INTENSIFICATION AND ITS PRAGMATIC FEATURES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK PROVERBS

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Abstract

This thesis examines the expression of intensification and its pragmatic features in English and Uzbek proverbs from a comparative perspective. The study focuses on the linguistic nature of intensification, the means through which meaning and emotional-expressive impact are strengthened in proverbs, and the communicative functions performed by these means. Selected English and Uzbek proverbs are analyzed to identify the semantic and pragmatic features of intensification. Particular attention is paid to the role of intensification in conveying such pragmatic functions as advice, warning, evaluation, criticism, persuasion, and emotional impact. The comparative analysis demonstrates that English and Uzbek proverbs share a number of common patterns of intensification while also reflecting distinctive national and cultural features. The findings may contribute to the study of proverb semantics and pragmatics and may be useful in translation, language teaching, and intercultural communication.

Keywords: intensification, pragmatics, gradation, expressiveness, pragmatic meaning, implicature, cultural context.

Annotatsiya

Ushbu tezis ingliz va o‘zbek maqollarida intensifikatsiyaning ifodalanishi hamda uning pragmatik xususiyatlarini qiyosiy o‘rganishga bag‘ishlangan. Tadqiqotda

intensifikatsiyaning semantik va pragmatik tabiati, maqollarda ma’noni kuchaytiruvchi vositalar va ularning kommunikativ vazifalari tahlil qilinadi. Ingliz va o‘zbek maqollaridan tanlangan misollar asosida intensifikatsiyaning maslahat, ogohlantirish, baholash, rag‘batlantirish va emotsional ta’sir kabi pragmatik funksiyalari aniqlanadi. Qiyosiy tahlil orqali ikki tildagi umumiy va farqli jihatlar, shuningdek, intensifikatsiyaning milliy-madaniy xususiyatlari yoritiladi. Tadqiqot natijalari maqollar pragmatikasi, tarjima, til o‘qitish va madaniyatlararo kommunikatsiyani o‘rganishda amaliy ahamiyatga ega.

Kalit so‘zlar: intensifikatsiya, pragmatika, gradatsiya, ekspressivlik, pragmatik ma’no, kommunikativ funksiya

Introduction

Proverbs are an important part of the linguistic and cultural heritage of a nation. They convey collective experience, moral values, and attitudes toward different aspects of life. In addition to their informative and didactic functions, proverbs have significant pragmatic potential, as they can be used to advise, warn, criticize, persuade, or evaluate. One of the linguistic phenomena that contributes to these functions is intensification. Intensification refers to the strengthening of the semantic or expressive force of an utterance. In proverbs, it can make an idea more emphatic, increase emotional impact, and strengthen the speaker’s communicative intention. Therefore, studying intensification from a pragmatic perspective helps reveal how proverbial expressions influence the hearer in particular communicative contexts. The aim of this study is to examine the expression of intensification and its pragmatic functions in English and Uzbek proverbs. The study focuses on identifying the main means of intensification and comparing their communicative functions in the two languages. Semantic, contextual, pragmatic, and comparative methods are employed to analyze selected proverbial examples and identify their common and culture-specific features.

Methods and Materials

Intensification is a linguistic process through which the semantic or expressive force of an utterance is strengthened. It can be expressed through repetition, comparison, contrast, evaluative words, and other linguistic devices. In proverbs, intensification makes the message more emphatic and memorable. It can strengthen advice, warning, criticism, or evaluation and increase the speaker's intended pragmatic effect. Therefore, intensification is both a semantic and pragmatic phenomenon closely related to the communicative purpose of proverbial expressions.

Intensification in English proverbs is often expressed through comparison, contrast, repetition, and evaluative vocabulary. These devices make the message more emphatic and strengthen its pragmatic impact.
For example, "*Actions speak louder than words*" uses the comparative expression louder than to emphasize the greater importance of actions. "*The more, the merrier*" expresses an increase in quantity and positive emotional effect through the comparative forms more and merrier. "Better late than never" uses comparison to emphasize that completing an action, even late, is preferable to not completing it. Finally, "*Every cloud has a silver lining*" uses metaphorical contrast to strengthen a positive interpretation of a difficult situation. These examples show that intensification in English proverbs can serve pragmatic functions such as persuasion, encouragement, evaluation, and consolation.

Intensification in Uzbek proverbs is commonly expressed through contrast, repetition, quantitative expressions, and evaluative vocabulary. These devices strengthen the meaning of the proverb and make its message more expressive. For example, "*Yaxshidan bog' qoladi, yomondan dog*'" uses contrast between yaxshi and yomon to emphasize the consequences of human behavior. "*Bir kun tuz yegan joyga qirq kun salom ber*" uses the contrast between bir and qirq to intensify the idea of gratitude. "*Oltin olma, duo ol*" contrasts material wealth with a blessing and emphasizes moral value. "*Mehnatning tagi rohat*" presents a strong connection

between hard work and a positive result. These examples demonstrate that intensification in Uzbek proverbs contributes to advice, moral evaluation, encouragement, and the expression of traditional social values.

English and Uzbek proverbs use intensification to strengthen advice, evaluation, warning, and emotional impact. Comparison, contrast, and quantitative expressions are common intensifying devices in both languages. However, their pragmatic use also reflects cultural differences. English proverbs tend to emphasize practical experience and individual behavior, while Uzbek proverbs often highlight morality, respect, gratitude, and social relationships. Thus, intensification has both universal and culture-specific pragmatic features.

The study employs semantic, pragmatic, contextual, and comparative methods to examine intensification in English and Uzbek proverbs. The semantic method is used to identify linguistic elements that strengthen the meaning or expressive force of proverbial expressions. Pragmatic analysis examines how intensification contributes to the speaker's communicative intention, while contextual analysis considers how the meaning and effect of an intensified proverb may change according to the situation. The comparative method is applied to identify similarities and differences between English and Uzbek proverbs. Particular attention is given to the ways intensification expresses advice, warning, evaluation, encouragement, and emotional attitudes. This approach also helps reveal the influence of cultural values on the pragmatic interpretation of intensified proverbial expressions.

Conclusion

The analysis demonstrates that intensification is an important semantic and pragmatic feature of English and Uzbek proverbs. In both languages, it strengthens the meaning, emotional force, and expressiveness of proverbial expressions. Intensification is commonly used to convey advice, warning, evaluation, encouragement, criticism, and other communicative intentions.

The comparative analysis reveals both similarities and differences between the two languages. Comparison, contrast, quantitative expressions, and evaluative vocabulary function as common means of intensification, while their pragmatic interpretation is influenced by cultural values and social traditions. English proverbs tend to emphasize practical experience and individual behavior, whereas Uzbek proverbs more frequently reflect moral values, respect, gratitude, and social relationships. Thus, intensification in proverbs should be viewed not only as a linguistic means of strengthening meaning but also as a pragmatic device that increases communicative effectiveness. Its comparative study contributes to a deeper understanding of the interaction between language, culture, and pragmatic meaning and may be useful in language teaching, translation, and intercultural communication.

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