



Emotivity and Expressiveness in Accusatory Speech Behavior

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Abstract

This article presents a linguistic and pragmatic analysis of emotivity and expressiveness in accusatory speech behavior. It examines the concept of accusatory discourse, its communicative characteristics, and the role and functions of emotive and expressive means in speech. Particular attention is paid to the special place occupied by accusatory speech behavior within social relations, as well as to the expression of emotions and the use of expressive linguistic devices in this process.

Key words: accusation, speech behavior, emotivity, expressiveness, pragmatics, discourse, communication.

Introduction

In modern linguistics, the study of speech behavior has become increasingly important. Human communication is a complex phenomenon involving various speech acts such as requests, commands, pleas, curses, and accusations. Accusatory speech behavior is a multifaceted phenomenon located at the intersection of linguistics, psychology, and sociology. An accusation is a speech act expressing negative evaluation, criticism, or condemnation directed toward a particular individual. The primary communicative purpose of such speech behavior is to make the recipient aware of their mistake or wrongdoing, assign a negative evaluation, and impose social responsibility. Consequently, emotivity and expressiveness are strongly manifested in accusatory discourse.

The Nature of Accusatory Speech Behavior

Speech behavior refers to the set of linguistic and extralinguistic actions performed during communication. According to Speech Act Theory developed by J. Austin and J. Searle, every speech act consists of three components: the locutionary act, the illocutionary act, and the perlocutionary act. In accusatory speech acts, the illocutionary force is particularly strong because it aims to evoke feelings of guilt and responsibility in the listener. The main characteristics of accusatory speech behavior include intentionality, relationality, impactfulness, and social orientation.

Emotivity and Its Role in Accusatory Discourse

Emotivity is a linguistic phenomenon associated with the expression of emotions in speech. As noted by V. I. Shakhovsky and other scholars, emotivity is manifested through lexical, grammatical, and intonational means. In accusatory discourse, emotivity is especially prominent because accusations inherently contain negative emotions such as anger, disappointment, dissatisfaction, and resentment. Emotive means in accusatory speech may be

classified into several groups: emotive vocabulary (e.g., words expressing shame, disgrace, guilt), emotive grammatical constructions (exclamatory sentences, rhetorical questions, repetitions), and emotive intonation (raised voice, pauses, changes in tempo). In Uzbek culture, emotive accusations are often associated with concepts such as honor, dignity, and reputation, which strengthens their emotional impact.

Expressiveness and Its Manifestations in Accusatory Speech

Expressiveness refers to the ability of speech to produce emotional and aesthetic effects on the listener. In accusatory discourse, expressiveness manifests itself through the speaker's emotional state and through the construction of highly impactful messages. The main stylistic devices that enhance expressiveness include metaphors, similes, irony, sarcasm, hyperbole, repetition, litotes, and antithesis. These devices transform accusations from simple information transfer into emotionally charged communicative acts. Grammatical means of expressiveness also play an important role. Inversion, ellipsis, nominative sentences, and infinitive constructions contribute to the conciseness and emotional intensity of accusatory speech.

Pragmatic Features of Accusatory Discourse

From a pragmatic perspective, several factors influence accusatory speech behavior: communicative situation, interpersonal relations, sociocultural context, and the expected perlocutionary effect. Speakers adapt their accusatory strategies according to the listener's personality, social status, and relationship with the speaker. According to H. P. Grice's theory of conversational maxims, accusatory discourse often involves deliberate deviations from the maxims of quantity, quality, relation, and manner. Such deviations generate pragmatic implicatures that strengthen emotivity and expressiveness. In Uzbek communicative culture, face-saving strategies play a significant role. Direct and harsh accusations may lead to social conflict; therefore, speakers frequently employ indirect forms of accusation. In such cases, expressiveness is conveyed through implied meanings rather than explicit statements.

Conclusion

Emotivity and expressiveness are closely interconnected in accusatory speech behavior. Emotivity reflects the emotional saturation of accusatory discourse, while expressiveness determines its persuasive and impactful force. Together, these phenomena serve the primary communicative goal of accusation: eliciting negative evaluation and a sense of responsibility in the listener. The study demonstrates that national values and social relations directly influence the selection of emotive and expressive means in Uzbek accusatory discourse. Future research should employ corpus-based methods, conduct comparative analyses of accusatory discourse across different communicative genres, and apply the findings to language teaching methodology.

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