

## CONTEMPORARY LINGUISTIC RESEARCH TECHNIQUES: A REVIEW AND CLASSIFICATION GROUNDED IN FOUNDATIONAL SOVIET SCHOLARSHIP

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**Abstract:** This article presents an overview and systematization of key approaches and techniques in linguistic research, drawing on the analysis of seminal Soviet works in general linguistics. The contributions of scholars such as B. A. Serebrennikov, Yu. S. Stepanov, V. I. Kodukhov, and Z. K. Tarlanov serve as the foundation for tracing the evolution of methodological classification. The study highlights fundamental methodological principles, with special attention given to the role of dialectical materialism as a philosophical cornerstone. The interconnection between specific analytical methods and the overarching methodology of science is also explored.

**Keywords:** linguistic research methods, Soviet linguistics, general methodology, dialectical materialism, foundational works, methodological principles, classification.

### **Introduction.**

The study of research methodologies in linguistics represents a critical component of general language theory. Methods shape the ways linguists acquire, analyze, and justify knowledge about language. In Soviet linguistics of the 20th century, particularly in the works of B. A. Serebrennikov and Yu. S. Stepanov, there was a pronounced emphasis on the classification and systematic organization of linguistic methods, closely linked to the philosophy of science—most notably dialectical materialism. This article explores the development and categorization of linguistic research methods, primarily focusing on key works published between the 1970s and 1990s. It also discusses the role of philosophical underpinnings in shaping both general and specific methodological frameworks.

### **Methodological Foundations and Method Structure**

In the foundational volume *General Linguistics: Methods of Linguistic Research* (1973, 2009), edited by B. A. Serebrennikov, the issue of methodology is positioned as central to the discipline. He proposes a classification of methods based on the diverse branches of linguistics:

Linguogenetic Methods

Linguogeographic Methods

Structural Analysis

Typological Methods

Synchronic and Diachronic Descriptive Methods

This categorization is valuable in that it aligns with specific linguistic domains and theoretical frameworks. At the core of Serebrennikov's approach is the concept of a three-part structure of method:

**Method Theory** – encompasses linguistic foundations, application techniques, and philosophical premises.

**Scientific Techniques** – practical procedures for handling language data.

**Technical Procedures** – such as outlining, data organization, etc.

Dialectical materialism is regarded not as a replacement for specialized methods, but as the integrative philosophical base that supports and contextualizes them within a unified scientific framework.

### **Yu. S. Stepanov's Classification System**

Yu. S. Stepanov (1975, 2009) introduces three interrelated concepts crucial to methodology:

**Technique (Metodika):** A set of observational and experimental tools

**Method:** A structured way of interpreting observational results

**Methodology:** The application of worldview principles to scientific inquiry

Dialectical materialism is once again emphasized as a universal method, while particular linguistic methods are considered as discipline-specific tools.

Stepanov suggests that methods should be classified based on their underlying theoretical principles rather than superficial traits. His framework also incorporates historical, logical, and semiotic dimensions, acknowledging the multifaceted nature of language.

### **Method of Inquiry vs. Method of Presentation.**

An important distinction made by Stepanov is between the **method of inquiry** (how knowledge is discovered) and the **method of presentation** (how it is communicated). This dual perspective enhances both the scientific rigor and clarity of linguistic research.

### **V. I. Kodukhov's Methodological Perspective.**

In his textbook *General Linguistics* (1974), V. I. Kodukhov outlines a triadic model similar to Stepanov's:

**Methodology** – the study of scientific methods in general and their specific applications

**Method** – a means of understanding natural, social, and cognitive phenomena

**Technique (Metodika)** – the practical application of methods

Kodukhov emphasizes that methodology encompasses diverse research procedures, each characterized by distinct techniques and methods.

### **Z. K. Tarlanov's Approach to Linguistic Levels**

Z. K. Tarlanov (1979, 1995) underlines the need for a structured classification of linguistic methods. He proposes organizing them according to language levels (e.g., phonetics, morphology, syntax), which helps to define the scope and applicability of each method more clearly. This approach enables a more systematic and integrated analysis.

### **Synthesis and Future Directions:**

Collectively, these foundational works illustrate the evolution of Soviet linguistic methodology—from an initial descriptive focus to a more theoretically grounded and philosophically coherent system. Dialectical materialism serves as a unifying epistemological base, while specific methods evolve to address the diverse facets of language as a complex system.

Emerging trends such as semiotic and logical-semantic approaches reflect the growing complexity of linguistic inquiry and the need for interdisciplinary integration. Future methodological developments will likely hinge on their ability to adapt to and encompass these multifaceted challenges.

**Table: Classification of Linguistic Methods (Adapted from Serebrennikov and Stepanov)**

Category	Example Methods	Brief Description
General Methods	Scientific Dialectical Materialism	Philosophical foundation ensuring methodological cohesion
Synchronic Methods	Analysis Structural Analysis	Study of language at a specific point in time
Diachronic Methods	Analysis Historical Method	Study of language evolution over time
Typological Methods	Comparative-Historical Method	Identifying shared features among languages
Linguogeographic Methods	Dialectology	Study of language variation across geographical areas
Logical-Semantic Methods	Semantic Analysis	Exploration of meaning and logical structures in language

## Conclusion.

A comprehensive review of classical Soviet linguistic literature confirms that modern linguistics employs a diverse and well-structured array of research methods. These methods are grounded in a robust philosophical and theoretical framework, and the distinction between methodology, method, and technique plays a crucial role in maintaining clarity and precision.

As linguistic research evolves, integrative and interdisciplinary approaches will become increasingly important to address the complexities of language and meet the demands of contemporary science.

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