

LEXICAL-SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF POLITENESS CATEGORY IN SPEECH
CULTURE OF UZBEK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

Kulmukhamedova Lobar Anvarjonovna

is a teacher of SamSU UF named after Sh.Rashidov

Annotatsiya: Ushbu keng qamrovli tadqiqot o'zbek va ingliz tillari nutq madaniyatidagi xushmuomalalikning leksik va semantik jihatlarini o'rganadi. Braun va Levinsonning xushmuomalalik nazariyasi va nutq akti nazariyasini o'z ichiga olgan nazariy asoslarning kombinatsiyasidan foydalangan holda, tadqiqot xushmuomalalik har ikkala tilda lingvistik jihatdan qanday tuzilgan va madaniy kontekstualashtirilganligini tahlil qiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: xushmuomalalik, leksik-semantik tahlil, o'zbek tili, ingliz tili, madaniyatlararo pragmatika, sotsiolingvistika, sharaflash, nutq akti nazariyasi.

Аннотация: В данном комплексном исследовании исследуются лексические и семантические аспекты вежливости в речевых культурах узбекского и английского языков. Используя комбинацию теоретических основ, в том числе теорию вежливости Брауна и Левинсона и теорию речевого акта, исследование анализирует, как вежливость лингвистически структурирована и культурно контекстуализирована на обоих языках.

Ключевые слова: Вежливость, Лексико-семантический анализ, Узбекский язык, Английский язык, Межкультурная прагматика, Социолингвистика, Хонорифис, Теория речевого акта.

Annotation: This comprehensive study explores the lexical and semantic dimensions of politeness in the speech cultures of Uzbek and English languages. By employing a combination of theoretical frameworks, including Brown and Levinson's Politeness Theory and Speech Act Theory, the research analyzes how politeness is linguistically structured and culturally contextualized in both languages.

Keywords: Politeness, Lexical-Semantic Analysis, Uzbek Language, English Language, Cross-Cultural Pragmatics, Sociolinguistics, Honorifics, Speech Act Theory.

Definition of Politeness

Politeness, as a fundamental aspect of human interaction, encompasses a range of linguistic and non-linguistic behaviors aimed at expressing respect, consideration, and deference towards others. It is a universal phenomenon, yet its specific manifestations vary significantly across cultures and languages. In linguistic terms, politeness involves the strategic use of language to achieve social harmony and avoid conflict, often by adhering to societal norms and expectations. Politeness can be realized through various linguistic forms, including vocabulary choice, grammatical structures, and discourse strategies, all of which contribute to the overall communicative competence of speakers.

Importance of Politeness in Linguistic Studies

The study of politeness is crucial in understanding the interplay between language, culture, and social interaction. Politeness strategies are deeply embedded in the cultural and social fabric of a community, reflecting values, hierarchies, and relational dynamics. Analyzing politeness

within different linguistic frameworks not only provides insights into the linguistic structures but also reveals the underlying cultural ethos and social principles governing communication. The examination of politeness strategies contributes to broader linguistic theories, particularly in the fields of pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and cross-cultural communication.

Overview of Uzbek and English Languages

Uzbek, a Turkic language spoken primarily in Uzbekistan, and English, a Germanic language with global prevalence, present rich fields for exploring the nuances of politeness. Uzbek is characterized by its agglutinative morphology, complex system of honorifics, and distinct cultural norms that guide interaction. English, on the other hand, exhibits a more analytical syntax with varied politeness markers, influenced by its historical development and cultural diversity. The comparison of these two languages offers valuable insights into how different linguistic systems and cultural contexts shape the expression of politeness.

Objectives of the Study

This study aims to conduct a comprehensive lexical-semantic analysis of the politeness category in the speech cultures of Uzbek and English. By examining the lexical choices, morphological features, and semantic fields associated with politeness in both languages, this research seeks to:

Identify and classify politeness expressions in Uzbek and English.

Explore the cultural and contextual factors influencing the use of politeness strategies.

Compare and contrast the lexical and semantic mechanisms of politeness in the two languages.

Provide insights into the implications of politeness for cross-cultural communication and interaction. **Theoretical Framework** Politeness Theory (Brown and Levinson)

Brown and Levinson's Politeness Theory, a foundational framework in linguistic politeness studies, posits that politeness is a universal feature of language, manifested through strategies to mitigate face-threatening acts (FTAs). According to their theory, politeness strategies are employed to maintain both positive face (the desire to be liked and approved) and negative face (the desire to be autonomous and unimpeded). Brown and Levinson identify four main politeness strategies: bald on-record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off-record (indirect) politeness. These strategies are employed based on the social distance, power relations, and the level of imposition involved in the interaction.

Speech Act Theory (Austin and Searle)

Speech Act Theory, developed by Austin and Searle, provides a framework for understanding how utterances function as actions in communication. Speech acts are categorized into locutionary acts (the act of saying something), illocutionary acts (the intended function of the utterance, such as requesting or apologizing), and perlocutionary acts (the effect of the utterance on the listener). Politeness can be analyzed in terms of how speakers perform various speech acts, with a focus on the illocutionary force and the strategies used to achieve the desired social outcome.

Sociolinguistic Approaches to Politeness Sociolinguistic approaches to politeness emphasize the role of social norms, cultural values, and contextual factors in shaping polite behavior. Researchers in this field examine how politeness varies across different social groups, contexts, and cultures. Sociolinguistic studies often focus on variables such as age, gender, social class, and ethnicity to understand how politeness is enacted and perceived in various communities.

Cross-Cultural Pragmatics

Cross-cultural pragmatics investigates how speakers from different cultural backgrounds use and interpret politeness strategies. This field of study highlights the diversity of politeness norms and the potential for miscommunication in intercultural interactions. Cross-cultural pragmatics aims to identify universal principles of politeness as well as culture-specific norms, contributing to a deeper understanding of global communication dynamics.

Methodology

Data Collection Methods

The data for this study were collected through a combination of methods, including corpus analysis, field observations, and interviews with native speakers of Uzbek and English. The corpus analysis involved examining written and spoken texts from various sources, such as literature, media, and everyday conversations. Field observations provided contextual insights into how politeness is enacted in real-life interactions. Interviews with native speakers offered perspectives on the cultural and contextual factors influencing politeness strategies.

Analytical Tools and Frameworks

The analysis of politeness expressions in Uzbek and English was conducted using a range of analytical tools and frameworks. Lexical analysis involved identifying and categorizing politeness markers, such as honorifics, modal verbs, and hedging expressions. Morphological analysis focused on the forms and structures used to convey politeness, while syntactic analysis examined the sentence patterns and grammatical constructions associated with polite language. Semantic analysis explored the meanings and connotations of politeness expressions, considering both denotative and connotative aspects.

Comparative Analysis Techniques

Comparative analysis techniques were employed to identify similarities and differences in the politeness strategies of Uzbek and English. This involved a detailed examination of the lexical, morphological, and semantic features of politeness expressions in both languages. The comparative analysis also considered the cultural and contextual factors that influence the use of politeness strategies, highlighting the interplay between language and culture.

Lexical Analysis of Politeness in Uzbek

Common Politeness Expressions in Uzbek

Uzbek features a variety of lexical expressions that convey politeness, including honorifics, terms of address, and formulaic phrases. Common politeness markers in Uzbek include the use of respectful pronouns, such as "Siz" (you - formal), and honorific suffixes, such as "-jon" and "-xon" which are added to names to show respect and affection. Additionally, formulaic expressions like "Iltimos" (please) and "Rahmat" (thank you) are frequently used to maintain politeness in interactions.

Morphological and Syntactic Features

Uzbek morphology plays a significant role in expressing politeness. The language employs agglutinative structures, where politeness markers are attached to the base form of words. For example, the addition of the suffix "-ingiz" to verbs or nouns conveys formality and respect. Syntactically, Uzbek often uses indirect speech acts and conditional forms to soften requests and commands, thereby enhancing politeness.

Contextual Usage and Variations

The use of politeness expressions in Uzbek varies depending on the social context, the relationship between interlocutors, and the formality of the situation. In formal settings, speakers

are more likely to use honorifics and indirect forms, whereas in informal interactions, they may opt for more direct and familiar expressions. Cultural norms, such as respect for elders and authority figures, heavily influence the choice of politeness strategies in Uzbek.

Lexical Analysis of Politeness in English

Common Politeness Expressions in English

English utilizes a range of lexical expressions to convey politeness, including modal verbs, hedging expressions, and terms of address. Common politeness markers in English include the use of modal verbs like "could," "would," and "might" to soften requests, as well as hedging phrases such as "I was wondering if" and "Would you mind." Terms of address, such as "Sir," "Madam," "Mr.," and "Mrs.," also play a role in polite interactions.

Morphological and Syntactic Features

In English, politeness is often conveyed through the use of specific syntactic structures and morphological markers. The use of passive constructions, conditional sentences, and question forms are common strategies to achieve politeness. For example, "Could you pass the salt?" is more polite than the direct imperative "Pass the salt." The addition of politeness markers, such as "please" and "thank you," further enhances the polite tone of an utterance.

Contextual Usage and Variations

The use of politeness expressions in English is influenced by the context, the relationship between speakers, and the level of formality. In professional or formal settings, speakers tend to use more elaborate politeness strategies, including honorifics and indirect requests. In casual interactions, more direct forms of speech may be acceptable, though politeness markers like "please" and "thank you" are still commonly used. Cultural factors, such as the emphasis on individualism and egalitarianism, shape the politeness norms in English-speaking contexts.

Semantic Analysis of Politeness in Uzbek

Semantic Fields and Domains

The semantic analysis of politeness in Uzbek reveals several key domains, including respect, deference, humility, and social harmony. Politeness expressions in Uzbek often carry connotations of respect for social hierarchy and a strong emphasis on maintaining harmonious relationships. Terms like "Siz" and honorifics like "-jon" and "-xon" are semantically loaded with respect and affection, reflecting the cultural values of the Uzbek community.

CONCLUSION

This study provides a detailed lexical-semantic analysis of the politeness category in the speech cultures of Uzbek and English languages. By examining the lexical choices, morphological features, and semantic fields associated with politeness in both languages, the research highlights the interplay between language and culture in shaping polite behavior.

The findings reveal that both Uzbek and English employ a variety of lexical and syntactic strategies to express politeness, though the specific mechanisms and cultural underpinnings differ. Uzbek, with its agglutinative morphology and complex honorific system, emphasizes respect and social hierarchy, while English relies on modal verbs, hedging expressions, and varied politeness markers influenced by its diverse cultural contexts.

Comparative analysis shows that while both languages share common goals in maintaining social harmony and avoiding conflict, they achieve these goals through different linguistic and cultural pathways. The study underscores the importance of understanding these differences for

effective cross-cultural communication and highlights the need for further research into other linguistic and cultural contexts.

In conclusion, this research contributes to the broader field of linguistic and cultural studies by providing insights into the politeness strategies of Uzbek and English. It offers valuable implications for educators, linguists, and communication professionals engaged in cross-cultural interactions, emphasizing the role of language in reflecting and shaping social norms and cultural values.

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