

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SPEECH ETIQUETTE IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

Orziyeva Mokhinbonu Ernazar kizi

1 st Year Master's Student

University of Economics and Pedagogy,
Karshi City, Republic of Uzbekistan

Abstract

Speech etiquette represents an important component of communicative culture and reflects social norms, traditions, and cultural values of a particular linguistic community. The present study focuses on a comparative analysis of speech etiquette in English and Uzbek languages. The research examines typical forms of greetings, farewells, requests, apologies, and expressions of gratitude used in everyday communication. The analysis reveals both similarities and differences between the two languages, which are conditioned by cultural, social, and historical factors. The findings demonstrate that speech etiquette serves not only as a linguistic phenomenon but also as a reflection of national mentality and communicative behavior.

Keywords: speech etiquette, communicative culture, politeness, English language, Uzbek language, intercultural communication.

Introduction

Speech etiquette plays a significant role in interpersonal communication and reflects the cultural norms and social relationships within a particular society. It includes conventional expressions used in everyday interactions such as greetings, farewells, requests, apologies, gratitude, and compliments. These expressions help maintain politeness, mutual respect, and effective communication between speakers. Every language possesses its own system of speech etiquette, which is shaped by historical traditions, cultural values, and social structures. In this respect, English and Uzbek languages demonstrate both similarities and distinctive features in their etiquette formulas. While some expressions are universal in nature, others reflect specific cultural traditions and communicative patterns.



In English-speaking cultures, speech etiquette is often characterized by indirectness, politeness strategies, and a strong emphasis on personal space and individual autonomy. Uzbek speech etiquette, on the other hand, reflects the values of respect, hierarchy, hospitality, and collectivism that are deeply rooted in Uzbek culture. The study of speech etiquette is particularly important in the context of intercultural communication. Misunderstandings may arise when speakers from different cultural backgrounds interpret polite expressions differently. Therefore, comparative analysis of speech etiquette in different languages helps improve cross-cultural understanding and communicative competence.

The aim of this article is to analyze and compare the main features of speech etiquette in English and Uzbek languages and to identify their similarities and differences in communicative usage.

Literature Review

Speech etiquette has been widely studied in linguistics, sociolinguistics, and intercultural communication. Researchers emphasize that etiquette formulas represent culturally conditioned communicative norms that regulate polite interaction between speakers. Brown and Levinson's theory of politeness (1987) is one of the most influential frameworks in the study of speech etiquette. Their theory explains how speakers use various linguistic strategies to maintain politeness and protect the interlocutor's "face." According to their approach, politeness strategies may include indirectness, mitigation, and the use of respectful forms of address. Another important contribution to the study of speech etiquette comes from scholars in pragmatics and sociolinguistics who analyze how cultural values influence communicative behavior. Lakoff (1973) argued that politeness is a fundamental principle of communication that ensures social harmony and mutual respect between speakers.

Research on speech etiquette in English has shown that English communication often relies on indirect requests, modal verbs, and polite expressions such as please, could you, and would you mind. These forms help soften the request and demonstrate respect for the interlocutor's autonomy.

Uzbek speech etiquette has been examined in the context of cultural traditions and social hierarchy. Uzbek communicative culture places strong emphasis on respect for elders, hospitality, and collective values. As a result, speech etiquette

formulas often include respectful forms of address and expressions that demonstrate humility and politeness.

Comparative linguistic studies highlight that while many etiquette expressions are universal, their usage and pragmatic functions may differ significantly across cultures. Therefore, analyzing speech etiquette in English and Uzbek provides valuable insights into cultural differences in communication.

Methodology

The present research employs qualitative and comparative methods to analyze speech etiquette expressions in English and Uzbek languages.

First, the **descriptive method** is used to identify and describe common speech etiquette formulas in both languages. The analysis includes expressions used for greetings, farewells, requests, apologies, gratitude, and compliments.

Second, the **comparative method** is applied to determine similarities and differences between English and Uzbek etiquette expressions. This method allows for the identification of universal communicative patterns as well as culturally specific features.

Third, the research applies **pragmatic analysis**, which focuses on how speech etiquette functions in real communication. The pragmatic approach examines how context, social relations, and cultural norms influence the choice of linguistic expressions.

The research material includes examples from conversational English, Uzbek everyday communication, linguistic studies, and phraseological sources. The collected examples were grouped according to communicative functions and analyzed in terms of their semantic and pragmatic characteristics.

Materials and Discussion

Greeting expressions are among the most common elements of speech etiquette in any language. They serve to establish contact between interlocutors and create a friendly communicative atmosphere.

In English, greetings are generally short and neutral in tone. Common examples include: **Hello, Hi, Good morning, Good afternoon, Good evening.**

These expressions are typically used regardless of age differences or social hierarchy. English greetings often focus on politeness and simplicity.

In Uzbek, greetings tend to reflect respect and social relationships. Typical Uzbek greetings include: **Assalomu alaykum, Yaxshimisiz? Qalaysiz? Salom**

The expression “**Assalomu alaykum**” is especially significant because it conveys respect and politeness. It is often used when greeting elders or in formal situations.

Another distinctive feature of Uzbek greetings is the frequent use of additional polite questions such as: **Ishlaringiz yaxshimi? Uyda hamma tinchmi?**

These expressions demonstrate interest in the well-being of the interlocutor and reflect the cultural value of social closeness.

Requests represent an important aspect of speech etiquette because they involve asking someone to perform an action. Different languages employ various strategies to make requests polite and acceptable.

In English, requests are commonly expressed using modal verbs and polite phrases: **Could you help me? Would you mind opening the window? Can you pass the book, please?**

These structures allow the speaker to make the request indirectly and reduce potential imposition.

In Uzbek, requests often include polite particles and respectful forms of address: **Iltimos, yordam bera olasizmi? Iltimos, eshikni ochib yuboring. Kitobni uzatib yuborasizmi?**

The word “**iltimos**” plays an important role in Uzbek speech etiquette as it softens the request and demonstrates politeness.

Another feature of Uzbek requests is the use of respectful verb forms when addressing elders or people of higher social status.

Expressions of gratitude and apology are essential elements of polite communication.

In English, gratitude is usually expressed through the phrase: **Thank you; Thanks a lot; Thank you very much.**

In Uzbek, gratitude is expressed through several phrases, such as: **Rahmat; Katta rahmat; Rahmat sizga.**

Similarly, apologies in English commonly include: **Sorry; I apologize; Excuse me.**

In Uzbek, apologies are expressed as: **Kechirasiz; UZR; Kechirasiz, xato qildim.**



Although the communicative function is similar in both languages, Uzbek expressions often carry a stronger emotional tone due to cultural norms emphasizing humility and respect.

Results

The comparative analysis demonstrates that speech etiquette in English and Uzbek languages shows both universal and culture-specific characteristics. Both languages employ etiquette formulas for greetings, requests, gratitude, and apologies. These expressions serve similar communicative functions and help maintain politeness and mutual respect in conversation. However, several important differences were identified. English speech etiquette tends to emphasize individual autonomy and indirect politeness strategies. Speakers often avoid imposing on others by using modal verbs and softening expressions.

Uzbek speech etiquette, by contrast, reflects strong cultural traditions related to respect, hierarchy, and hospitality. Uzbek communicative behavior often includes more elaborate greeting formulas and respectful language when addressing elders. Another important difference lies in the emotional and social dimension of communication. Uzbek speech etiquette frequently includes additional questions about the interlocutor's well-being, which reflects the collectivist orientation of Uzbek culture.

Conclusion

Speech etiquette is an essential element of communicative culture and reflects the social values of a linguistic community. The comparative analysis of English and Uzbek speech etiquette reveals both similarities and differences in their communicative patterns. Both languages employ a wide range of polite expressions used in everyday communication. However, English speech etiquette tends to be more neutral and concise, while Uzbek etiquette reflects stronger cultural emphasis on respect, hierarchy, and social closeness. Understanding these differences is particularly important in intercultural communication. Knowledge of speech etiquette helps speakers avoid misunderstandings and communicate more effectively with representatives of other cultures.

Future research may explore other aspects of speech etiquette, including compliments, invitations, and expressions of politeness in professional and academic communication.



References

1. Brown, P., & Levinson, S. (1987). *Politeness: Some Universals in Language Usage*. Cambridge University Press.
2. Lakoff, R. (1973). *The Logic of Politeness*. Papers from the Ninth Regional Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society.
3. Leech, G. (1983). *Principles of Pragmatics*. Longman.
4. Holmes, J. (2013). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. Routledge.
5. Yusupov, U. (2010). *Sociolinguistics*. Tashkent.