

LINGUISTICS CLASSIFICATION

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I. Introduction

Studying about language (human is language) can be both confusing and interesting. It is confusing since the language involves all of things. We cannot absolutely say that language is like this or like that one. It is both abstract and aslo concrete thing. It is a social and individual phenomenon. It exists but it cannot be touched as easy as its existence. On the other hand, the phenomena of language itself become the "things" that attract human's interest. It seems that language is "a fertile field" to be studied not only for theoritical aims but also for practical uses. Besides, the language can be both studied from the language itself and by involving other ciences. Language is every where. It is an important characteristic of human beings.

Language is not only being. It is also becoming, existing anterior to the split between thinking and thought (Wardaugh, 1972: 3). Because of that, the study about language has been progressing since long time ago. Traditional linguists have begun to know and analyze what the language is. Since then, the scientific study of language that we call linguistics (See Lyons, 1987: 1; Lim, 1975: 3) has become a field of sciense with a good progress. Some developments, innovations or improvements of linguitics are not strange things anymore. The developments of any aspects of linguistics come into interesting issues nowadays.

Since language involves many aspects of human's life, the linguistics has developed quickly. If at the beginning era the traditional linguists were only interested in studying language in a small/specific scope, at the following era until today the scope of linguistics become broader. Consequently, the branches, divisions, or classifications of linguitics rise dramatically to be complex. Any theoritical and practical aspects of linguitics cause the people to have to arrive

at the divisions or classification of the linguistics. Unless, the confusion will be the problem of this science.

Related to the development of linguistics, some linguists have come to the conclusion that the classification of linguistics is a crucial need. They propose terms, definitions, classifications, or divisions to refer to linguistics classification. They use their own logical thinking to give the framework about linguistics classification. Among them is the linguistics classification proposed by Hymes (1968) (See Kentjono, 1990: 15 and Kridalaksana, 1993: xxviii).

This paper, however, would like to show the linguistics classification as proposed by Kridalaksana (1993) only. Kridalaksana's classification is chosen since it is clear enough, simple, understandable, and up to date. The aim of this paper is to give brief description about linguistics classification to the readers in order that linguistics can be seen as it is. It is needed to avoid the confusion about the complexity of linguistics and to lead us to have clear point of view about branches of linguistics. However, this paper does not discuss deeply and fully about each classification of linguistics, nor does it explain completely all of the branches of linguistics. It just shows shortly and simply each classification of linguistics.

2. Linguistics Classification

2.1 General overview

The classification of linguistics is an attempt to encourage and lead us to understand the term linguistics. The field of linguistics is broad and general. It is sure that nobody masters all of the fields of linguistics completely. In other side, the terms used to determine linguistics classifications are not absolutely defined. It means the border-line between one classification and another is not always clear (Kridalaksana in Koentjono, 1990: 15)

According to Kridalaksana (1993:xxviii), linguistics can be classified into microlinguistics, macrolinguistics, and another field that lies between microlinguistics and macrolinguistics. Microlinguistics is theoretical classification

of linguistics. In theoretical classification, there are fields of linguistics for language in general (general linguistics) and for certain language. In general linguistics, there are theoretical linguistics, descriptive linguistics, and historical-comparative linguistics. And for certain languages, there are descriptive linguistics and historical-comparative linguistics.

Macrolinguistics consists of interdisciplinary classifications that can be divided into theoretical linguistics (non-applied linguistics) and applied linguistics. Theoretical linguistics of macrolinguistics are phonetics, stilistics, linguistic philosophy, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, ethnolinguistics, philology, semiotics, epigraphy, and palaeography. While the classifications of macrolinguistics that belong to applied linguistics are language teaching, translation, lexicography, applied phonetics, applied sociolinguistics, international language construction, specific language construction, language pathology, graphology, and mechanolinguistics.

The third classification of linguistics is that the history of linguistics. The history of linguistics involves the discussion of microlinguistics and macrolinguistics. But since it is a kind of the history (of linguistics), it tends to macrolinguistics rather than to microlinguistics. Let's see the following figure:

Linguistics Classification

I. Microlinguistics

Theoretical Classification

- General : (1) theoretical linguistics
(2) descriptive linguistics
(3) historical-comparative linguistics

For certain language (s)

- (1) descriptive linguistics
(2) historical-comparative linguistics

Interdisciplinary classification:

- phonetics
- stylistics
- linguistic philosophy
- psycholinguistics
- sociolinguistics
- ethnolinguistics
- philology
- semiotics
- epigraphy
- palaeography

Applied linguistics

(Applied classification)

- language teaching
- translation
- lexicography
- applied phonetics
- applied sociolinguistics
- international language construction
- specific language construction
- language pathology
- graphology
- mechanolinguistics

II. Macrolinguistics

III. History of linguistics

Note: ===== to separate microlinguistics from macrolinguistics

_____ to separate theoretical (non-applied linguistics) from applied linguistics

(Adapted from Kridalaksana, 1993: xxviii)

2.2 Brief Discussion

2.2.1 Microlinguistics

Among the classification of linguistics above, microlinguistics is regarded as the core of linguistics (See Kridalaksana in Kentjono, 1990: 15). According to Kridalaksana (1993:138), microlinguistics is a part of linguistics which studies a language from the language itself. The studies of any languages that try to study the structure or the materials of the language directly belong to microlinguistics.

Actually this term is used by linguists, especially in the 1950s, to refer to the main areas of linguistics: phonology, morphology, and syntax. However, more broadly, the term can be used to distinguish complementary views of a subject, one being strictly linguistics. Generally, it is also used to refer to any analysis of linguistics data involving a maximum depth of detail (Crystal, 1985: 194).

General theoretical linguistics (usually mentioned general linguistics) is the classification (field) of linguistics that attempts to understand general characteristics of languages. While the theoretical linguistics for certain language attempts to study the characteristics of a certain language (Kridalaksana, 1990:11).

In general linguistics, we find theoretical linguistics. This is a branch of linguistics that studies language in order to formulate rules existing in the language. Descriptive linguistics is also called synchronic linguistics. It is a part of linguistics that studies language system at certain time. Branches of descriptive linguistics are descriptive phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexicology. In descriptive linguistics, the linguists try to build a comprehensive theory of the expression side the language, and to make detailed and comprehensive statement about the expression systems of specific languages (See Kridalaksana in Kentjono, 1990: 13; Gleason, 1970: 11; Robin, 1992: 4).

Historical comparative-linguistics is a kind of diachronic linguistics. The terms synchronic and diachronic refer to the time dimension of language study. If

synchronic linguistics considers certain time without including the past and the future time, diachronic linguistics relates two periods of time or duration of time. Historical linguistics can be separated from comparative linguistics. Historical linguistics studies the development of language in certain duration of time, the way how language changes from time to time, and cause and effect of the language change itself both inside and outside of the language. While the comparative linguistics makes the comparison between two or more points of view, two or more different languages by using the theory of comparative linguistics. Related to this, historical linguistics can be regarded as a special type of comparative linguistics (See Robins, 1992: 5-6; Hockett, 1969: 303).

All of these branches of linguistics so far belong to microlinguistics. These parts of linguistics are theoretical linguistics (non-applied linguistics).

2.2.2 Macrolinguistics

The term macrolinguistics was used around the 1950s by linguists to identify an extremely broad conception of the subject of linguistics inquiry (Crystal, 1985: 186). Other opinion about macrolinguistics is given by Kridalaksana (See Kentjono, 1990: 11). According to him, macrolinguistics is linguistic field which studies language in relation to factors outside of language; including interdisciplinary classification and applied classification (applied linguistics).

Interdisciplinary classification means that the study of language not only is based on the language itself but also involves another field of sciences. In accordance with macrolinguistics, it is the study of language through broad conception rather than pure linguistics only. It is also said that macrolinguistics includes theoretical classification and interdisciplinary classification; both are non-applied classification (theoretical linguistics in common), and applied classification of linguistics (applied linguistics in common).

2.2.2.1 Interdisciplinary classification

Branches /fields of linguistics that belong to interdisciplinary classification are phonetics, stylistics, linguistics philosophy, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, ethnolinguistics, philology, semiotics, epigraphy, and paleography.

Phonetics is the science which studies the characteristics of human sound-making, especially those sounds used in speech, and provides methods of their description, classification, and transcription. Generally, there are three branches of phonetics: articulatory phonetics, acoustics phonetics, and auditory phonetics (Crystal, 1985: 229).

Lass (1984:1) states that phonetics is 'neutral' study of the sounds themselves as phenomena in the physical world, and the physiological, anatomical, neurological, and psychological properties of human beings that make them. It is seen that physics, biology, psychology, and neurology are involved in phonetics.

Stylistics is the study of language used in written art or literature. This is a kind of interdisciplinary science between linguistics and literature (Kridalaksana, 1993: 202). Linguistic philosophy is the interdisciplinary science between linguistics and philosophy. Kridalaksana (1993: 55) mentions that linguistic philosophy is the study of the nature and the position of language as the human's activities. This study raises the basic and conceptual framework of linguistics in general.

Besides that, it has been already known that psycholinguistics is the interdisciplinary science between psychology and linguistics. Psycholinguistics basically concerns with language as psychological phenomenon; and most characteristically with language in the individual (Garman, 1991: xiii). It is a branch of linguistics which studies the correlation between linguistics behaviour and the psychological processes thought to underlie that behaviour. There are two possible directions of study. One may use language as a means of

elucidating psychological theories and processes (role of language as it affects memory, perception, attention, learning, etc.) And for this the term psychological linguistics is sometimes used. Alternatively, one may investigate the effects of psychological constraints on the use of language (for example, how memory limitations affect speech production and comprehension) Another development of psycholinguistics is the study of children language acquisition (Crystal, 1985: 251).

Another interdisciplinary classification of linguistics is sociolinguistics. It is the study of language in relation to society and it draws on insight from sociology, anthropology, and social psychology as well as insights from the areas of linguistics study (Mahukjaer, 1991:415). The discussion of sociolinguistics would be the relationship between language and society, or of various functions of language in society (See Wardaugh, 1988:1). Ethnolinguistics is a branch of linguistics (sometimes overlaps with ethnography of communication) is a branch of linguistics which studies language in relation to the investigation of ethnic types and behaviour. The term overlaps to some degree with anthropological linguistics and sociolinguistics, reflecting the overlapping interest of the correlative disciplines involved-ethnology, anthropology, and sociology (Crystal, 1985: 113; Wardaugh, 1988:238, and Coulthard, 1977: 39-48)

Philology is the science which studies language, culture, institution (regulation), and the history of a nation as written in old written materials (Kridalaksana, 1993: 54). Related to this is epigraphy, the science which studies ancient written text at ancient inscription. And paleography is the study to describe, analyze, and interpret ancient written text. It is also the science to study italics text from middle-age era (See Kridalaksana, 1993: 51 and 153).

A broad interdisciplinary classification in linguistics is semiotics. It is the study of signs in general. Scientists state that linguistics can be seen as that sub-discipline of semiotics which is particularly concerned with the nature of the linguistics signs. It is also the analysis of system using signs or signals for the

purpose of communication (See Malmkjaer, 1991: 359 and Richards, et. all, 1985: 255).

2.2.2.2 Applied Linguistics Classification

Applied linguistics is a general term to refer to any branches of linguistics use, description, methods, and the result of linguistics research for practical uses (See Kridalaksana, 1993: 150-151).

An interested classification and an important branch of applied linguistics is the language teaching. language teaching involves theoretical and practical education related to native language teaching (L1) and foreign language (L2 or others). It also includes methods and materials of language teaching. Language teaching is art and also science (See Kridalaksana, 1993: 163 and Corder, 1973: 9-15). Translation is near to language teaching. Translation is transferring of meaning inter-culture and/or inter-language at grammatical and lexical level with the aim, effect or existence of the information maintained. Translation includes methods, theoretical and practical transferring of meaning from one language to another language (source language to target language) (kridalaksana, 1993: 162).

Lexicography is a branch of applied linguistics that involves methods and techniques of composing dictionary. Lexicographers produce works of several types, e.g. dictionary, thesauruses, glossaries (See Kridalaksana, 1993: 127 and Malmkjaer, 1991: 291). Both applied phonetics and applied sociolinguistics are used for practical issues. Applied phonetics involves methods and techniques of pronouncing/uttering sounds accurately. While applied sociolinguistics is the science of using sociolinguistics concept for practical uses: such as language planning, language construction, etc. (See Kridalaksana, 1993: 201).

International language construction involves the attempts to create communication and internal mutual-understanding by constructing created languages; such as Esperanto, Novial, basic English, etc. While specific language construction is the study to construct terminology and language style in certain

Role of linguistics in human's life or in the world of science becomes important. Nobody can avoid language actually. The development of linguistics implies that there is possibility to have more branches/fields of linguistics, mainly in interdisciplinary classification, in applied fields or in macrolinguistics.

This paper does not study in details all of branches of linguistics. It just show the main classification of linguistics briefly. It is expected that the idea got from this paper will give readers good impression about linguistics. lastly, those who want to know much more about linguistics or like to concentrate on specific branches are expected to study more seriously. It is suggested to begin from the introduction to (general) linguistics and descriptive linguistics.

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