PRAGMATICS AND SPEECH ACTS: UNDERSTANDING MEANING BEYOND WORDS

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Abstract: *Pragmatics is a significant branch of linguistics that examines how meaning is constructed and interpreted in real-life communication. Meaning in language is not limited to literal definitions but is strongly influenced by context, speaker intention, and cultural norms. Unlike semantics, which focuses on literal meaning, pragmatics deals with implied meanings, politeness strategies, deixis, irony, and implicatures.*

This article analyzes common pragmatic challenges in translation and communication, including the misinterpretation of illocutionary force, cultural mismatches, and the use of indirect language. The study is based on the speech act theory proposed by J. L. Austin and further developed by John Searle. Special attention is given to the distinction between locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts, as well as Searle's classification of speech acts. The findings emphasize that effective communication and accurate translation require sensitivity to context, culture, and speaker intention.

Keywords : *Pragmatics, context, meaning, communication, intention, culture, speech acts*

Annotatsiya: *Pragmatika tilshunoslikning muhim yo'nalishlaridan biri bo'lib, real muloqot jarayonida ma'no qanday shakllanishi va talqin qilinishini o'rganadi. Tildagi ma'no faqatgina so'zlarning lug'aviy mazmuni bilan cheklanmaydi, balki kontekst, so'zlovchining niyati va madaniy omillar bilan chambarchas bog'liqdir. So'zma-so'z ma'noni o'rganuvchi semantikadan farqli ravishda, pragmatika yashirin ma'nolar, muloyimlik strategiyalari, deyksis, kinoya va implikaturalarni tahlil qiladi.*

Ushbu maqolada tarjima va muloqot jarayonida uchraydigan pragmatik muammolar, jumladan illokutsion kuchni noto'g'ri talqin qilish, madaniy nomuvofiqliklar hamda bilvosita nutqdan foydalanish masalalari yoritilgan. Tadqiqot J. L. Austin va John Searle tomonidan ishlab chiqilgan nutq aktlari nazariyasiga asoslanadi. Maqolada lokutsion, illokutsion va perlokutsion aktlar farqi hamda Searl tomonidan taklif etilgan nutq aktlari tasnifi tahlil qilinadi. Natijalar samarali muloqot va to'g'ri tarjima uchun kontekst, madaniyat va so'zlovchi niyatini hisobga olish muhim ekanini ko'rsatadi.

Kalit so'zlar : *Pragmatika, kontekst, ma'no, muloqot, niyat, madaniyat, nutq aktlari*

Methodology This study employs a qualitative and descriptive research methodology aimed at exploring key pragmatic concepts and the role of speech acts in communication and translation. The research is based on the theoretical analysis of well-established linguistic frameworks, particularly the works of J. L. Austin, John Searle, H. P. Grice, Brown and Levinson, and other prominent scholars in the field of pragmatics.

Data for the analysis consist of illustrative examples commonly used in pragmatic studies, such as indirect requests, idiomatic expressions, implicatures, and cases of irony and sarcasm. These examples are analyzed to demonstrate how meaning changes depending on context, speaker intention, and cultural background. Special attention is given to situations in which literal translation fails to convey the intended meaning.

The study also adopts a comparative approach by examining how pragmatic meaning may be interpreted differently across languages and cultures. Through this approach, the research highlights typical challenges faced by language learners and translators and emphasizes the importance of pragmatic awareness in achieving effective and natural communication.

Conclusion The analysis presented in this article demonstrates that pragmatics and speech act theory play a crucial role in understanding how language functions in real-life communication. Meaning is not conveyed by words alone; instead, it is shaped by context, cultural norms, and the speaker's communicative intention. Without pragmatic competence, even grammatically correct utterances may result in misunderstanding.

The discussion of pragmatic challenges, such as illocutionary force, implicatures, politeness strategies, and cultural differences, shows that successful translation requires more than linguistic accuracy. Translators and language learners must be sensitive to hidden meanings and contextual cues in order to produce natural and appropriate interpretations.

In conclusion, pragmatics and speech acts provide essential tools for analyzing spoken and written discourse beyond literal meaning. Developing pragmatic awareness can significantly improve communicative competence, reduce miscommunication, and enhance cross-cultural understanding. Therefore, the integration of pragmatics into language teaching and translation practice remains both necessary and valuable.

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