Introduction: Current Trends in Linguistic Research

Presenting breakthrough ideas and approaches in linguistics, endeavouring to explain the facts about the language, and introducing new methods of language analysis to the wider scientific community have generally been the guiding principles for all linguistic issues of “Journal of Siberian Federal University. Humanities & Social Sciences”. This issue focuses on several key areas of modern language research and, therefore, invites the scholars to a constructive dialogue and open discussion on a wide range of theories and conceptions.

The papers on regional specifics are given a priority status. Many languages and geographical areas get their linguistic description for the first time. This might result in outlining the promising directions for further studies of numerous languages on the linguistic map of the world. The language situation which has been witnessing special attention of both the linguists and the experts from other areas of the humanities is that in modern Kurdistan, a multiethnic region of high migration with a complex language policy towards the languages of thousands of displaced people (Rizgar M. Amin, Oksana V. Magirovskaya). Ethnographic description of the conditions of the sign language functioning on the territory of Krasnoyarsk Krai is also a new aspect of regional linguistic research. As an autonomous language system used as the only means of communication by a large and constantly increasing number of people of different ages, sign language requires a comprehensive analysis and development of new theoretical approaches to its institutionalization (Liudmila V. Kulikova, Sofya A. Shatokhina). Chinese is an equally important language for the analysis. A group of researchers give their precise attention to Chinese academic discourse. They identify the specifics of communicative restrictions in formal and informal academic communication, the restrictions being determined by the principle of “saving the face” as a dominant principle of Chinese ideology (Natalia G. Burmakina, Iuliia I. Detinko, Irina G. Nagibina, Iana V. Popova). Reference to ancient historical contexts ensures continuous research on languages and cultures and provides for the scientific reflection on key concepts transformation through a course of the evolution of mankind. Thus, the interpretation of a tree-cross mythologeme in the old English tradition shows the evolutionary semiotic row, which represents both Christian and pagan symbolism as two ideas about the world and the way it is organized (Sergei G. Proskurin, Anna V. Proskurina).

No less important are the papers on the area of translation studies. By bringing them together, the issue aims to highlight the importance of research in this field of linguistic knowledge, especially in the light of extensive work being done by the experts of Siberian Federal University on the development and implementation of the Russian standard for translators and interpreters. Some of them also put emphasis on the regional specifics of the Eurasian space: Yakut and Buryat texts are chosen as databases for analyzing a polycultural focus in translating them as well as for justifying an interactive model that helps to overcome minor, yet culturally and linguistically specific, imperfections in the Russian translations (Irina S. Alexeeva, Albina V. Boyarkina); associations of the Russian and Buryat bi- and polylingual students are explored to reveal the difference in modes of cognizing and thinking in the two cultures involved in translation as well as to introduce and reinforce the importance of modeling the translating process (Polina P. Dashinimaeva, Larisa M. Orbodoeva, Vera B. Sambueva); Russian and Spanish serve the language combination to outline a teaching approach for the development of communica-
tive and textual sub-expertise of specialized texts in the fields of science and technology (Enrique F. Quero Gervilla, Inmaculada S. Garcia). Other papers give a systemic view on translation as a cognitive event involving a specific mental interaction of the representatives of different cultures: the authors introduce the algorithm of designing an associative thesaurus referred to cognitive signs of lexical marking as a major investigation tool of political discourse analysis and as the foundation for the original creative model of translation performance and didactics (Irina V. Ubozhenko), describe interactivity models of simultaneous interpreters as cognitive event actors (Elena V. Chistova).

The conception of any linguistic issue necessarily implies a discussion of the latest ideas and approaches to various facts about the language in terms of their properties, functions, and mechanisms that can be successfully integrated into the world practice of scientific research. New experimental studies based on computer technologies as a main processing tool aim at a higher degree of descriptive refinement of language and deeper elaboration of existing theories. The current issue gives detailed consideration to the hypothesis relating to the word order in the attributive group of a certain type (healthy nourishing food vs nourishing healthy food) and experimentally verifies it through Google and Yandex searching (Olga A. Suleimanova, Inna M. Petrova); discusses the role of the age factor in the readers’ comprehension of stylistically heterogeneous text fragments containing figurative noun groups of salient and non-salient character and studies the salience effects on eye movement and default responses in the oculographic experiment (Maria I. Kiose). A scientific debate might be also initiated by the papers on new approaches to various language phenomena: cognitive bases of stative formatting of knowledge about the world are revealed in the line of Cognitive Linguistics (Anna V. Pavlova), the method of determinantal analysis of language systems is actualized within a framework of modern scientific paradigms that results in interpretation of the traditional morphological classification of languages through the concept of inner determinants (Olga I. Valentinova, Mikhail A. Rybakov).

The Editorial Board expresses deep gratitude to all the authors for their valuable contribution to the issue and expects that the suggested approaches will fundamentally enrich a wide range of views on language and favour their further development.

Issue Editors

Liudmila V. Kulikova
Oksana V. Magirovskaya