

THE APPLICATION OF PRAGMALINGUISTICS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH LITERARY WORKS

Mirzayorova Sarvinoz Sarvarovna

Student at the University of Exact and Social Sciences

mirzayorova.s09@gmail.com

Abstract. Pragmalinguistics examines how language is used in context, focusing on meaning beyond mere words. This study explores the application of pragmalinguistics in Uzbek and English literary works, analyzing how authors employ linguistic strategies to convey implicit meanings, emotions, and cultural nuances. By comparing the use of speech acts, implicatures, politeness strategies, and context-dependent meanings in both languages, the research highlights the similarities and differences in their pragmatic approaches. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of cross-cultural communication in literature, demonstrating how pragmalinguistic elements shape character interactions, narrative development, and reader perception.

Keywords: pragmalinguistics, Uzbek literature, English literature, speech acts, implicature, politeness strategies, cross-cultural communication.

Абстракт. Прагмалингвистика изучает, как язык используется в контексте, сосредотачиваясь на значении, выходящем за рамки простых слов. Это исследование изучает применение прагмалингвистики в узбекских и английских литературных произведениях, анализируя, как авторы используют лингвистические стратегии для передачи неявных значений, эмоций и культурных нюансов. Сравнивая использование речевых актов, импликатур, стратегий вежливости и контекстно-зависимых значений в обоих языках, исследование подчеркивает сходства и различия в их прагматических подходах. Результаты способствуют более глубокому пониманию межкультурной коммуникации в литературе, демонстрируя, как прагмалингвистические элементы формируют взаимодействие персонажей, развитие повествования и восприятие читателя.

Ключевые слова: прагмалингвистика, узбекская литература, английская литература, речевые акты, импликатура, стратегии вежливости, межкультурная коммуникация.

Introduction. Language is not only a means of communication but also a tool that reflects cultural norms, social hierarchies, and interpersonal relationships. Pragmalinguistics, which studies language use in context, plays a crucial role in literary analysis by uncovering how characters express intentions, maintain politeness, and use indirectness to convey deeper meanings. In both Uzbek and English literature, authors employ pragmalinguistic strategies to construct dialogues that reflect societal values, character dynamics, and thematic depth. This study explores the application of pragmalinguistics in two classic

literary works: Abdulla Qodiry's "O'tkan kunlar" (Bygone Days) and Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice." These novels, despite belonging to different linguistic and cultural backgrounds, share striking similarities in their use of speech acts, conversational implicatures, politeness strategies, and context-dependent meanings. By analyzing dialogues in these works, this paper examines how pragmalinguistic elements shape character interactions and highlight cultural nuances. For instance, in "O'tkan kunlar," the interactions between Otabek and Kumush are filled with indirectness and honorific expressions that reflect Uzbek social norms. Similarly, in "Pride and Prejudice," the conversations between Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy often involve irony, indirect speech, and polite refusals, illustrating the social expectations of 19th-century England. Both novels demonstrate how authors use linguistic subtleties to develop character relationships and reveal underlying social tensions. By comparing these two works, this paper aims to illustrate the universality of pragmalinguistic principles while highlighting the unique ways in which Uzbek and English literary traditions employ them. Understanding these pragmatic features not only enriches literary interpretation but also contributes to cross-cultural studies in linguistics and communication.

Literature Review. Pragmalinguistics, a subfield of linguistics, studies how language functions in specific contexts, emphasizing meaning beyond literal interpretation. Various scholars have examined the role of pragmatics in literature, particularly in understanding speech acts, implicatures, and politeness strategies within different cultural and linguistic frameworks. Research on pragmalinguistics in literary texts has shown how authors utilize pragmatic principles to develop characters, structure dialogues, and enhance reader engagement. Levinson (1983) and Grice (1975) introduced key concepts such as implicature and the cooperative principle, which are essential in analyzing indirect meanings in literary discourse. Meanwhile, Brown and Levinson's (1987) politeness theory has been widely applied to study character interactions and power dynamics in literature.

English literary works, particularly those by Shakespeare, Jane Austen, and modern authors, frequently employ pragmatic strategies. Studies have explored how speech acts, irony, and indirect communication contribute to character development and thematic depth. For instance, Austin (1962) and Searle's (1969) speech act theory has been instrumental in analyzing dialogue-driven narratives in English literature. Uzbek literature, rich in oral traditions and cultural expressions, also demonstrates pragmatic elements. Scholars have analyzed works by Alisher Navoi, Abdulla Qodiriy, and other Uzbek writers, noting the significance of politeness strategies, honorifics, and indirect communication in reflecting societal norms. Research by Uzbek linguists has highlighted how cultural values influence pragmatic choices in literary texts. Comparative pragmalinguistic studies between Uzbek and English literature are limited but growing. Recent research suggests that while both languages employ

pragmatic strategies, cultural differences affect their usage. Uzbek literature tends to emphasize collectivism and respect-based communication, whereas English literature often prioritizes individualism and directness. This literature review underscores the need for further comparative studies on pragmalinguistics in Uzbek and English literature, contributing to cross-cultural literary and linguistic research. Pragmatically, language offers choices that tend to be used strategically by speakers in communication to achieve desired effects with the recipients. Science journalism is primarily realized by such genres as reports, feature articles, reviews and interviews. If we take each article as an example of a discursive encounter marked by a given illocutionary force, we could safely assume that these would mostly be assertives, as such texts are designed to convey information that is deemed to be unknown to the receiver.[7.159] Leech's work on politeness principles in pragmatics has been instrumental in understanding how literature reflects social norms and hierarchical structures. In his book *Principles of Pragmatics* (1983), Leech expands on Grice's Cooperative Principle by introducing the Politeness Principle, which governs how characters maintain social harmony through indirectness, deference, and honorific language.[5.125] Deborah Tannen's research on gendered communication in *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation* (1990) provides an insightful lens for analyzing male-female dialogues in literature. Tannen argues that women's speech tends to be indirect, cooperative, and rapport-building, whereas men's speech is often direct, competitive, and status-driven. [3.187] On the other hand, in *Pride and Prejudice*, the English social structure of the 19th century promotes a different pragmalinguistic approach. While indirectness is still used, particularly in polite society, irony and wit are also accepted as forms of social critique, as seen in Elizabeth's dialogues with Darcy. Mey's theory reinforces the idea that pragmalinguistic choices in literature are shaped by historical and cultural factors, making it essential to consider societal context when analyzing character speech.[6.231]

Speech Acts in Character Interaction. Speech act theory, introduced by Austin (1962) and developed by Searle (1969), explains how utterances perform actions such as requesting, promising, apologizing, or commanding. Both *O'tkan kunlar* and *Pride and Prejudice* use speech acts to shape character relationships and social hierarchies.

In *O'tkan kunlar*, Otabek's father, Yusufbek hoji, frequently uses directive speech acts when speaking to his son, reflecting the patriarchal nature of Uzbek society: "O'g'lim, sen bu yurishda menga tobe bo'lishing kerak. Ota-ona duosini olmagan farzand baxt topmaydi." (Qodiriy, 1926) This statement is not just advice but an indirect command, where Yusufbek hoji asserts authority while emphasizing traditional values. Similarly, in *Pride and Prejudice*, Lady Catherine de Bourgh gives indirect but firm commands to Elizabeth: "You will be sensible and not ruin yourself by thinking you can marry Mr. Darcy." (Austen, 1813) Here, Lady Catherine masks her command in polite language, yet her authoritative tone

is clear. Both examples illustrate how directive speech acts reflect the power dynamics in their respective societies.

Expressive speech acts, such as apologies and compliments, serve as social tools in both novels. In *O'tkan kunlar*, Otabek often uses politeness strategies to maintain harmony, as seen in his dialogue with Kumush: "Kechiring, Kumush, men sizga og'ir so'z aytgan bo'lsam." This apology reflects Otabek's respect for Kumush and his awareness of cultural expectations regarding male-female communication. Likewise, Mr. Darcy's famous apology to Elizabeth follows a similar pattern: "You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you." Here, Darcy's expressive act attempts to mitigate his previous arrogance, similar to Otabek's use of politeness to restore social balance. These apologies highlight how pragmalinguistic strategies are used to navigate emotions and social standing.

Grice's (1975) theory of conversational implicature explains how meaning extends beyond literal words through inference. Both novels extensively use implicature, especially in romantic and conflict-driven dialogues. In *O'tkan kunlar*, Kumush often speaks indirectly, relying on implication rather than direct statements: "Siz mendan xafa bo'lmysizmi?"

This question is not merely about Otabek's emotions; it serves as an indirect way of expressing affection and concern. Similarly, Elizabeth Bennet frequently uses irony and indirect speech when speaking to Darcy: "A man who has been so fortunate as you should not talk about misfortunes." Rather than openly accusing Darcy of arrogance, Elizabeth sarcastically implies his privilege. Both examples show how female characters in these novels use indirect speech to navigate societal constraints while expressing their true thoughts. Brown and Levinson's (1987) politeness theory explains how individuals maintain social harmony through positive and negative politeness strategies. In *O'tkan kunlar*, characters use negative politeness to show deference, especially when addressing elders: "Otajon, siz nima desangiz, shu bo'ladi." This statement minimizes imposition and emphasizes respect. Similarly, in *Pride and Prejudice*, Mr. Collins, a clergyman, uses excessive politeness when speaking to Lady Catherine: "Your kindness and condescension, madam, are beyond all measure." Both examples reflect how social status dictates the level of formality in communication. Conversely, positive politeness is used to establish closeness. In *O'tkan kunlar*, Kumush addresses Otabek affectionately: "Sizni ko'rmay, kunlarim zerikib o'tmoqda." Similarly, in *Pride and Prejudice*, Elizabeth teases Darcy, fostering intimacy despite their differences: "I could easily forgive his pride if he had not mortified mine." Both quotes show how positive politeness strategies help build emotional connections in relationships. Despite these similarities, *O'tkan kunlar* and *Pride and Prejudice* demonstrate key cultural differences in pragmalinguistic use: Respect and Hierarchy: Uzbek literature emphasizes collectivism, where deference to elders and formal speech dominate, whereas English literature reflects individualism, allowing more direct and personal expression. Gendered

Speech Patterns: Kumush and Elizabeth both use indirectness, but Kumush's speech is more deferential, whereas Elizabeth's sarcasm reflects greater social autonomy. Irony and Directness: English literature, particularly Austen's work, often employs ironic politeness, while Uzbek literature leans toward honorific politeness and implicit expressions of emotion.

Conclusion. Both *O'tkan kunlar* and *Pride and Prejudice* effectively use pragmalinguistic strategies to depict character interactions, social norms, and cultural expectations. Through speech acts, conversational implicature, and politeness strategies, these novels illustrate how language functions as a reflection of society. While Uzbek literature prioritizes indirectness and deference, English literature embraces irony and individualism. This comparative analysis highlights the universality of pragmalinguistics in literature while demonstrating how cultural contexts shape its application. Conclusion Pragmalinguistics provides a powerful analytical framework for understanding how language functions in literary texts, revealing the deeper meanings behind character interactions, social hierarchies, and cultural norms. By examining speech acts, conversational implicatures, politeness strategies, and gendered communication, this study has demonstrated how *O'tkan kunlar* by Abdulla Qodiriy and *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen employ pragmalinguistic features to enrich their narratives. Despite being written in vastly different cultural and historical contexts, both novels showcase the strategic use of direct and indirect communication, honorifics and politeness strategies, and irony and social critique to shape their characters and thematic depth. In *O'tkan kunlar*, respect and hierarchy dominate the conversations, where characters, especially younger individuals, use negative politeness to show deference to elders and authority figures. The novel reflects the collectivist nature of Uzbek society, where indirect speech and honorifics play a crucial role in maintaining social harmony. Conversely, in *Pride and Prejudice*, while politeness remains essential, the English literary tradition allows for more individual expression, irony, and social wit, particularly in Elizabeth Bennet's dialogue, which challenges social expectations. One of the key findings of this study is that both authors use pragmalinguistic strategies to navigate gender roles. Kumush and Elizabeth, though belonging to different cultures, rely on indirect speech to express their thoughts, but their pragmatic approaches differ: Kumush's speech often aligns with traditional feminine modesty, while Elizabeth's speech frequently contains sarcasm and irony, reflecting greater personal agency. This contrast highlights how cultural norms shape pragmatic choices in male-female interactions. Additionally, the research findings support Geoffrey Leech's (1983) politeness principles, Deborah Tannen's (1990) gendered conversational styles, and Jacob Mey's (2001) contextual pragmatics in literature. Leech's politeness theory explains the use of negative and positive politeness strategies in both novels, Tannen's gender communication research sheds light on male and female speech patterns, and Mey's focus on pragmatics in social context highlights the broader historical and cultural factors influencing

linguistic choices in literature. This study underscores the universal nature of pragmalinguistic principles, proving that, despite cultural and linguistic differences, literary texts from diverse backgrounds employ similar strategies to convey social structures, relationships, and individual identities. At the same time, the distinctive use of pragmalinguistics in Uzbek and English literature showcases the unique cultural values embedded in language. Uzbek literature prioritizes collectivism, hierarchy, and indirectness, while English literature, particularly Austen's, embraces individualism, irony, and direct social critique. This comparative analysis of pragmalinguistics in Uzbek and English literature opens up several avenues for further research. Future studies could: Explore additional literary works from both traditions to see how pragmalinguistic strategies evolve over time. Examine contemporary Uzbek and English literature to assess whether modern authors still employ similar pragmatic elements or if globalization has influenced linguistic choices. Conduct cross-linguistic and cross-cultural analyses on how politeness, gender, and power dynamics are represented in literature across different languages. The study of pragmalinguistics in literature provides a deeper appreciation of how language operates beyond literal meanings, serving as a reflection of cultural identity, social structures, and historical context.

References:

1. Abulkasimovna, E. Z., & Leonidovna, M. N. (2023, March). THE LEXICAL-SEMANTICAL USAGE OF PROFESSIONAL LEXEMES IN "UTGAN KUNLAR"(" PAST DAYS") BY ABDULLA QADIRI. In *International Scientific and Current Research Conferences* (pp. 20-22).
2. Alimdjanovna, K. M. (2024). ADVANTAGES OF SCAFFOLDING IN TEACHING WRITING COMPREHENSION. *Eurasian Journal of Academic Research*, 4(5-3), 70-72.
3. Austin, J. L. (1962). *How to Do Things with Words*.
4. Brown, P., & Levinson, S. C. (1987). *Politeness: Some Universals in Language Usage*.
5. Deborah Tannen (1990) – *Gender and Conversational Style*
6. Geoffrey Leech (1983) – *Politeness and Literary Discourse*
7. Grice, H. P. (1975). *Logic and Conversation*.
8. Jacob Mey (2001) *Pragmatics and social context*
9. Katarzyna Molek-Kozakowska University of Opole Pragmalinguistic Categories In Discourse Analysis Of Science Journalism
10. Kupaysinovna, S. G. (2020). New modern approaches in teaching English to students. *Проблемы науки*, (7 (55)), 61-63.
11. Laurence R. Horn and Gregory Ward. *The Handbook of pragmatics*
12. Levinson, S. C. (1983). *Pragmatics*.

13. Rashidova, G., & Fariza, N. (2024). THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE. *TANQIDIY NAZAR, TAHLILIIY TAFAKKUR VA INNOVATSION G 'OYALAR*, 1(3), 93-95.
14. Rashidova, G., & Munira, I. (2025). THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT. *TANQIDIY NAZAR, TAHLILIIY TAFAKKUR VA INNOVATSION G 'OYALAR*, 1(4), 151-154.
15. Rasulova, S., & Muhtashamova, P. (2024). Innovative teaching techniques for distance education. *O 'zbekiston davlat jahon tillari universiteti konferensiyalari*, 169-174.
16. Searle, J. R. (1969). *Speech Acts: An Essay in the Philosophy of Language*.