



MODERN TRENDS IN ENGLISH LINGUISTICS: THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract: This article provides a comprehensive academic analysis of the modern trends reshaping English linguistics from both theoretical and practical viewpoints. In the contemporary era, linguistics has evolved from a structural study of language components into a highly interdisciplinary science. This research critically examines the paradigms of Cognitive Linguistics, Corpus Linguistics, and Computational Linguistics, highlighting their theoretical foundations and empirical applications. Furthermore, the paper bridges the gap between theory and practice by demonstrating how these linguistic trends optimize English Language Teaching (ELT), lexicography, and natural language processing (NLP). The study also addresses challenges related to data reliability and the ethical integration of AI in linguistic research, providing strategic recommendations for future scholarship.

Keywords: English linguistics, cognitive paradigms, corpus linguistics, computational linguistics, ELT methodology, sociolinguistics, conceptual metaphor, digital humanities.

Linguistics in the 21st century is undergoing a profound paradigm shift. For decades, the domain of English linguistics was heavily dominated by structuralist and generative frameworks, which analyzed language as an isolated, abstract system of formal rules. However, the globalization of communication, combined with the exponential growth of digital technologies, has propelled linguistics into a dynamic, interdisciplinary arena. Modern linguistics no longer



merely asks *how* language is structured, but *how* it functions within the human mind, digital frameworks, and diverse social contexts [1,p.14].

As a result, contemporary English linguistics is characterized by a shift from intuition-based descriptions to data-driven, empirical analyses. This article aims to explore the most prominent theoretical trends—specifically focusing on cognitive, corpus, and computational paradigms—and evaluate their practical applications in pedagogy, translation studies, and artificial intelligence. By synthesizing these perspectives, the study underscores the dual nature of modern linguistics as both a rigorous theoretical science and an indispensable tool for practical innovation.

Theoretical Perspectives: The Epistemological Shifts. Modern theoretical frameworks in English linguistics are increasingly driven by the understanding that language is intrinsically connected to human cognition and social experience.

2.1. The Cognitive Paradigm. Cognitive linguistics rejects the Chomskyan notion of an innate language acquisition device operating independently of general cognitive faculties. Instead, it posits that language is an embedded component of human cognition, reflecting conceptualization, categorization, and perception [2,p.45].

Key areas of contemporary cognitive research include:

Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT): Originally formulated by Lakoff and Johnson, modern researchers apply CMT to large-scale English discourses (political, medical, and economic) to show how abstract concepts are structurally understood through concrete experiences (e.g., *"Economy is a living organism"*).

Construction Grammar (CxG): This framework treats constructions—stable pairings of form and meaning—as the fundamental units of language, effectively blurring the traditional, rigid line between lexicon and syntax [3, p. 88].

2.2. The Corpus Paradigm and Empirical Turn:



One of the most significant theoretical revolutions is the consolidation of Corpus Linguistics. Rather than relying on the subjective intuition of the linguist or native speaker, modern English linguistics utilizes massive, electronically stored collections of authentic text (corpora), such as the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) or the British National Corpus (BNC). This shift has re-defined lexical semantics, grammar, and discourse analysis by proving that language usage is highly formulaic, probabilistic, and dependent on collocational environments [4, p. 201].

The boundary between human speech and digital execution has largely dissolved, giving rise to robust hybrid fields.

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