



NATIONAL-CULTURAL SPECIFICS OF SPEECH ETIQUETTE IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Annotation: *this article is based on a comparative study of national-cultural peculiarities of speech etiquette in the English and Uzbek languages. The study deals with the similarities and distinctive features of the topic of conversation, addressing, greeting expressions. Instances are provided in both languages.*

Keywords: *speech etiquette, national-cultural specifics, weather talk, addressing, greeting.*

Language is closely connected with peoples' relations and procedures of material and non-material products, but at the same time it is independent. One of the peculiar features of a language is that its units can be divided into specific parts like sentences, word combinations, words, morphemes, etc. The language fulfills a specific function in the society and it is reflected in the speech. Here are some of these functions: 1) communicative function; 2) the function of expressing a thought; 3) the function of expressing the inner world of the speaker or expressive; 4) creating beauty using language means or aesthetic function. There are different views concerning the relations between the language and the culture, it is possible because it is a wide notion and is at the center of the discussions among the scholars. The results of the historical and modern researches give us an opportunity to speak that these two notions create one unique object and highly require each other. In other words, one cannot exist without the second; at the same time they enrich each other.

Language can be considered as a part of the culture, it can express the spirit of the culture and is the specific way of culture's existence. While investigating the relations between the language and the culture there were discovered new features of the subjects like general linguistics, psychology, philosophy and they served as basis for new trends in linguistics like linguoculturology, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics etc. In the process of learning the different aspects of the lexicologic features of a specific language, we are to pay attention to the rules of the development of the language which effect the lexicon of a language, the



influence of relations between the language and the society to the vocabulary stock of a language, the division of linguistic units from the point of up to datedness, historical, expressiveness and other points of view.

Speech is an independent form of human activity, though it a language expresses specific peculiarities. Speech can also reflect the culture of a specific layer of a society. The comparison of language and speech shows us the following: a) Language is used for communication and is able to express a human's imagination about the world using discrete symbols; b) Speech is the language applied in practice; it can be regarded as language in action and is expressed in a chain of communication units in the process of usage. At the present day linguistics, it is becoming actual to discuss the following conceptions of speech etiquette: standard, ethic, and communicative. The ethical side of speech etiquette requires a person to have a knowledge of the system of communication formulas, and obey the rules and measures of communication. The speech etiquette units of the Uzbek and English languages are characterized by their usage, both in written and spoken languages. Furthermore, the content of the etiquette is actively used in the communication. The linguistic units that people are accustomed to use in the communication and which are termed differently in linguistics are termed as units of speech etiquette. The requirements of speech etiquette can be considered both as active and passive side of linguistic activity and they are determined by the level of culture of the speaker and listener. While using the speech etiquette units, one should take into account the age, sex, social state, and nationality of the interlocutor. The speech etiquette can be also expressed by the specific language and speech units, when we are: treating, greeting, saying farewell, apologizing, expressing gratitude, asking someone to do a favor, expressing condolence, and congratulating someone etc. The choice of speech etiquette units can be regarded as a type of activity in a specific profession, for this reason we have chosen these units as an object of our research to analyze them in comparison of two languages. According to the rules of speech etiquette there can be used different speech etiquette units in various situations like greeting, saying farewell, apologizing, expressing gratitude, usually in order to create positive atmosphere for the communication. The usage of speech etiquette formulas starts from addressing someone. Kind way of addressing someone according to N.I. Formanovskaya, is the brightest and most used units of speech etiquette. We can find that addressing someone is a syntactic unit which reflects one feature of specific nation's culture in the example of the following sentences. In some cases of addressing, naming someone is not only used just to attract the listener's attention to the speaker, but



also used in order to show appreciation. Such ways of addressing expressed with the help of words, word combinations of appreciation, specific means of expressing appreciation or by the forms of substantivized adjective that expresses the meaning of appreciation: Assalomu alekum, hurmatli , Good morning, Your Majesty. The functions of addressing that can express respect and gratitude. Such ways of addressing are usually used when we address the people with higher rank, respected people, foreigners and in such cases it is expressed with help of specific words or morphemes like: hurmatli, qadrlil, aziz, His/Her Majesty, His/Her Excellency, Dear, Mister, Mistress, Miss etc. As it is seen from the examples, the equivalent ways of addressing in both languages are different from each other with their structure, semantics and the way of usage; semantic differentiation includes the linguocultural variation.

It is crucial to note that speech etiquette possesses a significant role in communication, in all spheres of life and situations ranging from formal communication to informal ones. According to the linguistic dictionary, speech etiquette represents the system of sustainable speech formulas imposed by the society in order to maintain communication in a chosen tone according to social roles and role positions relative to each other. Speech etiquette is applied in different situations: greetings, getting acquainted, farewells, gratitude, condolences, apologizing and others. Both English and Uzbek possess their own national-cultural peculiarities of speech etiquette. The etiquette formulas are connected with the life style and national traditions of the people.

At the outset, the speech etiquette is closely correlated with the topic of the conversation. It is frequently observed that Uzbek people are skilled at small talks. In other words, they try to avoid controversial or critical discussions when they communicate with strangers. Most common conversation topics are related to family life. People can communicate for ages about relatives and friends, marriages, births of children, graduations, promotions, health issues and others. Uzbeks enjoy finding common ground: common friends, relatives, place of study, interests and so on.

One of the peculiar features of English speech etiquette is that English people tend to choose a safe and personally unobtrusive topic such as the weather as an appropriate starter. It is assumed that English people talk about the weather because they are interested in this subject. Conversely, Kate Fox considers a different point of view concerning this topic. In the book "Watching the English" she mentions that English conversations about the weather are not really about the weather, but it is a form of code and evolved to help them to overcome their natural



reserve. It is known that the greeting expressions 'Nice day, isn't it?', 'Isn't it cold?', 'Still raining eh?' and other variants on the theme are not requests for meteorological facts. They are ritual greetings, conversation starters or default 'fillers'.

The speech etiquette is as a bright example for a unit of linguoculturology. The investigation of the problem of the interdependency of language and culture phenomenon is in many ways difficult, for it is closely connected with the culture which is a notion that hasn't any clear definition and is considered to have various characters. Language is closely connected with the relations between people and processes of material and non-material production, but at the time is independent. One of the peculiar features of a language is – that its units are divided into several parts like: sentences, word combinations, words, morphemes, etc. Speech etiquette has two sides from the point of linguistics: the accuracy of speech, which means that a speaker is to follow all the linguistic rules of a language and the capability of speech, which means that the speaker is having the right choice of words, concrete, short, clear and meaningful speech. That's why the appearance of literary norms of a language which is possible because of putting the language into standards under the influence of linguistic and extralinguistic factors doesn't happen at random, but it is a natural phenomena. In this process the main role usually played the intralinguistic or extralinguistic factors. The ethical side of speech etiquette requires a person to have a knowledge of the system of communication formulas, obey the rules and measures of communication. Speech etiquette is considered as one of the aspects of culture of speech, also we should mention that having accurate and precise speech includes in itself the measures of speech etiquette. Etiquette, speech etiquette in particular, can be considered as one of the main elements of the culture of speech. The speech etiquette units of the Russian and English languages are characterized by their use both in written and spoken language. Furthermore, the content of the etiquette is actively used in the communication. The linguistic units that people are accustomed to use in the communication and which are termed differently in linguistics are termed as units of speech etiquette. The usage of speech etiquette formulas starts from addressing someone. We can say that addressing someone is a syntactic unit which reflects one feature of the specific nation's culture. Kind way of addressing someone is the main unit of speech etiquette. Usually we build relations with other people through addressing. The choice of the way of addressing each other can determine the way relations between the interlocutors. According to the rules of speech etiquette there can be used different speech etiquette units in various situations



like greeting, saying farewell, apologizing, expressing gratitude, usually in order to create positive atmosphere for the communication. Greetings are important as well as frequent in everyday social interactions all over the world. Appropriate greeting behavior is crucial for the establishment and maintenance of interpersonal relationships. According to Spolsky, greetings are considered to be "the basic oil of social relations".

In Uzbek culture greeting is often very detailed with questions about health, mood, all the relatives, their children and grandchildren. The following dialogues can be vivid illustrations:

1. - Assalomu alaykum! Qalay, bardammisiz?

-Xudoga shukur!... - Nevaralar yaxshimi? Xayriniso bonu eson-omonmi? Kelin yaxshi yuriptimi? Oy kuni yaqinlashgandir?. (Oybek)

On the contrary, in English greetings are short. They are varied according to the social distance and social status of the interlocutors. When an English speaker asks you "How are you?" or "How is your work?", he is not concerned much about your physical condition or work, but showing his politeness. In English, greetings such as "Hello!", "How do you do?" and "I am pleased to meet you" have to be used to maintain the hearer's positive face, depending on the status of the participants and the social setting. Following conversation can be illustrative of short and informal greeting in English:

- "Morning, Boardman, " ... "How are you today?"

- "Oh, middlin', lad, just middlin'." (J. Harriot)

In the English and Uzbek languages addressing words are similar in some cases; however, there are several cultural peculiarities that significantly differ from each other. In Uzbek culture, when addressing strangers the words aka, opa, xola, otaxon, amaki are commonly used. They call even strangers with family member words such as otaxon, (father for old men), amaki and aka (uncle, brother for middle-aged men), uka, o 'g 'lim (brother, son for young men). The main reason for this type of addressing is that "family" reflects Uzbek cultural values. Besides, collectivism is preferred in families that grandparents, parents, grown children and other family members live together. In English culture, the words such as Miss, Sir, Madam are used to express respect to the interlocutor. "Sir" is particular for adult men who are the same or higher in job position, social status or age. For instance:

- Can I help you, sir; - addressed the shop keeper to Thane (J.Oke).

- Otaxon, sizning gapingizni hech qaytara olmayapman. (Father, I can't reject your opinion) (X. To 'xtaboyev)



In conclusion, it is essential to note that speech etiquette of different nations depends on their cultural background, life style and world perception. Therefore, speech etiquette in English and Uzbek has its national-cultural peculiarities which are specific and vary in many cases.

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