

The Importance of the Historical Approach in the Linguistic Research

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Abstract : The paper shortly discusses the significance and the benefits of the historical approach in the research of languages by presenting examples of it in the fields of phonetics and phonology, lexicology, morphology, syntax, and even in the onomastics (toponymy and anthroponymy). The examples from the field of phonetics/phonology include insights into animal speech and its evolution into human speech, the evolution of the sounds of human speech from vocals to glides and consonants and from velar consonants to palatal, etc., on well-known examples of former researchers. Those from the field of lexicology show shortly the formation of the lexemes and their evolution; the morphology and syntax are explained by examples of the development of grammar and syntax forms, and the importance of the historical approach in the research of place-names and personal names is briefly outlined through examples of place-names and personal names and surnames, and the conclusions that come from it, in different languages.

Keywords : animal speech, glotogenesis, grammar forms, lexicology, place-names, personal names, surnames, syntax categories

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