

Similarities and Differences of Euphemisms in the English and Uzbek Languages

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Abstract

Throughout our lives, we come across euphemisms several times. When we read a novel or in the composition of stories and poems, we encounter such words. They are often considered negative words and are aimed at conveying negative meanings. For this reason, they are used in order to increase the realization of the situations written in the story or work, to convey that situation to the reader. Each language has euphemisms that are connected with its culture, traditions and history. Such words change and are used depending on the ethnic grouping and formation of the language. Euphemisms are not just formed, they are formed depending on the social use and history of the language and remain in the word-stock of the language. This article analyzes the similarities and differences of euphemisms in English and Uzbek languages. Since the stages of development and cultural aspects of two languages are different, the occurrence and use of euphemisms in them are also varied.

Keywords: euphemisms, ethnic grouping, inoffensive words, context, negative and embarrassing meaning, slang, metaphor, lexical devices, violent meaning.

INTRODUCTION

Any analysis of euphemisms in the English and Uzbek languages is seen to be capable of yielding new insights at this point in the field's growth, when linguistic concerns like human lifestyle and living environment are also being studied by academics. The Protestantism that shaped European culture has undoubtedly given the British people their own national identity. Islam and Eastern culture have shaped the distinctive national ethnic character of the Uzbek people. Both peoples' speech reflects these national and cultural traits, whether it is in the way they convey their sentiments in tactful language or how they treat their loved ones. Both English and Uzbek have a large number of euphemisms that are used in place of disagreeable or scary words and phrases. Death-related beliefs arouse unpleasant feelings in both cultures.

A euphemism is a neutral term or phrase that is used in lieu of one that is considered offensive or conveys an unpleasant idea¹. While some euphemisms utilize bland, inoffensive language for topics that the user wants to minimize, others are meant to be humorous. Euphemisms can be used to politely discuss subjects that some people find taboo, such as death, sex, disability, or excrement. They can also be used to cover up swearing.

These two civilizations' populations are sympathetic to the suffering of others. They also make an effort to appear kind and pleasant, sometimes even use the proper euphemisms. The conduct of the English and Uzbek peoples is similar, despite their distinct cultures. Both cultures inherently value behaviors like being polite to avoid confrontation, sharing a positive mood with

¹ "Euphemism". *Webster's Online Dictionary*. Archived from the original on 28 July 2007. Retrieved 16 March 2014.

someone, getting his attention, and demonstrating interest in him. Although there are significant differences between Uzbek and English norms, lifestyles, life stereotypes, and aspirations, their use of tactful, soft words and phrases, or euphemisms, in certain contexts generalizes these differences.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Studies comparing and analyzing the euphemisms in Uzbek and English are few. A brutal word that frequently appears while comparing bilingual euphemisms is "not found." In the study of such concepts, not even the most expert dictionary or linguist with extensive language study can arrive at a precise definition. Comparable euphemisms are studied without consideration for the context in which they were written, including time and location. The task at hand is determining the semantically comparable forms of euphemisms. Given that Uzbek and English are classified as agglutinative and analytic languages, their euphemism structures differ, particularly with regard to their semantic systems. The idea of the internal form of euphemism is crucial to comprehending the semantic characteristics of euphemisms.

Euphemism is derived from the Greek term *euphemia*, which means "words of good omen"; it is a composite word made up of the words *eû*, which means "good, well," and *phēmē*, which means "prophetic speech; rumour, talk."² The term "eupheme" refers to the positive, uplifting, and affirming spirit of the Greek women. The ancient Greeks used the term "euphemism" themselves, meaning "to keep a holy silence" or "speaking well by not speaking at all."

Though not quite the same, this idea moves euphemism toward the edge of taboo. Then, the definition of such quiet was dropped. The issues surrounding euphemic lexicon and how it relates to other linguistic occurrences have been extensively studied in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. For example: G. Paul, R.O. Shor, B.A. Larin, L.P. Krysin³, A.S. Kurkiev, E.P. Senichkina and others. A. Reformatsky⁴ believes that euphemistic units used instead of taboos are associated with ethnic development. According to him, euphemisms are employed to conceal names and superstition is the root reason of taboos. He categorizes the euphemism phenomenon into the subsequent groups:

1. at the request of military diplomacy, renaming nations, cities, businesses, military units, and some legal organizations with symbols like (X (eks));
2. acronyms, symbols, and Latin phrases (such as *tuberculosis*, which must be stated) must be used in place of disease names when speaking about illnesses that are harmful from an ethical standpoint;
3. euphemisms that thieves use to conceal spoken words and phrases (abduction-purchase).

METHODOLOGY

Since the article is focused on the analysis of euphemisms in two languages, comparative analysis has been used as a method. Euphemisms from two languages were taken and their translations have been compared. In addition, contextual analysis has been also used, and the meaning of euphemisms in the works have been discussed.

RESULTS

The usage of euphemisms varies depending on the situation and goal. Euphemisms are sometimes used to avoid discussing topics that may be seen negatively or as humiliating, such as death, sex, or body processes that are excreted. They might be made maliciously and cynically, with the objective of misleading and confusing, or they could be made for good, harmless reasons.

² "Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, φήμη". www.perseus.tufts.edu. Retrieved 27 May 2023.

³ Krysin L.P. Euphemisms in modern Russian speech. Russian Studies - Berlin, No. 1. 1994.

⁴ Reformatsky A. A. Introduction to Linguistics.-M.: Education, 1967.

A euphemism is, in essence, a term or expression that is used instead of another that is banned or seen more rude. Euphemisms enable individuals to discuss challenging ideas without coming across as impolite or unpleasant. Writers can invent euphemisms at any moment; there are hundreds of potential ones. Here are some typical euphemisms:

1. A bun in the oven: pregnant (homilador, ikki qat)
2. No longer with us: dead (o`lgan, vafot etgan)
3. Let go: fired (ishdan bo`shagan)
4. Plastered: drunk (ichib olgan)

A euphemism is a term or expression that is meant to subtly convey anything offensive, rude, or unwelcome. Both in everyday conversation and writing, euphemisms are frequently employed to the point that listeners may not even realize they are being used. People use a variety of euphemisms, for instance, when expressing the urge to use the restroom:

- Go to the restroom
- Use the powder room
- Visit the little girls' or little boys' room
- Go number 1 or number 2

In Uzbek language they can be translated like that:

- Go to the restroom-hojatga chiqmoq
- Use the powder room-bo`yanish xonasidan foydalanmoq
- Visit the little girls' or little boys' room-qizlar yoki yigitlar xonasiga bormoq
- Go number 1 or number 2-birinchi yoki ikkinchi xonaga bormoq

A lot of traditional euphemisms are abstract in nature. By using a euphemism—which isn't quite a lie, but still doesn't correctly represent the situation—instead of conveying harsh or rude truths, abstraction enables authors to avoid writing about uncomfortable or insensitive realities. It is an abstraction to say that a lady is "in a family way" rather than pregnant. The drama *The History Boys* by Alan Bennett serves as a literary example of this type of euphemistic interchange:

Dakin: Anybody else, I'd say we could have a drink... Is that a euphemism? It is, isn't it? Have a drink. Saying 'a drink' when you mean something else. Only a euphemism is a nice way of saying something nasty. Whereas a drink is a nice way of saying something nice.

Irwin: I think that's a euphemism, too

In this conversation, "have a drink" is utilized as a stand-in for discussing having sex. The debate also clarifies that euphemisms are not limited to being used to describe negative things, unlike the misconception that many people have when they first hear the word.

Another famous example of abstraction can be found in *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, when Nick Carraway describes where he lives:

I lived at West Egg, the – well, the less fashionable of the two,

Nick is outlining how West Egg and East Egg vary from one another. He is saying that whereas East Egg has more established and even wealthier people, West Egg is home to the newly wealthy. He discusses money using the term "fashionable." In Uzbek language there are no such euphemisms describing where wealthy people live according to their wealth. "East Egg" can be translated as "eski boylar mahallasi" and "West egg" is "yangi boylar mahallasi".

Euphemism is the expression of a word with a more pleasant expression as a derivative meaning of a taboo word. For example, the word "chayon" was taboo, its use was prohibited. This is a lexical phenomenon. Its meaning was expressed in the word "eshak".

In the Uzbek language the followings can be used with negative meanings:

- yo'q qilmoq, gumdon qilmoq - to destroy;
- adoi tamom qilmoq - to end;
- bedarak ketmoq - to get lost;
- boshini yemoq - to eat head;
- dunyodan yo'q qilmoq - to repel;
- jonni jannatga (jahannamga) jo'natmoq - to send one's soul to heaven (hell);
- jonini olmoq - to take his life;
- ko'mmoq - to bury;
- mangu uyquga jo'natmoq - to send to eternal sleep;
- narigi dunyoga jo'natmoq - to send to the afterlife.
- Vafot etmoq-to pass away, kick the bucket, buy the farm

The following euphemisms have almost same meaning in Uzbek language. They are euphemisms for money and career:

- Bringing home the bacon-uyga non keltirmoq;
- Letting someone go-
- In between jobs-ishsiz bo'lmoq
- Breadwinner-oila boquvchisi
- Living comfortably-muammosiz yashash

One of the numerous expressions in the English language that depends on regional or cultural knowledge is euphemism. Idioms, vernacular, slang, and colloquialisms are examples of comparable figures of speech.

Slang is a language in which particular regional or cultural groups understand a term or phrase that has developed from another word. Slang phrases like "bougie," which is reduced from bourgeoisie, and "hangry," which is a combination of hungry and furious, were also included to the dictionary in 2018.

Colloquialism is the use of conversational language in writing. Including slang, vernacular, and euphemisms in your writing will make it more colloquial, even if the word *colloquial* is, itself, not very colloquial.

Idioms are expressions that acquire a connotation that deviates from their accurate translation. Among idioms are euphemisms. But not all English idioms are euphemisms; sometimes we use them to express ideas that are not meant to be sensitive to a particular circumstance. "At the drop of a hat" is an example of an idiom that is not a euphemism. When someone says it, English speakers see it as an instant task start rather than a surrender to gravity. It's not a euphemism because it doesn't have to deal with a delicate or taboo issue.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that there are several reasons why individuals use euphemisms in regular conversation, authors may also employ them in their work for a variety of reasons. These explanations may consist of the following:

- Etymologies are courteous
- Euphemisms give writing color.
- Euphemisms may lead to confusion.

- There may be an emotional charge to euphemisms.

Euphemisms may and need to be the focus of research in cultural studies as well as philology and linguistics, as an increasing number of people in our day and age exhibit hostile conduct. Because it's difficult to envision someone in the future who disregards the demands of tact, civility, consideration for others, decency, standards of behavior, and etiquette. To avoid making matters worse, using euphemisms should still be done with restraint and solid foreign language proficiency.

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