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SEMANTIC-PRAGMATIC FEATURES OF EMOTIONAL INTERJECTIONS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH

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Abstract: This study examines the semantic and pragmatic features of emotional interjections in Uzbek and English from a comparative perspective. Emotional interjections are important linguistic units that express speakers’ feelings, attitudes, and reactions in communication. From the perspective of Semantics, they function as carriers of emotional meaning, while Pragmatics focuses on their communicative role and context-dependent usage. The research analyzes examples from both languages and identifies similarities and differences in their use. The findings show that emotional interjections have universal characteristics but vary in form, intensity, and cultural usage. The study highlights their importance in effective communication, translation, and language teaching.

Keywords: Emotional interjections, semantics, pragmatics, Uzbek language, English language, comparative linguistics.

Introduction

Language is the primary means of expressing human emotions, attitudes, and inner experiences. Emotional interjections, in particular, serve as powerful tools for conveying a speaker’s feelings directly and vividly in speech. These units are significant not only from a semantic (meaning-related) perspective but also from a pragmatic (contextual and communicative) point of view. Within Semantics, interjections are studied as carriers of meaning, while Pragmatics focuses on their function in discourse, their dependence on context, and their communicative impact. Emotional interjections in Uzbek and English share certain similarities, yet they also differ due to national and cultural characteristics. This study aims to analyze the semantic and pragmatic features of emotional interjections in both languages from a comparative perspective and to highlight their role in communication.

Relevance

In modern Linguistics, emotional interjections are important for expressing speakers’ feelings and attitudes in communication. From the perspectives of Semantics and Pragmatics, they play a key role in conveying meaning and ensuring effective interaction. The relevance of this topic lies in the need for better cross-cultural communication and accurate language use. A comparative study of Uzbek and English emotional interjections helps improve understanding, translation, and language teaching.

Main part

Emotional interjections represent an important layer of language that reflects human feelings and reactions. From the perspective of Semantics, these units function as carriers of emotional meaning rather than precise lexical content. They often lack stable dictionary definitions and instead convey general emotional states. For example, in English, interjections such as “ugh,” “yay,” and “huh” express disgust, happiness, and confusion respectively. In Uzbek, equivalents like “uf,” “yashasin,” and “nima?” serve similar functions. The semantic interpretation of interjections largely depends on context. A single interjection may express different emotions depending on intonation and situation. These units are highly subjective and reflect the speaker’s internal state. Emotional interjections are usually independent and can form complete utterances. They do not follow typical grammatical rules and remain morphologically unchanged. Their meaning is often intensified by prosodic features such as stress and tone. In many cases, they are

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used spontaneously in speech. Interjections can also signal immediate reactions to external stimuli. Semantically, they belong to expressive vocabulary. They contribute to the emotional coloring of discourse. Despite their simplicity, they carry significant communicative weight. Their polysemous nature makes them flexible in usage. Emotional interjections also demonstrate universality across languages. However, their semantic nuances differ depending on cultural context. Therefore, studying their semantic features is essential for understanding language expressiveness.

Emotional interjections play a crucial role in communication from the perspective of Pragmatics. They function as tools for expressing the speaker's attitude and communicative intention. Interjections often appear in spoken discourse as immediate responses. For instance, "oops" indicates a mistake, while "aha" signals realization. In Uzbek, "voy dod" may express strong surprise or concern. These units help structure interaction and maintain conversational flow. They contribute to the emotional tone of communication. Pragmatically, interjections are highly context-dependent. Their meaning cannot be fully understood without considering the situation. They often serve as discourse markers. Emotional interjections can soften or intensify statements. They also play a role in politeness and social interaction. In informal communication, their usage is more frequent. They help create a natural and dynamic conversation. Interjections can express agreement, disagreement, or hesitation. They are essential in dialogue-based communication. Their pragmatic function includes influencing the listener's perception. Cultural norms affect how and when interjections are used. Some interjections may be inappropriate in formal contexts. They also contribute to speaker identity and style. Pragmatically, they enhance communicative efficiency. Therefore, analyzing their pragmatic features is vital in discourse studies.

Emotional interjections in Uzbek and English share both similarities and differences. From the perspective of Comparative linguistics, these units reflect universal human emotions. For example, English "wow" and Uzbek "voh" both express admiration. However, their frequency and stylistic usage may differ. English interjections tend to be more standardized. In contrast, Uzbek interjections are often more expressive and varied. Semantically, both languages use interjections to convey emotions quickly. Pragmatically, they function as reaction signals in conversation. Cultural context plays a significant role in their usage. Some Uzbek interjections carry stronger emotional intensity than their English counterparts. English interjections are often shorter and more neutral. In Uzbek, intonation greatly influences meaning. Both languages use interjections actively in spoken discourse. However, their use in written texts varies. Translation of interjections requires careful consideration. Direct equivalents are not always available. Misinterpretation may lead to communication breakdown. Comparative analysis helps identify these differences. It also improves translation accuracy. Understanding interjections enhances language learning. It contributes to intercultural communication competence. Emotional interjections remain an important part of expressive language. Their comparative study has both theoretical and practical significance.

Conclusion

In conclusion, emotional interjections play a significant role in expressing human feelings and attitudes in both Uzbek and English. From the perspectives of Semantics and Pragmatics, they serve as effective tools for conveying meaning and shaping communication. Although these interjections share universal features, they also demonstrate language-specific and cultural differences. A comparative analysis shows that their usage, intensity, and contextual functions may vary across languages. Therefore, studying emotional interjections is important not only for linguistic theory but also for improving translation, language teaching, and intercultural communication.

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