

COMPARATIVE AND APPLIED LINGUISTICS: GLOBAL APPROACHES

Kamolova Sabrina Farxod qizi
UzSWLU, English faculty 3, 2nd year student

sabrinakamolova64@gmail.com

Annotation. This article discusses the importance of comparative and applied linguistics in modern language learning. It mainly focuses on how comparing languages, especially English and Uzbek, can help learners understand linguistic differences more clearly. In addition, the paper looks at practical aspects of language teaching, including language and technology and the use of modern technologies, also give brief information about historical development. It is argued that combining theory with practice makes language learning more effective and meaningful.

Keywords: comparative linguistics, applied linguistics, historical development, language learning, language and technology, globalization, English, Uzbek;

Introduction: Nowadays, learning foreign languages has become more important than ever before. Due to globalization, people need to communicate with others from different countries and cultural backgrounds. Because of this, linguistics, especially comparative and applied linguistics, plays a key role in improving language teaching. Comparative linguistics helps us understand how languages are similar or different, while applied linguistics focuses on how this knowledge can be used in real-life situations, particularly in education. When these two areas are combined, they can provide useful methods for both teachers and learners.

Definition of Applied linguistics: Applied Linguistics is a dynamic and interdisciplinary field that explores the practical applications of linguistic theories and concepts in real-world contexts. It is a field of study that looks at how linguistics can help understand real-life problems in areas of language education [5]. It draws upon theories and methodologies from linguistics, psychology, anthropology, sociology, education, and other related disciplines to address real-world issues related to language and communication. According to Kaplan (2010), Applied Linguistics encompasses a wide range of areas such as language acquisition, language teaching, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, pragmatics, language and technology, language policy and planning, and language and identity. Hence, the practical implications of applied linguistics are far-reaching. Applied linguistics is more focused on practice. It helps teachers find better ways to teach languages and helps students learn more effectively. One of the most common methods today is the communicative approach. This method focuses on communication rather than memorizing grammar rules. Students are encouraged to speak, interact, and use the language in real situations. This makes learning more natural and practical. Applied linguistics is also connected to other areas like translation, language policy, and second language acquisition. All of these help improve the overall learning process. Currently applied linguistics is engaged with the contemporary social questions about culture, ethnicity, gender, identity, and migration [3]. Scholars in the field take on certain perspectives on the language in use including discourse analysis, theories of socioculturalism, literacy, and sociolinguistics. Furthermore, applied linguistics provides images of language from traditions such as cognitive linguistics,

corpus linguistics, generative linguistics and functional linguistics [2]. To conclude, applied linguistics is a dynamic field that focuses on how linguistic theories can be used in real-life situations. Its interdisciplinary character, together with various theoretical and methodological approaches, helps to better understand important areas such as language acquisition, teaching methods, bilingualism, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, pragmatics, language and technology, as well as language policy and identity. By connecting theory with practice, applied linguistics makes a significant contribution to improving language education, supporting linguistic diversity, and solving language-related issues in modern society [1].

Historical Development: A review of the literature shows that applied linguistics has developed in different ways across various regions of the world, depending on the research interests of scholars in each context. Over time, different approaches and perspectives have emerged, reflecting local educational and linguistic needs. The origins of applied linguistics date back to the 20th century, when researchers began to focus on how linguistic knowledge could be used in practical situations. Early contributions from scholars such as Leonard Bloomfield, who is widely recognized as one of the key figures in modern linguistics, played an important role in shaping the field. Another important scholar in the development of applied linguistics was Zellig Harris, who made valuable contributions by applying linguistic analysis to practical areas such as language teaching and early machine translation. His work helped to show that linguistic theory could be effectively used beyond purely theoretical studies and could support real-world communication needs.

Similarly, Charles C. Fries played a significant role in shaping the field. He focused on applying linguistic principles to language teaching and was one of the first scholars to emphasize the importance of systematic language analysis in education. Fries is also known for developing the concept of contrastive analysis, which aimed to compare learners' native language with the target language in order to predict and reduce errors in second language acquisition. In addition to these contributions, later developments in applied linguistics introduced new perspectives, including sociolinguistic and psycholinguistic approaches. These perspectives highlighted the importance of social context, learner psychology, and cultural factors in language learning. Over time, the field has continued to grow by incorporating modern research methods and interdisciplinary approaches, allowing it to address increasingly complex language-related issues in different educational and social settings.

Language Learning Strategies: Language learning strategies are another important area within applied linguistics. These strategies refer to the specific techniques and actions that learners use to improve their language skills. According to Rebecca Oxford, learning strategies can be divided into several categories:

Cognitive strategies (practicing, summarizing, analyzing language forms)
Metacognitive strategies (planning, monitoring, evaluating one's learning)
Socio-affective strategies (interacting with others, managing emotions and motivation)
These strategies help learners become more independent and active in the learning process. For example, a student who regularly practices speaking with others or uses note-taking techniques is more likely to improve faster. Research also shows that strategy instruction is very important. When teachers explicitly teach students how to learn, not just what to learn, students become more successful. This is closely related to the concept of learner autonomy, where students take responsibility for their own learning. Moreover, cultural

and contextual factors can influence which strategies are more effective. For instance, students from different educational backgrounds may prefer different learning styles. Therefore, teachers should adapt their methods to meet learners' needs.

Applied Linguistics and Language Teaching: Applied linguistics and language teaching are strongly interconnected. While applied linguistics provides theoretical knowledge about language and learning processes, language teaching focuses on applying this knowledge in the classroom. As Virginia Yip Whong points out, understanding how language works helps teachers choose appropriate teaching methods and materials. This connection makes language education more effective and meaningful. In practice, applied linguistics supports:

1. curriculum design.
2. teaching methodology.
3. assessment and evaluation.
4. material development .

Together, these elements help improve the quality of language education and make learning more accessible for students.

Approaches to Language Teaching: Language teaching methods have changed significantly over time, reflecting new theories and learner needs. Each approach has its own advantages and limitations.

One of the earliest methods is the grammar-translation method, which focuses on reading, writing, and translating texts. Although it helps develop grammatical knowledge, it does not support communication skills effectively.

The audio-lingual method emphasizes repetition and drilling. It is based on behaviorist theories and aims to form language habits. However, it often lacks meaningful communication.

In contrast, the communicative language teaching (CLT) approach focuses on real-life communication. Students are encouraged to express ideas, participate in discussions, and use language in practical situations. This method is widely used today because it develops all language skills.

Another modern approach is task-based language teaching (TBLT), where students complete meaningful tasks, such as solving problems or working on projects. This approach promotes active learning and critical thinking.

The content-based approach integrates language learning with subject knowledge, such as science or history. This allows students to learn both language and content at the same time. According to Jeremy Harmer, effective teaching often involves combining different methods rather than relying on a single approach. This flexibility helps teachers meet diverse learner needs.

Language and Technology. Language is the fundamental medium through which we express our thoughts and ideas, while technology acts as a driving force in the development of language itself. From the invention of written scripts, which allowed the preservation and transmission of knowledge, to the sophisticated language-processing algorithms of the digital era, technology has greatly enhanced our ability to communicate across both time and space. The relationship between applied linguistics and technology is mutually reinforcing. Technological advancements have transformed the field of applied linguistics, providing researchers and educators with innovative tools to study language acquisition, translation, and communication in ways that were previously unimaginable [7].

Conclusion: Applied linguistics serves as a vital bridge connecting the study of language to the practical realities of human communication. It offers theoretical foundations, research methods, and evidence-based insights that enrich language teaching, assessment, policy, sociolinguistics, pragmatics, discourse analysis, and many other language-related fields. The history of applied linguistics reveals its deeply interdisciplinary nature and its enduring commitment to understanding how we learn, use, and share language. From its early focus on integrating linguistic principles into education to today's embrace of advanced technologies, the field has continually expanded our ability to connect, teach, and communicate effectively. This essay has explored the rich tapestry of applied linguistics, highlighting its subfields—from language acquisition and bilingualism to discourse analysis, pragmatics, technology, and identity—and their profound influence on how humans interact. Through this exploration, it becomes clear that applied linguistics is not just an academic pursuit; it is a human endeavor, one that touches lives, empowers learners, and celebrates the diversity and creativity of language itself. As the field grows, it promises to inspire new ways of understanding, teaching, and connecting through language, offering hope and solutions for the ever-changing landscape of global communication.

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