

LEXICAL AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF THE FORMATION OF EUPHEMISTIC GENDER-POLITE VOCABULARY IN THE RUSSIAN AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract

This article provides a lexical and semantic analysis of the development of euphemistic, gender-polite vocabulary in the Russian and Uzbek languages. It examines the functions of euphemization, its national and cultural characteristics, and the mechanisms of its formation, including metaphorization, paraphrasing, borrowings, and morphological and syntactic mitigation strategies. Particular attention is paid to specific thematic groups of euphemisms: those related to the intimate and bodily sphere, age characteristics, appearance, and family and professional roles. A comparative analysis is conducted, revealing common trends and differences in approaches to gender-polite communication, conditioned by cultural, religious, and social factors. The article demonstrates the dynamic development of euphemistic vocabulary in both languages and its significance for understanding modern speech etiquette and gender communication.

Keywords: Gender-specific polite vocabulary, euphemization, Russian language, Uzbek language, lexical and semantic features, feminitives, culturally determined communication, speech etiquette

Introduction

Modern linguistics pays particular attention to issues of gender, communicative politeness, and the sociocultural determinacy of speech behavior. In the context of global social transformations, the changing status of women, and the rethinking of traditional gender roles, interest in the study of euphemistic devices that soften or neutralize socially sensitive topics is growing. One such topic is gender issues, encompassing vocabulary related to the body, age, intimacy, the social roles of men and women, marital status, and other aspects of gender identity. Euphemistic gender-polite vocabulary represents a special layer of vocabulary reflecting

society's desire for sensitivity in discussing topics related to gender, sexuality, reproduction, appearance, age, and social status. The formation of euphemisms of this type depends on a complex set of factors: cultural traditions, religious beliefs, norms of speech etiquette, communicative caution, gender stereotypes, and social expectations.

Despite belonging to different language families and cultural models, Russian and Uzbek languages share common tendencies in the use of euphemistic devices aimed at softening or replacing taboo concepts. However, significant differences exist due to the culture-centric nature of both languages, religious traditions, the degree of patriarchal structure, and the peculiarities of their national linguistic worldviews.

The aim of this study is a comprehensive study of the lexical and semantic features of the formation of gender-polite euphemistic vocabulary in the Russian and Uzbek languages, the identification of general and specific models of functioning, as well as the determination of methods of semantic mitigation in gender-sensitive contexts.

Euphemization is defined as the process of replacing a direct, often taboo, or stylistically undesirable word with a softer, socially acceptable, or polite expression. Gender euphemization is a special case of this process, where the softening of speech is aimed at maintaining communicative harmony between representatives of different genders or adhering to norms of speech politeness within a single gender.

The primary functions of gender-polite euphemization include semantic softening, delicacy of communication, social camouflage of taboo topics, respectful distancing, and adherence to norms of speech etiquette. Russian linguistic culture is characterized by a combination of directness of expression and historically established norms of etiquette, while Uzbek culture exhibits a distinct aura of delicacy, based on the Eastern tradition of speech modesty, religious norms, and high social control over statements about the body and intimacy.

In Russian and Uzbek, there are several stable thematic zones in which euphemization is most pronounced: the intimate-physical sphere, age characteristics, appearance, family and gender roles, and women's professional self-realization. The intimate-physical sphere is characterized by high taboo. In Russian, delicate expressions are used: "in an interesting position," "women's days," "a relationship has begun," as well as metaphors: "to enter into intimacy," "to show attention." In Uzbek, metaphorical and periphrastic forms are used: "umidvor" "bo'lmoq" (about pregnancy), "nozik holat" («delicate position»), «ayol kishi uchun oylik holat» («monthly condition of a woman»), «yaqinlik Qilish ("to get closer"). The Uzbek tradition exhibits a higher degree of euphemism, which is

associated with norms of modesty (*hayo*), the avoidance of direct reference to physiological processes, and religious control. Age and appearance are softened with the help of euphemisms. In Russian, the expressions "a woman of Balzac's age," "sufficiently mature," "in the prime of life" are common. In Uzbek, it is "yoshi" *ulug'* («of venerable age»), «*kamolga yetgan*» («in the prime of maturity»), «*o'rtal yoshli*» («middle-aged»).

Gender and family roles also require delicate expression. In Russian, the terms "in position," "young mother," "family person," and "experienced woman" are used. In Uzbek, it's "oilali" *ayol*» («family woman»), «*kelin kishi*» («daughter-in-law»), «*turmush o'rtog'idan ajralgan*» («divorced»).

Social and professional status Women are expressed through feminitives in Russian: "authorka", "doctorka", "bloggerka", "ministerka". In Uzbek, the use of feminitives is limited: "muallima" (female teacher), "shifokor" *ayol*» (female doctor), new forms are taking hold slowly.

The main lexical - semantic mechanisms for the formation of euphemisms include:

1. **Metaphorization**, which gives the statement a figurative quality: Russian language - "to join the ranks of the fair sex", "to be in anticipation", "to depart to another world"; Uzbek language - "umidvor" *bo'lmoq*», «*nozik holat*», «*ko'hna dunyoni tark etmoq*».
2. **Paraphrasing**, which allows us to express taboo meanings descriptively: Russian - "a woman with curves", "aged", "was in a relationship"; Uzbek - "tashqi" *qiyofasi o'zgarib borgan ayol*», «*turmushga chiqmagan*», «*oila qurmagan*».
3. **Borrowings** perceived as neutral: Russian - "intimacy", "reproduction", "sexuality"; Uzbek - "intim", "reproduktiv" *sog'liq*», «*seksuallik*».
4. **Morphological patterns** that create shades of softness: Russian language — diminutive suffixes: "femininity", "mommy", "girl"; Uzbek — - *cha*, - *gina* : "ayolchagina", "qizaloq".
5. **Syntactic strategies**, including ellipses, passive constructions, and indefinite-personal forms: Russian - "she started having problems", "it became difficult for her"; Uzbek - "unda ayrim holatlar kuzatildi", "qiyinchiliklar sezila boshladi».

In Russian, moderate directness is acceptable, and metaphors, paraphrases, and borrowings are actively used. Gender euphemism is increasing under the influence of the democratization of language, the spread of feminitives, and political correctness. In the Uzbek language, euphemism is more pronounced, driven by religious and cultural norms. Physiological processes, intimate and family matters, are taboo. Euphemisms are formed metaphorically and peripherastically, avoiding direct nominations, reflecting high social sensitivity and norms of modesty (*hayo*).

). Gender-specific polite euphemistic vocabulary in Russian and Uzbek reflects the cultural, religious, and social norms of society. Russian is characterized by openness, active use of feminitives, and moderate taboos. Uzbek demonstrates a high degree of veiling, the use of metaphors and paraphrases, and strict adherence to speech etiquette and modesty. A comparative analysis reveals both general trends and national peculiarities in the formation of euphemisms. The study provides a deeper understanding of the mechanisms underlying euphemistic gender vocabulary and contributes to the development of intercultural linguistics and the sociolinguistic analysis of speech politeness.

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