

# Contrastive Analysis of Politeness in English and Uzbek Languages

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## ABSTRACT

This paper is based on contrastive analysis of politeness in English and Uzbek languages. The research findings indicate that the formation of politeness in communication is different in both languages. The article analyzes and compares politeness words between English and Uzbek words. Based on this study we argue that more research is needed to investigate culturally marked theory of politeness, words which are including in both languages.

**KEYWORDS:** *Politeness, polite, communication, theory of politeness, communicative competence, speech acts*

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## INTRODUCTION

The article attempts to determine the main theory of politeness, contrastive analysis of politeness in the English and Uzbek languages. This paper shows what politeness is, theory of politeness, and views of different authors. Also, the article differentiates the words in both languages. According to Thomas politeness has gained considerable interest in the last three decades in pragmatics and it is considered to be a sub-branch of pragmatics. Leech said that politeness, as a kind of behaviour discovered very commonly in languages and among societies, has been alleged as a global phenomenon among cultures. Being polite implies a kind of speech or behaviour that gives advantage or respect to other people, particularly your interlocutors. The view of the Brown and Levinson on Politeness is as following “as type of behavior in communication and a universal phenomenon in society, usually occurs in our daily conversation and among cultures . It is one of the characteristics of language use that usually unveils the source of human being socially”<sup>1</sup>. Being polite

requires speaking or behaving in a respect and beneficial way to your interlocutor. Lakoff argues that politeness is a tool utilized to “reduce friction in personal interaction”<sup>2</sup>. He identified three politeness maxims for preserving face in communication: do not impose, give opinion, and make the listener feel good. Leech defines politeness as to “minimize the expression of impolite beliefs, maximize the expression of polite beliefs”<sup>3</sup>. According to Holmes politeness means to be aware of other people's feelings<sup>4</sup>. People usually try to be polite in their daily life conversational interaction. Yule defines politeness as “the means employed to show awareness of another person's face”<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>2</sup>Brown. P., & Levinson. S., Universals in Language usage: Politeness phenomena. In E. N. Goody (Ed.), Questions and politeness: Strategies in social interaction, 8(1978), 56-289. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)

<sup>3</sup>Brown. P., & Levinson. S. C., Politeness: Some universals in language usage, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, (1987)

<sup>4</sup>  
<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Theory and practice in language studies(Thomas, 1970, p. 149)

Politeness is defined as a group of social rules and conventions adopted by a society that controls the conduct of its members, preventing some behaviors and preferring others. Politeness means taking care of interlocutors' feelings and acting in a proper way. Grice argues that understanding of conversation is based on three certain principles like, Cooperative Principle. As politeness is significant to the building and keeping of social relationships, politeness in speech acts is at the heart of social life and communication. It may be a prerequisite of collaboration between people in general.

## The main findings and results

### Politeness in English literature

Brown and Levinson discuss politeness primarily in relation to speech acts<sup>6</sup>. Clearly, they point out that speech acts have to be handled carefully. They also explain that face consists of two related wants: positive and negative face. Positive face is a person's want to be appreciated and approved of by selected others, in terms of personality, desires, behavior, values, and so on. In another side, negative face is a person's want to be unimpeded by others, the desire to be free to act as she or he chooses and not to be imposed upon. According to Brown and Levinson there are some strategies of politeness. They are:

- A. Baldon-record
- B. Positive politeness
- C. Negative politeness
- D. Off record politeness

#### A. Bald on-Record

This strategy provides no effort by speaker to reduce the impact of FTA's, the speaker will most likely the person whom he or she is speaking to, embarrass them, or make them feel a bit uncomfortable.

#### B. Positive Politeness

Positive politeness strategy is oriented to enhance the positive face of hearer. The strategy includes

- Strategy 1(Notice, attend to hearer's interest, want, needs etc.),
- Strategy 2: Exaggerate (interest, sympathy, etc. with the hearer),
- Strategy 3: use in-group identity marker,
- Strategy 4: seek agreement and avoid disagreement,
- Strategy 5: assert speaker's knowledge of and concern for hearer's wants,
- Strategy 6: include both speaker and,
- Strategy 7: give hearer sympathy, understanding, cooperation,
- Strategy 8: joke.

### C. Negative Politeness

Negative politeness strategy is oriented towards a hearer's negative face. Negative face is the desire to have freedom of action, freedom of imposition and not to be impeded by others.

### D. Off-record indirect strategy

This strategy is the opposite of baldly on-record. Its main purpose is to take some of the speaker's pressure off. The speaker is removing himself or herself from any imposing what so ever. In cases where the risk is estimated as very high, speaker realize the act in a way that leaves maximal option for deniability. In simple term, off record realizes the act so indirectly. The strategy of off-record can be performed in such situations:

- Strategy 1: Give hints
- Strategy 2: Give association clues
- Strategy 3: Presuppose
- Strategy 4: Understate
- Strategy 5: Overstate
- Strategy 6: Use tautologies
- Strategy 7: Use contradictions
- Strategy 8: Be ironic
- Strategy 9: Use metaphors
- Strategy 10: Use rhetorical questions
- Strategy 11: Be ambiguous
- Strategy 12: Be vague
- Strategy 13: Over-generalize
- Strategy 14: Displace H (hearer can choose to do the act as a bonus free gift), Strategy 15: Be incomplete, use ellipsis.

Let's analyze the work of "Pride and Prejudice" novel by Jane Austen. This novel is mostly called a romantic novel, it is also a satire. The novel follows the character development of Elizabeth Bennet, the dynamic protagonist of the book who learns about the repercussions of hasty judgments and comes to appreciate the difference between superficial goodness and actual goodness.

Mr. Bennet, owner of the Longbourn estate in Hertfordshire, has five daughters, but his property is entailed and can only be passed to a male heir. His wife also lacks an inheritance, so his family faces becoming very poor upon his death. Thus, it is imperative that at least one of the girls marry well to support the others, which is a motivation that drives the plot.

*Pride and Prejudice* has consistently appeared near the top of lists of "most-loved books" among literary scholars and the reading public. It has become one of the most popular novels in English literature, with over 20 million copies sold, and has inspired many derivatives in modern literature. For more than a century, dramatic adaptations, reprints, unofficial

sequels, films, and TV versions of *Pride and Prejudice* have portrayed the memorable characters and themes of the novel, reaching mass audiences. Here are some examples:

### Example: 1

Caroline: Good Lord, Miss Bennet. Have you walked here?

Lizzie: I have. I'm so sorry. How is my sister?

Darcy: (more kindly) Shes upstairs.

Darcy: (to footman) *Show Miss Bennet the way, Alfred!*

"Show Miss Bennet the way, Alfred!" was utterance which had proposition that Darcy attempted to make the footman to do something. The request was to show Elizabeth Bennet the way to meet her sister upstairs. The illocution of request has per locution consequence that the benefit of it is taken by Darcy. Darcy's utterance in imperative form shows the Strategy without doing any effort to minimize the impact of the FTA. That is why his utterance is classified in *bald on record Strategy*.

### Example: 2

Caroline: How many letters you must have occasion to write, Mr Darcy. Letters of business too. How odious I should think them!

Darcy: It is fortunate, then, that they fall to my lot instead of yours.

Caroline: *Please tell your sister that I long to see her!*

Darcy: I have already told her once, by your desire.

In her utterance, Caroline uttered her request without minimizing the impact of the FTA because both speaker and hearer was close friend and they did not have any intention to offend others. So Caroline said her request directly which can be classified in *bald on record Strategy*. In her utterance, Caroline used mitigating device „please“ to soften the request.

### Politeness in Uzbek literature

In Uzbek language the term "politeness" means "xushmuomalalik". In Uzbek culture, politeness plays an important role in interacting and this became as a custom from an ancient time that respecting both youngsters and old generation is the key to build a strong social bond with each other. For instance, Uzbek people greet people by saying "Assalomualeykum" (I wish you to be healthy), when they see each other on their way, regardless of knowing or not knowing each other. The answer of this greeting that the other person receives is "Vaaleykumassalom" (I also wish you to be healthy). In Uzbek, there is some set of expressions, which are

specific to this culture. In Uzbek, for instance, as in many other languages, the pronoun siz/ you is mainly used in order to show respect towards the hearer. From their early ages, children are nurtured to use this pronoun for elder people and elder siblings in families with the exception of using sen/ you (singular) (Fr.tu) for little siblings. It means that making connections between people existence and development and the need for their life activities, complex process that involves sharing information with others, a collaborative Strategy to understand and comprehend them<sup>7</sup>.

Let's compare politeness in Uzbek literature. Most widely read novel "O'tkankunlar" written by Abdulla Qadiri shows good examples of politeness in Uzbek literature. In this work, Abdullah Qadiri describes not only the destiny of love between two people, but also diversity human destinies, socio-political, spiritual-moral, family-romantic problems takes the pen. However, the fate of the country and the issue of independence are among them is obtained. The main protagonists of the work are Otabek and Yusufbek Haji. They are selfless people who have dedicated their lives to the cause of prosperity, peace and prosperity. The play deals with Uzbek nationalism, respect and consideration emotions are praised. In particular, the etiquette of people entering Otabek's room,

The author describes the culture of behavior as follows:

### Example:

They came into the room. Otabek greets visitors.

"Excuse us, brother," said thanks, apologizing we were worried.

When Otabek shows them a place, he says in a pleasant way:

"You weren't worried, you were happy," he said. Or, Otabek's relation to injury:

"Let me do some work."

"Come on, son."

*Thanks, Dad, can you make us some tea?*

"Well, sir."

In this example, there are some polite words. Such as, let me do some work, thanks, well sir. In Uzbek language, those words mean polite words. If you speak with this words you seem very polite person. This words can be an example for positive politeness.

<sup>7</sup>Contrastive analysis of politeness in Uzbek, Turkish and English, Aziza Musoeva (May, 2019)



## Conclusion

The analysis above shows that there are similarities and differences between politeness words in Uzbek and English. The difference can be explained by the fact that, each nation has its own theory of politeness, strategies of politeness and steps of politeness. In this article, there are novels for differentiate of politeness in two languages. There are also, differences and similarities of politeness in Uzbek and English languages.

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