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ADDRESSING THE PRINCIPLE OF LINGUISTIC ECONOMY AGAIN

Abstract

After a long and very heated discussions in 60s–70s of the last century, the term «linguistic economy» is firmly established in Russian linguistics. However, the analysis of modern publications of Russian linguists indicates «embarrassing» polysemy of the term, which is used in different meanings: 1) ordinary, determined by the meaning of the word «economy» in the Russian language as frugality, thrift; 2) special, determined by A. Martinet theory, where economy is considered as the principle of organization and evolution of the language system; 3) mixed due to the mixture of different terms, ideas and concepts. The article discusses the main issues related to defining the essence of linguistic economy, its place and role in language evolution. Many postulates concerning these issues contradict well-known facts of language change on different levels of language system. However, if we strictly separate economy in speech from economy in language many contradictions disappear.

Keywords: term, term system, economy in speech and language, language change, language evolution

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