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ORCID: 0000-0001-6261-3441 E-mail: 007_raushan@mail.ru**REPRESENTATION OF TIME AND SPACE CATEGORIES
IN SOCIOLINGUISTIC RESEARCH**

Abstract. The study aims to identify and systematize the linguistic approaches and principles used to represent time and space categories in recent sociolinguistic research and to examine respondents' perceptions of the sociolinguistic factors influencing language functioning and development. The article presents the results of an analytical review of linguistic approaches and principles underlying the representation of the categories of time and space in sociolinguistic studies published between 2024 and 2026, as well as the findings of an empirical study conducted in 2025-2026 among university teachers and master's students from the North Kazakhstan Region with the participation of several international scholars. The results of the literature review are systematized in a table, while the findings of the empirical study are presented in the form of diagrams and subjected to further analysis. The study employed the methods of analysis, synthesis, structuring, and generalization of both the data collected by the authors and the findings reported in previously published research. The results indicate that the majority of the fifty-two respondents prefer the diachronic approach as one of the principal approaches to conducting research. The respondents tend to take into account the relationship between language and social context and regard neologisms and borrowings as significant factors influencing language functioning. The authors conclude that, despite acknowledging the impact of language digitalization and artificial intelligence, the respondents continue to rely on the traditional historical (diachronic) perspective as one of the stable mental frameworks for conceptualizing time and space.

Keywords: time and space categories; language functioning; linguistic principles; diachronic approach; panchronic approach.

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Қазақстан, Алматы қ., ORCID: 0000-0001-6261-3441 E-mail: 007_raushan@mail.ru**ӘЛЕУМЕТТІК-ЛИНГВИСТИКАЛЫҚ ЗЕРТТЕУЛЕРДЕГІ
УАҚЫТ ПЕН КЕҢІСТІК КАТЕГОРИЯЛАРЫНЫҢ РЕПРЕЗЕНТАЦИЯСЫ**

Андатпа. Зерттеудің мақсаты – қазіргі социолінгвистикалық зерттеулерде уақыт пен кеңістік категорияларын репрезентациялауға негіз болатын лингвистикалық тәсілдер мен қағидаттарды анықтап, жүйелеу, сондай-ақ респонденттердің тілдің қызмет етуі мен дамуына ықпал ететін социолінгвистикалық факторлар туралы көзқарастарын зерделеу. Мақалада 2024-2026 жылдары жарияланған социолінгвистикалық зерттеулердегі уақыт пен кеңістік категорияларының репрезентациясына қатысты лингвистикалық тәсілдер мен қағидаттарға жүргізілген аналитикалық шолудың нәтижелері, сондай-ақ 2025-2026 жылдары Солтүстік Қазақстан облысының оқытушылары

мен магистранттары және бірқатар шетелдік ғалымдардың қатысуымен жүргізілген эмпирикалық зерттеудің нәтижелері ұсынылған. Әдебиеттерге жасалған шолу нәтижелері кесте түрінде жүйеленіп, эмпирикалық зерттеу нәтижелері диаграммалар арқылы ұсынылып, талданды. Зерттеу барысында талдау, синтездеу, құрылымдау, авторлар жинақтаған деректерді және бұрын жарияланған ғылыми зерттеулердің нәтижелерін жалпылау әдістері қолданылды. Зерттеу нәтижелері елу екі респонденттің басым бөлігі ғылыми зерттеулерді жүргізудің негізгі тәсілдерінің бірі ретінде диахрониялық тәсілге басымдық беретінін көрсетті. Респонденттер тіл мен әлеуметтік контекстің өзара байланысын ескеруге бейім, сондай-ақ неологизмдер мен кірме сөздерді тілдің қызмет етуіне ықпал ететін маңызды факторлар ретінде қарастырады. Авторлар тілдің цифрлануы мен жасанды интеллектінің ықпалын ескергеніне қарамастан, респонденттердің уақыт пен кеңістікті ұғынудың орнықты менталдық негіздерінің бірі ретінде дәстүрлі тарихи (диахрониялық) көзқарасқа әлі де сүйенетіндігі туралы қорытындыға келеді.

Тірек сөздер: уақыт пен кеңістік категориялары; тілдің қызмет етуі; тілдік қағидаттар; диахрондық тәсіл; панхрондық тәсіл.

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РЕПРЕЗЕНТАЦИЯ КАТЕГОРИЙ ВРЕМЕНИ И ПРОСТРАНСТВА В СОЦИОЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКИХ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯХ

Аннотация. Целью настоящего исследования является выявление и систематизация лингвистических подходов и принципов репрезентации категорий времени и пространства в современных социолингвистических исследованиях, а также изучение представлений респондентов о социолингвистических факторах, влияющих на функционирование и развитие языка. В статье представлены результаты аналитического обзора лингвистических подходов и принципов репрезентации категорий времени и пространства в социолингвистических исследованиях, опубликованных в 2024-2026 годах, а также результаты эмпирического исследования, проведенного в 2025-2026 годах среди преподавателей и магистрантов Северо-Казахстанской области с участием ряда зарубежных ученых. Результаты литературного обзора систематизированы в таблице, а результаты эмпирического исследования представлены в виде диаграмм и подвергнуты анализу. При подготовке статьи использовались методы анализа, синтеза, структурирования и обобщения данных, полученных авторами, а также результатов ранее опубликованных исследований. Установлено, что большинство из пятидесяти двух респондентов отдают предпочтение диахроническому подходу как одному из основных подходов к проведению исследований. Респонденты склонны учитывать взаимосвязь языка и социального контекста, а также рассматривают неологизмы и заимствования как значимые факторы, влияющие на функционирование языка. Авторы приходят к выводу, что, несмотря на учет процессов цифровизации языка и развития искусственного интеллекта, респонденты по-прежнему опираются на традиционную историческую (диахроническую) перспективу как на одну из устойчивых ментальных основ осмысления времени и пространства.

Ключевые слова: категории времени и пространства; функционирование языка; языковые принципы; диахронический подход; панхронический подход.

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Introduction

The given article contains an overview of linguistic approaches and principles of accounting temporal and spatial frames in socio-linguistic research. *Time* can be viewed diachronically, synchronically or panchronically; the particular society is bound to a certain spatial location, and historical time as well. Having read the articles by contemporary scholars from different countries and

universities, we made an attempt to find, extract and systematize the generic knowledge concerning linguistic approaches and principles, related to linguistic researchers' understanding of *time* and *space* in the years of 2024-2026. The problem of objective and adequate interpretation of *deixis* in the linguistic research is certainly not new, though it still bothers the researchers of the present time. The reason for that might be in the necessity to follow a particular approach in the research for the deduction of particular linguistic principles and universals. Herein, various ideas concerning issues accounting *temporal* and *spatial* features in and outside the language are presented. They are, by far, better viewed considering the inner systematic lay-out of the language and its social domain of existence. This article also contains the discussion of the results of the survey, conducted in 2025-2026 to find out the opinion of referents on socio-linguistic factors affecting *the life* of a language.

This study presents a novel approach that integrates an analytical review of recent sociolinguistic research (2024 to 2026) with empirical survey data from 52 multilingual academic respondents to examine the relationship between temporal and spatial perspectives and language functioning. The results indicate a significant discrepancy between the increasing emphasis on digitalization and artificial intelligence in linguistic research and the respondents' sustained preference for a traditional diachronic perspective. These results provide empirical insights into how time, space, and sociolinguistics are currently conceptualized as factors within language research.

Materials and methods

Materials used in the article are represented by the analysis of literature sources, the majority of which have been published in recent time, and several classical works in the field of linguistics. Methods of the performed research include: analysis of scientific data gained from articles and literature sources; synthesis of data with inference of generic knowledge; structuring of this knowledge in a schematic form; using *Google Form* tools for automatic calculation and diagramming of data gained from the survey; inference of the conclusion as a product of application of above mentioned methods.

In 2025-2026 we conducted a descriptive survey for our empirical study using Google Forms, that served as another source of data for this research. The majority of participants were affiliated with the academic community at M. Kozybayev North Kazakhstan University and were selected through convenience sampling. The sample comprised 52 individuals, including university lecturers, postgraduate students, and several researchers from other countries. All participants were multilingual, with proficiency in English, German, French, Russian, and Kazakh. Each participant demonstrated advanced knowledge of at least two of these languages and possessed basic or intermediate skills in two or three additional languages.

The survey examined participants' perspectives on sociolinguistic factors influencing language function and change, as well as approaches to studying language across temporal and spatial contexts. The questions addressed four primary areas: the influence of social factors on language, the most significant sociolinguistic variables, the role of internal language changes in linguistic evolution, and the language features most likely to change. Additionally, the survey explored cross-cutting methodological approaches for studying language across time and space, including synchronic, diachronic, and panchronic perspectives.

We collected and processed the survey data electronically using Google Forms, which automatically calculated response frequencies and generated graphical representations. Subsequently, we interpreted the quantitative results in relation to the sociolinguistic theories outlined in the literature review. This approach enabled the survey to contribute to our analytical review by illustrating how academically knowledgeable participants perceive key sociolinguistic factors, language change, and methodological approaches to studying language across temporal and spatial dimensions.

Literature Review

In (Vakhovska, 2024) the researcher discusses synchronic, diachronic and panchronic perspectives on linguistic patterns. The scholar objectivates the relevance of panchronic approach – “the area of intersection and overlap between synchrony and diachrony (a hybrid approach)”, which liberates the analysis from the restrictions of time and space and introduces extralinguistic factors into linguistic research. The researcher refers to the fundamental works of Ferdinand de Saussure (Saussure, 1983), which include mention of panchrony, and the polish linguist Przemyslaw Lozowski (Lozowski, 2023)

who explains panchrony in terms of “functional universals (cognitive and experiential patterns of human behaviour, culture included (“inseparable from human cognition and experience”)) and suggests that panchrony is possible, and even imperative, due to the fact that language is not an autonomous but a cognition-and culture-dependent system of motivated signs”. Panchrony is presented in the article as a “change in the methodological approach” and “a new understanding of language which primarily involves the need to account for the extralinguistic, i.e. cognitive and cultural factors that shape the language” and is also defined as “multi-directional progression of non-discreet categorization processes in language” (Vakhovska, 2024). Thus we see that Vakhovska O. turns her attention to the panchronic perspective on the language, pointing at its cognitive, functional and extralinguistic aspects.

The researcher in (Collart, 2024) draws attention to the grammatical agreement between words in a sentence: *person – number* or *decisis – verb(tense)* which “rely on different processing mechanisms” (Collart, 2024). It is exemplified that the deictic adverb *yesterday* finds concord with past tense verbs, and deictic *tomorrow* with future, otherwise is unacceptable in English and in other languages too, such as Spanish, German, Russian or Kazakh. The author makes a point that different types of agreement of words in a sentence involve different types of cognitive processing mechanisms. The proposed in (Collart, 2024) model “integrating cross-linguistic analyses of tense and aspect markers from five languages” suggests “anaphoric vs non-anaphoric feature of the markers” and that “integration of the temporal frame depends on consideration of potential alternatives” (Collart, 2024).

In the article by Malakhova V.L. A synergetic approach to linguistic data is viewed as one that makes it possible to study the language as a complex holistic multilayered and self-developing system – “synergetics determined holistic perception of the world where everything is connected and constantly changing. Within this approach the reality is viewed “as an open constantly changing non-linear system with infinite alternatives of its development” (Malakhova, 2021). Since language is an open, complex and self-developing system the synergetic approach to its development is not only possible but also a necessary one. The peculiarities of methods of synergetics consist in studying the processes of development of a certain entity as a multilayered self-developing structure. Interestingly enough, various complex systems (biological, physical, economical, historical, social, linguistic *etc.*) follow similar, if not to say universal, principles of their evolution enabling synergetics to establish interdisciplinary connections and synthesize knowledge.

The notion of the “linguistic landscape” and its graphic constituents is presented in (Ivanov, 2023) where the researcher views the perspectives on visual linguistic signs by various sociolinguists. The author distinguishes “top-down” (performed by government institutions) and “bottom-up” (performed by private companies and people) signs, which are capable of mirroring the sociolinguistic situation, state, status and vitality of languages of corresponding ethnic groups of people residing on the same territory.

In the research (Sugiarto, 2024) scholars use “the principles and tools of systematic functional linguistic analysis to identify language structure, communicative function, and meaning in web content”. This research uses functional linguistic approach and *Semantic Web* technology, “focusing on the relationship between language and its social context”. This approach endeavours to include many nuances of human language representing them in a language understanding system with reference to compositionality, implicature and lexical meaning linguistic theories. Researchers explain that semantic analysis “can provide insight into the root of the problem (intolerant actions or speech, for example) and assist in formulating appropriate solutions” (Sugiarto, 2024).

Among the principles of ELT and applied linguistics research the author in (Pandey, 2024) highlights the necessity for a “structured approach, ensuring that data is collected, analyzed, and interpreted systematically”. Pandey G.P. refers to Best and Kahn (Best, Kahn, 2012) who see the research as a “systematic and objective analysis and recording of controlled observations” (Best, Kahn, 2012) and cites the fundamental ethical considerations – “researchers are expected to maintain integrity, honesty, and transparency in their work, ensuring that findings are valid, reliable, and contribute positively to the field” (Brown, 2014).

In the book review (Wu, 2023) the author communicates the ideas of “how corpus data can be most effectively relied on to advance our understanding of language in digital humanities”. The

researcher discusses the ideas expressed in (McEnery, Brezina, 2022) on how corpus linguistics can contribute to the development of linguistics in the domain of social science. The author sees the mission of research of corpora in generating “probabilistic, observable, logical, repeatable, and replicable evidence to support the inductive reasoning of language phenomenon” (Wu, 2023). As is also reported in (Wu, 2023), corpora consists of finite and conditioned language samples “bound by space and time” and corpus analysis should be organized intuitively and consistently like a “searchlight, which can guide us to specific areas of enquiry in conditional falsification of language”. Repetition and replication of data are proclaimed in (Wu, 2023) as cornerstones of corpus study.

In the article by (Hasanova, 2022) the author discusses the linguistic principle of reduction as the result of the historical development of the language. A number of examples from Azerbaijani language are provided in (Hasanova, 2022) that quite vividly illustrate letter-sound omissions, such as: “oloğ → oloq → uluğ → ulu (great); the change of *ol* to *o* and *u* occurred due to the tendency of the language to reduce”. These and other examples and observations led the researcher to conclude that “the language has moved from complexity to simplicity due to historical development...the manifestation of the principle of reduction within the word occurs primarily due to the ellipsis of one or another sound of the word” (Hasanova, 2022).

The authors in (Krivoruchko, Kan, 2024) discuss principles of linguistic typology of translation process. They draw their attention to the *language of spatial objects* by Florensky P.A. (Florensky, 2009) with its intersections to the translation. In this work, it is referred to the words by Fursova I.N., which describe the cognitive aspect of translation as “the intersection of the external situational context with the translator’s internal knowledge set... it is the interaction of the internal translation space and external socio-oriented practices that, in our opinion, gives rise to a new format of the translation process – ecotranslation... By the end of the 20th century, research devoted to the study of the category of space and everything related to it or mediated by it became especially intensive (Fursova, 2013)”. The researchers further cite Florensky’s words concerning space and dimensions – “the structure of matter, as its temporal and spatial form, *i.e.* form in motion and change, characterizes the properties of a given material formation and is the cause of the unfolding phenomena. All processes take place on the surface, on the boundary between inside and outside, but this boundary is much more complicated than it seems on inattentive examination. Understanding the world is a space of understanding. Therefore, when creating in space, a person reproduces it in his work, both in form and in organization” (Florensky, 2002). This thesis led the researchers to the idea that “translation should be ordered from the point of view of space and time, as well as material objects (Krivoruchko, Kan, 2024)”.

Results and discussions

In the literature review above, we have analyzed a number of articles consisting discussions of factors influencing the approaches to linguistic research. In the table below, we attempted to systematize these ideas as social realia, linguistic facts, approaches and socio-linguistic principles. The social realia such as particular time and space of the context, digital contexts and ethical considerations influence the language from the outside consequencing inner development. Linguists, in the literature review above, follow particular approaches in their investigations of the principles of the life of a language to control the socio-linguistic (on the outside of the language system) and the linguistic (on the inside of the language system) factors (Table 1).

Table 1 – Social Realia and Linguistic Facts Affecting Socio-linguistic Principles of Language Functioning

Кесте 1 – Әлеуметтік реалия және тілдің қызмет етуінің әлеуметтік-лингвистикалық принциптеріне әсер ететін лингвистикалық факторлар

Таблица 1 – Социальные реалии и лингвистические факты формирующие социо-лингвистические принципы функционирования языка

<i>Viewed social realia</i>	<i>The linguistic facts</i>	<i>The approaches</i>	<i>Supposed principles</i>
Restrictions of	Language – a system of signs	Panchronic	Rules and principles of language

time and space			make-up that exist independently of concrete linguistic facts and of individual language speakers
Integration of the temporal frame considering potential alternatives	Grammatical agreement between words: person – number or decisis – verb (tense); deictic past agrees with past tense verb and deictic tomorrow with future	Temporal: synchronic, diachronic, panchronic	Physical space and time are reflected in the linguistic deictic place and tense
Entities as multilayered self-developing structures	The language – complex holistic, multilayered and self-developing system	Synergetic approach to linguistic data	Universal principles of evolution
Ethnic groups of people residing on the same territory	Coexistence of languages	Variety of perspectives on linguistic signs	Mirroring the sociolinguistic state, status and vitality of languages
Social context / Ethical considerations of integrity, honesty, and transparency	Recording of facts of controlled observations – applied linguistics research	Functional and structural approaches – data is collected analyzed, and interpreted	Relationship between integral and structured language and the social context – compositionality, implicature and lexical meaning
Digital humanities	Corpus data – finite and conditioned language samples bound by space and time	Intuition and consistency	Repetition and replication of data
Historical development	The linguistic principle of reduction	Functional approach	Language has moved from complexity to simplicity due to historical development
External situational context	Translator's internal knowledge set	The intersection of the external context with the internal knowledge set	Principles of linguistic typology of translation process; language of spatial objects

In the works of the authors referred to in this article, certain supposed language principles related to socio-linguistic context seem to be uncovered (summarized in Table 1). The scholars seem to follow the approach related to time and place scales, representing horizontal and vertical perspectives, and the one which is either top-down or bottom-up. The universal traits in the approaches represent *structure*, *function* and *system* organization, considering external situational context and language user's internal knowledge set.

The questionnaire

We have conducted a *Google survey* among lecturers and postgraduate students of M. Kozybayev North-Kazakhstan University, including some foreign researchers to find out their perspectives on socio-linguistic factors influencing the language. The languages that the individual respondents had linguistic competence of were English, German, French, Russian and Kazakh, so that one individual respondent was proficient in at least two languages and demonstrated intermediate or basic knowledge of two or three more languages. In the survey we operated the term *Language*, capitalizing “L”, not being attributed to any specific language, but meaning language as a system. More to that, this meaning is attached to the word *language* throughout this article, even when it is not capitalized (not in case when the specific language is indicated though). The fifty-two respondents of the survey were asked the following questions: *Do social factors influence the Language functioning and development? Which socio-linguistic factors influencing the life of a Language would you allocate? Do the dynamic linguistic factors of the inner lay-out of the Language influence the language evolution and development? Which dynamic linguistic factors of the inner lay-out of the Language are more active and/or malleable to changes and influence on the language?* et cetera. The results of the

questionnaire are presented further.

Do social factors influence the language functioning?

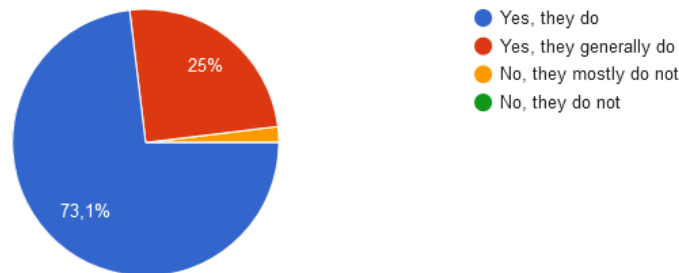


Figure 1 – Social Factors Influencing the Language as a System
 Сурет 1 – Тілге жүйе ретінде әсер ететін әлеуметтік факторлар
 Рисунок 1 – Социальные факторы, влияющие на язык как систему

73,1% of respondents think that *social factors* (repeated representations of the language, pronounced or written) *influence the language functioning* as a system; 25% agree that they *generally do so* and only 1,9% believe that they *mostly do not*. None of the respondents thinks that *social factors have no influence* on the language (Figure 1).

Which factors influencing the language would you allocate?

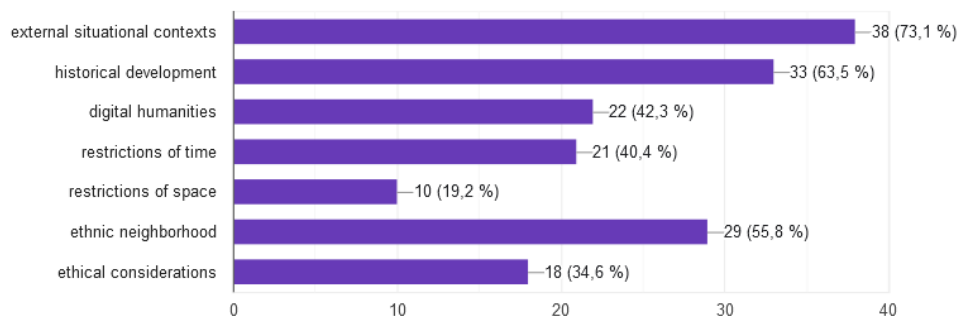


Figure 2 – Allocation of Factors Influencing Language as a System
 Сурет 2 – Тілге жүйе ретінде ықпал ететін факторлардың бөлінуі
 Рисунок 2 – Распределение факторов, влияющих на язык как систему

The factors influencing the language allocated by the respondents include: *external situational contexts* (73,1%), *historical development* (63,5%), *ethnic neighborhood* (55,8%), *digital humanities* (42,3%) etc. (Figure 2).

The next diagram shows that the majority of respondents (40,4%) show their preference to *diachronic approach to research with relation to space and time in the language* while 35,1% choose the *synchronic* one and only the remaining 24,6% lean towards the *panchronic approach* (Figure 3).

Which approach to research with relation to space and time in the language do you find the most adequate?

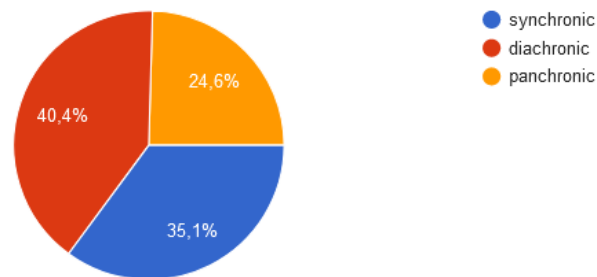


Figure 3 – Approaches to the Representation of Time and Space Categories in Language as a System
 Сурет 3 –Тілдегі уақыт пен кеңістік категорияларын репрезентациялауға қатысты тәсілдер
 Рисунок 3 – Подходы к репрезентации категорий времени и пространства в языке как системе

This proves that the notional time, or in other words understanding and feeling of time (i.e. deixis), is important for the respondents, and it serves as one of the bases for thinking and orientation in space, both notional and real. The reasons for that the respondents show the tendency for diachronic approach might be that it gives the impression of a larger span in attributing the thought, preserving the notion of time which provides the support in thinking. We believe that the synchronic approach was chosen for nearly the same reasons (it is also time bound but provides the alternative perspective), while the panchronic approach might appear to be excessively wide and thus a bit abstract, which, in our opinion, explains it being a less preferred option.

Which principles embedded in language could you think of?

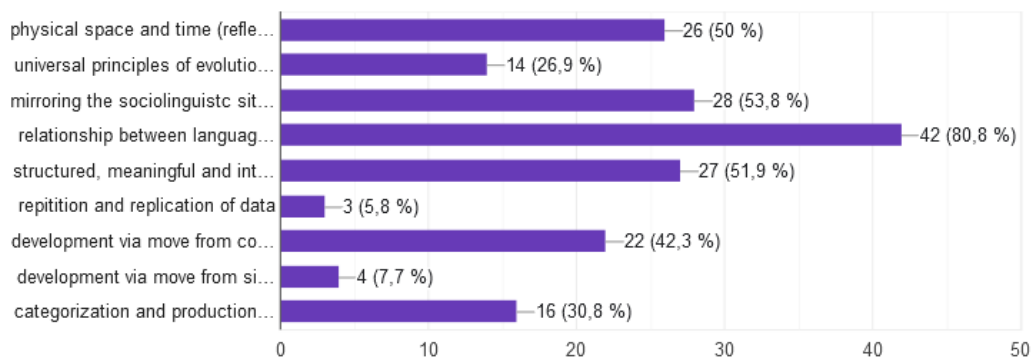


Figure 4 – Principles Embedded in Language as a System
 Сурет 4 – Тіл жүйесінде қамтылған қағидаттар
 Рисунок 4 – Принципы, заложенные в языке как системе

Considering principles embedded in language the respondents primarily think of *relationship between language and its social context* (80,8%) then *mirroring the sociolinguistic situation, status and vitality of languages* (53,8%) followed by *structured, meaningful and integral nature of the language, its symbolism* (51,9%) and *physical space and time reflected in the linguistic deictic tense and place* (50%) (Figure 4).

Which changes happening to the language could you think of?

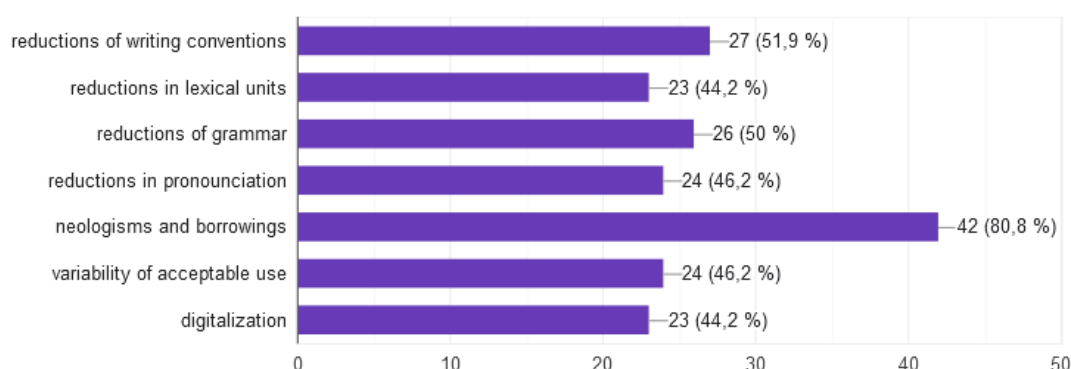


Figure 5 – Changes Occurring in Language as a System

Сурет 5 – Тіл жүйесінде болып жатқан өзгерістер

Рисунок 5 – Изменения, происходящие в языке как системе

The respondents see the following changes happening to the language: *neologisms and borrowings* (80,8%), *reductions of writing conventions* (51,9%), *reductions of grammar* (50%), *reductions in pronunciation* (46,2%) and *variability of acceptable use* (46,2%) (Figure 5). These findings suggest that sociolinguistics curricula should retain the diachronic approach as a core component while explicitly integrating synchronic and panchronic perspectives and linking them to contemporary issues such as language digitalization, neologisms, borrowings, and the influence of artificial intelligence.

Conclusion

After the analysis of the data of the research presented in this article the following inference can be drawn. The scholars (according to their works published in 2022-2024) seem to follow one of the approaches related to time and space dimensions, representing horizontal and vertical perspectives, and either top-down or bottom-up approaches. The commonly mentioned traits in the approaches represent their structure, function and system, considering external situational contexts and an individual's mind set. The social realia commonly viewed are time and space bound, consider ethnic and ethical issues, as well as historic, external and new digital contexts. The linguistic facts that are commonly viewed reflect the language as a complex, corpus, holistic and multi-layered, self-regulating system.

The 73,1% of respondents indicate that social factors influence the language functioning as a system *via* such factors as external situational contexts (73,1%), historical development (63,5%), ethnic neighborhood (55,8%) and digital humanities (42,3%). Considering principles embedded in language, the respondents primarily chose the relationship between language and its social context (80,8%), and saw the changes happening to the language, such as: neologisms and borrowings (80,8%), reductions of written and pronounced language writing conventions (51,9%, 46,2%) and emerging variability of acceptable use (46,2%). The majority of respondents (40,4%) show their preference for a diachronic approach to research, proving that the notional time serves as bases for thinking and orientation in notional and real deictic dimensions. This fact also displays the traditional *time and history bound* perspective of the respondents in 2025-2026 rather than the *innovative digitalized* perspective, notwithstanding the artificial intelligence (AI) developments.

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