

PRAGMATIC FEATURES OF LITERARY TEXTS: AN ANALYSIS OF SPEECH ACTS, CONTEXT, AND IMPLICATURE

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Abstract

Literary texts are not merely aesthetic artifacts but function as complex communicative systems where the author's intention, the reader's interpretation, and the pragmatic functions of language units interact. This article investigates the pragmatic features of literary discourse, focusing on the role of speech act theory, context, and implicature in shaping meaning and interaction. Drawing from Uzbek, Russian, and English literature, the study explores how indirect communication mechanisms manifest through linguistic and extralinguistic cues. The paper adopts a comparative, discursive, and linguo-pragmatic approach to analyze hidden meanings, presuppositions, and pragmatic strategies. Findings reveal that cultural and linguistic contexts significantly influence how pragmatic elements operate in literary communication, emphasizing the need for deeper empirical analysis in literary pragmatics.

Keywords: Literary pragmatics, speech acts, implicature, context, literary discourse, cross-cultural analysis, linguistic communication.

Introduction

Literary texts, beyond their artistic merit, serve as rich vehicles for indirect communication. Literature can be regarded as a linguistic and communicative phenomenon in which the author's intention, the reader's interpretation, and the pragmatic functions of linguistic units intertwine. Pragmatics, as a branch of linguistics, studies how language operates in real communication and how meaning is constructed between interlocutors. Within literary texts, this involves analyzing hidden meanings, implied messages, and the communicative strategies

that mediate author-reader interaction. This study aims to explore the pragmatic dimensions of literary works by focusing on the theories of speech acts, context, and implicature, shedding light on how these elements contribute to literary expression and interpretation.

Literature Review

Over the past decade (2015–2025), research on the pragmatics of literary texts has gained increasing attention, particularly at the intersection of linguistics and literary studies. Studies in Uzbek linguistics have emphasized the author's intention, the reader's reception of the text, and the communicative role of linguistic units. Literary texts act as unique communicative constructs that facilitate indirect interaction between the author and the reader.

Research in Russian linguistics highlights the significance of speech act theory, communicative strategies, and pragmatic approaches to semantic structures. The role of linguopragmatics has become central in analyzing literary communication, with interactive models increasingly used to understand reader-text dynamics.

In English-language scholarship, literary pragmatics has been approached through frameworks such as H.P. Grice's theory of implicature, J.L. Austin's and J.R. Searle's speech act theory, and the relevance theory of D. Sperber and D. Wilson. These frameworks provide a systematic means of identifying and interpreting linguistic and pragmatic markers in literary discourse. Recent trends also explore literary reception and interpretation as discursive processes influenced by socio-cultural contexts.

Methodology

This study employs linguo-pragmatic, discursive, and comparative methodologies. The analysis focuses on speech acts (locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary), implicatures, presuppositions, and contextual variables within selected literary texts from Uzbek, Russian, and English traditions. The communicative relationships between author and reader are examined through both qualitative and quantitative methods. Examples are drawn from canonical authors such as Dostoevsky, Faulkner, and Cho'lon, among others, to identify and compare pragmatic mechanisms.

Analysis and Findings

The findings indicate that the pragmatic features of literary texts are closely tied to both linguistic and extralinguistic factors and manifest in the communicative process between author and reader. The performative function of speech acts plays a key role in shaping a text's persuasive and expressive power. Based on J.L. Austin and J.R. Searle's theories, speech acts in literary texts operate at multiple levels—direct, indirect, and consequential. For instance, Dostoevsky's works illustrate the use of indirect speech acts to highlight social issues, while Uzbek literature employs poetic imagery to convey similar effects.

The contextual dimension is equally critical. According to Grice's theory, meanings not explicitly stated by the author are inferred by the reader through contextual reasoning. In English and Russian literary texts, implicatures often emerge within socio-philosophical frameworks, whereas in Uzbek literature, cultural and traditional elements dominate pragmatic inference. For example, hidden legal or moral themes in Cho'lpon and Qodiriy's works are conveyed through culturally anchored implicatures.

The dialogic theory of M.M. Bakhtin suggests that readers reconstruct textual meaning based on embedded linguistic and pragmatic signals. In English literature (e.g., Faulkner, Joyce), this is realized through stream-of-consciousness techniques; in Uzbek literature (e.g., Oybek, Usmon Nosir), it appears in poetic and symbolic forms.

Cross-cultural comparative studies confirm that although the structural realization of pragmatic elements varies, their communicative purposes align. Poetic pragmatics in Uzbek and English literatures tend to utilize metaphorical and symbolic representations, while Russian literature often integrates linguistic and psychological analyses.

Conclusion

This study demonstrates that the pragmatic features of literary texts are realized through their communicative function, speech acts, contextual frameworks, and implicatures. These components enhance the effectiveness and interpretive richness of literary communication. Comparative analysis reveals that cultural and national elements significantly shape the manifestation of pragmatic strategies in literature. The findings highlight the importance of expanding empirical research

in literary pragmatics to further uncover the multifaceted nature of literary meaning-making and reader engagement.

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