

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF REQUEST STRATEGIES IN BRITISH ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract

This thesis examines request strategies in British English and Uzbek from a cross-cultural pragmatic perspective. Requests are speech acts used to ask someone to do something, and they reflect social norms, politeness conventions, and cultural values. British English tends to employ indirect and conventionally polite forms such as modal verbs (“Could you open the window?”), whereas Uzbek often uses honorific expressions and culturally appropriate markers such as iltimos (“please”) and respectful verb endings. The analysis demonstrates that both languages prioritize politeness, but they realize it through different linguistic and pragmatic means.

Keywords: request strategies, speech acts, pragmatics, politeness, British English, Uzbek.

Introduction

Pragmatics studies how language is used in context and how speakers convey meaning beyond literal words. One important area of pragmatics is speech act theory. Among speech acts, requests are particularly significant because they impose on the hearer and therefore require careful use of politeness strategies.

Research Objectives

1. To define request strategies in British English and Uzbek.
2. To classify direct and indirect request forms.

3. To compare politeness markers used in both languages.
4. To examine cultural influences on request formulation.
5. To discuss implications for language teaching and intercultural communication.

Theoretical Background

The study is based on:

- Austin's Speech Act Theory (1962)
- Searle's classification of speech acts (1969)
- Brown and Levinson's Politeness Theory (1987)
- Blum-Kulka and Olshtain's CCSARP framework (1984)

Request Strategies in British English

Examples:

- Could you help me, please?
- Would you mind closing the door?
- I was wondering if you could send me the report.

British English commonly uses modal verbs, hedges, and indirect forms to reduce imposition.

Request Strategies in Uzbek

Examples:

- Menga yordam bera olasizmi, iltimos?
- Eshikni yopib qo'ysangiz.
- Hisobotni yuborib bersangiz, yaxshi bo'lardi.

Uzbek request forms depend strongly on age, status, and social distance.

Comparative Analysis

Preferred strategy:

- British English: indirectness and negative politeness.
- Uzbek: respectful forms and honorifics.

Politeness markers:

- British English: please.
- Uzbek: iltimos.

Cultural values:

- British English: non-imposition and personal autonomy.
- Uzbek: respect and deference.

Conclusion

The comparative analysis shows that request strategies in British English and Uzbek reflect different cultural norms and politeness systems. British English emphasizes indirectness to avoid imposing on others, whereas Uzbek emphasizes respect through honorifics and socially appropriate expressions. Both languages share the goal of maintaining harmonious interpersonal relations.

References

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