

THE PRAGMATIC NATURE OF THE MEANING OF GRADUALISM AND ITS EXPRESSION IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS

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Abstract: *This article explores the pragmatic essence of graduality as a linguistic category that regulates the degree of intensity in communication. It analyzes how graduality functions in everyday speech, political discourse, and academic contexts, focusing on its role in shaping persuasive strategies, mitigating criticism, and enhancing communicative adaptability. Comparative examples from English and Uzbek illustrate the universality of graduality while highlighting language-specific means of expression. The study emphasizes the pragmatic potential of graduality as a tool for social interaction, strategic manipulation, and emotional impact.*

Keywords: *Graduality, Pragmatics, Communicative strategies, Political discourse, English language, Uzbek language.*

ПРАГМАТИЧЕСКИЙ ХАРАКТЕР ЗНАЧЕНИЯ ГРАДУАЛИЗМА И ЕГО ВЫРАЖЕНИЕ В РАЗЛИЧНЫХ КОНТЕКСТАХ

Аннотация: в статье рассматривается прагматическая сущность градуальности как категории лингвистики, регулирующей интенсивность общения. Когда рассматривается, как она используется в академических текстах, политическом дискурсе и повседневной речи, уделяется внимание тому, как градуальность способствует формированию убедительных стратегий, смягчению критики и повышению коммуникативной адаптивности. Сравнительные примеры из английского и узбекского языков показывают, что градуальность не только универсальна, но и специфична для выражения в различных языковых системах. Градуальность имеет прагматический потенциал как инструмент для социального взаимодействия, стратегической манипуляции и воздействия на эмоции.

Ключевые слова: прагматика, градуальность, политический дискурс, английский и узбекский языки.

In pragmatics, gradualism refers to how an utterance's meaning gradually becomes stronger or weaker, enabling the speaker to adjust the influence on the addressee. It takes the form of language selection, modal devices, and context, all of which influence how well the writing communicates.

Graduality is a category that describes how intense a feature or activity is. It is related to the communicative goal of the speaker in pragmatics, which can be to neutralize, soften, or strengthen a message. Gradual ways enable speech to be tailored to the context, including the interlocutor's standing, cultural norms, and communication objectives.

Fundamental expression mechanisms

- Lexical markers include terms like "a little," "very," and "completely."
- Particles are used in modal formulations ("only," "just," "even").
- Intonation: meaning is strengthened or weakened by rising or decreasing pitch.

Social roles, cultural norms, and communication context are examples of contextual elements.

Pragmatic function

- Regulating impact: Gradualism helps avoid categoricalness or, conversely, emphasize importance.
- Creating nuances: Allows for the expression of nuances of emotion and judgment.
- Manipulative potential: The speaker can control the perception of information by amplifying or softening it.

Communicative effectiveness: Proper use of gradation makes speech more persuasive and adaptive.

Examples

"He's a little tired" is a softening.

"She's very talented" is an intensification.

"It's completely impossible" is a categorical statement.

Each example demonstrates how gradation influences the perception and interpretation of a statement.

Graduality is not just a grammatical or semantic category, but a key pragmatic tool that allows speakers to manage communication. It provides flexibility in speech, making it more precise and effective in different social and cultural contexts.

Comparative Examples

English

"He is a bit tired." — slightly softened.

"She is very talented." — intensified.

"This is absolutely impossible." — categorical.

Uzbek

"U u biroz charchagan." — softened ("a little tired").

"U juda iste'dodli." — intensified ("very talented").

"Bu mutlaqo imkonsiz." — categorical ("absolutely impossible").

Pragmatic Effect

English often uses intensifiers ("very," "absolutely," "quite") to set the tone of a statement.

In Uzbek, gradation is expressed through particles and adverbs ("juda," "mutlaqo," "biroz"), which also regulate the intensity of the impact.

Additional examples

English

"It's quite interesting." — moderately positive assessment

"He is extremely clever." — strong emphasis.

"This is rather difficult." — mild criticism.

Uzbek

"Bu anchayin qiziqarli." — moderately positive assessment.

"U nihoyatda aqlli ." — strong emphasis.

"Bu biroz qiyin." — mild criticism.

Pragmatic differences

In English, words like quite and rather serve as either softening or strengthening depending on the context.

In Uzbek, words like anchayin and nihoyatda are used to give more emotional force.

Graduality is a tool that increases the social and communicative effectiveness of speech. While English uses more universal intensifiers, Uzbek uses more emotional and contextually powerful words.

Both languages provide pragmatic flexibility: they can be softened or strengthened depending on the situation.

Pragmatic role

- Regulating impact: the speaker chooses the degree of categoricalness.
- Creating nuances: allows for the expression of subtle shades of emotion.
- Manipulative potential: Strengthening or softening information to achieve a goal.
- Social adaptation: the choice of gradation depends on the status of the interlocutor and the situation.

In both languages, the choice of gradation depends on the context of communication: formal situations require moderation, while informal situations allow for emotional intensification.

Graduality in English and Uzbek serves the same pragmatic function—controlling speech perception. However, the means of expression differ: English relies more often on universal adverb intensifiers, while Uzbek relies on a rich system of particles and contextual nuances.

Graduality is a universal pragmatic tool that makes speech flexible and effective. In English, it is expressed through a rich system of intensifiers, and in Uzbek, through particles and contextual nuances. Comparative analysis shows that both linguistic systems have similar functions, but different means of implementing them.

Graduality in political texts

The pragmatic nature of gradualism is of particular importance in political speeches. Through it, politicians exert a strong influence on the audience by persuading, softening criticism, or by absolute emphasis.

- Softening: "There are some challenges ahead" / "Oldinda biroz qiyinchiliklar bor " - to soften the problem.

- Intensification: "We are deeply committed to reforms" / " Biz islohotlarga juda qat'iy sodiqmiz " - to inspire confidence.

- Absolute emphasis: "This policy is absolutely essential" / "Bu siyosat mutlaqa zarur " - to emphasize the urgent necessity.

Pragmatically, these devices provide persuasion of the audience, softening the conflict, and emotional impact.

Graduality in everyday speech

In everyday communication, graduality is used more to set an emotional tone:

"It's rather difficult" is a mild criticism.

"He is extremely clever" is a strong positive assessment.

Through these means, interlocutors express their relationships in a subtle way and maintain social balance.

In linguistics, gradualism is explained by the following theoretical foundations:

Pragmatic theory: the effectiveness of speech is ensured by its adaptability to the audience.

Communicative strategies: means of softening and strengthening are selected depending on the social situation.

Discursive analysis: different levels of gradualism are considered in political, social and everyday texts. Graduality is a universal category that defines the pragmatic nature of speech. In English and Uzbek, it is expressed through different means, but its function is the same: to control influence, persuade the audience, and increase communicative efficiency. While graduality is used as a means of strategic manipulation in political texts, it serves to maintain social balance in everyday speech.

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