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LINGUISTICS OF CHINA IN THE ASPECT OF THE "TOTALITARIAN" LINGUISTICS

Abstract

The current paper aims at considering language studies in China in its totalitarian period. In the author's concept, the term «totalitarian» linguistics for the linguistics of a totalitarian state is used, which means a set of discursive practices that influence the activities of linguists and the results of their scientific work. The analysis is carried out using the method of narrative linguistic historiography. The results of the study show that «totalitarian» linguistics in China is a result of symbiosis of destructive and constructive influences that determined its relevant features. These are rejecting Indo-European linguistic experience; following the principles of Soviet Union Linguistics, sometimes with extremes like calking certain Russian grammatical categories; practical approach and the focus on issues on National language and its standard, eliminating illiteracy, supporting language minorities as well as addressing the issues of phonetics and phonology, language history and translation. However, contradictions of Cultural revolution considerably slowed down linguistic work, including Putonghua expansion.

Keywords: «totalitarian» linguistics, discursive practice, national language, dialect, grammar.

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