THE SOCIOPRAGMATIC ASPECTS OF SPEECH ACTS IN THE ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract

The current work investigates the sociopragmatic features of speech acts in the English and Uzbek languages. Generally, the article explores the similarities and differences between the use of illocutionary speech acts in these compared languages. The peculiarities of speech acts have been stated with graphics and tables.

Keywords: sociopragmatic aspect, speech acts, politeness markers, face-saving acts, face-threatening acts.

Introduction

The study of illocutionary speech acts, which involves the expression of intentions, desires, or attitudes through language, is a crucial area of research in sociolinguistics. Understanding the sociopragmatic aspects of illocutionary speech acts in different languages provides valuable insights into how communication is shaped by social and cultural factors. This article explores the sociopragmatic aspects of illocutionary speech acts in both the English and Uzbek languages, highlighting the similarities and differences in how speech acts are performed and interpreted within these linguistic frameworks. By examining the impact of politeness strategies, pragmatic markers, power differentials, contextual cues, and cross-cultural communication on illocutionary speech acts in English and Uzbek, this study sheds light on the complex interplay between language, society, and communication dynamics in diverse cultural contexts. Through a comparative analysis of these sociopragmatic aspects, we aim to contribute to a deeper understanding of the intricate nuances of interpersonal communication in the English and Uzbek languages.

Literature Review

The sociopragmatic aspects of illocutionary speech acts have been researched and investigated by many scientists and scholars. Blum-Kulka and Olshtain (1984) highlighted the importance of studying cross-cultural pragmatics to understand how illocutionary speech acts are performed in different linguistic and cultural contexts. Kasper and Schmidt (1996) emphasized the role of sociocultural factors in shaping pragmatic competence and the performance of speech acts in multilingual settings. Mainly, speech acts in English has been explored by J. Austin. Austin's (1962) speech act theory laid the foundation for understanding illocutionary acts, locutionary acts,
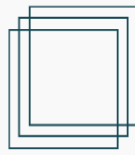
and perlocutionary acts, which are pivotal for analyzing speech acts in English. However, Brown and Levinson (1987) introduced politeness theory, shedding light on the cultural norms and pragmatic strategies underlying the performance of speech acts in English. On the other hand, speech acts in English have been scrutinized by Kadirov and Muminov. Kadirov (2010) explored the pragmatics of speech acts in Uzbek, emphasizing the role of honorifics, indirect speech acts, and face-saving strategies in communication. Muminov (2015) discussed the impact of cultural values, social hierarchies, and linguistic features on the performance of speech acts in the Uzbek language. Moreover, English scientists Holmes and Eelen have examined the relationship between gender and pragmatics. Specifically, Holmes (1995) examined gender differences in the use of speech acts and politeness strategies, highlighting how societal expectations and power dynamics influence communicative behavior. In addition, Eelen (2001) explored the intersection of gender, language, and pragmatics, emphasizing the role of gender norms in shaping speech act performance and interpretation.

Research and Methodology

The article `s research method is comparison and contrast. The usage of illocutionary speech acts have been juxtaposed both in the English and Uzbek languages. The results have been shown through graphs and tables.

Results and discussions
Politeness strategies

The politeness strategies in English, as outlined by Brown and Levinson's politeness theory, often involve the use of indirect speech acts, mitigating expressions, and politeness markers to soften directives and maintain positive social relationships. On the contrary, in Uzbek culture, honorific language and titles play a significant role in politeness strategies. There may be a greater emphasis on hierarchical relationships and formal expressions of deference compared to English.


THE DISTRIBUTION OF HONORIFIC LANGUAGE USAGE
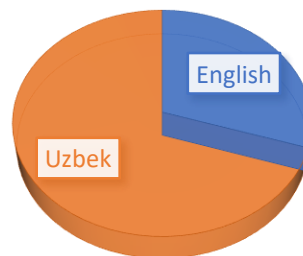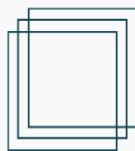
The chart shows that honorific language usage is more observed in the English language than Uzbek language.

The following table shows the frequency of politeness markers and the use of mitigating expressions in the English and Uzbek languages.

The frequency of politeness markers and the use of mitigating expressions in the English and Uzbek languages
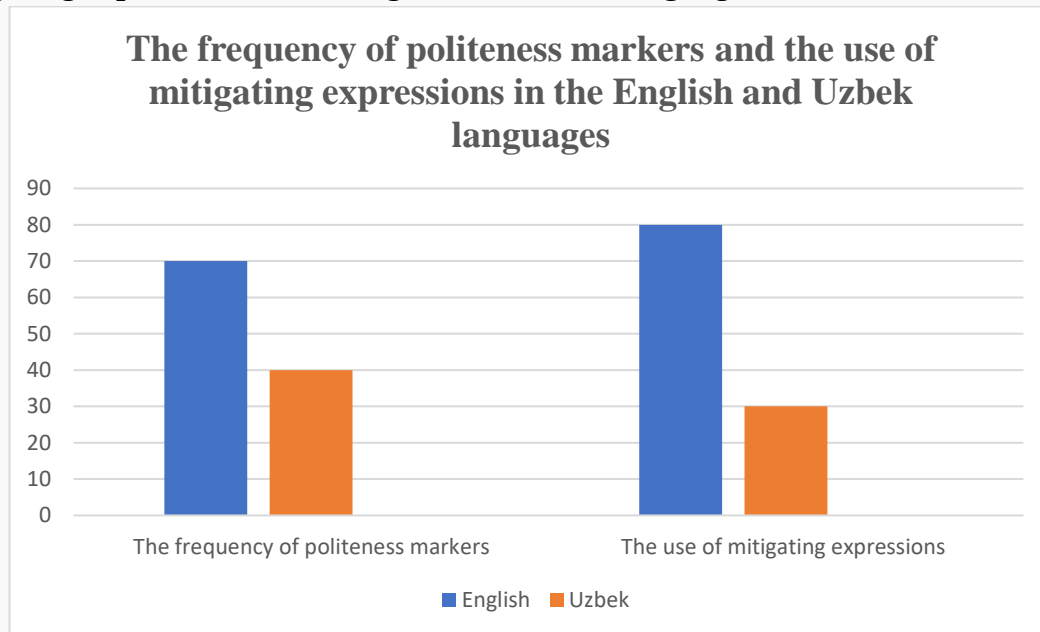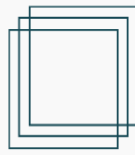

Face-saving and face-threatening acts vary from culture to culture since each nation has got their own individual communication styles and norms. It is crucial to note that face-threatening acts tend to be impacted by cultural norms, values and communication styles. The following table shows how face-saving and face-threatening acts differ in Uzbek and English languages:

Table 1.

№	In Uzbek culture	In English culture
1.	Maintaining harmony and face-saving acts are very vital aspects of communication.	English culture tends directness and clarity in communication that lead to more frequent use of face-threatening acts.
2.	It is possible for individuals to be more sensitive towards face-threatening acts.	English speakers may be more likely to express opinions, give criticism, or make requests directly, which could potentially be perceived as face-threatening in certain contexts.
3.	Uzbek people use more indirect communication strategies to avoid direct face-threatening acts.	

In general, there are some differences and similarities between the usage of sociopragmatic aspects of speech acts in the English and Uzbek languages which are based on social norms and communication styles.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study of sociopragmatic aspects of speech acts in English and Uzbek languages sheds light on the significance of politeness markers and the negotiation of face-threatening and face-saving acts in interpersonal communication. It is evident that the use of politeness strategies varies across cultures, with each language exhibiting distinct ways of expressing politeness. Understanding these cultural differences is crucial for effective communication and successful social interactions. By examining how speakers of English and Uzbek navigate the delicate balance between politeness and face-saving strategies, researchers and language learners can gain valuable insights into the complex dynamics of language use in diverse cultural contexts. Further research in this area is essential for promoting cross-cultural understanding and fostering respectful communication practices in a globalized world.

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