



GERMAN AS THE LANGUAGE OF SCIENCE: PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: December 8 th 2021 Accepted: January 8 th 2021 Published: February 13 th 2022	During the analysis of the situation in the sphere of modern scientific discourse in the national languages, the importance of detailed descriptions of the real linguistic situation not only for the establishment of normative values, but also for the prediction of development trends becomes evident. The article attempts to describe and analyze some of the features of modern professional scientific communication that have a direct impact on the development of both the language of German science in general and the language of German linguistics in particular.
Keywords: globalization, professional communication, lingua franca, scientific discourse, science language, language of linguistics.	

INTRODUCTION

German is often the choice of people who want to learn a second foreign language and German becomes their choice. This is not without reason. It is one of the most commonly spoken languages in the world and ranks first in the European Union as the most commonly spoken native language. German is the second most used scientific language and the third most used language on the Internet. While there are many advantages to learning German specifically in terms of personal and career advancement, it will take time and diligence to gain professional knowledge. The best strategy for avoiding problems is to become familiar with them beforehand.

One of the most popular problems encountered when learning German is that the language has many dialects. Some of these dialects can be incomprehensible to those who only know standard German.

There are many varieties of standard German based on location. For example, Standard German from Germany is slightly different from Swiss German or Austrian German. In addition, German grammar rules can sometimes be confusing early in the learning process. For example, the conjugation order of verbs in German is intricate. The plural in German constructed in a complex way that creates excessive confusion. There are three genders in German – masculine, feminine and neuter, the trouble is there are no rules. The order of words in a sentence varies according to the type of conjunction. Vocabulary can be just as intimidating to the beginner. Some German and English words have overlaps and sometimes they have different meanings (lok - lock, desert - dessert). Some words have a narrow subject profile and you will

not find translations in other languages. Several words combined into one word and form a new sometimes very strange meaning; others change depending on the particles or the ending. Thus, it is sometimes difficult to determine the meaning of a word.

However, in terms of phonetics, the German language is not as complicated as it may initially seem. Knowing the sound system, one can read with confidence and since modern German and English are descended from a common fore-language (a base language), people who know English will have no problem mastering the phonetics of German.

METHODS, RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The authors' view of the globalization of modern science and its language fundamentally contradicts the romantic view of some linguists and representatives of other humanities of the last century about the inevitable fusion of languages, when the term "globalization" had not yet been invented and was not in wide use. In the absence of such in the second half of the twentieth century, the processes of "linguistic fraternity" and the consequent fusion of languages in the near future commonly referred to as internationalization or integration [1]. Internationalization seen as a kind of indicator, which was intended to reveal the ability of languages belonging to different types and cultural-historical language areas to synthesize and merge.

The current trends in the development and functioning of the "universal" language of scientific communication suggest a cautious conclusion that the hopes for the synthesis or integration of languages belonging to different types and different cultural-historical language areas have not yet been fulfilled. At



any rate, at this stage of social development. Rather, the thesis, repeatedly confirmed by the historical practice of humankind, is justified that "first of all, political and economic relations determine whether a language will disappear or be preserved" [5].

Taking into account the globalization trend in science in general and in linguistic science in particular, the attempts made from time to time to develop common approaches to the analysis and synthesis of the studied phenomena of objective reality (including language). The constant qualitative and quantitative growth of scientific relations, the tolerant approach of scientists to the possible announcement of one of the existing natural languages as a universal language of science may seem quite justified at first sight. At the root of the disagreements between scientists from different countries and scientific schools, both in the past and now, lie the principles and criteria they use to evaluate objective facts, in other words, the scientific methodology. Methodology is opposed to the ontological unity of the ways and forms of human thinking. The plurality of the world's languages and the potential ability of each of them to act as a scientific lingua franca does not contradict this unity, because a "common model" emerges through the seemingly infinite variety of languages.

The common model, which V. N. Yartseva wrote about almost forty years ago, in modern language science, has actually been implemented on an English-language basis to the detriment of other developed national languages. At the same time, despite the widespread loyalty to English as the language of science and advanced technology, the reaction of linguists who are not native speakers of English varies from unconditional support for the current linguistic situation in scientific communication to extreme rejection of it. The lack of unity among linguists on this issue, on the one hand, explains partly the delayed and postponed reaction of the scientific linguistic community to the problem of the unprecedented increase in the role of English in science [2]. On the other hand, it prevents the organization of a wide scientific discussion, the subject of which could be the problems of preserving national languages as a means of communication of scientists-researchers.

At present, attempts made to regain that lost influence by inviting German language students and schoolchildren to Germany, lectures by German scholars abroad, enormous subsidies to publish books in German. and the development of software for educational institutions that teach German (in practice this often means the excellent technical equipment of small German language centers set up at universities in countries so-called "third world" countries).

The countries of Eastern Europe (Serbia, Montenegro, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, and Ukraine), where German has traditionally and historically aroused interest, are involved in the sphere of German influence due, among other things, to geopolitical reasons. As for Northern Europe, in the countries of this region German has rapidly lost its once strong position, giving way to English. The reason is that German grammar structure considered more difficult in comparison with English, which leads to greater difficulties both in teaching and in translation. In view of this, some researchers predict an even greater narrowing of the sphere of influence of German in the future, which, however, is unlikely to lead to its complete disappearance from university curricula [5].

H. Klingemann cites recent data on the number of German speakers. In 2019 there were already 573 million German speakers in the world, of which 61.3 million (10.7%) lived in Europe [3].

These tables confirm that the number of people who speak German as a foreign language exceeds the number of native speakers. However, there are no accurate data on the number of German speakers in the world. According to the researchers' calculations, their number is from several hundred millions to one billion people. Only in Western

Europe and East Asia alone, approximately 300 million people speak German as a foreign language [1]. This is the general outline of the linguistic situation in the world, leaving other developed national languages very little room for maneuvering in the sphere of scientific communication

Many linguists have serious concerns about the fate of German as a language of science, because they do not consider English to be a neutral intermediary language between the researcher thinking in his native language and the text produced by that researcher in the translating language. One could talk about neutrality in ancient Greek or Latin, because they are dead languages (was this not the reason why they suited scientists of different countries in the middle Ages and at the dawn of the New Age as a means of communication?) Meanwhile, English, being the mother tongue of more than half a billion people, together with its inherent communicative norms and speech patterns, is an integral part of Anglophone cultures. Compare "To speak means to be able to use certain syntactic means, to master the morphology of a particular language, but above all it means to internalize cultural values, to bear the burden of civilization" [2].

These words should be understood in such a way that culture as a multidimensional phenomenon in the life of society cannot be closed to itself and cannot be understood as a "thing in itself" or as a certain



stock of values ("container"), but as a system directed outward and based on the communicative interaction of the members of society [1].

Extroversion as one of the basic qualities of modern culture determines the influence of this culture on the linguistic code it serves. Hence the fear that with the loss of the national language's status as the language of science under the influence of an expansive alien linguacultural code. The native linguistic basis of scientific thinking, which is not conceivable outside the connection to national scientific and cultural traditions, will be lost, and the free exchange of knowledge between scientists themselves, and between scientists and society, will be disrupted. This, in turn, is fraught with the loss of the continuity and autonomy that has so far been characteristic of German science, and the regression of the national scientific language.

This position, as far as knowledge exchange is concerned, contested by a number of researchers, who believe that knowledge exchange does not depend on which language is chosen as scientific lingua franca. Since the effectiveness of communication between scientists and society is determined, on the one hand, by the subject of communication, and on the other hand, by the specificity of communication itself, conditioned by the complexity and depth of the transmitted meanings, not always accessible to the general public due to its unpreparedness.

The inadequacy of this viewpoint seems obvious for at least two reasons. First, no matter how complicated serious scientific research is, its results cannot fail to arouse public interest, since no discovery in science made for the sake of the discovery itself.

Second, taxpayers, who can inquire at any time about the purposes for which their taxes being collected usually fund any scientific project. Society has a right to know what highbrow intellectuals are doing, since it is the shareholder of any scientific enterprise. Otherwise, scientists, satisfying their own professional curiosity, would lose touch with those who are the final consumers of the scientific product.

Speaking of the peculiarities of communication within the scientific community, given the total dominance of English in the sphere of science, we have to put up with the unnatural situation where another German scientist can know the results of one German scientist's research only after he has translated the English-language article of his colleague into German.

As to the gradual loss of the original linguistic basis of scientific thinking, the supporters of the lingua franca in science take this problem out of the discussion, because it declared an assumption devoid of any empiricism whatsoever [3]. In fact, arguments in favor of the preservation of the national scientific

language as a means of formation and objectification of scientific thought do not need additional argumentation due to its obviousness: the tree of thought, materialized in the language, is lush green only if it retains a connection with the soil that nurtured it. In this sense, the words of Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz that "language is the mirror of reason" ("ein Spiegel des Verstandes").

CONCLUSION

A reading of the numerous publications discussing the problems arising from the gradual disappearance of multilingualism in world scientific discourse against the background of the dominance of English begs the question: the over orientation of contemporary German scientific discourse toward its English-language counterpart be considered consistent with the basic interests and values of the German scientific community? In the current situation, no, rather than yes. The widespread and unregulated use of English-based lingua franca in international scientific communication objectively minimizes the functional possibilities of the language of German science and narrows the sphere of realization of these possibilities. Moreover, it obviously inhibits, if not stops, its development [4]. German as one of the recognized languages of world science at this stage of its development has all the necessary set of tools, sufficient to solve not only actual, but also potential problems in almost all spheres of modern scientific discourse.

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