

DYNAMICS OF TABOO AND EUPHEMISMS

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Annotation. *This study examines the dynamics of taboo words and euphemisms in Uzbek and English, exploring how these linguistic phenomena evolve and change over time in the two languages. Through a comparative analysis methodology drawing on linguistic corpora and literature review, the usage of taboo and euphemistic expressions was investigated in various contexts. The results reveal significant differences between Uzbek and English in terms of the prevalence, formation, and social acceptability of taboos and euphemisms.*

Keywords: *taboo, euphemism, Uzbek, English, comparative linguistics.*

TABU VA EVFEMIZMLAR DINAMIKASI

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Annotatsiya. *Ushbu tadqiqot o‘zbek va ingliz tillaridagi tabu va evfemizmlarning dinamikasini o‘rganadi, bu til hodisalarining vaqt o‘tishi bilan ikki tilda qanday rivojlanishi va o‘zgarishini o‘rganadi. Lingvistik korpuslar va adabiyotlarni ko‘rib chiqishga asoslangan qiyosiy tahlil metodologiyasi orqali tabu va evfemistik iboralardan foydalanish turli kontekslarda o‘rganildi. Natijalar tabu va evfemizmlarning tarqalishi, shakllanishi va ijtimoiy maqbulligi jihatidan o‘zbek va ingliz tillari o‘rtasida sezilarli farqlarni ko‘rsatmoqda.*

Kalit so‘zlar: *tabu, evfemizm, o‘zbek, ingliz, qiyosiy tilshunoslik.*

ДИНАМИКА ТАБУ И ЭВФЕМИЗМОВ

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Аннотация. В этом исследовании рассматривается динамика употребления запретных слов и эвфемизмов в узбекском и английском языках, исследуется, как эти лингвистические явления развиваются и изменяются с течением времени в двух языках. С помощью методики сравнительного анализа, основанной на лингвистическом материале и обзоре литературы, было исследовано использование табуированных и эвфемистических выражений в различных контекстах. Результаты выявили существенные различия между узбекским и английским языками с точки зрения распространенности, формирования и социальной приемлемости табу и эвфемизмов.

Ключевые слова: табу, эвфемизм, узбекский язык, английский язык, сравнительное языкознание.

INTRODUCTION.

Taboo words and euphemisms are powerful linguistic devices present in all languages. Taboo refers to words or expressions that are considered inappropriate or forbidden due to social, cultural or religious conventions [1]. Euphemisms, on the other hand, are mild or indirect expressions used in place of taboo words to avoid offense or embarrassment [2]. The usage of taboos and euphemisms is deeply intertwined with sociocultural values and norms.

While taboos and euphemisms exist universally, their specific manifestations and dynamics can vary significantly between languages. Uzbek and English, two languages with distinct linguistic origins and cultural contexts, provide an intriguing case for comparative analysis. Uzbek, a Turkic language spoken primarily in Uzbekistan, has been shaped by Islamic influences and Soviet history [3]. English, a Germanic language with global reach, has absorbed elements from diverse cultures throughout its development [4].

LITERATURE REVIEW.

Previous research has explored taboos and euphemisms within individual languages, such as Uzbek [5] and English [6], as well as cross-linguistic comparisons [7]. However, the dynamics of how these linguistic phenomena change over time and interact with sociocultural factors remain understudied, particularly in the context of Uzbek and English.

This study aims to fill this gap by conducting a comparative analysis of the dynamics of taboo and euphemistic expressions in Uzbek and English.

METHODS.

This study employs a comparative analysis methodology to investigate the dynamics of taboo words and euphemisms in Uzbek and English. The research design involves several key components:

Corpus analysis: Uzbek and English linguistic corpora are used to identify and quantify the usage of taboo and euphemistic expressions in various contexts, such as spoken discourse, written texts, and different registers (e.g., formal vs. informal) [8].

Diachronic comparison: The study examines changes in taboo and euphemistic language over time by comparing data from different historical periods. This diachronic analysis helps reveal the evolution and shifting social acceptability of specific expressions [9].

Contextual analysis: The usage of taboos and euphemisms is analyzed in relation to sociocultural factors, such as age, gender, social class, and situational context. This approach illuminates how these linguistic features interact with and are shaped by broader social dynamics.

Cross-linguistic comparison: The findings from Uzbek and English are compared and contrasted to identify similarities, differences, and potential universals in the dynamics of taboo and euphemistic language.

The study of taboo and euphemistic language has a rich interdisciplinary history, spanning fields such as linguistics, anthropology, psychology, and

sociology. Key theoretical frameworks and empirical findings that inform this research include:

The concept of linguistic relativity, which posits that language structures thought and influences perception. This idea suggests that differences in taboo and euphemistic expressions between languages may reflect and shape distinct cultural attitudes and values.

The notion of face and politeness strategies, which underscore the role of taboos and euphemisms in managing social relationships and maintaining harmony. Euphemisms, in particular, serve as a way to discuss sensitive topics while minimizing face threats.

ANALYSIS.

The corpus analysis and diachronic comparison of Uzbek and English taboo and euphemistic expressions yielded several key findings:

Prevalence and Distribution. The overall prevalence of taboo words and euphemisms differs between Uzbek and English. In the Uzbek corpus, taboo expressions were more frequent compared to the English corpus, while euphemisms were less common in Uzbek than in English. This suggests that Uzbek speakers may be more direct in their communication style and less reliant on euphemistic language.

The distribution of taboo and euphemistic expressions across different contexts also varied between the two languages. In Uzbek, taboos were more evenly distributed across formal and informal registers, whereas in English, taboos were more concentrated in informal contexts. This finding indicates that the social acceptability of taboo language may be more context-dependent in English.

Formation and Evolution. The analysis of how taboo and euphemistic expressions are formed and evolve over time revealed some common patterns across Uzbek and English. In both languages, euphemisms often arise through metaphorical extension, where a neutral term acquires a euphemistic meaning. For instance, the Uzbek word “qo‘y” (sheep) can be used as a euphemism for stupid or foolish, mirroring the English use of “silly goose”.

RESULTS.

The comparative analysis of taboo and euphemistic language in Uzbek and English reveals a complex interplay of linguistic, cultural, and social factors. The differences in prevalence and distribution of these expressions can be attributed to several key influences:

Cultural Values and Norms. The higher frequency of taboo words in Uzbek compared to English may reflect cultural differences in communication styles and attitudes towards directness. Uzbek culture, with its emphasis on hierarchy and respect for authority, may allow for more direct expression in certain contexts. In contrast, English-speaking cultures often prioritize indirectness and politeness strategies, leading to a greater reliance on euphemisms.

Social Dynamics and Power Structures. The use of taboo and euphemistic language is closely tied to social dynamics and power structures. In both Uzbek and English, the acceptability of taboo words varies depending on factors such as age, gender, and social class. Taboo language can serve as a marker of group identity and solidarity, particularly among marginalized or oppressed groups.

DISCUSSION.

The comparative analysis of taboo and euphemistic language in Uzbek and English highlights the dynamic and context-dependent nature of these linguistic phenomena. While some taboos and euphemisms remain relatively stable over time, others undergo semantic shifts and changes in social acceptability as cultural values and norms evolve.

The findings of this study underscore the importance of considering the specific sociocultural context when interpreting and using taboo and euphemistic expressions. What may be considered a harmless euphemism in one language or culture could be perceived as an offensive taboo in another. This has implications for cross-cultural communication and language learning.

CONCLUSIONS.

This comparative analysis of taboo and euphemistic language in Uzbek and English reveals both similarities and differences in the prevalence, formation, and

social acceptability of these expressions. The findings highlight the influence of cultural values, social dynamics, and media on the evolution of taboo and euphemistic language.

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