. The thought that language structure should be defined.

“Economical distribution” between its parts became widespread already in the XVII-XVIII centuries. In connection with the discussion of various projects for the creation of artificial languages. In 1629, in particular, Rene Descartes wrote to the Abbot Merseny that an artificial language should have only “... one way of conjugation, declension and construction of words.” Such a language “... would not have at all ... irregular forms arising from the habit of distortion. Changes in verbs and word-formation forms would be made using prefixes added to the beginning or end of root words. These prefixes should be in the general dictionary. Average people (*les esprits vulgaires*), using this dictionary, will be able to freely master such a language within six months. “The idea of creating an artificial language, which everyone can freely master in a few months, was of great interest to the thinkers of the 17th-18th centuries. This idea turned out to be so tempting (“a language without tears and without torment”) that later, in the 19th century, it was partially spread to natural languages, trying to “Simplify” them, prove the possibility of similar operations on them. At the same time, they began to refer to the “nature of the language itself.”

The beginning of a systematic study of the problem of linguistic economy is noted in the 80s of the XIX century and is associated with the names of such scientists as I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay, P. Passy, G. Suite, O. Espersen. However, the beginnings of the doctrine of linguistic economics can be found already in the works of philosophers of linguists of

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<sup>1</sup> Akhmanova O.S. Dictionary of linguistic terms / O.S. Akhmanov. - M.: Editorial URSS, 2007. 569 p.

antiquity. So, Aristotle wrote that if you want to speak succinctly (that is, economically), you should use names instead of concepts, for example, "circle" instead of "a flat surface, all points of which are equally spaced from the center".

I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay drew attention to the phenomenon of economy in language and speech, noting that "the cause, the engine of all language changes is the desire for convenience, the desire for relief in three areas of language activity: in the field of pronunciation (phonation), in the field of listening and perception (audition) and, finally, in the field of linguistic thinking (cerebration)". B. de Courtenay pointed out in one of his lectures: "General reasons, general factors that cause the development of a language and determine its structure and composition, it is very fair to call forces. These are, by the way:

- 1) habit, i.e. unconscious memory;
  - 2) the pursuit of convenience, expressed by:
    - a) in the transition of sounds and consonants more difficult to easier ones to preserve muscles and nerves;
    - b) in an effort to simplify forms (the action of the analogy of stronger ones on weaker ones);
    - c) in the transition from the concrete to the abstract, to facilitate the abstract movement of thought."
- <sup>2</sup>

In his understanding, language represents a living organism. So, a little later, he wrote: "Linguistic life is a continuous organic work. ... And in organic work one can notice the desire to save energy and to not waste them unnecessarily, the desire for the purposefulness of efforts and movements, the desire for benefit and benefit." In the 17th - 18th centuries, in connection with the discussion of projects for the creation of artificial languages, the idea that the linguistic structure should be determined by "economical distribution" between its parts became widespread.

However, a systematic study of this problem began much later, in the 19th century. Attempts have been made to simplify natural languages in order to make them easier to learn. At the same time, it was noted that this impact on the language only accelerates the natural process of simplification that occurs in the course of its development.

G. Spencer considered the question of linguistic economy in its quantitative understanding. He argued that in the process of development, following the "natural laws of evolution", the language moves from the complex to the simple. Long words become short, "wordy sentences become single-word sentences." The British once resorted to constructions like *we tellen*, now - *we tell* "*we say*" (the ending is lost). Having traced the history of the development of English words, we see that at each stage of its development, as a result of the reduction of endings in the middle period and the loss of final consonants in unstressed syllables in the 15th century. Long words turn into short, polysyllabic ones - into monosyllabic ones, for example: *Drincan* -> *drinken* -> *drinke* -> *drink* - *ichmoq*.

Spencer's statement traces the idea that language moves from more complex to simpler ways of expressing the same content, but does not simplify its general structure, since this would inevitably mean its impoverishment, a decrease in expressive capabilities.

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<sup>2</sup> Barkhudarov L.S. Structure of a simple sentence in modern English - M.: LKI, 2012. 200 s.

G. Paul, in turn, considered the problem of “economy” of the language differently. In his opinion, saving does not mean narrowing the resources of the language, eliminating excesses, it only ensures the expansion of the resources of the language. G. Paul notes: "One already useless memory overload is a sufficient reason to eliminate these excesses." In the book “Principles of the History of Language” G. Paul sets out his thoughts aimed at the tendency of linguistic economy in two chapters “Economy of linguistic means” and “Differentiation of meanings”.

In the article “Saving linguistic means”, we find the author’s sayings, which says that “linguistic activity is characterized by a certain tendency towards frugality” – “in the language, for all cases, methods of expression are developed that contain exactly as much as is necessary for understanding.”<sup>3</sup>

In his opinion, the need is the engine of thought, which is the degree of use of the expression of linguistic means, it should be noted that he also noted that “very often linguistic means are used unnecessarily wasteful.” This chapter discusses an interesting fact aimed at studying linguistic frugality along the length of the speech chain.

The principle of “economy” of language was especially famous in phonetics, and later in phonology. Paul Passy in 1890, referring to the sound system of the French language, declared: “The language is constantly striving to get rid of what is superfluous and to highlight what is necessary.” Following Sweet, Passy called the first trend "the law of least effort" and the second “the principle of economy.”<sup>4</sup>

P. Passy tried to find the reason for some phonetic changes in the language. Taking into account the fact of the effect of linguistic economy, he drew attention to the fact that there is a "search for the least effort" in the language, therefore in some phonetic changes can be explained precisely by the economy of pronunciation efforts. Revealing the essence of these processes, he drew attention to the following facts:

- 1) the language is constantly striving to get rid of unnecessary things;
- 2) the language constantly strives to highlight the necessary.

The first tendency, according to P. Passy, is the implementation of the principle of linguistic economy, and the second is the principle of emphasis. “The first principle,” notes P. Passy, “is usually viewed as a tendency to create light articulations, sometimes called the law of least effort. I prefer to call it, together with Sweet, the principle of economy, because its action does not always lead to making the effort less necessary. The principle of economy manifests itself in the language very actively. It is expressed in the weakening of less needed syllables, in assimilation, the reduction of long syllables, the elimination of subtle differences, etc. The second principle is the principle of emphasis. It finds expression in such phenomena as aspiration of consonants, insertion of vowels between consonants, dissimilation, replacement of less sonorous sounds with more sonorous ones, etc.”<sup>5</sup>

In the process of studying this trend, he raises the question of the unconsciousness of linguistic economy by speakers. His assumptions are based on the fact that “Everything that is necessary in order to be understood and well understood is carefully preserved in the language. Attention is not paid to everything else, it leaves the language and is consigned to oblivion.” P. Passy concludes that the principle of economy is the desire to get rid of

<sup>3</sup> Akhmanova O.S. Dictionary of linguistic terms / O.S. Akhmanov. - M.: Editorial URSS, 2007.569 p.

<sup>4</sup> Barkhudarov L.S. Structure of a simple sentence in modern English - M.: LKI, 23 2012.200 s.

<sup>5</sup> Galperin I.R. Essays on the style of the English language / I.R. Halperin. 2nd ed., Rev. M.: URSS, 2012.375 c.

unnecessary things.

## CONCLUSION

Thus, economy is a linguistic law that manifests its universal role at all levels of the language system. It should be noted that the principle of economy is recognized by leading linguists as one of the driving forces in the development and enrichment of the language. The systematic study of this problem began in the 19th century, but its relevance has not yet been exhausted, since the dynamics of language development towards linguistic economy has not yet been sufficiently studied.

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