CONCEPT OF LANGUAGE SYSTEM AND LAYERS OF LANGUAGE

The goal guides the activity of the system and serves as a powerful factor for combining elements into a system.

LANGUAGE SYSTEM

Language is a complex functional system aimed at providing relationship and communication between people.

[[ˌhaɪəˈrɑːkɪk((ə)l)li]

UNITS AND LEVELS OF LANGUAGE:

1.1. The Language System is a holistic entity, consisting of interdependent units and their relationships.

1.2. Language levels and language units.

1.3. The invariant-variant nature of language units.

1.4. Types of relations of language units of one level.

LANGUAGE SYSTEM

Elements of a **functional system** are combined into an organizational whole *for a specific purpose.*

In order to achieve the goal, each element performs its one specified function.

LANGUAGE SYSTEM

Certain groupings may be highlighted in the system elements. These are minor systems / or **"subsystems"**.

Some systems are related hierarchically, i.e. based on a relationship of submission. Other systems operate in parallel.

LANGUAGE SYSTEM

Each *subsystem* provides a particular result, without which it is impossible to complete the task of the linguistic system as a whole.

LANGUAGE SYSTEM

The subsystems of the language include the system of phonemes, the system morphemes and other subsystems with their own subsystems systems.

THE CONCEPT OF SYSTEM AND LANGUAGE LAYERS / OR 'LEVELS'

Levels of language are actually subsystems of a common language system. Each is characterized by a combination of relatively homogeneous units and a set of rules, good for grouping them into various classes and subclasses.

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Language Layers Hierarchy is questioned in diachrony

Language level (subsystem of the general language system) is a set of relatively homogeneous units and the rules of grouping into classes.

Language Layers Units

Basic language layers or levels:

phoneme, morpheme, lexeme [at lexico-semantic level], sentenceme [at syntactic level].

THE CONCEPT OF SYSTEM AND LANGUAGE LAYERS / OR 'LEVELS

Culture	Language of Values
Communicative Event / Text / Discourse / Genre / Interaction construction	*Etic:* Real life episodes of communication. *Emic [ˈiːmɪk]:* Schemata of communication.
Syntactic	Schemes / Schemata of message construction
Lexical	Independent meaningful units
Morphological	Minimal (bound) signs / signification units
Phonological	Distinctive, differentiating and accumulative functions

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DIFFERENT DEGREES OF COMPLEXITY

characterize the structure of units of different levels.

Functional difference of units of different levels can be viewed as their most important quality characteristic.

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Language Layers Hierarchy is questioned in diachrony

Basic language units:

sentences, words, minimal significant parts of words (morphemes), phonemes [or maybe – syllabemes!].

The invariant-variant nature of language units

"Emic units" (invariants) and "etic units" (variations, occurrences) are interconnected. These are Relations of realization (representation, manifestation) between specific units (variations) and abstract schemata – invariants.

There is a linguistic distinction between emic and etic units of language system

emic [ˈiːmɪk] versus etic [ˈɛtɪk] units

emic [ˈiːmɪk] * - describing a particular language or culture in terms of its internal elements and their functioning rather than in terms of any existing external scheme *Origin: 1950s: abstracted from such words as phonemic (see phoneme) and systemic.

emic [ˈiːmɪk]

Emic [ˈiːmɪk]* units of language are often contrasted with *etic*.

*Origin: 1950s: abstracted from such words as phonemic (see phoneme) and systemic.

etic [ˈɛtɪk]

etic [ˈɛtɪk] (adjective) – studying or describing a particular language or culture in a way that is general, non-structural, and objective in its perspective Often contrasted with emic Origin: 1950s: abstracted from phonetic

etic [ˈɛtɪk]

Термин ввел лингвист К. Пайк
(Kenneth Pike) по аналогии с термином
phonetic)

etic [ˈɛtɪk]

etic "этический" - уровень, предполагающий описание языковых единиц с внешней, "абсолютной" точки зрения;

Study adopting this
approach is 'etics'

etic [ˈɛtɪk]

При этом в область зрения попадают все свойства языковой единицы, в том числе обусловленные спецификой материального субстрата языка, а также случайные и несущественные, нерелевантные для языковой системы, напр., звуковой фон;

BASIC LANGUAGE LAYERS

1) Phonemes – so-called one-sided units

2) Morphemes - the smallest signs

3) Lexemes (lexical /verbal layer) - the word has a positional and syntactic independence.

BASIC LANGUAGE LAYERS

4) syntactic (sentence level) – can perform a full-fledged meaningful utterance. Sentence appears as an abstract scheme, the components of which are syntactic categories such as so named parts of sentence (Subject, Predicate, Object etc.).
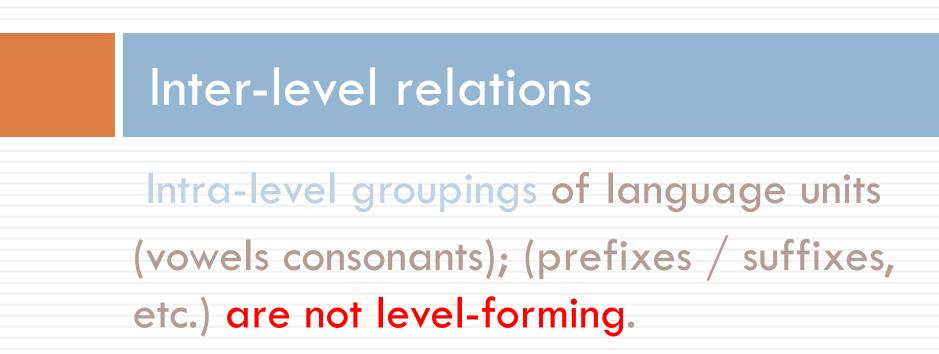
The Rule of level Compatibility

reflects Capability of a Linguistic Unit to enter into paradigmatic and syntagmatic relationships only with units of the same language level – or level of language analysis.

Qualitative upgrade of upper LL:

A move up the level of analysis leads to discovery of a new quality, previously not inherent in a linguistic unit on previous stage of analysis.

[ˌhaɪəˈrɑːkɪk((ə)l)]

Inter-level relations

Intra-level groupings of language units (vowels consonants); (prefixes / suffixes, etc.) are not level-forming.

[ˌhaɪəˈrɑːkɪk((ə)l)]

Inter-level relations

For example, phonemes form classes and combinations in the speech chain only with phonemes, and so on.

[ˌhaɪəˈrɑːkɪk((ə)l)]

Inter-level relations

stick strictly to hierarchical type:

a) **consists of ...** (which is a step down)

b) **is included in ....**

(concerning a step up)

[ˌhaɪəˈrɑːkɪk((ə)l)]

Inter-level relations

Hierarchical relationships between units of different levels / layers reflects a)relations of occurrence of a lower level unit in a unit higher level; b) capability of higher level unit to decompose into units of the neighboring lower level.

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Inter-level relations

E.G. **Phonemes enter the sound shells of morphemes,** morphemes - into words, words in sentences and vice versa:

Sentences consist of…

High and low reproducibility

Performance and reproducibility properties of language units differ:

Text <–> sentence <–> word <–> morpheme <-> phoneme

[kəmˌpætəˈbɪlətɪ]

LEVEL COMPATIBILITY

The main difference between units of different Layers of Language is manifested in *the feature of level compatibility.*

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LEVEL COMPATIBILITY

can be observed in example of accumulative function of a phoneme.

In definite cases in the same phone /sound form/ can match units of hierarchically different levels of the language: Latin "I!" (=English 'Go!')

[ˌhaɪəˈrɑːkɪk((ə)l)li]

Language Layers Hierarchy is questioned in diachrony

Conventionality of separation "upper / lower level" is challenged in diachronic studies of language — a reverse historical course is observed: E.g. the development of morphemes based on lexical units.

Language Layers Hierarchy is questioned in diachrony

Language does not add up levels during the course of its development, but is divided into them!

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Language Layers Hierarchy…

Take for example a complex syntactic whole, micro-text; period) - a segment of speech in the form of two or more sentences united by a common theme in the semantic frame / or block.

What about morphophonological level of language system?

It is a question to be highlighted in another presentation….

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION