



DIFFERENCES BETWEEN RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH IN LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING

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Annotation. :

Comparative analysis on English and Russian can get a better achievement through practice. From the relation of English and Russian, this article has explained the inherent connection of the bilingual. Through probing into the bilingual contrast in the pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, it aims to help the second foreign language learning and teaching.

Key words:

Contrastive analysis on English and Russian; Russian teaching; Russian

Grammar is the structural form of language. It is a rule which people rely on to make sentences when they use language to communicate with each other. It is also a rule which offers language specific meaning and help people understand each other. Every kind of language forms its own unique grammatical rules in the long-term development, the grammar of English and Russian is no exception. But from the same origin, English and Russian have comparability, mainly in the contrast of nouns, verbs, adjectives and prepositions (prepositions in Russian). From classification of words, both English and Russian have nouns, verbs and adjectives. However, the same parts have their own characteristics, for example, the typical feature of nouns in Russian is that the nouns have changes in gender, number and case, but in English nouns, apart from a part of animal nouns which are divided according to gender, most English nouns have no difference in gender. English nouns and Russian nouns both have the singular and the plural; the nouns which have no plural are often abstract, material, collective and proper ones. The gender in English only has the nominative case and the objective case, but in Russian the nouns are divided into 6 genders according to changes of suffix, for example, учебник can be changed to several forms of gender: учебника(учебников), учебнику(учебникам), учебник(учебники), учебником (учебниками), о учебнике(о учебниках). The forms of verbs express different tenses in English and Russian. In English, the 16 tenses are expressed through the help of several changing forms of verbs and auxiliary verbs such as “be”, “have” and “will”. The Russian verbs mainly depend on two kinds of aspect (perfective aspect and imperfective aspect) and three times (the present tense, the past tense and the future tense) to constitute five tenses and aspects. But there are some corresponding relations between them. The present tense in Russian amounts to the present simple tense and the present continuous tense in English, for example, Каждый день мама работает в школе .(It can be expressed as “Мама works in the school everyday” in English.) The imperfective aspect past tense in Russian amounts to the past simple tense and the past continuous tense in English, for example, Мой брат читал рассказ, когда учитель пришёл.(It was expressed as “My brother was reading the story when the teacher came” in English.) The perfective aspect past tense in Russian amounts to the present perfect tense

and the past perfect tense in English, for example, Я прочитал эту статью. (It was expressed as “I have read the article” in English.) The future tense in Russian amounts to the simple future tense and the past future tense in English, for example, Моя сестра будет читать эту книгу. (It was expressed as “My sister is going to read the book” in English.) Besides, the form of active adjectives in Russian amounts to the form of present participles –ing being as attributes, but the form of passive adjectives amounts to the form of past participles –ed being as attributes. Adjective is also the common substantive between English and Russian which is used as predicative in attribute and predicate. Their most distinctive distinction lies in the changes of gender, number and case of Russian adjectives and the differences of long or short tails. But, English adjectives don't have these changes. Their sameness is that they both have property adjective and relation adjective among which property adjective can form the comparative degree and superlative degree. Besides, their structure and usage are very similar. The comparative degree can be divided into the singular form (synthetical form in English grammar) and the plural form (analytic form in English grammar). The singular form of the comparative degree is made up of the primary form of adjective plus suffix (in Russian + ee (ей)), in English +er), for example длинный—длиннее //tall –taller. The plural form of the comparative degree is made up of более or менее (more or less in English) plus the primary form of adjective, for example более (менее) красивый //more(less) beautiful. And the singular form of the superlative degree is made up of the primary form of adjective +ейший(est in English), for example умный—умнейший //clever – cleverest; the plural form of the superlative degree is made up of самый (most in English) plus the primary form of adjective, for example самый красивый//most beautiful. Their differences are mainly reflected that when the singular form of the comparative degree in Russian has the comparative object, it can be expressed by noun, pronoun of the second case of the comparative object except the connective чем while for the plural form of the comparative degree, connective чем can be only used. However, the comparative object can be added whether the analytic form of the comparative degree or the synthetical form. In addition, in Russian both the comparative degree and the connective should be separated by comma, while in English no signs should be separated, for example Анна более умная, чем Маша. // Anna is more clever than Marsha. The prepositions in English and Russian belong to particle class, but they have a strong collocation ability and wide-range usage that they play an important role in the structural significance of the sentence. Therefore, it is of great sense to analyze and master this kind of words. The prepositions in English and Russian are corresponded to each other. They are both unchanged word class and cannot be used as sentence component alone. In addition, they are commonly collocated with noun and pronoun which are used to show the relation between noun or pronoun and another element of the sentence. In terms of structure, the prepositions in English and Russian have singular form, synthetical form and plural form; in terms of significance, there exist equal relation in some prepositions of English and Russian (as the following paradigm); in terms of usage, the English composition should be connected with its accusative and only several pronouns' accusatives have reflections while other words don't. But the different preposition in Russian should be accordant with the corresponding case, for example, благодаря ask for the third case, while в, на ask for the fourth case or the sixth case.

Many aspects of the two languages are dissimilar. However, the main differences are found in their alphabets and grammar systems.

The word order in English is fixed, whereby the meaning is established via the addition of auxiliaries and other words. The words move within a specified boundary. In Russian, the meaning is conveyed by the changes made on the constitution of the words such as by adding suffixes or prefixes or through inflection. For an English speaker, you have to forget verb

conjugation if you're studying Russian. There are fewer tenses in Russian compared to English but Russian has many more cases. A noun's case determines the role that it will play within the sentence. This involves the changes made on the words' endings based on their functions in the context of the sentences. In Modern English, you'll find three cases – subjective (she/he), possessive (hers/his) and objective (her/him).

The Russian grammar system is based on the concept that an action is either completed or not completed. It is shown by the addition of affixes to the verb stem since they do not have too many auxiliary verbs. Thus, English has no need to inflect or affix because of the existence of various auxiliary verbs as well as perfect tense and progressive forms. The Russian language has articles but often omit them. Instead, Russian nouns have gender. Three genders are used – masculine, feminine and neutral (neuter). It is easy if the words refer to physical gender, such as mother or father. Objects are trickier since the user has to know the object's gender to form the word correctly. It's a good thing that the noun's spelling denotes its gender. If the noun is the subject of the sentence, it will be in the nominative case (or dictionary form), which means it is easier to know its gender. If the noun is found in a different part of the sentence, the ending is changed to fit the case, using the following guidelines:

Check the word's last letter:

1. Masculine – ends with *й* or a consonant
2. Feminine – ends with *я* or *а*
3. Neuter – if the word ends in *е* or *о*
4. Either feminine or masculine – if the word ends in the soft sign, *ь*

For Russian language learners, it is vital to memorize the words and the genders, since the assignation of the gender is often arbitrary. There will be times when the noun's gender is related directly to the gender of the object or thing it refers to.

These are the major differences between these two distant cousins – English and Russian. The differences are so great that learners of either language will find initial difficulty when they first encounter the language. As usual, everything will depend on the determination of the student to learn Russian or vice-versa. Certainly, there exist more contrasts in many other aspects for English and Russian. In this discourse, only the very important aspects are compared for the limit length. From their comparison and usage, we can see that the application of the contrast between English and Russian can not only decrease the difficulty of the teaching and learning of Russian as a second foreign language but also motivate students' enthusiasm in order to master two kinds of languages better. The contrast between English and Russian, as a branch of contrast linguistics, has a bright application prospect on which base the contrast between English and Russian can be used to help students master the second language more conveniently and more efficiently. Therefore, the contrast study between English and Russian should be further explored deeply and systematically.

Used literature:

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