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**CURRENT ISSUES OF FOREIGN PHILOLOGY:  
ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF LANGUAGE**

The problem of language origin is very sophisticated. Assumptions about the origin of the language are made by reasoning, because the original language has no written monuments. Before considering various hypotheses on this subject, it should be emphasized that the issue of the origin of the language should be distinguished from the one of the origin of specific languages. The specific languages, even very ancient ones, did not appear before 10,000 years ago, while the humanity began to speak several hundred thousand years ago. When and how did language appear has been of interest to people since ancient times, but to this day there is no generally accepted answer to that. In ancient times (V-IV centuries BC) the problem of language origin was approached within the framework of philosophical discussions about the essence of language. Representatives of Plato's school believed that objects are not named arbitrarily (not by chance), but according to their nature and features, which testifies to the original character of the language and, accordingly, to the natural biological condition of its occurrence (Florian Rübener, 2006).

In the XVII-XIX centuries several hypotheses of the origin of the language appeared, i.e.:

*Ding-Dong (onomatopoeia) theory.* The idea is that language appeared through human imitation of the sounds of nature. Reproduction of the roar of animals, the cry of birds, the sound of water and wind led to the appearance of the first words, for example, *moo-moo, woof-woof, tweet-tweet, boom* etc., From which derivatives

such as *gurgle, splosh, drip, dripping, drop* were then formed. Sometimes similar-sounding onomatopoeic words are characteristic of several languages: cuckoo sounds like *kukachka* in Czech, *cuckoo* in Spanish, *kuk* in Romanian, *kukavitsa* in Bulgarian, in Polish *kukulka*. This hypothesis was initiated by Democritus (460 BC) and Plato (427-347 BC). In the 19th century it was supported by William Whitney (1827-1894). It is impossible to accept such a theory, because according to it language arose by accident, not by necessity, therefore the existence of a society is not necessary for its emergence. There are very few words formed by onomatopoeia, and in developed languages there are much more of them, than in undeveloped ones. And they sound in different languages, like it was noted, differently. Yes, let's say, to Ukrainians a duck's sound can be heard as *krya-krya*, to the English – *quack-quack*, the French - *kan-kan* (*cancaner* "to croak"), to the Danes – *pan-pan* (*rappe* "to croak").

*The sound-symbolic theory.* This theory is close to onomatopoeia. According to the sound-symbolic theory sounds there is a certain direct connection between the senses and human emotions. With sounds, a person conveys his impressions of the environment. Even the ancient philosopher Aurelius Augustine (354—430) said that the word *mel* "honey" is pleasant to the ear, and *acer* "spicy" is unpleasant. This hypothesis was supported by the German scientists Gottfried-Wilhelm Leibniz (1646—1716), V. Humboldt, Jacob Grimm (1735—1868), Geiman Steinthal (1823—1899), Ukrainian linguist Oleksandr Potebnia (1835—1891). Leibniz, in particular, believed that sound [l] expresses something soft and indicates speed: *leben* "to live", *lieben* "to love", *lauf* "run", *Lowe* "lion", *Luchs* "lynx". According to the observations of V. Humboldt, the sound combination [li] conveys the idea of something what seems to be flowing (*Lied* "song", *Licht* "light") and the sound [w] is associated with restlessness, uncertainty (*Wind* "wind", *Wolke* "cloud", *Wunsch* "desire"). Research of the 80s of the XX century testify in favor of that the

sound-symbolic theory actually played a big role in the research of the emergence of language.

*The pooh-pooh theory.* The essence of the theory is that the objects of the surrounding world evoked certain feelings in a person, and he involuntarily uttered sounds that became the first words. Therefore, the word is a mirror of a person's state of mind. Let's say that a primitive man came across water in the heat and shouted "ah!" with joy. Derivatives were formed from this exclamation – *sigh, groan* etc. and thus the language was formed (Kochergan, 2001). This theory was initiated by the Epicureans of Ancient Greece (IV-III centuries BC), who believed that the emergence of languages was caused by a person's natural need to express his state of mind with sounds. Later this theory was supported by J.-J. Rousseau, who stated that "passions were determined by the first sounds of the voice" and that "the language of the first people was the language of poets."

*The social contract theory.* Its founder is considered to be Diodorus Siculus (90-21 pp. BC), who wrote: "In the beginning, people led an unsettled way of life, like animals. They went out to pastures alone and fed on tasty grass and fruits. Trouble taught them to protect themselves from animals, to help each other. Gradually they began to recognize each other. Their sounds were still unintelligible and inarticulate, but gradually they passed into words and established symbols for each thing, created an understandable explanation for themselves of everything around them."

*Theory of monogenesis* (from the Greek *monos* "one" and *genesis* "birth, origin") is the doctrine of the origin of all languages of the world from one language. This theory is connected with biblical teachings, with the ideas of the Italian linguist Alfredo Trombetti (1866-1929) about the kinship of some families of languages and the legality of their union in a macrofamily, with the teachings of M.Y. Marr about the 4 elements (sal, ber, yon, rosh), from which all the words of modern languages supposedly originate, with the glottochronology method of the American linguist

Morris Swadesh (1909—1967), who proved the existence of large macrofamilies of languages and the presence of relations between them. The theory of monogenesis was supported by the Ukrainian linguist O. Melnychuk (1921—1977), and now it is promoted by the Kyiv linguist Y. Mosenkis (Kochergan, 2001).

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