

## PRAGMALINGUISTIC FEATURES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEKLITERARY TEXTS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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**Abstract.** *This paper explores pragmalinguistic characteristics found in English and Uzbek literary works through a comparative perspective. The research examines how pragmatic language tools operation literary discourse to express social relationships, cultural norms, and communicative purposes. The analysis relies on two well-known novels: Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen and O'tkan kunlar by Abdulla Qodiriy. Particular attention is given to deixis, speech acts, politeness strategies, and cultural references in both texts.*

*The results demonstrate that English literary discourse often highlights personal viewpoint, relatively direct communication, and explicit emotional expression. In contrast, Uzbek literary discourse tends to emphasize collective values, structured social hierarchy, and indirect communication patterns. These distinctions reflect broader cultural and communicative tendencies embedded in each literary tradition. The findings are useful for literary criticism, translation practice, and cross-cultural pragmatic studies.*

**Key words:** *pragmalinguistics, literary discourse, comparative linguistics, English literature, Uzbek literature, pragmatics.*

**Annotatsiya.** *Mazkur maqolada ingliz va o'zbek badiiy matnlaridagi pragmalingvistik xususiyatlar qiyosiy yondashuv asosida o'rganiladi. Tadqiqotda kommunikativ strategiyalar, muloyimlik shakllari, bilvosita nutq aktlari hamda kontekstga bog'liq ma'nolar tahlil qilinadi.*

*Tadqiqot materiali sifatida Jane Austenning Pride and Prejudice va Abdulla Qodiriyning O'tkan kunlar asarlaridan misollardanlab olingan.*

*Natijalar ingliz badiiy diskursida ko'proq shaxsiylik, ochiq ifoda va nisbatanto'g'ridanto'g'ri muloqot ustun ekanligini, o'zbek diskursida esa hurmat, ijtimoiy ierarxiyava bilvosita ifodalar muhim o'rin egallashini ko'rsatadi. Ushbu farqlar har ikki madaniyatga xoskommunikativ xususiyatlarni aks ettiradi.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *pragmalingvistika, pragmatika, badiiy diskurs, muloyimlik strategiyalari, madaniyatlararo muloqot, qiyosiy tilshunoslik.*

**Аннотация.** *В статье рассматриваются прагмалингвистические особенности английских и узбекских художественных текстов с применением сравнительного подхода. Основное внимание уделяется коммуникативным стратегиям, формам вежливости, косвенным речевым актами контекстуальному значению. В качестве материала используются примеры из романа Джейн Остин Pride and Prejudice и произведения Абдуллы Кадыри O'tkan kunlar.*

*Результаты показывают, что английский художественный дискурс чаще характеризуется более открытой и прямой коммуникацией, тогда как узбекский дискурс ориентированна уважение, социальную иерархию и культурно обусловленную косвенность.*

**Ключевые слова:** *прагмалингвистика, прагматика, художественный дискурс, стратегиивежливости, межкультурная коммуникация, сопоставительное языкознание.*

## Introduction

Literary discourse can be viewed as a complex communicative system in which language serves not only aesthetic purposes but also pragmatic and sociocultural functions. Writers deliberately use linguistic forms to build relationships between characters, convey implicit meanings, and reflect cultural values present in society. Therefore, examining pragmalinguistic features in literary texts helps to better understand how language operates within wider communicative and cultural contexts.

Pragmalinguistics, as a branch of pragmatics, studies how particular linguistic forms are used to perform communicative actions and express meaning in specific contexts (Yule, 1996). In literary works, pragmatic meaning is typically realized through dialogue, narration, and implicit strategies.

Elements such as deixis, speech acts, politeness strategies, and cultural references enable authors to depict realistic interactions and complex social dynamics.

Comparative analysis of literary texts across languages reveals noticeable differences in pragmatic expression. English literary tradition often reflects individuality, personal agency, and relatively direct emotional expression.

In contrast, Uzbek literary tradition tends to highlight collective identity, respect for hierarchy, and culturally shaped communication norms. This study focuses on two significant novels: *Pride and Prejudice* and *O'tkan kunlar*. These works provide rich material for analysis due to their detailed dialogues and representation of social relations.

The research addresses the following questions:

Which pragmalinguistic features are present in English and Uzbek literary texts?

How are these features manifested in the selected works?

What cultural and communicative factors influence their usage?

What similarities and differences exist between the two literary traditions?

By answering these questions, the study contributes to comparative linguistics, literary pragmatics, and intercultural communication research.

## Literature Review

Pragmatics has long been studied as a field concerned with language use in context.

Foundational scholars such as Yule (1996), Leech (1983), and Brown and Levinson (1987) established key concepts including speech acts and politeness theory. Their work demonstrates how language reflects social relationships and communicative intentions. Recent studies (2020–2024) have extended pragmatic research into literary discourse, emphasizing the influence of culture, ideology, and implicit meaning.

Researchers such as Taguchi (2021) and Kecskes (2020) highlight that pragmatic competence is strongly shaped by social and cultural norms. However, there is still limited research comparing English and Uzbek literary discourse from a pragmalinguistic perspective.

This study aims to fill that gap by providing a structured comparative analysis.

## Methods

### Research Design

This research applies a qualitative comparative approach combined with discourse analysis.

It focuses on how linguistic elements function pragmatically within literary contexts.

Selected excerpts from both novels were examined to identify communicative patterns.

The theoretical framework is based on Leech's Politeness Principle and Brown and Levinson's theory, which are effective for analyzing indirectness, hierarchy, and interaction strategies.

### Corpus Selection

The corpus consists of two literary texts:

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

O'tkan kunlar by Abdulla Qodiriy

These works were chosen due to their rich dialogue and clear representation of social relationships. Selected passages met the following criteria: presence of interaction between characters clear communicative intention reflection of cultural norms relevance to pragmalinguistic analysis.

### Analytical Framework

The analysis focuses on four main categories:

1. **Deixis** – expressions referring to participants, time, and place.
2. **Speech Acts** – communicative functions such as requests, statements, and promises.
3. **Politeness Strategies** – techniques used to maintain respect and social harmony.
4. **Cultural References** – elements reflecting traditions and values.

### Analytical Procedure

The study followed these steps:

1. Selection of relevant passages.
2. Identification of pragmalinguistic features.
3. Comparative analysis of both texts.
4. Interpretation of findings within cultural context.

### Results Deixis

The findings show clear differences in deictic usage. In *Pride and Prejudice*, personal deixis highlights individual identity and subjective experience. Characters frequently use first person pronouns to express emotions and opinions. **For example:**

*"I could easily forgive his pride, if he had not mortified mine."* [Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, Chapter 5]

Here, the pronouns emphasize personal perspective. Similarly:

*"You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you."* [Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, Chapter 34]

In this case, deixis also supports a direct expressive speech act.

In contrast, *O'tkan kunlar* often uses deixis to reflect collective identity and social belonging.

### For example:

*Bizning Marg'ilonda ham shunday kelinimiz bor ekan-ku, biz bilmay yurg'an ekanmiz-da, - deb tevaragiga qarab kulindi va qo'lini duoga ochdi.* ["*O'tkan kunlar*" ("Last Days") p. 314]

From this passage it is clear that Yusufbek Haji (*Bizning Marg'ilonda ham shunday kelinimiz bor ekan-ku, biz bilmay yurg'an ekanmiz-da*) implicitly expressed how polite and beautiful his daughter-in-law was. Abdullah Qadiri was able to show one aspect in a wonderful way.

The pronoun "**bizning**" indicates shared cultural identity.

### Another example:

“Bu kishi kimingiz bo’ladir, bek aka?” Otabek Rahmatning savoliga javob bermay eshikka qaradi. Hasanaling hujradan uzoqlatib so’ngra javob berdi:

- Qulimiz. [“O’tkan kunlar “ (“Last Days”)p. 8]

In the above cases, we see that Otabek is a hospitable, intelligent and polite young man.

Plural forms emphasize group interaction and social norms rather than individual perspective.

Feature	English (Pride and Prejudice)	Uzbek (O’tkan kunlar)
<b>Deixis</b>	Individual orientation	Collective orientation
Speech Acts	Direct	Indirect
Politeness	Negative politeness	Respect-based politeness
Cultural Values	Individualism	Collectivism

### Speech acts

Speech acts represent communicative intentions. In *Pride and Prejudice*, characters often express ideas directly.

#### For example:

“You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you.” [Austin, chapter 34]

This illustrates a clear and direct expression of emotion. In *O’tkan kunlar*, speech acts are more indirect and cautious. Characters avoid directness to maintain respect and harmony, reflecting traditional communication norms. **For example:**

*O`g`lim, hali sen eshidingmi, yo`qmi, haytovur, biz saning ustingdan bir ish qilib qo`ydik...*

*Otabek ma`lumki, ularning “qilib qo`ygan yoki qilmoqchi bo`lgan ishlarini”, albatta, bilar edi. Shundoq ham bo`lsa, bilmaganga solindi:*

*Aqillik kishilarning o`g`ullari ustidan qilg`an ishlari, albatta, noma`qul bo`lmas, - dedi...* [“O’tkan kunlar“ (“Last Days”) p. 135]

### Politeness Strategies

Politeness plays an essential role in both texts. In *Pride and Prejudice*, it is often linked to social etiquette and class distinctions. **For example:**

“Would you be so kind as to accompany us this evening?”

This reflects negative politeness.

In *O’tkan kunlar*, politeness is strongly connected to hierarchy, respect for elders, and cultural traditions. Honorific expressions are widely used to maintain harmony.

### Cultural References

Cultural elements are central in both works. *Pride and Prejudice* reflects English society, including class structure and marriage norms. *O’tkan kunlar* highlights Uzbek traditions such as hospitality and family values.

### Discussion

#### Cultural Basis of Differences

The differences observed reflect broader cultural patterns. English communication values individuality and directness, while Uzbek communication emphasizes respect, hierarchy, and harmony.

### Implications

The study suggests that translation requires attention to pragmatic meaning, not just vocabulary. It also shows that pragmalinguistic analysis enriches literary interpretation and cross-cultural understanding.

### **Limitations and Future Research**

The study is limited to two texts and mainly qualitative analysis. Future research could include more texts and quantitative methods.

### **Conclusion**

The analysis shows that both English and Uzbek literary texts use diverse pragmatic strategies to convey meaning beyond literal interpretation. While English texts highlight individuality and directness, Uzbek texts emphasize collectivism and indirectness.

Understanding these features is important for literary analysis, translation, and intercultural communication. This research contributes to deeper insight into how language, culture, and literature interact. Despite these differences, both traditions rely heavily on context, shared knowledge, and pragmatic competence to achieve effective communication. The study highlights that understanding pragmalinguistic features is essential for deeper interpretation of literary texts, as it allows readers to grasp implied meanings, emotional nuances, and authorial intentions. Furthermore, this comparative approach contributes to cross-cultural communication studies and enhances the appreciation of linguistic diversity in literature. The findings indicate that English literary texts tend to emphasize individual perspective, direct communication, and explicit emotional expression, while Uzbek literary texts reflect collectivist values, indirect communication, and strong cultural traditions. These differences highlight the close relationship between language, culture, and literary expression. Understanding pragmalinguistic patterns is therefore essential for scholars engaged in literary studies, translation, and cross-cultural communication.

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