

LANGUAGE AND HUMAN ECOLOGY: FROM CARTESIAN LINGUISTICS TO ECOLINGUISTICS

A.V. Kravchenko

Segregating language, man, and world, Cartesian linguistics comes short of explaining the function of language as a biological adaptation. To challenge the entrenched perspectives on language as a code for information transfer, we must learn to speak differently, realizing that the ability to think is not an innate feature of the human brain. As interactional activity in the second-order consensual domain, language provides a biological foundation for abstract thought as an adaptive mechanism for ‘simulating’ possible interactions of the organism with the environment. The use of writing marks the next step in the development of this adaptive mechanism, when humans continue their ecological niche construction by creating ‘a world on paper’, saturating their niche with affordances provided by linguistic interactions in the experiential domains of speech and writing. Linguistic interactions in these domains become an ecological factor that both affects and sustains the development of individuals and society as living systems. This, it is argued, should be the subject matter of ecolinguistics as the new paradigm in linguistic explorations.

Keywords and phrases: language myth; living systems; semiosis; consensual domain; language function; ecolinguistics.

References

Kravchenko A.V. Indeksal'nye konstruktsii s glagolami chuvstvennogo vospriyatija v sovremennom anglijskomj azyke [Indexical constructions with perception verbs in Modern English]. Abstract of Philology Cand. Diss. Leningrad, 1987. 14 p.

Kravchenko A.V. Voprosy teorii ukazatel'nosti: Egotsentrichnost'. Deiktichnost'. Indeksal'nost' [Topics in the Theory of Indication: Egocentricity. Deixis. Indexicality]. Irkutsk, Irkutsk University Press Publ., 1992. 212 p.

Kravchenko A.V. O traditsijakh, jazykoznanii i kognitivnom podkhode [On tradition, linguistics, and the cognitive approach]. *Gorizonty sovremennoj lingvistiki: Traditsii i novatorstvo* [The horizons of modern linguistics: Tradition and innovation], Moscow, Jazyki slavjanskikh kul'tur Publ., 2009, pp. 51–65.

Kravchenko A.V. Dva vzgljada na èkologiju jazyka i èkologicheskiju lingvistiku [Two views on language ecology and ecolinguistics]. *Èkologija jazyka i kommunikativnaja praktika*, 2014, no 2, pp. 90–99. Available at: <https://clck.ru/JxaQw> [accessed 11.09.2019].

Kravchenko A.V. Èpistemologicheskaja lovushka jazyka [The epistemological trap of language]. *Vestnik Tomskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta. Filologija*, 2016a, no 3(41), pp. 14–26.

Kravchenko A.V. O vrede strukturalizma dlja zdrorvja obshchestva: jazyk kak èkologicheskaja nisha cheloveka [On how structuralism can harm the well-being of society: language as an ecological niche of humans]. *Èkologija jazyka i kommunikativnaja praktika*, 2016b, no 1, pp. 354–370. Available at: <https://clck.ru/JxaZc> [accessed 11.09.2019].

Bateson G. Steps To an Ecology of Mind: Collected essays in anthropology, psychiatry, evolution, and epistemology. Northvale, NJ, Jason Aronson Inc., 1972. 520 p.

Cowley S. Bio-ecology and language: a necessary unity. *Language Sciences*, 2014, vol. 41, pp. 60–70.

Cowley S., Love N. Language and cognition, or, how to avoid the conduit metaphor. Duszak A., Okulska U. (Eds.), *Bridges and Walls in Metalinguistic Discourse*. Frankfurt/Main, Peter Lang, 2006, pp. 135–154.

Deacon T.W. The Symbolic Species: The co-evolution of language and the human brain. London, Penguin Books Publ., 1997. 527 p.

Deacon T.W. The symbol concept // Tallerman M., Gibson K. (Eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Language Evolution*. Oxford, Oxford University Press Publ., 2011, pp. 393–405.

Dewey J. Experience and Nature. LaSalle, Ill.,Open Court Publ., 1925–1958. 486 p.

Di Paolo E.A., Cuffari E.C., De Jaeger H. Linguistic Bodies: The continuity between life and language. Cambridge, MA, The MIT Press Publ., 2018. 414 p.

Everett D. Biology and language: a consideration of alternatives. *Journal of Linguistics*, 2005, vol. 41, pp. 157–175.

- Harris R. *The Language Myth*. London, Duckworth Publ., 1981. 212 p.
- Järvinen T. The theory of the organism-environment system: I. Description of the theory. *Integrative Physiological and Behavioral Science*, 1998, vol. 33, pp. 317–330.
- Kellogg R.T. *The Psychology of Writing*. Oxford, Oxford University Press Publ., 1994. VIII. 253 p.
- Kravchenko A.V. Essential properties of language, or, why language is not a code. *Language Sciences*, 2007, vol. 29, no 5, pp. 650–671.
- Kravchenko A.V. *Biology of Cognition and Linguistic Analysis: From non-realist linguistics to a realistic language science*. Frankfurt/Main, Peter Lang Publ., 2008. 304 p.
- Kravchenko A.V. The experiential basis of speech and writing as different cognitive domains. *Pragmatics & Cognition*, 2009, vol. 17, no 3, pp. 527–548.
- Kravchenko A.V., Payunena M.V. Education: a value lost? *Dudziak A., Orzechowska J., (red.), Język i tekst w ujęciu strukturalnym i funkcjonalnym*. Olsztyn, Centrum Badań Europy Wschodniej Uniwersytetu Warmińsko-Mazurskiego w Olsztynie Publ., 2017, pp. 239–246.
- Linell P. *The Written Language Bias of Linguistics*. London, Routledge Publ., 2005. 256 p.
- Love N. Cognition and the language myth. *Language Sciences*, 2004, vol. 26, no6, pp. 525–544.
- Maturana H.R. *Biology of Cognition*. BCL Report # 9.0. Urbana, University of Illinois Publ., 1970. 27 p.
- Maturana H.R. The organization of the living: a theory of the living organization. *The International Journal of Man-Machine Studies*, 1975, vol. 7, pp. 313–332.
- Maturana, H. R. Biology of language: The epistemology of reality. *Miller G., Lenneberg E., (Eds.), Psychology and Biology of Language and Thought*. New York: Academic Press, 1978, pp. 27–63.
- Maturana H.R., Mpodozis J., Letelier J. C. Brain, language, and the origin of human mental functions. *Biological Research*, 1995, vol. 28, pp. 15–26.
- Melser D. *The Act of Thinking*. Cambridge, MA, The MIT Press Publ., 2004. 287 p.
- Menary R. Writing as thinking. *Language Sciences*, 2007, vol. 29, no5, pp. 621–632.
- Mitchell K. What are ‘the laws of biology’? *The Biologist*, 2017, vol. 64, no 6, pp. 6.
- Morris C.W. Foundations of the theory of signs. *Neurath O., Carnap R., Morris C. W., (Eds.) International Encyclopedia of Unified Science*, Chicago, 1938, vol. 1, part 2, pp. 1–59.
- Mühlhäuser P. Quo vadis Ecolinguistics. *Steffensen S. V. (Ed.) The Aalpíri papers: two critical reflections on contemporary ecolinguistics*, Odense, SDU Publ., 2019, pp. 6–24.
- Olson D.R. *The World on Paper: The conceptual and cognitive implications of writing and reading*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press Publ., 1994. 318 p.
- Peirce C.S. *Logical Foundations of the Theory of Signs*. Boston, Harvard University Press Publ., 1958. 535 p.
- Port R. Language as a social institution: why phonemes and words do not live in the brain. *Ecological Psychology*, 2010, vol. 22, pp. 304–326
- Putnam H. The meaning of meaning. *Gunderson K., (Ed.), Language, Mind and Knowledge*. Minneapolis, MN, University of Minnesota Press Publ., 1975, pp. 131–193.
- Quine W.V. *Philosophy of Logic*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ, Prentice Hall Publ., 1970. 109 p.
- Raimondi V. The bio-logic of languaging and its epistemological background. *Language Sciences*, 2019, vol. 71, pp. 19–26.
- Reddy M. The conduit metaphor. *Ortony A., (Ed.) Metaphor and Thought*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press Publ., 1979, pp. 284–324.
- Ryle G. *The Concept of Mind*. London, Hutchinson University Library Publ., 1949. 343 p.
- Sinha C. Language and other artifacts: socio-cultural dynamics of niche construction. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 2015, vol. Available at: <https://clck.ru/Ka5WT>[accessed 18.07.2019].
- Trybulec M., Lost in transcription: Language between speaking and writing. *Moyal-Sharrock D., Munz V.A., Coliva A., (Eds.) Mind, Language and Action. Proceedings of 36th International Wittgenstein Symposium*, Kirchberg am Wechsel, 2013, vol. XXI, pp. 424–427.
- Verbrugge R.R. Language and event perception: Steps toward a synthesis. *Warren W.H.Jr., Shaw R.E. (Eds.) Persistence and Change*. Hillsdale, NJ, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publ., 1985, pp. 157–194.
- Wittgenstein L. von. *Philosophical Investigations*, translated by G.E.M. Anscombe. Oxford, Basil Blackwell Publ., 1963. 250 p.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kravchenko Alexander Vladimirovich, Full professor, English Philology
Institute of Philology, Foreign Languages and Media-Communication
Irkutsk State University
8 Lenin St., Irkutsk 664025 Russia
E-mail: sashakr@hotmail.com