

PSYCHOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF NAPOLEON'S CHARACTER IN
GEORGE ORWELL'S "ANIMAL FARM"Andijan State
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Abstract

This thesis analyzes the psycholinguistic features of the main character Napoleon in George Orwell's novel *Animal Farm*. The study explores the linguistic and psychological mechanisms that reveal the inner world of the character and his methods of manipulating others through language. During the research, special attention is paid to dialogue between characters, linguistic expressions of psychological states, direct and indirect forms of speech, and intonation as key psycholinguistic components.

Keywords: George Orwell, Napoleon, *Animal Farm*, psycholinguistics, intonation

Аннотация

В данной работе анализируются психолингвистические особенности главного героя Наполеона в романе Джорджа Оруэлла «Скотный двор». Исследование рассматривает лингвистические и психологические механизмы, раскрывающие внутренний мир персонажа и его методы манипулирования другими с помощью языка. В процессе исследования особое внимание уделяется диалогам между

персонажами, языковым средствам выражения психологических состояний, прямым и косвенным формам речи, а также интонации как ключевым психолингвистическим компонентам.

Ключевые слова: Джордж Оруэлл, Наполеон, Скотный двор, психолингвистика, интонация

Özet

Bu tezde, George Orwell'in *Hayvan Çiftliği* adlı romanındaki başkahraman Napoleon'un psikolinguistik özellikleri incelenmiştir. Çalışmada, karakterin iç dünyasını ve dili kullanarak diğerlerini manipüle etme yöntemlerini ortaya çıkaran dilsel ve psikolojik mekanizmalar araştırılmıştır. Araştırma sürecinde, karakterler arasındaki diyaloglar, psikolojik durumları ifade eden dil unsurları, doğrudan ve dolaylı konuşma biçimleri ile tonlama gibi temel psikolinguistik bileşenlere özel önem verilmiştir.

Anahtar kelimeler: George Orwell, Napoleon, Hayvan Çiftliği, psikolinguistik, tonlama

Introduction

Psycholinguistics studies the mental mechanisms that enable people to use language. ¹It is a discipline aimed at developing a consistent theory of how language is produced and understood. ²Relying on these ideas, a psycholinguistic analysis of literary works aims to explain how a character's inner world and psychological states

• ¹ Haitbayeva Nazokat Adilbek qizi (2025). *Science and Innovation Conference*. Tashkent.

• ² Garnham, Alan (1985). *Psycholinguistics*. Italy: Psychology Library Editions.

are expressed through linguistic means, tone, and communicative style. Analyzing such features requires high psychological sensitivity from the researcher.

Among the works rich in psycholinguistic characteristics, George Orwell's *Animal Farm* occupies a special place. This novel, one of the most famous political works of the twentieth century, satirically portrays events in the history of the Soviet Union — the corruption of power and the struggle for freedom — through the lives of farm animals.

The narrative is built upon strong satire. The dialogues, inner emotions, and direct or indirect expressions of the characters are rich in psycholinguistic significance. Understanding them properly is essential, especially in the case of Napoleon — the central figure — and his close supporters, the so-called “elite pigs,” whose speech and commands addressed to the other animals serve as instruments of political and social influence.

The conflict between Napoleon and Snowball forms the main axis for revealing Napoleon's character, while the other animals function as background tools for highlighting his traits. The story begins with Old Major, an aged pig, calling a meeting to share his dream and encourage rebellion against humans — a scene that sets the ideological foundation of the novel.

Main part

Psycholinguistics is a branch of science that studies the interrelation between language and thought, focusing on the psychological, cognitive, and social aspects of speech. In literature, a psycholinguistic approach examines how characters' emotions, inner experiences, and mental states are reflected through language. The dialogues between characters, their structures, and stylistic peculiarities often reveal their

psychological realities.

Napoleon appears on the scene by rejecting the collective meeting system: “From now on, there will be no more Sunday meetings. All decisions concerning the farm will be made by a special committee of pigs.”

This speech carries clear political significance, expressing authority, dominance, and self-superiority. Psychologically, it demonstrates overconfidence, disregard for others’ opinions, and a dictatorial tone — all conveyed through command-like sentence structures and exclusive pronouns. The phrase “all decisions... will be made” reflects autocratic control, while the exclusion of other animals reveals a deliberate *strategy of marginalization*.

Napoleon’s discourse is often delivered through his spokesman, Squealer, which further illustrates his detachment from the common animals and his self-perceived elite status. For example: “Comrades! Our respected leader, Comrade Napoleon, has never opposed the construction of the windmill. On the contrary, he has always supported it. The plans drawn by Snowball were originally created by our leader himself. Snowball merely stole them.” — said Squealer.

Squealer’s speech serves as a *tool for controlling collective consciousness* through language. He manipulates emotional and semantic connotations to present misinformation as truth — a psycholinguistic process of **cognitive dissonance reduction**. Previously known fact: *Napoleon opposed the windmill*. New manipulated fact: *Napoleon was the true author of the windmill idea*. Result: Listeners, seeking to maintain psychological consistency, accept the new version and reject the old one — demonstrating how propaganda exploits the human desire for cognitive harmony. Through this, Squealer’s language functions as an

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- ³ Ilhomiddinova Sohiba (2025). *Psycholinguistic Features in the Translation of Jane Austen’s “Pride and Prejudice.”* Tashkent: Journal of Pedagogical Research.

instrument of **psychological manipulation**, transforming speech into a weapon of ideological control. The emotional tone of his language suppresses critical thinking among the audience, replacing independent reasoning with blind faith. Napoleon himself reinforces these manipulations in his speech:

“I acted as I did only because I knew of Snowball’s secret activities. To expose the truth and reveal his treachery, I had to oppose the windmill. Snowball was working with our enemies to destroy us from within. I did it to prevent worse disasters.” Here, several psycholinguistic strategies are evident:

- **Cognitive control:** re-coding reality and rewriting the truth;
- **Emotive manipulation:** evoking fear and loyalty;
- **Psychological justification:** rationalizing his actions to appear reasonable and protective.

In this context, language is not merely a means of expression but a **psychological weapon**. Napoleon uses words to reshape reality, and his audience accepts this linguistic construction as truth.

Manipulative strategies in Napoleon’s speech

Strategy name	Explanation	Example
Rationalization	Justifying guilt through logic	“I did it to expose the enemy’s hostility”
Demonization	Portraying the opponent as evil	“Working with our enemies to destroy us...”
Heroization	Presenting oneself as noble or self-sacrificing	“To prevent future disasters...”
Trust induction	Using phrases like “revealing the truth” to seem honest	Builds the listener’s confidence in the speaker

Conclusion

Animal Farm — written and published in 1945 by English writer George Orwell — is a powerful political allegory and a critique of totalitarianism. Through the character of Napoleon, Orwell symbolically portrays the ruling elite of the Soviet Union, exposing corruption, manipulation, and social injustice.

Napoleon's language serves as a mirror of political propaganda: it controls thought, reshapes truth, and manipulates collective psychology. The psycholinguistic analysis of his speech reveals how authority uses language not only as a communicative tool but as a means of psychological domination.⁴

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• ⁴ George Orwell (2024). *Animal Farm*. Tashkent: Yashil Yaproq Publishing.