

# **THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OF THE LANGUAGES FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES**

**Jagotka Strezovska**

University “Kliment Ohridski” – Bitola

[jagodastrezovska@yahoo.de](mailto:jagodastrezovska@yahoo.de)

**Biljana Ivanovska**

University „Goce Delcev” – Stip

[biljana.ivanovska@ugd.edu.mk](mailto:biljana.ivanovska@ugd.edu.mk)

**Викторија Крстовска**

[viktoriya\\_krstovska@hotmail.com](mailto:viktoriya_krstovska@hotmail.com)

University „Goce Delcev” – Stip

## **Abstract**

The science of the language – the linguistic, is not only dedicated to the linguistic researches, but also to explaining the relation between the language and the society. This science requires particularly the sociology, politology, psychology, economy and the history to discover what is happening with the language. The linguistics can give only a small contribution in the researches of the linguistic system. On the other side, the communication, as seen from the pragmatic and technical aspect, has need of a rational and functional language.

With this paper we want to describe the linguistic for specialized languages as a scientific discipline, that gives above all an overview in the contemporary development of the language. It researches and portrays the specialized lexis, and contributes to the expansion and enrichment both the specialized linguistic stock and every language in general. The languages for special purposes have an essential significance in the development of the occupation and the modern sciences and disciplines. The interests in this paper will be focused on the importance of the scientific researches of the languages for special purposes because the lexis of one language is changeable and it is not given once and for all. There is a need of consistent and continuous researches in order to monitor every linguistic change.

Keywords: applied linguistics, LSP, lexis, terminology.

## INTRODUCTION

Being a part of the applied linguistics, the linguistics of the languages for special purposes (LSP) portrays the contemporary tendencies of the LSP from both scientific and practical aspect. The differentiation of the working field of the human and the historical changes are altering thus increasing the range of the linguistics of the LSP. Nowadays we are facing a wide sphere of new and current issues and problems such as the bilingual and multilingual terminology of the vocational languages, the tendency of using an international terminology, the world standards, the translation, the study of LSP etc.

This paper will be focused on the importance of the scientific research of the LSP since the lexis of one language is changeable and it is not given once and for all. Consistent and continuous researches are necessary in order to monitor every linguistic change. This issue is relevant on all scientific levels and concerns the scientist as the writer of a non-fiction article, as well as the teaching staff and the students.

## THE GOAL OF THE LINGUISTICS OF LSP

The linguistics of LSP is a young branch of the linguistics dealing with research of the language for special purposes. Its main goal is to discover and explore the validity of the occurrence, the development and the significance of the LSP. This science is exploring the LSP in a diachronic perspective thus following their development and studying their current linguistic stock. A complete overview of the language system of particular vocations and areas is obtained as a result of such researches.

Nowadays, there is no doubt that the new benefits from the science and the economy affect the LSP. The influence of the scientific-technical languages in the syntax and lexis leads to modifications in the common language<sup>1</sup> therefore the LSP contribute not only in their area, but also in many other related disciplines, as well as the common language.

The language change occurs in parallel with the economical changes and the changes in the leisure time of the individual and any other influences that affect the individual. The pragmatic function of the language is more important for the LSP in comparison to the language change. Recent researches of LSP showed a large number of linguistic, sociocultural and

---

<sup>1</sup>Fluck, H.-R.: *Fachsprachen. Einführung und Bibliographie*, Tübingen/Basel: A: Francke Verlag, 1985, 167.

psychological factors which regulate the creation and the existence of the LSP and the communicational proficiency of the expert.

The LSP are an important segment of the linguistic research, especially in the lexicology. The researches are focused on certain areas used in the study of LSP, translation and publication of scientific and specialized literature. If someone would ask, In which area should the research of the LSP be placed?, the answer would be: in the applied linguistics. The applied linguistics is by now the most productive and purely empiric method which records, analyses, evaluates categorizes and explains the elements of LSP on all levels. The interpretation of the overall characteristics of the LSP cannot be only analyzed. The methodology in the application of the analysis refers to the identification and registration of the differences which exist in the given dictionaries, their comparison to the norm in the LSP i.e. with the principles of the language system and explanation of some aspects in order to verify the results.

The LSP is explored using a method which combines continuity, change, normative, function and creativity. The methodology of the LSP analysis consists of four phases:

1. Creating a corpus
2. Discovering the specific specialized elements
3. Their analysis
4. Defining (establishment).

The corpus for LSP analysis starts with specification- whether the corpus will be from the spoken or the written language. The next step is collecting segments from the corpus - recording a large number of interviews if the corpus is from the spoken language or a lot of written materials if it is from the written language. Afterwards, the terms, as the main carriers of the meaning in the text, are analyzed and, at the same time, linguistic principles and techniques are used to define, explain, classify and systematically interpret the specific forms which appear in a specialized article.

The differentiation of the working field of the human and the historical changes are altering thus increasing the range of the linguistics of the LSP. Nowadays we are facing a wide sphere of new and current issues and problems. The LSP linguistics expands constantly and becomes more and more complex. It even exceeds the linguistic boundaries, expands the differentiation, the method and the way it works. At the beginning, it was a lexicological and terminological dominant linguistic. Nowadays, it has an increased number of new linguistic disciplines – of course without damaging the terminology, especially the multilingual which still has the most important role. These two aspects – the affluence of the subject and the way of work – are a reflexion of the linguistic researches. They cover the problems of the

bilingual and multilingual terminology in the LSP, presented as a heteroclitic LSP; the tendency for international terminology aspiring for a faster approach to the world standards; the study of LSP etc.

The number of the intense LSP researches is increasing constantly. Some of the notable LSP educational centers should be mentioned: “The University of Economy” in Vienna and the “Department of Economy” in Copenhagen where a general development of the linguistic is achieved through the research of the terminology, lexicography, the LSP education for adults etc.

### REASONS FOR LSP RESEARCH

There are a lot of reasons for a scientific research of the LSP phenomenon of which the most important is the influence the LSP has on the common language. On the other side, there is an increased international mix, not only in the area of the economy, which encourages the experts to communicate using a language for special purposes.

The large terminological expansion is an essential element of these occurrences which is usually difficult to control – the wave of novelty in one occupation carries a lot of specialized terms, oftentimes whole terminological systems.

This modern way of the linguistic research strives for the LSP to satisfy the needs in a particular economic or non-economic branches more rationally and, at the same time, to overcome, understand and apply them in practice. The LSP are also an important source for the ongoing scientific and specialized information.

As a result of the increased importance of the vocations in a given society, the LSP research has expanded its role and goals:

1. To record the vocational knowledge in the database, the specializes lexis and specialized book
2. To inform, introduce and direct the specialized internal organization
3. To educate the experts in the occupation and in the vocational schools
4. To transfer the specialized knowledge if it is necessary in order to communicate in specialized situations (for example: buying or selling a plane ticket, booking a room, making a brochure, explaining the way of cooking a certain meal etc.).
5. Translation for international exchange of specialized information
6. The LSP has a more expressive role in the standard language because the specialized literature is enlarging and invading the ordinary man's life. This is the reason why there is a necessity of studying the language characteristics of the LSP both on the native language, as well as the LSP on a foreign language.

## THE WAY OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE LSP RESEARCH

The LSP research has several ways of development:

1. Lexical and terminological
2. Functional and linguistic
3. Economic linguistics
4. Functional stylistics
5. Translation of scientific and specialized articles

At the beginning of the scientific research of the LSP, the linguist had to follow the development of the specialized terminology of a given occupation both on the native and the foreign language in order to create correct and precise specialized sentences for the large number of fields that nowadays are needed. The terminological sentences are required for both the wide and the narrow area of expertise. The linguist exploring the LSP should have a thorough knowledge of the specialized terms, constantly consulting with experts from the given field. The everyday monitoring of the occupation is necessary both in the home country and the country whose language is the subject of comparison.

In Europe, the LSP arose interest at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In Germany, the first debates for the LSP were intensified in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. In general, the linguists share the same opinion regarding the LSP, that is, the LSP is an addition to the common language. However, they also have controversial opinions about many issues which nowadays are a subject of discussions and projects<sup>2</sup>. From a diachronic viewpoint, the economical linguistics researches the language as a mirror of the economic history which, philologically speaking, directs the issues from the lexicology.

The LSP originates from the economy, the art and the science. The languages for special purposes evaluate the specialized fields and, by improving the speciality, they allow standardization on the terms, as well as their finalization and further transfer of knowledge. The reasons for the development of the LSP are: exactness, precision, but also the expert's wish for exclusiveness in distinction from the ones that are not familiar with the specialized field.

Fundamentally, it is believed that the specialized linguistic structures and characteristics, which are registered in all the languages for special purposes and specialized articles, can be recognized. Using the characteristics of the

---

<sup>2</sup> John, Trim/Brian, North/Daniel, Coste/Joseph, Sheils: *Gemeinsamer europäischer Referenzrahmen für Sprachen: lernen, lehren, beurteilen*. Landesverlag, Linz, 2001.

LSP, the expert can separate himself from its environment the same way a nation can be distinguished from other nations by linguistic and other differences. The LSP can be a guarantee for development and specialization of the experts, but it can connect the experts from different nations.

Every professional has a vocabulary full of specialized terms and phrases, constantly using the appropriate distinctive features. The common characteristics of the LSP are:

1. Expert knowledge, objectivity, logic, correctness, exactness, simplicity and clearness, thoroughness, abstractness and informativeness,
2. Logical, linguistic and architectonic analysis of the text, a solid plan for creation of the text, a monologic character of the speech,
3. Quotes, parallelism, antithesis, numeration, repeating, absence of expressivity, absence of emotivity, clichés,
4. Declarative sentence, complex syntactic constructions, hypotaxis, passive constructions, direct word order, participles, infinitive and gerundive constructions, complete sentence, objectivity, strong attribution,
5. Permanent changes parallel with the common language;
6. Proofs, clarification, argumentation
7. Nominalisation, terms, concepts (absence of illustration), objective and logical meaning, abstracts, neologisms, borrowed words, latin and greek root morphemes unproductive suffixes, verbal nouns,
8. Extensive usage of different stylistic devices, usage of singular, impersonal and passive verb forms,
9. Non-linguistic auxiliary means such as boards, diagrams and schemes,
10. Usage of necessary shortcuts, numbers, symbols and signs.

The most important characteristic, which makes the main difference from the other languages, is the specific specialized terminology. According to the abovementioned characteristics, we can come to the conclusion that every LSP insists on synonymity and denotation. Every language for special purposes has its own specific specialized lexis of which one has to have a good knowledge in order to understand the specialized literature. The specific lexis is the main reason that the language is incomprehensible to those who have no knowledge of the given field.<sup>3</sup> Oftentimes, the role of the LSP is not reflected enough. The LSP is not just a mean of communication, but an instrument which helps getting the knowledge.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OF THE LSP

---

<sup>3</sup> So for example, not everyone could understand the Einstein's theory of relativity, if he doesn't have knowledge of maths and astronomy

Contemporary linguistics, in accordance with the current scientific processes of the LSP, approaches the language as an entwined and conditional phenomenon connected to numerous external factors which influence the communication in different scientific and specialized fields.

The importance of the language for special purposes refers to the need that this language has to satisfy on the scientific, technological, business and trading organisations and praxis. The LSP embodies the subjects, the structures and the processes of a given specialized field or subject level and enables the usage of the specialised communication.

The language as a basic mean of communication is essential in the global competition of the tourist market. The language enables a successful business communication during the business negotiations and the conclusion of agreements, during a presentation of the touristic product and the direct contact with the guests.

As means of international communication, the importance of the LSP is expanding and the future of the international tourism can not be imagined without good communication. According to Gerbert<sup>4</sup>, this communication is the precondition in the specialised knowledge. In tourism, the LSP considers the cultural, political, ethnographical, sociological, psycholinguistical, ethnical and other factors and includes the law, the traditions, the habits or, in few words, the whole culture of a nation.

At this point of the development of the world, the factors that determine the need of the thorough study of the LSP are the encreasing dependency and collaboration on technological and economical level, the making of international scientific and technical projects, the changeable scientific information and cultural achievements, the wider and more diverse contacts for the individuals, organisations (tourist agencies and offices), the institutions in different countries, the political dependency and the diplomatic activity.

In the contemporary language of every nation, the languages for special purposes have an increasing significance in the scientific, technical and social fields. The LSP researches are helpful in the making of dictionaries and terminological lists. Although this is one of the oldest linguistic activities, the interest increases both for the general lexicography and for the terminological theory, namely for pure scientific needs, as well as for the praxis.

The specialized vocabulary and all of the linguistic elements are of great help to the experts, the participants in the science and technique and the goods

---

<sup>4</sup> Gerbert, M.: *Übersetzen, Übertragen und Referieren in der Sprachkundigenausbildung*. In: *Fremdsprachenunterricht* 19, 1975, 531-539.

consumers during the communication about specific issues and the organization in the process of working.

The research shows that the LSP in other European countries have taken an important place in the language science for a while now. This is confirmed by a large number of lexicons<sup>5</sup>, dictionaries, as well as the abundant so called thesauruses – treasures of words which, nowadays, can be found in the electronic mediums<sup>6</sup> and are available to every expert, teachers of LSP, translators and to anyone in need of information at any time.

The linguistic analysis of the LSP provides information about the methodology of the study of the language for special purposes and enables the writing of better coursebooks, handbooks etc.; and extends the general linguistics at the same time. The results from the researches could also be applied in:

1. The classes in the native language, language cultivation, language enrichment, language standardization, (especially standardization of the terminology)
2. The classes in foreign language, above all in the selection of the linguistic mediums, where the preference is given to the shortest forms
3. Intermediation of the language, especially in the translation
4. Machine editing of information and translation as well as for the preparation of supplements in the databases
5. Language pragmatics

The linguistics for the LSP is not only meant for the linguists i.e. the philologists, but also for the teaching staff in the vocational education at the universities, faculties and vocational schools, for the students, the specialized translators, the authors of the language coursebooks, terminology normators, computer scientists, as well as the representers of all scientific and technical disciplines who read their specialized literature in the original and the specialized language – in publications, and where there are efforts for good and effective proficiency of the LSP.

The research of the language for special purposes has a synchronic character. Basically, the applied linguistic is interested in the way the language communication in the current phase of development functions. The research of the LSP includes monitoring the legitimate language development without getting deeper in the research of the language history.

---

<sup>5</sup> Schroeder, Günter: *Lexikon der Tourismuswirtschaft*, Tour Con Hannelore Niedecken GmbH, Hamburg, 4. Auflage, 2002.

<sup>6</sup> [www.thesarius.tour.de](http://www.thesarius.tour.de)



The changes in the nature and in the society can be immediately recognized in the current state of the language and they represent the tendencies of the development. This does not apply only to the large impact of the LSP on the development of the entire language, but also applies to the language for special purposes.

What is the role that a certain LSP has? In which situations and what affects the choice of different language elements from the language system, from the role of borrowed words and the creation of new words, to borrowing whole syntagms or syntactic constructions? These are only part of several bigger question whose answers the linguistic researches look for in the pragmatical and situational state of the languages for special purposes. Who, when, where, why and for which purpose uses the specialized terms and foreign specialized lexemes?

The tight european culture is an important source and a creative potential for development of all european languages spoken on the old continent and that should be accepted positively in the future.

The comparative analysis of the languages for special purposes offers more efficient results in the lexicology, the translation and the classes in the LSP. In our country there is a big need of proper, precise dictionaries and lexicons. The dictionaries are necessary both for the wide and the narrow specialized field. Continuous and good collaboration between the experts and the linguists is needed for fundamental research of the languages for special purposes.

#### CONCLUSION:

Recently, in the linguistics, great interest was shown for the languages for special purposes. The linguistics of the LSP is constantly enhancing and has its own scientific and historical profile which extends from the Prague functional stylistics up to the present.

The field of research of the linguistics is too narrow in order to throw light at the relations between the language and the society. The language science needs the sociology, politology, psychology, economy and the history to discover what is happening with the language. The linguistics can give only a small contribution. On the other side, the communication, from pragmatic and technical aspect, is in need of a rational, functional language.

The linguistics of the LSP as a scientific discipline portrays the contemporary development of the language. It explores and documents the specialized lexis and contributes to the expansion and enrichment of not only the specialized linguistic stock, but every language in general. The languages for special purposes are of great importance for the development of the specialized fields, as well as the modern sciences and disciplines.

## REFERENCES

1. Gerbert, M.: *Übersetzen, Übertragen und Referieren in der Sprachkundigenausbildung*. In: Fremdsprachenunterricht 19.
2. Schroeder, Günter: *Lexikon der Tourismuswirtschaft*, Tour Con Hannelore Niedecken GmbH, Hamburg, 4. Auflage, 2002.
3. Baumann, Klaus-Dieter/Kalverkämpfer, Hartwig: *Kontrastive Fachsprachenforschung. Forum für Fachsprachenforschung* 20. Tübingen: Narr 1992.
4. Filipović, Rudolf: *Teorija jezika u kontaktu*, Zagreb, 1986.
5. John, Trim/Brian, North/Daniel, Coste/Joseph, Sheils: *Gemeinsamer europäischer Referenzrahmen für Sprachen: lernen, lehren, beurteilen*. Landesverlag, Linz, 2001.
6. Fluck, H.-R.: *Fachsprachen. Einführung und Bibliographie*, Tübingen/Basel: A: Francke Verlag, 1985