## **Research of Aphorisms in World Linguistics**

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**Abstract:** Aphorisms have always attracted people's attention, but in the current era, in the era of scientific and technical progress, their importance is especially increasing; It is no coincidence that aphorism is actively developing in a number of countries and has reached its peak in some places. The problems of aphoristics are discussed at literary conferences and many studies are devoted to them. This article explains research of aphorisms in world linguistics and their origin. Moreover, scientists who worked about meaning of aphorisms in different countries from ancient till now.

**Key words:** Aphorism, ethics, philosophy, proverb, category features, genre, pragmatic intention, grammatical structure, syntactic and stylistic features, post-contextual, complex sentence..

Introduction. The etymological root of the word "aphorism" is taken from the Greek language: "apo" means "from" and "boros" means "border" or "horizon". According to another source, aphorism is etymologically derived from Greek, where "aphorismos" means to distinguish or define. Aphorisms belong to a group of concepts, in which certain characteristics of this group, such as an axiom, a short sentence, a saying, a cliché, an epigram, are connected in common. Davis, a well-known American sociologist of culture, repeatedly emphasized that the origin of the aphorism goes back to ancient times, when it was first used in a scientific context as the name of Hippocrates' book of medical observations. Later, the aphorism eventually expanded to include the principles of ethics and philosophy. Finally, philosophers have distinguished between aphorisms, axioms, theorems, and hypotheses. Davis, a well-known American sociologist of culture, repeatedly emphasized that the origin of the aphorism goes back to ancient times, when it was first used in a scientific context as the name of Hippocrates' book of medical observations. Later, the aphorism eventually expanded to include the principles of ethics and philosophy. Finally, philosophers have distinguished between aphorisms, axioms, theorems, and hypotheses.

The term "aphorism" was first used in the "Aphorisms of Hippocrates", which includes the phrase "Art is long, life is short" [Jones, 1979: 99]. As an independent judgment, aphorisms have appeared over time in religious texts (Proverbs and Ecclesiastes in the Bible, the Qur'an, Sutras, etc.), as views of philosophers in the works of Heraclitus, Hippocrates and Epictetus, as ironies in the works of Martial, Aesop or Al-Maari, La Rushfoucauld, La Bruyere used to present moral ideas in his works.

**Literature review.** Aphorism has been effectively used in many types and areas of speech for a long time in the form of a phrase (phrase text) as a verbal means of general comments and universal generalization of reality. Aphorisms are found in philosophical, didactic, religious speeches of ancient language cultures (Egypt, China, Greece, India, etc.). Aphorisms are widely used in the language of folklore and fiction, religious, philosophical, scientific, legal, political, journalistic and other speeches, in the language of oral speech and in everyday speech.

In modern linguistics, by the end of the 20th century, the description of the concept of aphorism in linguistic encyclopedias and dictionaries of linguistic terms, as well as the use of the idea of aphoristic units in modern linguistics (including educational linguistic literature) increased. In modern linguistics, more and more attention is paid to the study of aphorism as a phrase.

Aphorism as a linguistic phenomenon has always attracted the interest of researchers in various fields, including psychology, philosophy, literary studies, and linguistics. The wide range of interpretation of the important features of this phenomenon explains different approaches to its study: structural-functional,

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linguistic-pragmatic, stylistic, cognitive, etc. J. In his book The World in a Phrase: A Brief History of the Aphorism, Geary outlines the five laws of aphorism:

- (1) the aphorism should be brief;
- (2) it must be clear;
- (3) it must be said by a person known or unknown;
- (4) it must have a turning point;
- (5) and some kind of philosophical view should be reflected in it.

Currently, the linguistic status of aphorisms, category features, selection criteria and classification, and other aspects remain controversial. Some scholars consider them phraseological units (Gavrin 1971; Kunin 1996), others see aphorisms as elements of paremiology (Sharmanova 2002), but many consider aphorisms a separate branch of linguistics (Fedorenko and Sokolskaya 1990; Ivanov Plotnikav 2019); 1994; Vereshchagin and Kostomarov 2005 and others)

Despite the changing status of aphorisms, researchers have come to general conclusions about it according to genre requirements. That is, they will have the following common characteristics:

- a) informative conciseness,
- b) summarizing the idea,
- c) didactic,
- d) expressiveness,
- e) accuracy,
- f) communicativeness,
- g) completeness.

Nowadays, as the Belarusian linguist Ivanov points out, the formation of scientific truth in any field of knowledge can still be taken as an aphorism. However, Russian language researchers Fedorenko and Sokolskaya see aphorisms as an intermediary unit between literature and science, and emphasize that expressiveness and imagery bring aphorisms closer to fiction, and at the same time, they are associated with the ability to synthesize thoughts and establish connections between events, accuracy and conciseness.

**Research Methodology.** Aphorisms are nominative units. However, representatives of the school of Russian linguistics, Vereshchagin and Kostomarov, propose to distinguish between nominal and non-nominal information within the framework of aphoristic speech. According to them, the nominal information is responsible for revealing the denotative meaning of the aphoristic sentence. The non-nominal semantics of the aphorism includes the meanings of the component words, which in turn include the whole set of basic knowledge.

When analyzing an aphoristic sentence, it is important to consider the pragmatic intention of the author. In this regard, we agree with Shabat-Savka, who states that the category of communicative intention has a two-fold nature: it includes both the level of content (i.e., the speaker's intention to inform, retell, emote, evaluate something) and the level of form (i.e. lexical, morphological and syntactic constructions.

Aphoristic definitions in scientific texts are quite different from the interpretation of linguistic concepts in literary works, speeches and conversations of writers. According to Trusov, definition in fiction is just an imitation of logical definition, and it is the result of synthesis of logical analytical and associative-metaphorical thinking. In fiction, definition is produced by employing a mental operation diametrically opposed to the compression of scientific language.

According to Franco, aphorism accompanies the process of associative thinking, in which the semantic field expands, and the meaning of the main concept is replaced by a secondary meaning. Davis notes that "aphorisms point not only forward and outward to the world they are concerned with, but also backward and inward to their creator."

As Kulishkina points out, "imaginary thinking based on associative connections that determine a specific 'aphoristic reception', that is, an individual 'afterthought,' is the ground for aphoristic statements."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Hotsynets 2013: 77

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Devis 1999: 256

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A person's cognitive activity is not limited to the study of the primary, main features of objects and events, but also requires "tying differentiated, externally independent factors into a single system and content." Baias even singles out the aphoristic function of language: "A bright aphorism is not intended to describe or explain reality, but to inspire the human heart and mind."

We should distinguish two main groups of definitions of linguistic terms, which are significantly different from each other according to the specific features of the definition process:

- 1. 1. Scientific
- 2. 2. Aphoristic.

Scientific definitions present generalized experience in a logical manner using factual data. Aphoristics have individual authorship, have their own character and provide information from the author's subjective point of view. Therefore, aphoristic definitions, in contrast to scientific definitions, are like intellectual reflections aimed at indicating the essential, central features of the term, which focus on denotative meaning. Aphoristic expressions represent the pragmatic intention of the author to respond with emotion and evaluate the identified phenomenon.

Almost all famous scientists were creators of aphorisms at one time. It is no coincidence that there are still supporters of the theory that aphorisms do not belong to literature, but to science, in particular, philosophy abroad, and debates continue in this regard. Aphorisms, of course, should be considered a literary genre, but they are close to science, and this contributes to their popularity in our time, which is characterized by the flourishing of science.

**Analysis and results.** Turning to the philosophical nature of aphorisms, James Geary in his book The World in a Phrase proposes five laws of aphorisms; among these the fifth defines "It must be philosophical." In the article "El aforismo o la formulation de la duda", Ricardo Martínez Conde writes: "El aforismo no es sino una forma filosófica cuya rotundidad y autonomía son el resultado del trabajo del pensamo - Aphorism is essentially a philosophical form, which with the effort of thinking achieves resonance and autonomy. D. Atlas writes: "an aphorism is a way of philosophical speech...<sup>4</sup>" In addition, the supposed philosophical character of an aphorism distinguishes it from other similar types of texts.

The similarity between aphorisms and other texts, such as proverbs, paradoxically highlights their differences in terms of the relationship between text and context. Proverbs can be said to be post-contextual texts because they rely on conversational situations to convey meaning – usually as a rhetorical addition to what is said. On the other hand, as a written genre, aphoristic texts occur outside the context of conversation, and when reading aphorisms, the aphoristic text itself can be the first and last linguistic construction of the whole process. Manfred Wolff writes in his "Aphorism" article: "Many famous passages (of Shakespeare's) derive their force from things that aphorisms do not rely on, their context..."

- 1. Aphorisms are deep and spiritual thoughts that take time to enjoy, understand and absorb. Taleb notes, "You never have to explain an aphorism—it's something the reader has to figure out, like a poem."
- 2. G. Morson, however, has a completely different opinion on this matter, in "The Rhetoric of the Aphorism" he says that aphorisms are a type of quotation and they are not supported by context: "In becoming a quotation, the quoted line must exist by itself, so to speak, without the use of context.
- 3. In the works devoted to aphorisms, their signs and characteristics are distinguished, one of them is brevity. In world linguistics, you can find statements about aphorisms, which emphasize the special importance of brevity:
- 4. Aphorism is the shortest distance between word and meaning (S. Fedin).
- 5. Aphorism is a one-line novel (L. Sukhorukov).

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6. The real amount of aphorisms: minimum words with maximum meaning (M. Twain)

<sup>5</sup> Wolf 1994: (432)

Volume 13

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Sazbandyan 2008: 8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> (Atlas 2005).

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The defining quality of an aphorism cannot be immediately determined. In form, aphorisms are often associated with brevity, but they are often extended beyond a single sentence. Morson noted that the length of an aphorism has no real limit, since longer forms show an "aphoristic" aspect. Davis argues that the aphorism as a form is inherently unstable because it is intersectional, part of a spectrum.

Based on her experience in compiling a dictionary of aphorisms, A.V. Korolkova notes that aphorisms are often cited when the situation "requires" them because of their memorability. E.Yu. According to Vaganova, an aphorism can consist of up to six sentences. Sidorenko and L.I. Sokolskaya notes that 3/4 of all aphorisms consist of 3-5 words.

Aphorisms were divided into two groups according to the complexity of the sentence: simple and complex. The analysis showed that aphorisms are syntactically expressed by a simple sentence. Some of the aphorisms structurally consist of one simple, uncomplicated sentence.

Violence is the diplomacy of the incompetent (И. Асимов). (Зўравонлик – қобилиятсизларнинг дипломатияси).

It is easier to stay out than get out (M. Twain) (Чикишдан кўра ташкарида колиш осонрок).

As a rule, aphorisms of this type are expressed by affirmative sentences. Usually, aphorisms are expressed in one complex sentence. At the same time, the subject, predicate, and secondary members of the sentence can be the same:

Love, children and work are the great sources of fertilizing contact between the individual and the rest of the world (B. Russel). (Севги, болалар ва иш шахс ва дунёнинг қолган қисми ўртасидаги енг улугъ алоқа манбаларидир).

First love is only a little foolishness and a lot of curiosity (G.B. Shaw). (Биринчи севги – бу озгина аҳмоқлик ва жуда кўп қизиқувчанлик).

Conjunctions and related words play an important role in a compound sentence. They not only perform a constructive function, but also express a semantic and stylistic feature:

Man will occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of the time he will pick himself up and continue on (W. Churchill). (Inson vaqti-vaqti bilan haqiqatga qoqiladi, lekin koʻpincha u oʻzini koʻtaradi va davom etadi)

France may claim the happiest marriages in the world, but the happiest divorces are "made in America" (H. Rowland). (Франсия дунёда бахтли никохларни даъво қилиши мумкин, лекин енг бахтли ажралишлар Америкада амалга оширилади).

Conclusion/Recommendations. In conclusion, since an aphorism is a short, elegant way of expressing a wise, deep thought, the conciseness and brevity of the expression requires the presence of features of its grammatical structure, determines the uniqueness of its syntactic form. An aphorism is a unique expression of this deep thought. Aphorisms are represented by complex general sentences, in particular complex sentences, which contain a deep thought that is gradually revealed and polished in the aphorism. From the point of view of linguistics, there are various types of aphorisms, and in the process of learning, it is appropriate to pay attention to preserving the spirit of a particular nation, while taking into account their syntactic and stylistic features.

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