

SOME TYPOLOGICAL FEATURES OF KOREAN, JAPANESE AND TATAR LANGUAGES

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Abstract. The relevance of this work is determined by introducing new aspects of teaching Korean and Japanese languages as well as presenting current situation of Korean and Japanese language education in Kazan Federal University.

The first goal of this paper is to find out similarities and differences of some aspects of Korean, Japanese and Tatar language through researches of different scientists that studied classification language families. The second goal is to show advantages of teaching Korean and Japanese languages through Tatar language.

The main material for the study was methods of teaching oriental languages by using approach of comparison with Tatar language as it can make adaptation to the language a lot easier. The key finding of the study may be considered as the proof of efficiency of using this method in Korean and Japanese language education. The materials of this article may be helpful for school and university teachers of Korean and Japanese at the advanced level, as well as for educators and developers of educational materials.

Keywords: Korean language, Japanese language, Tatar language, teaching methods, eastern languages.

1. INTRODUCTION

The relevance of Oriental languages as an object of study that arose during influence of Korean and Japanese modern culture between students of Russia, particular in Republic of Tatarstan, led to the growth of numbers of students that want to study Korean or Japanese language in the last 10 years (Garmaeva, 2014).

This paper is devoted to comparative analysis of some aspects of Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages. Systematic studying of these three languages led to the conclusion that they have similar structure (Gainullina, 2017). The relevance of this study is determined by the fact that students that know Tatar language face fewer difficulties in the process of learning Korean or Japanese language due to structural similarities of these three languages.

Japanese and Korean languages have similar grammatical system as Altaic family of languages (Ramstedt, 1939), and Tatar language belongs to the Turkic branch of the Altaic family of languages (Baskakov, 1952). Comparative analysis of sentence structure of these three languages becomes the beginning of comprehensive comparative study of the entire grammatical systems of Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages.

The significance of this paper is determined by new method of teaching Korean and Japanese languages to Tatar speaking students. This method reveals the similar aspects of Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages. And applying of this method will make it easier to teach Korean and Japanese language for teachers, and to learn them to students of faculty of oriental Studies and faculty of Foreign Languages in republic of Tatarstan.

2. METHODS

As part of the study we had to solve the following tasks: to research and analyze the existing traditional and innovative methods of teaching oriental languages, to find out similarities and differences of Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages in some aspects.

To solve these tasks we used a complex of different methods mutually reinforcing each other: the comparative method; the analytical method; the comparative-contrastive and comparative-historical methods that helped us to disclose reasons for the similarities of three studying languages. Main

subjects for the study were structure of sentences in Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages; affixes of Tatar language and connecting particles of Korean and Japanese languages; advantages and disadvantages of studying foreign language through the method of comparison it with students' mother tongue.

3. RESULTS

According to linguistic researches there are four basic types of languages due to their typological structure: fusional, agglutinative, isolating and polysynthetic (Croft, 2003). These are four different types of compounding words in a sentence. Inflected languages build its grammar with inflections (endings, prefixes, prepositions). Almost all European languages are based on this system. Isolating languages are the types of languages with no inflectional morphology. Functions of inflections in these languages are implemented by the words order in a sentence, or special words which play the role of the service, or intonation, etc (Croft, 2003). Agglutinative languages have no prefixes or prepositions. The role of prepositions in such languages is performed by postpositions. And the last type is incorporating languages, often referred to as polysynthetic languages, in which a single though extensively long word may represent an entire phrase, or even sentence, including a verb, an adjective and even an object. Words in polysynthetic languages are formed either by inflection or extensive agglutination.

Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages are agglutinating languages. As practice has been showing, native speakers of Tatar language face fewer difficulties in the process of understanding the peculiar structures of Korean or Japanese sentences in comparison with Russian speaking students. Typologists often divide languages into types according to so-called basic word order, understood as the order of subject (S), object (O) and verb (V) in a typical declarative sentence. The vast majority of languages fall into one of three groups: SOV, SVO and VSO. If we speak about structures of Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages, they all have the same basic word order: SOV, while Russian or English languages are based on SVO structure (*Linguistic dictionary*, 1990).

Table 1: Simple sentence structure

Tatar	Korean	Japanese
The structure of simple sentence in these three languages is performed by		
Subject – Object – Predicate.		
Example: How we say “I eat an apple” in Tatar, Korean and Japanese:		
Мин алма ашыйм.	나는 사과를 먹는다. <i>Naneun sagwareul mogneunda.</i>	私がリンゴを食べま す。 <i>Watashiga ringowo tabemasu.</i>
Мин – I	나 – I	Watashi – I
алма – apple	사과 – apple	Ringo – apple
ашыйм – eat	먹는다 – eat	Tabemasu – eat

It means that the structure of the sentences of Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages are very similar, so explaining some aspects of Korean and Japanese languages to the speakers of Tatar language may cause less difficulties in students’ understanding and overall language perception.

Particularly when the second language shares a wide range of structures with the mother tongue, transfer is a powerful process that can already take the learner deep into the new system (Odlin, 1989).

For example when studying English or other Indo-European language, the most common ways of learning are memorizing of new words and grammar rules, which differ from the rules of the Russian language, but still easy to understand intuitively transferring overall language system from one language to another.

In order to prove language similarities, comparative analysis of connective particles in Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages was held. According to linguists the main nominal grammatical category in Japanese language is the category of case (Alpatov, Arkadyev, & Podlesskaya, 2008). Traditionally the category of case requires inflexion, while in Japanese the category of case is introduced by postpositional particles. In Korean language, Ramstedt also distinguishes the possessive system (Ramstedt, 1939). Noun making functions of postpositions in Korean and Japanese language are similar to the functions of case indices in languages with inflections, for example, in Tatar language.

Connecting particles in Korean and Japanese languages join the names by defining their syntactic function. In Japanese postpositions are divided into primary and secondary. Primary postpositions are indicators of syntactic relations in pure form. They are *の no* (attribution), *が ga* (subject), *を wo* (direct object), *に ni* (indirect object) are the indicators of actantial relations. Secondary postpositions are *で de*, *と to*, *へ e*, *から kara*, *より yori*, *まで made*, *にて nite*, *ほど hodo*, *ぐらい gurai*.

In Korean language nouns, pronouns and adverbs do not change, but they can connect with particles to show word relations in a sentence (grammatical particles) or to express the meaning of words (semantic particles). Nouns have no grammatical gender. Category of person is almost not expressed. Predicate can have a category of personal relations (the so-called forms of politeness) (Brechalova, 2009).

As the basis of contrastive linguistic analysis semantics of grammatical category of case in Tatar language were taken. For six grammatical cases of Tatar language there were selected semantic equivalents of Korean and Japanese languages.

Thus, applying comparative approach, the investigation of some Korean, Japanese and Tatar noun marking particles was held. We concluded that the semantics of the particles is mostly similar.

1. DISCUSSIONS

The method of learning foreign language through building the analogies between one’s mother tongue and foreign language learnt is being discussed by the range of educators. The method of transferring has its advantages and disadvantages. For example, when the second language shares a wide range of structures with the mother tongue, transfer is a powerful process that can already take the learner deep into the new system (Odlin, 1989). That is way learning Korean or Japanese language through Tatar language may be considered reasonable. For example, when Tatar native speakers begin to learn Korean or Japanese, they already know how word order usually signals meaning, the expressing of subject and object relationship and so on. Overall, however, they can transfer a large body of relevant mother tongue knowledge, which makes the second language learning process easier and quicker.

2. SUMMARY

Though Korea and Japan are close geographically, genetic relationship between Korean and Japanese languages is still being discussed by numerous linguists (Logie, 2016). But the fact that these two languages have considerable similarities in typological features of their syntax and morphology is undoubted. There are numerous researches on comparative linguistics devoted to different aspects of Korean and Japanese languages. Contrastive linguistic analysis of Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages is being held for the first time. Revealed similarities may become applicable for better understanding of the logic of Korean and Japanese languages.

3. CONCLUSIONS

According to the fundamental technique of comparative linguistics some aspects of morphological systems of Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages were analyzed. The following language similarities were revealed during the research process: Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages have the same basic word order principle in sentence. One more category which was studied in Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages is the category of aspect: the ways of expressing it morphologically and main case semantic groups. It was concluded that in Korean and Japanese languages the meaning of case is expressed by postpositional particles, whereas in Tatar language in order to show the case affixes are being used. As far as case category semantics is concerned, there were revealed the range of similarities. Due to sameness of three languages which was disclosed during the process of studying, we believe that it is reasonable to use the method of transferring when explaining the structures of Korean and Japanese languages to Tatar speaking learners.

In conclusion we would like to mention that the research will become the basis of further investigation of Korean, Japanese and Tatar languages in different aspects, as well as developing of new methods of teaching Korean and Japanese languages to Tatar speaking students.

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