

TRANSFORMATION OF LINGUISTIC THEORY FROM CLASSICAL TO MODERN: SEMANTIC STUDIES, DALALAH SCIENCE, AND MUFRADAT

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the development of modern linguistic theory through a literature study approach by reviewing the relationship between semantics, ilmu dalalah, and mufradat in Western and Arabic linguistic traditions. This study is motivated by the development of linguistics that does not only focus on language structure, but also includes meaning, function, cognition, and socio-cultural context. The method used is a literature study by examining various primary and secondary sources relevant to the development of linguistic theory from classical to contemporary times. The results of the study show that modern linguistic theory has undergone a transformation from a philosophical approach to a more systematic and multidisciplinary scientific approach. In the Western tradition, the development of linguistics is marked by the contributions of figures such as Ferdinand de Saussure, Noam Chomsky, Leonard Bloomfield, and Michael Halliday. Meanwhile, in the Arabic tradition, ilmu dalalah developed through classical figures such as Abu Al-Aswad Ad-Du'ali, Sibawaih, and Al-Jurjani, as well as modern figures such as Ibrahim Anis and Tammam Hassan. In addition, the study of mufradat shows that vocabulary is closely related to grammatical structure and the context of meaning, and has experienced developments due to globalization and technology. In conclusion, modern linguistics is an integration of various approaches encompassing structural, semantic, functional, and cognitive aspects, enriched by the Arabic linguistic tradition. Modern linguistics studies not only the structure of language but also its meaning and use in social and cultural contexts.

Keywords: linguistik modern, semantik, ilmu dalalah, mufradat, studi literatur.

1 INTRODUCTION

The development of linguistics as the study of language has undergone a long journey from the classical era to the modern era. Language is no longer understood simply as a means of communication, but also as a complex system of signs involving the relationship between form, meaning, thought, and social and cultural contexts. In its development, modern linguistics focuses not only on language structure but also encompasses the study of meaning (semantics), language function, language acquisition, and the relationship between language and human cognition. This paradigm shift demonstrates that linguistics is a dynamic discipline that continues to evolve in response to the needs of the times and advances in science.

In its early stages, the study of language was heavily influenced by the traditions of ancient Greek philosophy. Figures such as Aristotle and Plato laid the foundations for thinking about the relationship between words and meaning, although at that time a structured linguistic system had not yet been established. Their thinking laid the initial foundation for the birth of the study of meaning in language. Entering the 19th century, linguistics began to develop into a more systematic discipline through the contributions of figures such as C. Chr. Reisig and Michel Bréal, who introduced semantics as the scientific study of linguistic meaning. This development was further strengthened by Ferdinand de Saussure, who introduced a structural approach to linguistics through the concepts of langue and parole, as well as the theory of linguistic signs consisting of the signifier and the signified.

The shift in linguistic paradigms further developed in the 20th century with the emergence of various major schools of thought, such as structuralism, generativism, and functionalism. Leonard Bloomfield, with his structuralist approach, emphasized the importance of empirical and objective language analysis, while Noam Chomsky, with his transformational generative grammar theory, introduced the concept of Universal Grammar, emphasizing that human language ability is innate. On the other hand, the functional approach developed by Michael Halliday emphasized that language must be understood based on its social function in the context of communication. These three schools

of thought demonstrate that modern linguistics has developed into a discipline that focuses not only on structure but also on the functions and cognitive processes of language.

In addition to developments in the Western world, the Arabic linguistic tradition has also made significant contributions to the study of language, particularly through the science of *dalalah*. The science of *dalalah* is a branch of linguistics that examines the relationship between linguistic signs and their meanings. In the classical Arabic tradition, this study developed alongside the need to understand religious texts such as the Qur'an and Hadith more deeply. Figures such as Abu Al-Aswad Ad-Du'ali, Sibawaih, and Al-Jurjani made significant contributions to the development of grammatical systems and the analysis of meaning. Al-Jurjani's thinking on *nazm*, for example, emphasized that meaning is determined not only by individual words but also by structural relationships within sentences.

Over time, Arabic linguistics has also undergone a transformation toward a modern approach. Figures such as Ibrahim Anis, Tammam Hassan, Mahmoud Hegazy, and Ahmad Mukhtar Omar developed semantic studies with a more systematic, contextual, and modern analytical approach. They integrated Western linguistic theory with Arabic tradition, resulting in a new approach to understanding linguistic meaning. This development demonstrates the process of adaptation and integration between classical and modern linguistic traditions in the Arab world.

Furthermore, the study of vocabulary has also become a crucial part of linguistic development. Vocabulary is not simply understood as a collection of words, but as a basic unit of language closely related to structure and meaning. In Arabic, vocabulary consists of nouns (nouns), verbs (verbs), and letters (letters), each of which has specific grammatical and semantic functions. Understanding vocabulary cannot be separated from the context in which it is used in a sentence, as word meaning is highly dependent on syntactic and morphological structures, and the communication situation. Therefore, the study of vocabulary is a crucial part of understanding how language works systematically.

The development of modern Arabic also demonstrates significant changes in the lexical system due to the influence of globalization, technology, and interlanguage interaction. Many new vocabulary words have emerged through borrowing and neologisms, making modern Arabic more dynamic and adaptive. This demonstrates that language is not static, but constantly changing according to the needs of its users. This phenomenon also reinforces the view that language is closely related to the culture and social development of its speakers.

Based on these developments, it can be seen that modern linguistics is the result of the integration of various scientific traditions, both from the West and the Arab world. Studies of semantics, *dalalah* science, and *mufradat* demonstrate that language cannot be understood solely from a single perspective but must be analyzed multidisciplinary, encompassing structural, cognitive, social, and cultural aspects. Therefore, a comprehensive literature review is crucial to understand how modern linguistic theory developed and how various figures and schools of thought have contributed to shaping our understanding of language.

This research is significant because it provides a broader overview of the development of modern linguistic theory, particularly in relation to semantics, *dalalah* science, and *mufradat*. Using a literature study approach, this research hopes to identify patterns in the development of linguistic theory from classical to modern times and examine how the integration of various linguistic approaches can provide a more comprehensive understanding of language. Furthermore, this research is also expected to contribute to the development of linguistic studies, particularly in the context of Arabic language learning and linguistics in general.

Thus, this study is not only historical descriptive but also analytical, examining the transformation of modern linguistic theory as part of the ever-evolving development of linguistics in line with the demands of the times.

2 RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach with a literature review method. This method was chosen because the research focuses on collecting, analyzing, and synthesizing various written sources related to the development of modern linguistic theory. Through literature review, researchers

can understand the development of concepts, paradigm shifts, and the interrelationships between linguistic theories over time without directly collecting field data.

2.1 Research Design

This research design is descriptive-analytical, systematically describing and analyzing various modern linguistic theories developed by experts. The analysis is conducted by interpreting the content of various literature sources to identify patterns of theoretical development, differences in approach, and the contribution of each theory to linguistic studies.

2.2 Data Source

The data sources for this study come from secondary sources in the form of scientific literature relevant to the research topic. This literature includes:

Linguistics textbooks from leading experts

- National and international scientific journal articles
- Proceedings of academic seminars and conferences
- E-books and scientific publications accessible online

The theories focused on this study include structuralism, generativism, functionalism, sociolinguistics, and modern technology-based linguistics such as computational linguistics and natural language processing.

2.3 Data Collection Technique

Data collection techniques were conducted through documentation with the following steps:

- Identify literature relevant to the topic of the development of modern linguistic theory.
- Collect sources from scientific databases such as Google Scholar, JSTOR, ResearchGate, and other digital libraries.
- Sort the literature based on relevance, credibility, and novelty.
- In-depth reading of each selected literature to obtain important information related to the research objectives.
- Record and group information based on themes or schools of linguistic theory.

2.4 Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis was conducted using content analysis techniques. In this process, researchers examined the content of each literature to identify key concepts, differences in perspectives between theories, and developments in modern linguistics. The analysis stages include:

- Data reduction, which involves filtering important information from the various literature sources collected.
- Data categorization, which involves grouping theories based on specific linguistic schools or approaches.
- Data interpretation, which involves explaining the relationships between theories and their developments over time.
- Conclusion drawing, which involves summarizing the analysis results into a comprehensive picture of the evolution of modern linguistic theory.

2.5 Data Validity

To ensure data validity, this study employed source triangulation, comparing information from various literature sources to ensure the consistency and validity of the concepts discussed. Furthermore, sources used were prioritized from reputable scientific journals.

2.6 Research Procedures

This research procedure was carried out in stages as follows:

- Determining the topic and formulating the research problem.
- Collecting relevant literature.
- Selecting and classifying sources.
- Analyzing the literature content based on linguistic theory categories.
- Organizing the analysis results into a systematic discussion.
- Drawing conclusions based on the literature synthesis.

With this literature study method, the research is expected to provide a comprehensive overview of the development of modern linguistic theory and explain how each approach contributes to understanding language as a complex and evolving phenomenon.

3 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Early Development of Linguistic Theory: Classical and Philosophical Foundations

The literature review shows that the development of modern linguistic theory is rooted in the tradition of philosophy of language dating back to ancient Greece. Aristotle was the first to introduce the idea that words are the smallest units of meaning and to distinguish between linguistic forms, mental concepts, and real-world referents. Meanwhile, Plato, through his *Cratylus*, emphasized that linguistic sounds have an implicit relationship to meaning, even though a structured linguistic system did not yet exist.

These early developments indicate that the study of meaning in the Greek era was still philosophical and had not yet become a distinct scientific discipline. Nevertheless, this thinking laid an important foundation for the birth of modern semantics.

3.2 The Birth of Semantics as a Linguistic Discipline

Literature reviews show that semantics began to develop as a branch of linguistics in the 19th century. C. Chr. Reisig divided grammar into semasiology, syntax, and etymology, which became the initial basis for separating the study of meaning from other linguistic aspects.

Significant developments then occurred with Michel Bréal, who introduced semantics as the scientific study of linguistic meaning. Subsequently, Gustaf Stern strengthened the empirical approach to the study of changes in linguistic meaning.

Ferdinand de Saussure became a significant turning point in modern linguistics through the concepts of *langue* and *parole* and the theory of linguistic signs (*signifier-signified*). He also introduced synchronic and diachronic approaches, shifting the direction of linguistic study from historical to structural and systemic. Thus, modern semantics developed as a study based on the structure of language, not just word history.

3.3 The Development of Modern Linguistics

The study's findings indicate that modern linguistic theory has evolved through several main streams:

First, structuralism, developed by Leonard Bloomfield, emphasized that language must be analyzed objectively through empirical data, with a focus on phonological, morphological, and syntactic structures.

Second, generativism, pioneered by Noam Chomsky, introduced the concept of Universal Grammar, which states that language ability is innate in humans. This theory shifts the focus of linguistics from external behavior to internal human cognitive structures.

Third, linguistic relativism, developed by Edward Sapir and Benjamin Lee Whorf, states that language influences human thinking, making it not only a means of communication but also a constructor of perceptions of the world.

Fourth, functional linguistics, developed by Michael Halliday, emphasizes that language has a social function through ideational, interpersonal, and textual metafunctions. This approach reinforces the role of context in language analysis.

3.4 The Development of Modern Semantics and Multidisciplinary Approaches

A literature review shows that modern semantics has developed into a multidisciplinary discipline encompassing several new approaches.

Generative semantics (Lakoff, McCawley) positions meaning as the fundamental structure of language. Formal semantics (Montague) uses mathematical logic in the analysis of meaning. Cognitive semantics (Lakoff & Johnson) emphasizes that meaning is formed through experience and conceptual metaphors.

Furthermore, computational semantics and corpus linguistics introduce approaches based on big data and technology, while pragmatic semantics (Grice, Searle, Sperber & Wilson) emphasizes the importance of context in the interpretation of meaning.

Recent developments in neurosemantics and experimental semantics demonstrate that meaning can also be studied through human brain activity, making modern linguistics increasingly interdisciplinary between language, cognition, and technology.

3.5 Dalalah Science in the Arabic Linguistic Tradition

The study's findings indicate that in the Arabic tradition, the concept of semantics is known as the science of dalalah, the study of the relationship between signs (words) and meaning.

This science has been developing since the pre-Islamic era, but experienced rapid progress after the rise of Islam due to the need for interpretation of the Quran. Early figures such as Abu Al-Aswad Ad-Du'ali and Sibawaih played a role in the development of an Arabic grammatical system closely related to meaning.

In the classical era, the science of dalalah developed through the schools of Basrah and Kufa, as well as the works of Al-Khalil ibn Ahmad and Ibn Jinni. Meanwhile, Al-Jurjani introduced the concept of nazm, which emphasized that meaning is determined by structural relationships within sentences, not just individual words.

3.6 The Development of Modern Arabic Semantics

In the modern era, the science of dalalah has been integrated with Western linguistic theory. Ibrahim Anis introduced a systematic analysis of meaning change, while Tammam Hassan emphasized the importance of context in determining meaning (ma'na fī siyāq).

Mahmoud Hegazy developed the concept of semantic fields, Ibrahim Anis studied the relationship between sound and meaning, and Ahmad Mukhtar Omar developed modern lexicography based on the actual use of language.

These developments demonstrate that modern Arabic linguistics has transformed from a normative approach to a descriptive, contextual, and functional approach.

3.7 The Development of Mufradat in Modern Linguistics

Studies of vocabulary show that vocabulary is a fundamental unit in a language system, inseparable from the structure and context of meaning. A vocabulary is not simply understood as a list of words, but as a system interconnected with phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and social context.

In Arabic, vocabulary consists of nouns (isim), verbs (fi'il), and letters (surat), each of which has a structural and semantic function. The meaning of vocabulary cannot be understood in isolation but must be analyzed within the context of a sentence through layers of lexical, morphological, grammatical, and intonational meaning.

3.8 The Development of Classical and Modern Era Mufradat

The study's findings demonstrate a distinction between classical and modern Arabic. In the classical era, Arabic focused on literary, religious, and structural aspects of the pure Arabic language. In the modern era, Arabic has evolved to meet the needs of globalization, technology, and international communication.

Modern Arabic has also undergone vocabulary expansion through borrowings and neologisms, making it more adaptable to advances in science and technology.

3.9 Synthesis of the Development of Modern Linguistic Theory

Overall, the results of the study show that the development of modern linguistic theory is moving from a philosophical approach to a multidisciplinary scientific approach. Linguistics no longer only studies language structure, but also includes meaning, context, cognition, culture, technology and social interaction.

The integration between Western semantics, Arabic internal science, and mufradat studies shows that modern linguistics is universal but still has local characteristics in each scientific tradition.

4 CONCLUSION

The development of modern linguistic theory demonstrates a major transformation from a philosophical and normative study of language to a systematic, empirical, and multidisciplinary scientific discipline. The integration of structural, generative, cognitive, and functional schools of thought, as well as Arabic traditions in the science of dalalah and mufradat, demonstrates that modern

linguistics does not stand alone but is instead the result of the interaction of various complementary disciplines.

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