

SOME PECULARITIES OF EMOTIVE SPEECH IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract

This article explores the linguistic and cultural characteristics of emotive speech in English and Uzbek languages. Emotive speech reflects not only the emotional state of the speaker but also the values and communication style of a society. The study discusses lexical, grammatical, and phonetic means of expressing emotions in both languages, comparing their similarities and differences. It also highlights how cultural factors influence emotional expression. The findings show that while both languages share universal emotional expressions, Uzbek speech tends to be more direct and expressive, whereas English often values subtlety and politeness.

Keywords

emotive speech, emotion, English, Uzbek, intonation, expression, culture, communication.

1. Introduction

Language is not merely a tool for conveying information; it is also a medium for expressing human emotions. Emotive speech, as a linguistic phenomenon, refers to the verbal expression of feelings, attitudes, and emotional states through specific lexical, grammatical, and phonetic means. Every culture has developed its own emotional norms, which determine how speakers express happiness, anger, surprise, or disappointment.

English and Uzbek languages provide interesting material for comparative analysis because they belong to different linguistic families – Indo-European and Turkic – and reflect distinct cultural patterns. Understanding how emotions are expressed in these languages helps to improve intercultural communication and translation competence.

2. Literature Review

Scholars such as Charles Bally (1941) and J. R. Searle (1979) emphasized the expressive function of language as a core element of communication. In English

linguistics, studies by Crystal (2008) and Leech (2014) analyzed emotional language in terms of pragmatics and politeness theory. Uzbek linguists such as Yo'ldoshev (1997) and Sh. Rahmatullayev (2006) have examined emotionality as a stylistic and semantic feature of Uzbek speech.

However, comparative research on emotive expression in English and Uzbek remains limited. This study aims to fill that gap by examining how emotions are encoded linguistically and culturally in both languages.

3. Methodology

The study employs a **comparative and descriptive linguistic approach**. Examples of emotive speech were collected from everyday dialogues, literary works, and online communication in both English and Uzbek. The data were analyzed at three linguistic levels:

1. **Lexical level** – emotional vocabulary, idioms, and interjections;
2. **Grammatical level** – use of sentence types, particles, and modal verbs;
3. **Phonetic level** – intonation and stress patterns that reflect emotion.

The analysis also considers cultural context, since emotion expression is strongly influenced by social norms and communicative traditions.

4. Analysis and Discussion

4.1 Emotive Speech in English

English speakers express emotions through a wide range of lexical and grammatical devices.

- **Lexical means:** adjectives (*happy, furious, upset*), idioms (*over the moon, heartbroken*), and interjections (*Wow! Oh no!*) show the emotional tone.

- **Grammatical means:** exclamatory sentences (*What a beautiful day!*) and modal verbs (*I must see you!*) convey urgency or strong feeling.

- **Phonetic means:** stress and intonation patterns often change emotional meaning. For example, *Really?!* may express surprise or disbelief depending on pitch.

Culturally, English favors moderate emotional expression. Direct expression of strong emotions is often avoided in formal or professional settings. Politeness strategies such as understatement (*I'm a bit annoyed*) or softeners (*perhaps, kind of, a little*) help maintain social harmony. Emotional restraint is viewed as a sign of self-control and respect.

4.2 Emotive Speech in Uzbek

Uzbek speech is generally more emotionally vivid and expressive, reflecting the collectivist and warm nature of Central Asian communication.

• **Lexical means:** The language has rich emotional vocabulary such as *xursandman* (I'm happy), *achchiqlandim* (I got angry), *afsuski* (unfortunately), *voy!* (oh!).

• **Idioms and proverbs:** Emotional depth often appears in idioms like *Ko'ngli to'q* (satisfied heart) or *Ko'ngli sinmoq* (to have one's heart broken). Proverbs such as *Ko'ngil – oynadir, sinmasin* ("The heart is glass, don't let it break") show the cultural importance of emotional sensitivity.

• **Grammatical means:** Uzbek uses particles and suffixes to express emotion and emphasis:

- *Bu juda yaxshi-ku!* ("But this is really good!")
- *Sen keldingmi?!* ("You came?!" expressing joy or surprise).

• **Phonetic means:** Intonation, repetition (*voy-voy, eh-eh*), and vowel prolongation (*vooy, eeeh*) strongly reflect emotion.

In Uzbek culture, open emotional communication is considered positive, showing sincerity (*samimiyat*) and warmth. Respectful emotional language, especially toward elders, is also a key social value.

4.3 Comparative Features

| Feature | English | Uzbek |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Directness | Indirect, polite, often softened | Direct, expressive, emotionally rich |
| Common devices | Intonation, modal verbs, idioms | Particles, suffixes, repetition, idioms |
| Cultural style | Individualistic, restrained | Collectivist, emotional warmth |
| Typical expressions | <i>Oh dear! That's great!</i> | <i>Voy! Juda yaxshi-ku!</i> |
| Social context | Controlled emotion in formal speech | Emotion is freely shown, but respectful |

Both languages share universal emotion words (happy-*xursand*, sad-*xafa*, angry-*jahldor*), but the style and intensity of their use depend on cultural expectations. English relies more on vocabulary and tone; Uzbek often encodes emotions grammatically.

5. Cultural Dimension of Emotive Speech

Culture shapes not only *what* people feel but *how* they express it. In English-speaking societies, emotional control reflects professionalism and politeness. Expressing strong emotions may seem impolite or excessive.

In Uzbek society, however, emotional warmth and expressiveness strengthen relationships. Gestures, tone, and affectionate words (*jonim, azizam, ukam*) are commonly used to express closeness.

Thus, understanding these cultural norms is essential for effective communication. For example, an Uzbek speaker using strong emotional phrases in English (like *I'm very angry with you!*) might sound rude to native English speakers, while an English speaker using mild emotion (*I'm a little upset*) might appear insincere to Uzbeks.

Conclusion

Emotive speech is a universal aspect of language that reflects the human need to express feelings. Both English and Uzbek languages possess rich systems for emotional communication, but they differ in form, frequency, and cultural significance. English emotive speech tends to be polite, moderate, and indirect, while Uzbek is open, expressive, and often intensified through particles and repetition.

Recognizing these differences helps not only linguists but also language learners, translators, and intercultural communicators to better understand emotional subtleties in both languages. Ultimately, emotive speech serves as a bridge between language and the human heart, demonstrating how deeply our emotions are woven into our words.

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