The study of language contact is known as contrastive linguistics. It examines the effects of contact between languages on language development and use. The field has seen significant developments, with early works focusing on the effects of language contact on the development of pidgin and creole languages. More recently, contrastive linguistics has been applied to the study of varieties of a single language, focusing on the influence of contact with other languages on linguistic change and variation.

1. The rise of Cognitive Grammar has revived the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis of linguistic relativity, which posits that language shapes thought and thought influences language. This hypothesis is often disputed, but recent research has shown that language can influence cognitive processes. Contrastive linguistics can be a tool for exploring the relationship between language and thought.

2. Contrastive linguistics is divided into several branches, including contrastive rhetoric, contrastive pragmatics, and contrastive sociolinguistics. Each branch focuses on different aspects of language contact, such as the effects of contact on writing, speech, and social interaction.

3. Contrastive linguistics is not to be confused with comparative linguistics, which focuses on the study of language similarities and differences based on their historical development. While both fields examine language contact, they use different methods and have different goals.

4. Contrastive linguistics is characterized by a focus on the specific language contact situation, which can involve contact between different varieties of a single language or between different languages. The specific context of the contact situation can influence the outcomes of language contact.

5. Contrastive linguistics seeks to understand the processes underlying language contact and the factors that influence the outcomes. This includes understanding the motivations for contact, the strategies used by language users, and the consequences of contact on language use and development.

6. The study of language contact is important for understanding the development of pidgin and creole languages, as well as for understanding the effects of contact on the development of varieties of a single language. Contrastive linguistics can be a tool for exploring the relationship between language and thought, and for understanding the processes underlying language change and variation.