

**SPEECH ETIQUETTE IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES**

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Annotation. *This article analyzes the phenomenon of speech etiquette in English and Uzbek languages, focusing on its cultural, linguistic, and communicative aspects. It emphasizes how politeness, respect, and social norms are expressed differently across languages while serving similar social purposes. The study highlights similarities and distinctions in greetings, forms of address, apologies, and requests. Practical suggestions are offered for teaching and integrating etiquette awareness into English language lessons. The paper concludes that mastering speech etiquette not only improves language fluency but also enhances intercultural understanding and mutual respect.*

Аннотация. *В статье анализируется феномен речевого этикета в английском и узбекском языках с точки зрения культурных, лингвистических и коммуникативных особенностей. Подчеркивается, что формы вежливости и уважения проявляются по-разному, но выполняют схожие социальные функции. Рассматриваются сходства и различия в приветствиях, формах обращения, извинениях и просьбах. Приводятся практические рекомендации по обучению речевому этикету на уроках английского языка. Делается вывод, что владение речевым этикетом способствует не только языковой компетенции, но и межкультурному взаимопониманию.*

Annotatsiya. *Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o'zbek tillarida nutqiy etiket hodisasi madaniy, lingvistik va kommunikativ jihatdan tahlil qilinadi. Maqolada*



odob, hurmat va ijtimoiy me'yorlarning turli tillarda ifodalanish shakllari o'rganiladi. Salomlashish, murojaat, uzr so'rash va iltimos bildirishdagi o'xshashlik va farqlar yoritiladi. Shuningdek, nutqiy etiketni ingliz tili darslarida o'rgatishning amaliy usullari taklif etiladi. Tadqiqot xulosasiga ko'ra, nutqiy etiketni chuqur o'zlashtirish nafaqat til bilimini, balki madaniyatlararo tushunishni ham rivojlantiradi.

Keywords: *speech etiquette, politeness, communication culture, intercultural competence, teaching methods*

Ключевые слова: *речевой этикет, вежливость, культура общения, межкультурная компетенция, методы обучения*

Kalit so'zlar: *nutqiy etiket, odob, muloqot madaniyati, madaniyatlararo kompetensiya, o'qitish usullari*

Introduction. Language is not only a means of communication but also a reflection of a nation's mentality, culture, and values. Speech etiquette — or the system of polite expressions and behavioral norms — plays a vital role in shaping how people interact, show respect, and maintain social harmony.

In both English and Uzbek cultures, speech etiquette represents centuries of social experience. However, the ways in which politeness is expressed can vary significantly. English relies more on linguistic conventions and indirectness, while Uzbek etiquette emphasizes warmth, hierarchy, and emotional respect. Understanding these differences is crucial for effective communication, translation, and foreign language teaching.

1. The Concept and Functions of Speech Etiquette

Speech etiquette refers to a set of language rules and forms that regulate communication in accordance with cultural norms. It ensures that interactions remain polite, respectful, and socially appropriate.

According to Brown and Levinson's *Politeness Theory* (1987), people use linguistic strategies to maintain others' "face" — their social self-esteem. In both English and Uzbek, politeness serves the same communicative goals:

- Expressing respect toward the listener,



- Maintaining social distance or closeness,
- Avoiding conflict or offense,
- Creating a positive emotional atmosphere.

Thus, speech etiquette is not only linguistic but also cultural and psychological in nature.

2. Speech Etiquette in English

English-speaking societies value individualism, equality, and indirectness in communication. Politeness is often expressed through language forms that soften the speaker's intention. Examples include:

- “Could you please...?”, “Would you mind if...?”, “Excuse me...”
- Frequent use of *please*, *thank you*, *sorry*, and *I'm afraid*.
- Preference for titles (*Mr.*, *Ms.*, *Dr.*) and surnames in formal contexts.

Greetings are brief and neutral: “Hello”, “Hi”, “Good morning”. In everyday life, English speakers maintain personal space, avoid interrupting, and often use humor or small talk to establish rapport. The tone of voice and facial expression are as important as words themselves.

In teaching English, it is essential to demonstrate not just vocabulary and grammar, but also *how* polite language functions in real contexts.

3. Speech Etiquette in Uzbek

Uzbek culture, influenced by Eastern traditions and Islamic values, attaches great importance to respect for elders, hospitality, and collective harmony. This is reflected in the language

4. Comparative Analysis of English and Uzbek Speech Etiquette

Aspect	English	Uzbek
Greeting	“Hello”, “Good morning”	“Assalomu alaykum”, “Salom”
Address	Mr./Ms. + surname	Aka/Opa/Ustoz
Politeness markers	Please, Sorry, Thank you	Iltimos, Uzr, Rahmat



Aspect	English	Uzbek
Requests	Indirect (“Could you please...?”)	Often direct but softened by tone
Farewell	“Goodbye”, “See you soon”	“Xayr”, “Omon bo‘ling”, “Salomat bo‘ling”
Cultural focus	Equality and individualism	Hierarchy and collectivism

Both systems aim to maintain respect and harmony but differ in linguistic style and cultural background. English etiquette values neutrality, whereas Uzbek etiquette values warmth and emotional connection.

5. Practical Tips for Teaching Speech Etiquette

Teaching etiquette in foreign language classes enhances intercultural competence — the ability to communicate appropriately across cultures. Some effective methods include:

1. Role-playing: Students act out real-life dialogues (e.g., greeting a teacher or guest).
2. Video examples: Watching authentic conversations to observe tone, gesture, and politeness.
3. Comparative analysis: Discussing how the same idea is expressed politely in both languages.
4. Dialog creation: Learners write short polite exchanges using target expressions.
5. Cultural projects: Preparing posters or presentations on “Politeness in My Culture.”
6. Songs and stories: For young learners, using stories that show good manners and respectful speech.

These activities make learning interactive, meaningful, and culturally rich.

6. The Teacher’s Role in Promoting Speech Etiquette

Teachers serve as models of communication. Their behavior, tone, and attitudes demonstrate the importance of respect in both languages. An effective teacher:



- Encourages kindness and empathy in class interactions,
- Uses polite language consistently,
- Explains the *why* behind etiquette rules,
- Promotes tolerance toward cultural differences.

By integrating etiquette into every lesson, teachers help students become not just good speakers but also polite communicators and global citizens.

7. Speech Etiquette and Intercultural Competence

In today's globalized world, language learners must navigate cultural nuances. Misunderstandings often arise not from grammar mistakes but from violations of politeness norms.

For example, an Uzbek student might use "Give me a pen" (direct translation from Uzbek), which can sound rude in English; the appropriate form would be "Could you give me a pen, please?" Conversely, English indirectness ("Maybe you could...") may seem insincere to Uzbek speakers.

Therefore, understanding *why* people express politeness differently fosters empathy and prevents communication breakdowns. Language and culture must be taught together.

Conclusion. Speech etiquette reflects the moral and cultural values of a nation. While English emphasizes equality and indirect politeness, Uzbek speech etiquette focuses on respect, hierarchy, and emotional warmth. Despite these differences, both systems aim to create harmony in communication.

For teachers, integrating speech etiquette into language teaching helps learners understand not only *what to say* but also *how and when to say it*. A balanced combination of linguistic practice, cultural awareness, and emotional intelligence prepares students for real intercultural communication.

Ultimately, teaching and learning speech etiquette promote not only linguistic proficiency but also mutual respect, tolerance, and friendship among peoples.



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