

Sociolinguistic Aspect of Private Language

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It has been universally accepted that a natural language is a communal, shared activity, a kind of public property. Some have insisted that it is essentially public. However the 20th century philosophy of language has brought to us the term of private language. The term private language is famously associated with the argument that was initiated by the Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations. A private language is an exclusive language intelligible only to a restricted group of people. The reasons for using such a language are to maintain secrecy to distinguish group members from outsiders; or just to have fun. These secret languages are found in many cultures and subcultures. The "in-group" may be large or small. Some private languages are fairly intelligible, while others are completely opaque. The private language being considered is not simply a language "in fact" understood by one person, but a language that "in principle" can only be understood by one person. So the last speaker of a dying language would not be speaking a private language, since the language remains in principle learnable. A private language must be not so easy to translate or understand, and yet it must appear that the speaker is able to make sense of it. Private languages sometimes invent new vocabulary and grammar. More often, they use distorted spellings or pronunciations of commonly used words, or they give new meanings to everyday words. For example, pig Latin is derived from everyday English. Perhaps the most common form of private usage in English occurs in families. Parents often coin private usages, such as nicknames and child-orientated euphemisms for bodily parts and functions, and adopt expressions used by their children when they were learning to speak. Twins are also sometimes credited with developing a private language that only they can understand. Family usages are often sustained for years without outsiders knowing much or anything about them. Such languages are difficult to study because they often change rapidly and investigators have difficulty gaining admission to the groups that use them. And although private language is widespread, no definitive study of the subject as a whole currently exists. Many philosophers have argued about whether or not a private language is possible. Ludwig Wittgenstein explained it this way: "The words of this language are to refer to what can be known only to the speaker; to his immediate, private sensations. So another cannot understand the language." But Wittgenstein concluded that such a private language is impossible because the originator would be unable to establish meanings for its signs; you can't name anything you aren't acquainted with. For example, even the sensation of itching derives its identity from a shared use of language. Thus, the problem of Private language has not been thoroughly analyzed yet. Still this theme is very topical nowadays. The Private Language argument is of lasting significance to philosophy and of great interest to linguistics. All these have determined the topic of the following study: "Private language. Sociolinguistic aspect." In this work the analysis is based on the practical material taken from the works by Wittgenstein, Kripke, Rhees, Fodor, Baker, Russel and some other scientists. The object of this study is the theoretical research of modern language. The subject of this study is the area of practical existence of Private languages. The aim of this study is to find and examine the areas of usage of Private languages in the modern world. The purposes of this study are the following - to specify the essence of the term "Private language" - to investigate various approaches towards the problem of the

existence of private languages - to carry out the main reasons that determine the use of Private languages Methods of investigation: analysis of the modern linguistic literature, study of recent research, comparison and analysis of modern written and oral speech.

References

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