

LEXICAL-SEMANTIC FEATURES OF LEXEMES EXPRESSING
SPEECH ACTIVITY

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Abstract: This article analyzes the lexical-semantic features of lexemes expressing speech activity. Verbs related to speech activity are studied as a lexical-semantic group (LSG), and their semantic components, stylistic coloring, and pragmatic aspects are highlighted.

Аннотация: В данной статье анализируются лексико-семантические особенности лексем, выражающих речевую деятельность. Глаголы, относящиеся к речевой деятельности, рассматриваются как лексико-семантическая группа (ЛСГ), раскрываются их семантические компоненты, стилистическая окраска и прагматические аспекты.

Keywords: speech activity, lexeme, lexical-semantic group (LSG), speech verbs, semantic component, subjectivity, addressee, modality, emotionality, pragmatics, communicative purpose, stylistic coloring.

Ключевые слова: речевая деятельность, лексема, лексико-семантическая группа (ЛСГ), глаголы речи, семантический компонент, субъективность, адресатность, модальность, эмоциональность, прагматика, коммуникативная цель, стилистическая окраска.

Introduction

Language is one of the most important means that ensures the social existence of humanity. Speech activity, in turn, is the central form of human verbal behavior and represents the main way of expressing thought, emotion, and attitude. The lexemes that denote this activity — verbs such as to speak, to talk, to say, to ask and related nouns such as speech, word, statement, address — are studied in linguistics as a separate semantic layer¹. Speech activity refers to the process of utilizing the possibilities of the language system in real communication and adapting them to communicative intention.² The main lexemes that express this activity are divided into two groups. The first group consists of verb lexemes, including to speak, to talk, to say, to ask, to question, to explain, to clarify, to order, to request, to shout, to whisper, to mention, to report, and other emotionally-colored speech verbs. The second group includes noun lexemes such as speech, word, utterance, idea, address, question, answer, explanation, report, which denote different aspects of the speech process — informing, questioning, influencing, evaluating, and so on.³

Main Part If we consider their characteristics as a lexical-semantic group, in this part the verbs denoting speech activity are examined as an LSG (lexical-semantic group). In addition, they are

¹ Qo'shqortoyev I. Umumiy tilshunoslik. — Toshkent: 2019.

² Madvaliyev A. Nutq madaniyati va uslubiyat. — Toshkent: Fan, 2016

³ Sh. Rahmatullayev. Hozirgi o'zbek adabiy tili. — Toshkent: Fan. 2017.

classified according to semantic fields: Informing: to say, to inform, to report, to mention. Example: The teacher informed that the new topic would be learned tomorrow. Here, the verb informed conveys the meaning of giving information. Another example: The ministry officially announced the new regulation regarding the current procedure.

Interpretation / explanation: to explain, to comment, to clarify, to justify. Example: The researcher justified linguistic laws with scientific evidence. The press secretary explained the details of the event in his statement.

Command / requirement: to order, to command, to emphasize. Example: The father strictly ordered his son not to go anywhere. The elderly man warned his grandson not to lose his way, as the journey was long.

Warning / advising: to warn, to advise.

Example: The teacher advised me to read additional literature to better understand the topic. Interaction: to talk, to converse, to communicate. Example: Since they had not seen each other for a long time, they talked warmly for several minutes.

Argumentation: to argue, to debate, to object. Example: Participants of the scientific conference debated theoretical issues.

Speech with specific tone: to shout, to whisper, to murmur. Example: The leader shouted while announcing the important decision at the meeting.

Using these eight semantic groups of verbs, a language user expresses thoughts, conveys information, gives advice, influences others, and communicates.

Semantic components specific to speech activity. Speech activity is a complex linguistic process that reflects a person's communicative needs. Every speech act relies on certain semantic components⁴. These components determine the essence of speech, reveal the speaker's intention, their attitude toward the addressee, and the pragmatic purpose of the act. In linguistics, the semantic structure of speech activity is explained through the following elements:

1. Subjectivity (Who is speaking?) This component indicates the source of speech, that is, the identity of the speaker and their position. Subjectivity is manifested through personal indicators in speech, singular-plural forms, the speaker's emotional state, and their attitude toward what is being said.⁵

2. Addressivity (To whom is it being said?) Every speech act is directed at a specific listener. Addressivity is expressed through forms of address, pronouns, introductory units, and linguistic elements that show attention and respect. This component ensures the interactive nature of communication.⁶

⁴ Yo'ldoshev B. O'zbek tili pragmatik lingvistikasi asoslari. – Toshkent: Fan, 2010.

⁵ Abduazizov A. Pragmatika va tilshunoslikning zamonaviy yo'nalishlari. – Toshkent: O'qituvchi, 2008.

⁶ Hojiev A. Nutq madaniyati va til qoidalari. – Toshkent: Fan, 1996.

3. Modality (command, request, plea, advice, information) Modality expresses the speaker's attitude toward reality and shows whether the judgment is real or non-real. In the process of speaking, modality appears in forms such as command, request, plea, advice, wish, and information. This component determines the pragmatic purpose of speech.⁷

4. Emotionality (to shout, to frighten, to complain) Emotionality conveys the emotional color of speech. The speaker's mood — anger, joy, dissatisfaction, surprise, or fear — is expressed through lexical-semantic means. Emotional shades reflect the speaker's psychological state.

5. Intensity (to say softly – to say loudly) Intensity expresses the strength, degree, and force of a speech act. For example, to say softly indicates low intensity, while to shout indicates high intensity. This component reflects the speaker's internal energy.

6. Purpose of the speech act (to persuade, to inform, to influence) Every speech act has a purpose: conveying information, persuading the listener, encouraging them, or influencing them. This part is directly related to pragmalinguistics and is one of the key indicators of communicative intention.

Stylistic coloring of lexemes denoting speech activity. Lexemes that express speech activity are used in various stylistic layers, each serving its own communicative function. The stylistic coloring of verbs differs depending on their sphere of use, speech situation, and purpose. Stylistic shades are an important semantic-pragmatic category in linguistics, because they provide information about the speaker's attitude, the formality or informality of speech, and emotional expression.⁸

Neutral verbs in the literary language. Verbs belonging to the neutral style are used in all genres and situations: to say, to speak, to ask, to answer. These lexemes are emotionally unmarked and can be used in both formal and informal contexts. Example: He politely said to his teacher, "I have a question." (neutral style)

Colloquial, expressive verbs. Expressive verbs typical of spoken and informal communication include: to chatter, to babble, to grin and say, to mumble, to mutter. These verbs serve freer, more emotional speech situations. Example: He babbled and told everything at once.

Verbs typical of bookish and formal style. Scientific, official, and journalistic texts require accuracy and logic, so they use verbs such as: to lecture, to prove, to analyze, to emphasize, to justify. These verbs serve to provide a formal tone and clear meaning. Example: The author emphasized the main findings of the research.

Lexemes typical of artistic style. In literary texts, verbs that enhance emotional imagery are used: to whisper, to call out, to shout, to say tremblingly, to speak secretly. These verbs help express the character's inner state, mood, and emotional atmosphere. Example (from a literary text): "We are leaving," he whispered, unable to hide the fear inside him.

The role of stylistic coloring in speech. Stylistic coloring determines the level of communication (formal – informal), the relationship between speaker and listener, the emotional

⁷ Rasulov R. Til birliklarining modallik xususiyatlari. – Toshkent: TDPU nashriyoti, 2014

⁸ Hojiev A. O'zbek tilining izohli uslubshunosligi. – Toshkent: Fan, 1998.

tone of speech, and the genre features of the text. When verbs are used in accordance with the communicative situation, the effectiveness and clarity of the text increase.

Pragmatic aspects of speech activity. Speech activity is not limited to lexical-semantic meaning; it is closely connected with pragmatic factors that encompass all components of the speech situation. Pragmatics answers questions such as: Who is speaking? To whom? Under what circumstances? For what purpose?

The meaning of linguistic units changes depending on the speech situation — a fact recognized by many Uzbek linguists.

The speaker's (subject's) social status. The age, gender, profession, status, and role of the speaker in the conversation directly influence the selection of linguistic means. Example:

A teacher addressing a student: "Bring your notebook." (higher status → commanding tone)

Among friends: "We'll talk later anyway." (equal status → soft tone)

Situation: formal and informal contexts. The pragmatic meaning of speech is strongly influenced by the communicative situation.

Formal context: Clear, concise verbs free from ambiguity are used.

"I request that you submit the report tomorrow."

Informal context: Emotional, free, and more figurative verbs are used.

"We had such a great conversation yesterday." As the situation changes, the stylistic coloring of verbs also changes.

Purpose of speech: Every speech act is directed toward a particular purpose. Verbs expressing speech activity in Uzbek serve the following communicative aims:

a) Persuasion: to prove, to justify, to explain, to clarify.

Used to engage the audience in a line of reasoning.

b) Informing: to say, to state, to report. Used to convey neutral or formal information.

c) Influencing: to order, to warn, to advise, to request. Speech directed toward influencing the actions or behavior of the addressee.

Conclusion

In conclusion, lexemes expressing speech activity serve as essential means of the speech process. They perform communicative functions such as conveying information, expressing opinions, and influencing the listener. In our research, we identified the division of these lexemes into lexical-semantic groups, their semantic components, as well as their stylistic and pragmatic features. As a result, it was substantiated that speech verbs play an important role in expressing the purpose, situational context, and emotional state of speech.