

ROLE OF PERIPHRASE IN MEDICAL TEXTS OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Kobilova Aziza Bakhriddinovna

a.b.kobilova@buxdu.uz

*Associate professor of English linguistics department,
Bukhara state university*

Abstract

This article discusses periphrasis and its common use in medical texts, including ways to use periphrasis to avoid common words when naming something or an event. Medical periphrases used in journalistic texts were also analyzed.

Key words

periphrasis, phrase, journalistic text, stylistic device, English language, Uzbek language, contextual periphrasis.

In philological studies, for example, in scientific sources related to linguistics and literary criticism, we see that the definition given to periphrasis is typical. It is noticeable that there are significant differences, especially in terms of subject attribution. Definitions of periphrasis as “phrases” or “phrases” are also very common in linguistic sources. Such definitions characterize the emergence of periphrasis as a linguistic phenomenon and allow us to observe the interaction of figurative expressions with linguistic units - phrases and sentences.

In scientific sources, periphrasis is interpreted as a stylistic device, figure of speech or metaphor, and all these definitions indicate that periphrasis is assessed as a means of expression.

English dictionaries define the term periphrasis in different ways. For example, the Macmillan dictionary defines periphrasis as a device used to express something more complex than necessary [1, 465]. The Oxford Concise Dictionary of Literary Terms defines periphrasis as a roundabout way of referring to something using several words instead of directly calling it one word or phrase [2, 184]. Additionally, the Dictionary of Literary Terms defines periphrasis as a roundabout way of saying something or an event by using substitute words to avoid using regular words when naming the event [3, 98]. Additionally, the New Webster's Encyclopedic Dictionary defines the term periphrasis as a descriptive means of expression [4, 1008].

Periphrases are divided into types such as pure and contextual periphrases, depending on their occurrence in speech as a speech unit. In this case, a pure periphrasis conveys a specific meaning, a concept without any context and, most importantly, is understandable to the public without a specific context. For instance:

evening of life – old age, blue planet – Earth, desert ship – camel, king of Jealousy – Othello and etc.

As a result of our research, we are convinced that pure periphrases are more often used in medical texts to make them understandable to the public. For instance,

AIDS – is the plague of the century; Scientists have denied that cancer is an incurable disease.

In Uzbek: *o'pka – kislorod tashuvchi a'zo qanday tuzilgan?; Yelbo'g'oz – yolg'on homiladorlik haqida nimalar bilasiz?.* In these examples, it is known that *the organ that carries oxygen is the lungs, and in case of false pregnancy, the throat.*

Contextual periphrasis is a type of figurative expression that is created only in a specific text and lives in this text. Their meaning is difficult to extract if they are considered separately outside the text, that is, they appear in the text only as a periphrasis of a certain linguistic unit surrounded by other words [5, 255]. For instance, *Cancer can be a chronic (ongoing) illness, much like diabetes or heart disease.* (American Cancer Society, cancer.org | 1.800.227.2345).

The above example uses a periphrasis of *a chronic (ongoing) illness*. After reading the entire text, you can find out that we are talking about a cancer disease.

The twenty-first century has already recorded more than ten major epidemic or pandemic virus emergence events, including the ongoing and devastating coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. As viral disease emergence is expected to accelerate [6, 401].

In the above example, coronavirus disease is expressed as a viral disease through periphrasis, but without reading the entire context, it is impossible to notice what kind of viral disease we are talking about.

In Uzbek: *Yuzda ochilgan bahor gullari.* “Bahorning quyoshli kunlar go'zal qizlarimizni biroz tashvishga solishi tabiiy. Negaki, u yuzdagi dog'lar va sepskillarning avj olishiga sabab bo'ladi.

Without reading the context above, it is a little difficult to understand what the author means by spring flowers blooming on the face [5, 255]. Perhaps this refers to the red rash that appears on the face of many people (especially girls) in the spring, or perhaps there is another aspect. After reading the text, you can understand that spots and freckles on the face are meant by contextual periphrasis *spring flowers on*

the face. Medical texts characterized by such medical periphrases occupy an important place in medical publications [5, 255].

It is worth noting that among contextual periphrases, those that have a high level of use in wide consumption can gradually (becoming understandable and known to the public) become pure periphrases [5, 255]. However, this does not mean that all contextual periphrases become pure periphrases after a certain period of time. The peculiarity of medical periphrases is that the word they represent is used next to the periphrasis, which helps to understand the use of periphrasis more clearly: *COVID-19 is our invisible enemy, changing our lives radically without ever revealing itself directly*. (National Library of Medicine, August 25, 2020); *Many of the symptoms of menopause, known as midlife crisis, are associated with depression, anxiety disorders, and hormonal imbalance*. (Healthline, October 25, 2018). That is, in the above examples of COVID-19 - *the invisible enemy*, menopause - *midlife crisis*, periphrases are used next to the words that they mean.

In Uzbek: *Gijjalar – ichki dushmanlar; Salmonellyoz kasalligi juda ayyor kasallik – yengil kechayotgan dard birdaniga zo‘rayib ketishi mumkin; Stenokardiya – yurakni g‘ijimlaydigan dard. Stenokardiya – yurak ishemik kasalliklarining keng tarqalgan turi bo‘lib, odamlar orasida “yurak siqishi” nomi bilan mashhur; Mikroinsult – “organizm signali”ga bee’tibor bo‘lmang!* (Translation: *Worms are internal enemies; Salmonellosis is a very insidious disease - mild pain can suddenly become severe; Angina pectoris is excruciating pain. Angina pectoris is a common type of coronary artery disease, commonly known as a heart attack; Micro-stroke - do not ignore the body signal!*). In the examples, periphrases are used together with the word they express, which also serves to draw attention to the expressed unit.

From the point of view of the psycholinguistic approach, the imagination factor plays an important role in the emergence of periphrases in medical texts. Let's take *the healing mine* periphrasis as an example. It is known that when we think of a mine, first of all, we imagine a reserve of natural resources, which evokes a positive image in our minds. According to the dictionary, “a mine is a mineral resource naturally accumulated on a specific area of the Earth’s surface and the extraction of which is economically viable.” [5, 255].

To sum up, although periphrases in both languages are divided into pure and contextual types according to their occurrence in speech, as a speech unit, in medical texts pure periphrasis is most often used.

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