

## AUTHORITARIAN TYPE OF SPEECH AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN DOCTOR AND PATIENT

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**Abstract.** *This article analyzes the authoritarian type of speech and communication between a doctor and a patient. The essence of authoritarian communication, its linguistic features, positive and negative aspects, as well as its role in the modern medical system are discussed. The effectiveness of the authoritarian approach in emergency medical situations, along with its impact on patient rights and psychological condition, is also examined. The study concludes that the most appropriate approach in medical practice is the situational use of both authoritarian and cooperative communication styles.*

**Keywords:** *doctor–patient communication, authoritarian speech, medical communication, bioethics, paternalistic model, cooperative approach.*

The success of communication between a doctor and a patient ensures harmonious relations between the participants and helps establish the patient's trust in the provided medical care.

Therefore, the ability to build effective interpersonal relationships with patients is an important component of a physician's communicative competence, since communication skills significantly increase the effectiveness of solving medical, diagnostic, and organizational problems.

The mutual interaction of language and speech between doctor and patient in effective communication is a subject of research in linguistics, psychology, and deontology. It is known that the linguotherapeutic properties of speech are applied in psychological and speech-therapy practice, and studying the characteristics of a patient's speech helps specialists make diagnoses.

In addition, the doctor's speech serves as a means of influencing the patient's behavior, worldview, and attitude toward illness during treatment, which is an important condition for adherence to therapy.

The influence of speech can be realized through various linguistic means, strategies, and tactics—from explicit aggression to hidden manipulation. When organizing interaction with a patient, the doctor selects language and speech tools that, in their opinion, implement the most effective model of relations. Analysis of the language means, speech strategies, and tactics used by the doctor makes it possible to determine which communication models are applied in doctor–patient relations and to evaluate their effectiveness. Drawing conclusions about how justified the used communication tools are in forming patient adherence to therapy and establishing trustful relations with the doctor is essential for the patient.

In medicine, communication between doctor and patient is an important component of the treatment process. Communication plays a significant role not only in diagnosis and determination of treatment methods but also in stabilizing the patient's psychological state and increasing trust in treatment. Doctor–patient relations are manifested through different communicative styles. One of them is the authoritarian communication type, in which the doctor's leading, commanding, and controlling position dominates.

This article analyzes the nature of authoritarian speech, its advantages and disadvantages, areas of application, and its role in modern medicine.

### **Authoritarian Communication**

Authoritarian communication is a communicative model in which decisions are made independently by the doctor, while the patient mainly performs the role of executor. In this model:

- the doctor determines diagnosis and treatment strategy;
- the patient's opinion is taken into account to a lesser extent;
- speech is mainly expressed in the form of orders, instructions, and strict recommendations;
- distance and formality are maintained.

Historically, this style is associated with the paternalistic medical model based on the principle that "the doctor knows best."

### **Linguistic Features of Authoritarian Speech**

In a doctor's speech, the authoritarian style is expressed through:

#### **1. Imperative and directive forms**

- "Submit the test immediately."
- "Take this medicine three times a day."
- "Strictly follow the diet."

These sentences demonstrate strong modal certainty without offering alternatives.

Authoritarian speech is usually concise and lacks lengthy explanations, which makes it effective in situations requiring rapid decisions. Authoritarian doctors often use complex medical terminology, increasing distance from the patient. Emotional support is minimal, and the main focus is on clinical facts.

### **Advantages of Authoritarian Communication**

The authoritarian model is not always evaluated negatively and can be necessary and effective in certain situations.

In **resuscitation, surgery, or acute illnesses**, time is critical. In such cases:

- rapid decision-making,
  - clear commands,
  - maintenance of discipline
- play a decisive role in saving lives.

Since medical knowledge and experience belong to the doctor, in complex situations the patient may not be able to make full decisions. The authoritarian approach helps manage this responsibility systematically.

Strict instructions may also increase patient discipline, especially in:

- infectious diseases,
- chronic illnesses,
- postoperative periods.

### **Disadvantages from the Perspective of Modern Bioethics**

From a modern bioethical viewpoint, the authoritarian style has several drawbacks:

#### **1. Limitation of patient rights**

Patients have the right to choose treatment methods, ask questions, and refuse treatment. The authoritarian model may restrict these opportunities.

#### **2. Decrease in trust**

Excessive command and control may cause fear, dissatisfaction, and distrust toward the doctor.

### 3. Psychological pressure

If the patient feels like merely an “order executor,” their psychological condition may worsen, negatively affecting treatment effectiveness.

#### Role in Modern Medicine

Today, healthcare systems are shifting toward a cooperative (partnership-based) communication model, where:

- doctor and patient are equal interlocutors;
- decisions are made jointly;
- explanation and empathy play a key role.

Nevertheless, the authoritarian approach has not completely disappeared. It remains relevant in:

- emergency medicine,
- patients with severe mental conditions,
- children or individuals unable to make decisions.

Thus, the issue is not the existence of the style itself but when and how it is applied.

The most effective path in medicine is situationally adaptive communication, combining firmness when necessary, cooperation in routine conditions, and constant respect and empathy.

When a doctor harmonizes professional leadership, respect for the patient’s personality, and clear, sincere speech, treatment effectiveness increases significantly.

#### Conclusion

The authoritarian type of speech in doctor–patient communication has occupied an important place in medical history and still retains significance in certain situations. Its main advantage is speed and precision, while its disadvantage is the restriction of patient rights and psychological comfort. Modern medicine demonstrates that the most appropriate approach is a balanced application of authoritarian and cooperative communication styles. A doctor’s high communicative culture, empathy, and ethical responsibility serve as important factors in forming a healthy society.

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