

THE ANALYSIS OF EUPHIMISMS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract:

This article gives information about stylistic devices in the English and Uzbek languages, in particular, euphemisms. In particular, the analysis of phraseological units and words used in literary literature and our daily lives and their alternatives is studied in two languages. Also, the role of these concepts in the Uzbek and English lexicons is discussed.

Key words: euphemism, phraseological euphemism, alternative to the word, stylistic device.

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Introduction

There is no denying that in all fields of study we have witnessed developments, namely, linguistics, which is constantly advancing and giving rise to new perspectives and theoretical frameworks. The intricate nature of human language makes it a challenging subject to comprehend fully, with its myriad complexities requiring ongoing exploration and understanding. Nevertheless, several centuries of experiments in the history of world linguistics show that various current figures have spent their entire lives calculating the optimal path for language research, clearly showing the object of study and its essence along the way.

As we examined in our research, a number of studies are carried out in the field of using euphemistic strategies, to be more precise, oriental scholars also addressed this issue, namely, Enab (2020). This scholar investigated euphemisms, in terms of an Arabic language, which is one of the international languages. Due to it being a widely spread language with more than 1,000 000 speakers, the researcher conducted research on Egyptian Arabic. *In Egyptian Arabic, for example, Enab, (2020) explored euphemism in relation to physical illness, inferior career, cancer, bodily functions, sensitive issues for women, and death.* ². Enab is not the only scientist who researched euphemism; once we look at the research work of the western world, we could know another scientist. Torres-Cuenca, who investigated euphemisms in terms of finding appropriate equivalences in translation; and Torres-Cuenca (2016) attempted transferring taboo words from English into Spanish. *The results showed that literal*

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² Enab N (2020) Euphemistic expressions and strategies used by Egyptian speakers of Arabic in light of face theory. M.Sc. Thesis, the American University in Cairo, Cairo, Egypt

*translation was the most frequently used strategy among the other euphemism, neutralization, and omission strategies.*¹

Methods

Euphemism is used to reduce or hide the negative effects of situations that contradict moral standards or secret realities that cannot be directly said, which, to avoid calling them negative realities, mitigate the negative effects of such a reality, touch one's self-esteem, express disrespect, or convey an unpleasant message in a smoother, softer form. There is also euphemism in the language, which arose at the request of a particular speech situation, the meaning of which is often clarified through the text. Euphemism is widely used in scientific and formal styles. When we study euphemism through fiction, it can be seen that it is of great importance as a stylistic tool. This situation is clearly visible in the translation of works of art.

As for American studies, scholars conducted research on avoiding using abnormal lexicons in human interactions. *In May of 2022, the Stanford IT Department released a report from the Elimination of Harmful Language Initiative (EHLI). This report was intended to accomplish two things: first, it aimed to "eliminate many forms of harmful language, including racist, violent, and biased...language in Stanford websites and code"; second, it hoped "to educate people about the possible impact of the words we use."*². As the cultural development of mankind influenced the development of language and culture, euphemisms were also polished. "Therefore, while studying the phenomenon of euphemism, it is necessary to take into account, of course, the social environment associated with its origin."

Results

Euphemism is the most important unit in human speech, and therefore, euphemic phenomena themselves reflect the commonality of language and culture. The speech activity of a person adheres to moral norms. Undoubtedly, one of the important tools that indicates the level of communication culture and the level of speech culture is euphemistic expression. Reflecting on euphemisms, we must emphasise that euphemism is a linguacultural phenomenon. That is, when we analyse euphemisms, especially when we consider the role of euphemisms in English and Uzbek linguistics, we have witnessed that euphemisms in these two languages are fundamentally different in terms of culture. This is especially closely related to the national mentality and cultural identity.

The roots of the euphemisms of the Uzbek language are closely related to religious views. According to the teachings of Islam, it is a sin to use bad words and hurt someone else's heart if they are using language. In some Uzbek families, a man faces his wife by the name of his eldest daughter, and a wife faces her husband by the name of his eldest son. These forms of exclamation are a remnant of taboo left over from primitive times, which manifests in the family more children's parent couple, partnership, that is, the value and importance of children than a couple.

Discussion

Taking examples from words in "Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho, we could vividly see the differences between neutral words and euphemisms. It is undeniable that

¹ Torres-Cuenca A (2016) On the translation of taboo words in an English-Spanish corpus of film subtitles. Universidad de Jaén, Jaén

² Stanford. "Elimination of Harmful Language Initiative." Elimination of Harmful Language Initiative. Last modified May 2022. Accessed April 23, 2023.

realising the author's perspective is not taken for granted; however, as much as possible, we tried to analyse the translated work by the author. We could see the word "**nourishment**"¹, which refers to "**food**"², as an euphemism because, in normal communication, we use the latter version in the meaning of feeding in response to hunger. The word nourishment equals "**shifobaxsh ozuqa**" which contains vitamins or useful ingredients for the human body, whereas "**food**" is equivalent to the word "**oziq-ovqat or ozuqa**" which individuals consume to survive. "*They trust me, and they've forgotten how to rely on their own instincts, because I lead them to **nourishment.***" [5; part one] We could see euphemisms not only as an example of words but also in the following parts of the book, where there is an expression such as "**Get away from the business of display,**" which means "**change the topic of conversation.**" "*Why did you want to get to the Pyramids?*" he asked, to **get away from the business of the display.** [5; part two] As we know, the words denote different meanings outside of this context; however, as a phraseological unit, it gives one meaning by combining all the words together. The expressions "**make up his mind**" and "**take up the chant**" (that give the meaning "**make a decision**" and "**sing a song,**" respectively) are other examples of euphemisms that contain more than a word. Regarding the equivalence of these expressions in Uzbek, "**make up his mind**" and "**take up the chant**" could be alternatives to "**hayolini bir joyga qo'yib**" and "**hirgoyi qilmoq**", respectively. We could see them in the extracts from the book: "*The Englishman didn't want to tell others about his reasons for being at the oasis, and **couldn't make up his mind.***"[5; part two]. "*...everyone in the market fell to their knees, touched their foreheads to the ground, and **took up the chant.***" [5; part two]. In another example, part of the body is used to show the intention of the interlocutor with the help of "**eyeing the boy**" which means "**targeting.**" "*Who is this stranger who speaks of omens?*" asked one of the chieftains, **eyeing the boy.** [5; part two]. As we have mentioned, while directing attitude, individuals may use their index finger, palm, and eyes, and we consider that targeting someone with your eye is more polite compared to hand actions.

Conclusion

Judging from the above points, euphemism is a relatively gentle expression of rude or vulgar words and phrases. Euphemism refers to various misconceptions and superstitions, the phenomena of the world that surround religious beliefs, the result of lexical prohibitions when concealing certain established things in the name, and what causes a person to use sarcastic phrases.

In other words, it is a shame to say, it is scary to hear, it is dangerous, it is considered unpleasant, what evokes bad feelings in a person – the phenomenon is soft, gentle, pleasant, caressing, unkempt, beautiful meaning – the meaning of which is to say words and phrases alternating.

References:

¹ Nourishment: food that someone needs to make them grow and keep them healthy.

² Food: something that people and animals eat, or plants absorb, to keep them alive.

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