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Theory of Origin of Languages

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Abstract---This paper aimed at exploring the theory of the origin of languages. The history of the English language begins with the birth of the English language on the island of Britain about 1,500 years ago. English is a West Germanic language derived from the Anglo-Frisian dialects brought to the island of Britain by Germanic immigrants from parts of the northwest of what is now the Netherlands and Germany. Initially, Old English was a group of dialects reflecting the origins of the various Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in England. One of these dialects, West Saxon eventually came to dominate. Then the original Old English was influenced by two waves of invasion. The first wave of invasion was the invasion of speakers of the Scandinavian branch of the German language family. They conquered and inhabited parts of Britain in the 8th and 9th centuries. Then this second wave of invasion was the Normans in the 11th century who spoke a dialect of French. These two invasions resulted in English being "mixed up" to some degree (although it was never a literal mixed language).

Keywords---English language, Old English, original language, pedagogical grammar, prescriptive grammar, reference grammar, theoretical grammar, West Germanic language.

Introduction

The study of the true origin of language goes back to the fifth century BC in Ancient Greece. The debate on this issue has taken up centuries and has involved scholars who are not only linguists, but even psychologists, philosophers, archaeologists, sociologists, historians, and so on. However, until now this matter has not yet received a unanimity of opinion that is acceptable to scholars.

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Pedagogical grammar or pedagogical grammar is a grammatical description of a language intended for pedagogical purposes, such as language teaching, design, syllabus, or preparation of teaching materials/materials. A pedagogic grammar may be based on (a) grammatical analysis and description of a language; (b) certain grammatical theories, such as the grammar of generative transformations; (c) study or study of the grammatical problems of learners (error analysis); (d) or on a combination of various approaches (Crow, 2008).

Prescriptive grammar or prescriptive grammar is grammar that states the rules for what is considered to be the most appropriate and best usage. Prescriptive grammar is often based not on descriptions of actual usage but on a grammarian's view of what works best. Many traditional grammars are of this type (Christiansen & Kirby, 2003).

Reference grammar or reference grammar (or reference grammar) is a grammatical description that tries to be as comprehensive as possible so that it can act as a reference book, a reference book for people who are interested in facts, grammatical facts steady (in a way somewhat akin to a dictionary used as a "reference lexicon").

Theoretical grammar or theoretical grammar is an approach that goes beyond the study of individual languages, determining what constructs are required to carry out each type of grammatical analysis, and how they can be applied consistently in the study of a human language.

Grammar is a set of standards in language structure. The language structure includes the fields of sound, form, grammar, and sentence as well as meaning. In other words, the language includes the fields of phonology, morphology, and syntax (De Villiers, 2007). Grammar is the study of sentence structure, particularly concerning syntax and morphology, often presented as textbooks or handbooks. A provision of rules that control language in general, or certain languages, which includes semantics, phonology, and often even pragmatics (Charman et al., 2000). Grammar (grammar) is a provision or description of the structure of producing sentences in the language. Usually, also take into account the meanings and functions contained by the sentences in the whole language system. The giving may or may not involve giving the sounds of a language (Locke, 1997; Perlovsky, 2010). Grammar or grammar is a set of lexicon rules that provide the knowledge (competence) a speaker possesses regarding his language (Crow, 2000; Levinson & Evans, 2010). The kinds of grammar are as follows.

Descriptive grammar or descriptive grammar is an approach that provides or describes grammatical constructs used in a language without making an evaluative consideration about its position in society. Such grammar is commonplace and commonplace in linguistics, is the standard practice for investigating a "corpus" of spoken or written material, and to provides in detail the patterns it contains (Meltzoff, 1999; Számadó &

[Szathmáry, 2006](#)). In other words, descriptive grammar is a type of grammar that describes how a language is spoken and/or written, and does not state or determine how it should be spoken or written.

Methods

New theories of various kinds always appear, the more theories the more and the more complicated the problem. Therefore, since 1966 Society Linguistique Francaise has accepted all essays discussing the problem of the origin of language. J Vandryes stated that the problem of the origin of language does not belong to the field of linguistics. Since then, the discussion about the origins of language has been frozen for a while. Not long after, this issue arose again in the discussion of people.

Since ancient times, humans have been concerned about the secrets of the emergence of language or how things got their names. Several assumptions give an idea of the origin of language. These assumptions, among others, are as described in the descriptions below.

- Anthropological investigations suggest that most primitive cultures believed in the involvement of God and God in the early history of language. God who taught Prophet Adam, the names; And the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the earth, and all the fowls of the air, brought them to adam to see what he would all them; for what so ever Adam called any living creature the same is its name.
- [Steels \(2011\)](#) (17th century) a Swedish philologist stated that God in heaven spoke Swedish and French, while the prophet Adam spoke Danish. Previously Goropius Becanus theorized that the language in Heaven was Dutch.
- An Egyptian folk tale in the 17th century BC about an Egyptian king named Psammetichus, investigating the first language. The investigation was carried out by taking two random babies from ordinary people. The two babies were given to a shepherd to care for. The shepherd is forbidden from speaking a word to the babies. The opinion of the king, if the baby is allowed to grow and speak the original language. After the baby has grown for two years it spontaneously says, "boo!" the shepherd immediately went to the king and told him about that baby. In short, the king immediately researched it and discussed it with his advisors. According to them, becos, comes from the Phrygian language which means "bread". From the results of research and research, they argue that this is the first language. This story was passed down to the ancient Egyptians because according to them the Egyptian language was the first.
- At the end of the 18th century speculation on the origin of language moved from religious, mystical, and superstitious insights to a new realm called the organic phase. Joann Gottfried in his *Uber und Usprung Der Sprache* (On the Origin of Language) in 1772 argued that it is not correct to say that language is a divine

gift. In his opinion, language was born because of the human urge to try and think. Language is the result of a jolt as instinctively as in the birth process. This theory coincides with the birth of the human evolution theory pioneered by [Josse & Tzourio-Mazoyer \(2004\)](#) which was later followed by Charles Darwin.

- [Crow \(1997\)](#) argued that the human voice compared to the sound of animals is different in degree only. Human language, like humans, comes from a primitive form, perhaps only from emotional expression. For example, feelings of annoyance or disgust are born by blowing air out of the nose and mouth, sounding as pooh or pish! [Rizzolatti & Arbib \(1998\)](#) German-born English philologist who disagreed with Darwin called it the Pooh-Pooh Theory. Darwin's theory was not accepted by scholars and even disagreed with him, including Edward Sapir from America.
- [Pinker & Jackendoff \(2005\)](#) introduced Ding Dong Theory or also known as Nativistic Theory. This theory is somewhat in line with Socrates' proposition that language is born naturally. According to this theory, humans have a special instinctual ability to issue utterances for any stimulus that comes from outside. Impressions received through the senses, are like beating a bell to produce appropriate speech.

Results and Discussions

Descriptive linguistics is the study of language to provide descriptions (descriptions) related to the work process and language used by speakers at a certain time (synchronic descriptions) ([Slocombe et al., 2011](#); [Corballis, 1992](#)). Synchronic linguistics or also called descriptive linguistics seeks to study language in a limited period. For example, studying the language in the 1920s, Javanese today, or also English during the time of William Shakespeare. Synchronic linguistics studies attempt to describe language as it is at a certain time.

Synchronously, for example, we can ask how today the relationship between the prefix ber- and men-, regardless of the prefix (in Old Malay) was the source of the two prefixes, namely the prefix mar-. Likewise, for English when examined synchronously, there is no need to ignore the absence of endings for adjectives, although there were many such endings in Old English, before 1000 AD.

Synchronic descriptive studies, according to [Aboitiz & Garcia \(1997\)](#) can be divided into two types, namely phonological studies, and grammar studies. The explanation is as follows.

Phonological studies

Phonology is the science of language that studies the sounds of language. [Piattelli-Palmarini \(1989\)](#) defines phonology as the science of language that talks about the

sounds of certain languages and studies the function of sounds to distinguish or identify certain words. The field of linguistics that studies, analyzes, and discusses the sequence of language sounds is called phonology, etymologically, the word phonology is sound, and logic, which is science. In other words, phonology is a linguistic field that investigates the sounds of language according to its function (Piattelli-Palmarini, 1989; Hewes, 1977) or as a special field in linguistics that observes certain language sounds according to their function to distinguish lexical meanings in the language (Gibson et al., 2019). Under the umbrella of phonology, there are two branches of knowledge, each of which is a different study, namely phonetics and phonemics.

As an object of linguistic study, parole is a concrete object, because parole is in the form of tangible utterances uttered by speakers of a language from a language society. A language is an abstract object because language is a system of a particular language in total. Language is the most abstract object because it is a universal language system.

Notes regarding philological terms

Before de Saussure, as well as later in various universities, linguistics was commonly called "philology". This is in ancient times, especially in the 19th century, linguists often say the past of certain languages (English, German, Latin, etc.) to be able to interpret ancient texts. Scholars of the languages of that era also filled the various relationships between allied languages (especially the Indo-European languages).

Today the term "philology" is defined as the science that examines human life in the past using language based on written texts. Although philologists have recently begun to realize that knowledge of general linguistics is beneficial to their endeavors, it is well known that philology is not the same as linguistics. So an ancient Javanese linguist, for example, or a classical Malay linguist, does not need to be a specialist in general linguistics. A little knowledge of general linguistics is sufficient.

Linguistic subdisciplines

The science of linguistics is usually divided into various subordinate areas. General linguistics includes three things, namely (1) descriptive linguistics; (2) historical linguistics; and (3) comparative linguistics (Gelman & Butterworth, 2005; Flöel et al., 2005). We will find various branches of linguistics which can be divided based on the criteria, which are as follows.

Yo-He-Ho Theory. This theory suggests that language is born in a social activity. As an example of the previous primitive people or maybe we also when lifting wood or heavy loads, the vocal cords vibrate impelled by spontaneous muscle movements so that certain or special utterances for each action come out. These utterances then

become the name for each action, such as: lifting 'up', resting 'silent', and so on (Corballis, 2017; Kuhl, 1994).

Bow-wow Theory is also called onomatopoeic or Echoic Theory. According to this theory, the first words were imitations of natural sounds, such as bird songs, animal sounds, thunder, rain, wind, rivers, waves, and so on. This theory is somewhat persistent, but Max Muller with Sarkatis commented that this theory only applies to the crowing of chickens and the sound of ducks, even though language activity occurs mostly outside the cattle sheds.

The description above can be found in various examples of Indonesian vocabularies, such as: booming, shaking, squeaking, squeaking, crowing, and so on. Those are some of the assumptions and theories that explain the origin of language.

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Conclusion

The history of the English language begins with the birth of the English language on the island of Britain about 1,500 years ago. English is a West Germanic language derived from the Anglo-Frisian dialects brought to the island of Britain by Germanic immigrants from parts of the northwest of what is now the Netherlands and Germany. Initially, Old English was a group of dialects reflecting the origins of the various Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in England. One of these dialects, West Saxon eventually came to dominate. Then the original Old English was influenced by two waves of invasion. The first wave of invasion was the invasion of speakers of the Scandinavian branch of the German language family. They conquered and inhabited parts of Britain in the 8th and 9th centuries. Then this second wave of invasion was the Normans in the 11th century who spoke a dialect of French. These two invasions resulted in English being "mixed up" to some degree (although it was never a literal mixed language).

Living together with members of the Scandinavian ethnic group ultimately created a grammatical simplification and an enrichment of the Anglo-English core of the English language. The Germanic tribes that pioneered the English language (the Anglia, Saxons, Frisians, Jutes, and possibly Franks), traded with and fought with the people of the Roman Empire who spoke Latin in the process of the Germanic invasion of Europe from the east. With this many Latin words entered the vocabulary of these Germanic peoples before they reached the island of Britain. Examples include camp, cheese, cook, dragon, fork, fork, giant, gem, inch, kettle. , kitchen (kitchen), linen (linen), mile (miles), mill (windmill), noon (day), oil (oil, oil), pillow (pillow), pins (nails), pounds (pounds), soap, street, table, wall, and wine. The Romans also gave English some words which they borrowed from other languages such as anchor

(anchor), butter (butter), cat (cat), chest (chest), devil (devil), dish (plate), food), and sack (pocket).

According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, around the year 449, Vortigern, King of the British Isles, invited the "Angle kin" (Wells, 1994) to help him in resolving the conflict with the Pict tribe. In return, the Angles were given land in southeast England. Further help was needed and as a reaction "came the people of Ald Seaxum of Anglum of Iotum" (the Saxons, the Anglia tribe, and the Jutes). This chronicle discusses the entry of many immigrants or immigrants who eventually founded seven kingdoms known as heptarchy. Modern scholars argue that most of these stories are legends and have political motives. In addition, the identification of immigrants in England with the Angle, Saxon, and Jute tribes is no longer accepted today (Mikhail, 2007; Liberman & Whalen, 2000).

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