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TO THE QUESTION OF RELATIONSHIP OF INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

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Summary. This article raises the question of the relationship of the Indo-European languages. The relevance of this topic is undeniable, since we often do not even suspect their common origin and similar aspects in grammatical and syntactical terms. The article presents a comparative analysis of some linguistic aspects of the Russian and German languages.

Keywords: research; linguistics; Indo-European languages; similarities; differences; dialect; parent language.

If we talk about the similarities and differences between the Russian and German languages, then it is impossible not to mention the history of their occurrence. With all the differences, they have many similarities in their structure, and this is due to their relationship, the fact that they came from the same source.

As early as the fifteenth century, there were suggestions about the similarity of the words of numerous languages of Europe. In the second half of the seventeenth century for researchers, the discovery of Sanskrit became very important, because then certain common features with European languages became visible. Later, the German linguist Franz Bopp in his writings compared the grammatical features of the Germanic languages, Latin and Greek. At the dawn of the nineteenth century, Rusk put forward the idea that these languages were related. These works have led scientists to the assumption that this group of languages had a specific source.

Due to subsequent research in Germany in the field of linguistics, even greater similarities became noticeable in the group of languages that had their origin in Europe and Asia. As it turned out, these coincidences were not entirely accidental, the languages had a genetic relationship. They began to be called Indo-European, forming a whole family of languages. And their common predecessor was called the Indo-European parent language.

Thanks to archaeological excavations that have already taken place in our time, the oldest written languages Western and Central Asia (starting from the 3rd millennium BC) became known – namely, Hittite, Luwian, Tocharian and others, which were also accepted into the Indo-European family languages.

The entire Indo-European family was united by numerous grammatical, lexical and other similar features. At the moment, this group includes about ninety languages, both living and dead languages. This number also includes Russian and German. The first belongs to the Slavic group, while the second to the Germanic.

The Indo-European family is very extensive and contains much more than the Germanic and Slavic languages. Other languages of Europe, like French, Spanish from the Romance group, can serve as an example of this. Or the Baltic group, consisting of Lithuanian and Old Prussian. The Celtic languages are also included in this large family. If you go south, it turns out that both Armenian and Greek are also classified as Indo-European. In the same way, if we look to the east, we will meet Iranian and Indian. It is really a big family.

Now it is worth mentioning a narrower, but considerable, Germanic group of

languages. It includes well-known English, many Nordic languages (Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, Icelandic and others). This group also includes such languages as Frisian, Dutch and the now dead Gothic. Modern Germanic languages are similar in many ways, which allows a person who knows at least one of them to guess the meaning of words from others. And learning another is not so difficult.

The Slavic group is divided into 3 subgroups. Eastern: Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian; southern: Bulgarian, Macedonian, Slovenian; western: Czech, Slovak, Polish and other dialects.

In order to justify the unification of such a vast group of languages, it was necessary to have not only the corresponding linguistic material, but also archaeological and ethnographic evidence. But not all the assumptions put forward by scientists were justified. Many of them have been refuted. So, it was not possible to combine the Baltic and Slavic languages into one group, and to replenish the Indo-European group with Georgian. However, some theories turned out to be correct: the German-Celtic-Italian and Balto-Slavic-Germanic groups that are important to us are indeed related.

So how do we find evidence of the relationship of the Indo-European languages?

The time difference between the Indo-European proto-language and modern languages is at least 5-6 thousand years, because already in the 3rd millennium BC, as scientific data show, the Indo-European proto-language fell apart. At least, it is known that the found monuments of the first or second millennium BC represented original languages characteristic of developed civilizations. Thus, we understand that in order to trace the Indo-European parent language to its collapse, it is necessary to carefully overcome the time distance of six thousand years ago. After all, in order to understand the similarities between languages, the answers must be sought far in the past. That is why the most ancient

monuments of writing are so important for research.

If you try to find a connection between German and Russian, it is worth moving to the time from which the first written monument of these languages came. The most ancient written monuments are very important for us, because they, in fact, are the starting point for studying the historical development of a particular language and a group of its relatives, the knowledge gained from them will help us recreate the Indo-European language in its original form.

A particularly ancient and important landmark of German literature is the Gothic "Silver Codex", which contains translations from Greek into Gothic of the gospels of Matthew, John, Luke and Mark. There is an opinion that a bishop named Vulfil translated and created the Gothic letter. This codex of 187 pages comes to us from the fifth century. By the way, this manuscript was discovered in a monastery near Essen. Moreover, in addition to this codex, other treasures of Gothic writing were found there. Thanks to these ancient texts, our understanding of the Germanic languages received a great impetus to development.

The first time it was possible to attest to the German language in the eighth century. For the most part, these were works written on the basis of the Latin language. The Old High German Isidore, the Song of Hildebrand, the Oaths of Strasbourg, and others fall under this category. All these monuments reflect the features of different regional dialects in Germany, which makes it possible to talk about the features of Old High German and its correlation with other ancient Germanic languages and dialects.

The history of the Russian language is distinguished by its synthesis of various ethnic groups and the strong influence of Church Slavonic, as well as the presence of many dialects and dialects, from which the modern language was formed.

Slavic writing (Cyrillic and Glagolitic) appeared in the 60s of the 9th centuries. Cyril and Methodius translated liturgical texts from

Greek into Slavonic. Most of the translation was in the South Macedonian dialect, which developed further in Bulgaria. Unfortunately, early records in the Old Slavonic language have not survived to our time. At the moment, there are only a few inscriptions of the tenth century, and already from the eleventh – the first handwritten liturgical texts.

So, what language can be called Old Russian?

It is called the common language for the Eastern Slavs, which was formed in the Old Russian state and existed until the fifteenth century, after which the latter split into 3 separate languages – Russian, Ukrainian and Belarusian. The earliest examples of writing written in Cyrillic can be found in the range from the twelfth to the thirteenth century. These are various signs, letters on birch bark, church books and letters.

The development of the Russian language can be divided into several periods: the Old Russian period, the middle (seventeenth-eighteenth century). The formation of the Russian language is directly connected with Pushkin.

So, what visual similarities between the Russian and German languages can be traced now?

Of course, after the emergence of the Russian and German languages, they underwent strong changes, but even after so much time, many details that were characteristic of the Indo-European proto-language were preserved in their grammatical structure.

It is important to mention that after so much time, the methods and means of expressing the corresponding grammatical meanings have changed greatly in languages. In Germany, conjugations and declensions have noticeably become simpler. You can see certain patterns that are specific to the Indo-European languages.

You can also notice that both Russian and German languages have prefixes. It is important to note that the principle of their work differs in many respects. So, in German, there can be another prefix between the prefix and the root, in addition, there are a number of separable prefixes.

The examples of the relationship between the Russian and German languages do not end there, because they also have some similarities in the construction of simple and complex sentences, verbs and many other phenomena. The topic of our article is multifaceted and interesting, which requires additional research.

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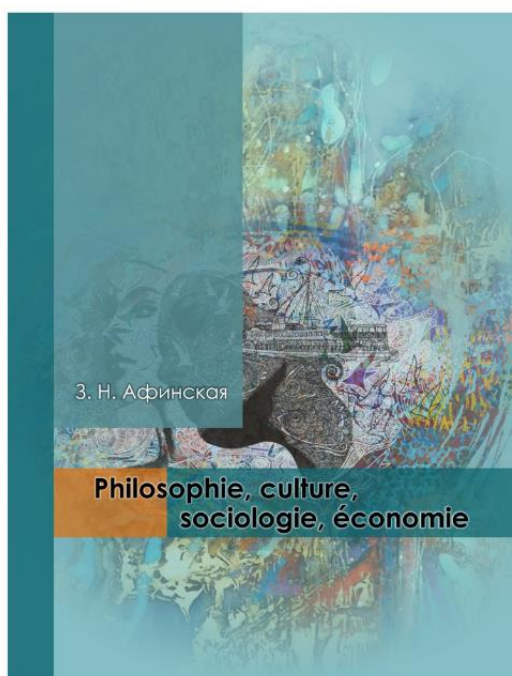В выходных данных издания
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