Lecture 2 **The main notions of Grammar**

1. Language and speech.

Language
- ✔ collective body of knowledge,
- ✔ a set of basic elements,
- ✔ a great variety of combinations of these elements,
- ✔ these combinations are endless,
- ✔ common for all individuals.

Speech
- ✔ the result of using the language,
- ✔ the result of a definite act of speaking,
- ✔ individual, personal
- ✔ the realization of language in actual use.

Ferdinand de Saussure

Phoneme

sentence

text

Sound

utterance

discourse

2. Systemic relations in language. Paradigmatic and Syntagmatic relations

Paradigmatic are relations based on the principles of similarity. They exist between the units that can substitute one another.

A BOTTLE OF MILK

jar, cup, glass   *Cola, wine, water*

PR can be of three types: **semantic, formal** and **functional**.

a) Semantic PR are based on the similarity of meaning: *a book to read = a book for reading. He used to practice English every day – He would practice English every day.*

b) Formal PR are based on the similarity of forms. Such relations exist between the members of a paradigm: *man – men; play – played – will play – is playing.*

c) Functional PR are based on the similarity of function. They are established between the elements that can occur in the same position. For instance, noun determiners: *a, the, this, his, Ann's, some, each,* etc.

PR are associated with the sphere of 'language'.

Syntagmatic relations - with other units of the same level-

They can be of three different types: **coordinate, subordinate** and **predicative.**

a) Coordinate SR exist between the homogeneous linguistic units that are equal in rank, that is, they are the relations of independence: *you* and *me*; They were *tired* but *happy*.

b) Subordinate SR are the relations of dependence when one linguistic unit depends on the other: *teach + er* – morphological level; *a smart student* – word-group level; predicative and subordinate clauses – sentence level.

c) Predicative SR are the relations of interdependence: primary and secondary predication.

As mentioned above, SR may be observed in utterances, which is impossible when we deal with PR.

A BOTTLE OF MILK

3. General characteristics of the grammatical structure of language

Indo-European languages

synthetic

grammatical meanings and
grammatical relations of words
are expressed with the help of
inflexions
(Russian, Latin, Polish, Lithuanian,
German, Italian, etc).

analytic

grammatical meanings
and grammatical forms
are expressed with the
help of words (*will do*)
(Mandarin Chinese,
Afrikaans)

4. The notion of 'grammatical meaning'

Lexical

individual meaning of the word (e.g. *table* -

it corresponds to a definite piece of furniture).

Grammatical

the meaning of the whole class or a subclass

Any noun has the grammatical meaning of <u>thingness</u>.

❖ <u>countableness</u>.

❖ verb has the grammatical meaning of verbiality – the ability to denote actions or states.

❖ adjectives – qualitativeness – the ability to denote qualities

GRAMMATICAL MEANING

EXPLICIT   IMPLICIT

GENERAL   DEPENDENT

5. Grammatical categories.

Grammatical categories are made up by the unity of identical grammatical meanings that have the same form (e.g. singular::plural). Due to dialectal unity of language and thought, grammatical categories correlate, on the one hand, with the conceptual categories and, on the other hand,

the objective category of **time** finds its representation in the grammatical category of **tense**, the objective category of **quantity** finds its representation in the grammatical category of **number**. Those grammatical categories that have references in the objective reality are called **referential** grammatical categories.

The grammatical categories do not correspond to anything in the objective reality   and correlate only with conceptual matters:

They are called **significational** categories. To this type belong the categories of **mood** and **degree**.

6. The notion of opposition

The relation between two grammatical forms differing in meaning and external signs is called **opposition** – book::book**s**

Means of realization of grammatical categories may be synthetic (*near – nearer*) and analytic (*beautiful – more beautiful*).

Transposition and neutralization of morphological forms.

Transposition is the use of a linguistic unit in an unusual environment or in the function that is not characteristic of it (*He is a lion*).

Neutralization is the reduction of the opposition to one of its members :
custom :: customs – x :: customs; x :: spectacles.

7. The Parts of Speech problem. Word classes

The parts of speech are classes of words, all the members of these classes having certain characteristics in common which distinguish them from the members of other classes.

4 approaches to the problem of classification:

1. Classical (logical-inflectional)
2. Functional
3. Distributional
4. Complex

1. Classical (logical-inflectional)

   Declinable - nouns, pronouns, verbs and participles
   indeclinable - adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections.

2. Functional
nominative parts of speech - <u>noun-words</u> (noun, noun-pronoun, noun-numeral, infinitive, gerund), <u>adjective-words</u> (adjective, adjective-pronoun, adjective-numeral, participles), <u>verb</u> (finite verb, verbals – gerund, infinitive, participles),
 particles - <u>adverb, preposition</u>, <u>conjunction</u> and <u>interjection</u>

 3. Distributional approach - the ability of words to combine with other words of different types
 four major **classes of words** and 15 **form-classes**.

MODERN CLASSIFICATION

a) those denoting things, objects, notions, qualities, etc. – words with the corresponding references in the objective reality – **notional** words; (nouns, pronouns, numerals, verbs, adjectives, adverbs)

b) those having no references of their own in the objective reality; most of them are used only as grammatical means to form up and frame utterances – **function** words, or **grammatical** words. (articles, particles, prepositions, conjunctions and modal words.)