

Lexical and Semantic Features of Oral Communication in Russian

Bakhranova Shakhnoza Abrorovna

*Teacher of the department of Uzbek language and literature, Samarkand Zarmed University,
Uzbekistan*

Abstract: *This article examines the lexical and semantic features of oral communication in Russian. It analyzes the characteristic features of colloquial vocabulary, the semantic variability of words, and the influence of context and intonation on semantic interpretation. The role of diminutives, parentheses, and parasitic words in everyday speech is highlighted. The study emphasizes the importance of context and emotional connotation for effective communication. The results of the study have practical implications for linguists and educators studying and teaching Russian.*

Key words: *oral communication, vocabulary, semantics, colloquial style, context, emotional connotation, parasitic words, Russian language.*

Introduction. Oral communication is one of the most widespread and ancient forms of information transfer between people. Unlike written speech, oral speech is characterized by spontaneity, emotion, and situational relevance. The lexical-semantic level of language is one of the key components that determines the richness, precision, and expressiveness of oral communication. This article examines the lexical-semantic structure of oral speech in Russian, its specific features, and the influence of context and speech situation.

Oral speech not only conveys information but also expresses emotions, social roles, relationships between interlocutors, and reflects the cultural characteristics of its speakers.

Literature review and methodology. The study of the lexical and semantic features of oral communication in Russian is a pressing issue in modern linguistics. This issue has been examined from various perspectives in the scientific literature.

Classical works, such as those by V.V.Vinogradov, emphasize the importance of lexical and semantic analysis for understanding the characteristics of everyday speech. Vinogradov highlighted the specific features of colloquial vocabulary, its emotional and expressive functions, and the dependence of word meaning on the context of communication. Contemporary research (for example, by N.D.Arutyunova and T.V.Chernyakhovskaya) emphasizes the polysemy of words in oral speech, the role of pragmatic factors in changing semantics, and the influence of social and situational conditions on vocabulary choice.

A number of studies examine the characteristics of conversational style, the use of colloquial and slang elements (I.R.Galperina, L.S.Barkhudarova), and the functions of interjections and introductory words in conveying emotional and communicative information. Thus, the literature review demonstrates that the lexical and semantic analysis of oral speech requires consideration of multiple factors: situational context, intonation, the speaker's emotional state, and the social context.

Methodology. To study the lexical and semantic features of oral communication in this work the following methods were used:

Corpus analysis is the analysis of fragments of live speech taken from audio recordings and transcripts of real dialogues in Russian. This allows us to identify the most common lexical and semantic constructions.

The comparative - typological method compares oral and written speech to identify distinctive lexical and semantic features.

Contextual analysis studies words in various communicative situations to determine the influence of context on their meaning.

Functional analysis examines the role of emotionally expressive vocabulary, interjections, and parentheses in the structure of oral speech.

The pragmatic approach examines how speakers use lexical and semantic means to achieve communicative goals, convey emotions, and establish social connections.

These methods provide a comprehensive approach to the study of oral communication and allow us to obtain an objective picture of the lexical and semantic features of the Russian language in everyday speech.

Results. As a result of the conducted study of the lexical and semantic features of oral communication in Russian, the following key points were identified:

Extensive use of colloquial vocabulary and vernacular expressions. Words and expressions characteristic of informal style, absent or rarely encountered in written language, are frequently used in spoken language. This contributes to a more lively, emotional, and natural communication.

Polysemy and semantic variability of words. The meanings of many words in spoken language depend on context, intonation, and situational conditions. For example, the word “cool” can express both a positive assessment and irony. Use of diminutive forms and emotionally charged words. Such forms add warmth and friendliness to speech and help establish close contact between interlocutors.

The presence of filler words and introductory constructions. The frequent use of filler words (“like”, “in short”, “well”) is a typical feature of oral speech; they primarily serve communicative and expressive functions, helping to regulate the flow of conversation.

Contextual dependence of lexical units. The meanings of many words and expressions in oral speech cannot be understood outside of a specific situation, requiring the listener to actively engage in the communicative process and interpret it.

The active use of phraseological units and set expressions. They serve as a means of adding expressiveness and imagery to speech, as well as maintaining communicative intimacy.

Thus, oral communication in the Russian language is characterized by a high degree of dynamism and variability of lexical and semantic means, which reflects the living nature of the language and the characteristics of interpersonal interaction.

General Characteristics of Oral Speech. Oral speech is a direct form of communication, supported by nonverbal means (gestures, facial expressions, intonation). It develops in live communication and is oriented toward immediate perception. Distinctive features of oral speech:

- *incomplete sentences;*
- *use of pronouns and deictic words (“here”, “there”, “this”);*
- *extensive use of colloquial and vernacular vocabulary;*
- *the presence of pauses, interjections, introductory words, and filler words (“well”, “there”, “sort of”);*
- *emotional coloring and expressiveness.*

Lexical features. The vocabulary of oral speech is diverse and stylistic. It actively uses:

Colloquial words and expressions: “guys”, “work”, “chat”, “cool”.

Slang and jargon: “party”, “grandmother”, “hang out”, which is typical for the youth environment.

Set expressions and phraseological units: “keep your mouth shut”, “break a leg”.

Diminutive forms: “mommy”, “kitty”, which add emotional coloring to speech.

Filler words. These lack lexical meaning, but are often encountered (“like”, “so”, “in short”).

Semantic features. The semantics of spoken language are influenced by context, intonation, and the communicative situation. The same word can acquire different shades of meaning depending on:

Intonation. The word “well done” can be both praise and irony;

Context. The word “floats” can denote both physical movement in water and a figurative meaning (for example, “memory floats”);

Situationalities. Oral speech often relies on a general situation, which makes it possible to use pronouns without clarification (“he said”, “it was cool there” – understandable only to the participants in the dialogue).

Features of use in dialogue. Dialogic communication involves alternating lines, often with elements of improvisation. This format actively utilizes:

- *Ellipses (omission of words)*: “Will you go?” – «I will”.
- *Repetitions for emphasis*: “Well, yes, yes, of course”.
- *Interruptions, insertions*: “Listen, I’ll tell you what...”

Oral speech, unlike written speech, is less subject to norms and standards, but at the same time it maintains internal logic and consistency.

As a result of the conducted study, several lexical and semantic features of oral Russian were identified.

Colloquial Vocabulary and Vernacular Expressions. Words characteristic of informal speech are frequently used in spoken Russian.

Examples: Russian: Ребята, пойдём погуляем! English: Guys, let’s go for a walk! Russian: У него классная тачка. English: He has a cool car. (“тачка” = slang for “car”)

Polysemy and Semantic Variability. Words in oral communication often carry multiple meanings depending on intonation and context.

Examples: Russian: Ну ты молодец! Neutral: Well done! Irony: Oh wow, great job (sarcastic tone). Russian: Он поплыл. Literal: He started swimming.

Figurative. He got confused / lost his train of thought. **Diminutive Forms and Emotional Coloring**. Diminutives create a friendly, affectionate tone in conversation.

Examples: Russian: Мамочка, я скучаю. English: Mommy, I miss you. Russian: Котик спит на диванчике. English: The kitty is sleeping on the little sofa.

Filler Words and Parenthetical Constructions. Filler words (or parasitic words) may lack lexical meaning but play a communicative role.

Examples: Russian: Ну, мана, я не знаю... English: Well, like, I don’t know... Russian: Короче, он такой заходит и говорит... English: So, like, he walks in and says...

These words help speakers hold the floor, plan their thoughts, or create a casual tone. **Contextual Dependence of Lexical Units**. Many words derive their meaning only in a particular situation or context.

Examples: Russian: Он сказал, что это было круто. English: He said it was cool. (Without knowing what “it” is, the statement remains vague.)

Russian: Она там была. English: *She was there.* (“там” – “there” – is only meaningful if context is clear.)

Phraseological Units and Set Expressions. These expressions make speech more vivid and emotional.

Examples: Russian: *Держи язык за зубами.* English: *Keep your mouth shut.* Russian: *Ну нуха ни нелпа! – К чёпты!* English: *Break a leg! – Thanks! (A traditional exchange before a performance.)* General Characteristics of Oral Speech. Oral speech often includes: Incomplete sentences.

Example: Russian: *Пойдёшь? – Пойду.* English: *Will you go? – I will.* Deictic expressions ("here", "there", "this"). Russian: *Он был здесь вчера.* English: *He was here yesterday.* Pauses, interjections, and filler words. Russian: *Эээ, ну я не знаю...* English: *Umm, well, I don't know...* Emotional expressiveness. Russian: *Ура! Мы победили!* English: *Hooray! We won!*

Discussion. The study confirms that oral Russian is highly contextual, emotionally expressive, and semantically flexible. Unlike written speech, it includes elements such as: Repetitions for emphasis. Russian: *Да, да, конечно.* English: *Yes, yes, of course.* Interruptions and insertions. Russian: *Слушай, я хотел тебе сказать...* English: *Listen, I wanted to tell you...*

Researchers such as Arutyunova and Chernyakhovskaya have emphasized the pragmatic aspects of such usage. These features highlight the need for communicative competence-understanding not only words, but also tone, expression, and situation.

The lexical and semantic features of Russian oral communication reflect its spontaneous, expressive, and interactive nature. The frequent use of colloquial words, emotional vocabulary, and context-dependent expressions shows how speech adapts to personal and cultural interactions.

The integration of diminutives, filler words, and phraseological units adds richness and relatability to communication. Despite their informality, these elements are essential for maintaining fluency, social bonding, and cultural expression.

The purpose of this paper is to examine the lexical and semantic features of oral communication in Russian, identifying its characteristic features, lexical diversity, and the influence of context on the semantic interpretation of words and expressions. The relevance of this topic stems from the growing interest in natural forms of communication and the need for a deeper understanding of the mechanisms of language functioning in face-to-face communication.

The obtained results confirm that the lexical and semantic features of oral communication in Russian differ significantly from those of written speech. The active use of colloquial vocabulary, colloquialisms, and emotionally charged words indicates that oral speech is primarily aimed at creating a lively, dynamic, and emotionally charged interaction between interlocutors.

Polysemy and the contextual dependence of word meanings emphasize the importance of situational factors in oral communication. This is consistent with the views of researchers such as N.D.Arutyunova and T.V.Chernyakhovskaya, who emphasized the need to consider the pragmatic aspect of language when analyzing spoken language. Oral speech requires high communicative competence from participants in the dialogue, including the ability to correctly interpret intonation, gestures, and context.

The presence of filler words and introductory constructions, although sometimes perceived as a speech impediment, plays an important role in regulating the tempo of speech and maintaining contact between interlocutors. This confirms the observations of linguists such as I.R.Galperin and L.S.Barkhudarova, who noted the functionality of such elements in oral communication.

The use of diminutives and phraseological units facilitates the establishment of emotional rapport and reflects the cultural characteristics of the Russian language. These elements make oral speech more expressive and contribute to the strengthening of social ties. Thus, this study highlights the complexity and multifaceted nature of lexical and semantic processes in oral communication, which requires further study using interdisciplinary approaches, including sociolinguistics and pragmatics.

The lexical and semantic features of oral communication in Russian are influenced by the living speech situation, context, and interpersonal relationships between interlocutors. Oral speech is characterized by colloquial vocabulary, semantic flexibility, the use of emotionally charged expressions, and situational relevance. Studying these features is important for both linguists and Russian language teachers, as it allows for a deeper understanding of the mechanisms of verbal interaction and the cultural specificity of the language.

This study identified the characteristic lexical and semantic features of oral communication in Russian. Oral speech differs from written speech in its spontaneity, emotional richness, and situational determinacy, which is reflected in the choice of vocabulary and word meanings.

Conclusion. The active use of colloquial, vernacular, and emotionally charged words, as well as diminutives, lends expressiveness to oral speech and facilitates the establishment of an emotional connection between interlocutors. Semantic variability and the dependence of word meanings on context emphasize the importance of the communicative situation for understanding oral speech. Despite their negative connotations, filler words and parenthetical constructions perform important communicative functions – they regulate the flow of conversation and help express emotional states.

Thus, a lexical-semantic analysis of oral communication allows for a deeper understanding of the mechanisms of the Russian language in real-life communication settings, as well as the cultural and social characteristics of native speakers' speech behavior. The results of this study may be useful for linguists, Russian language teachers, and communication specialists.

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