

LINGUOCULTURAL ANALYSIS OF UZBEK LEXEMES OF ETIQUETTE

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Abstract

The study of lexemes associated with etiquette in the Uzbek language reveals a profound interplay between linguistic structures and cultural norms. This article investigates the linguistic and cultural aspects embedded in the expressions of politeness, respect, and social interaction in Uzbek. Drawing from examples of greetings, honorifics, and politeness markers, the analysis demonstrates how these lexemes reflect the values and traditions of Uzbek society. Particular emphasis is placed on the influence of Islam, kinship dynamics, and hospitality norms. The article also considers generational, regional, and global influences on the use and evolution of these lexemes.

Key words: Cultural expressions, expressions of etiquette, Uzbek etiquette lexemes, politeness and respect, hospitality.

Language and culture are intricately linked, with lexemes often carrying cultural meanings that extend beyond their literal definitions. Uzbek, as the state language of Uzbekistan, is a rich repository of cultural expressions, particularly in the domain of etiquette. This study aims to analyze the lexemes of etiquette in Uzbek, highlighting their linguistic characteristics and the cultural values they embody. The research is guided by two main questions: How do lexemes of etiquette in Uzbek reflect cultural values? What linguistic features distinguish these lexemes? To answer these, the study explores key expressions of etiquette, their origins, and their sociolinguistic implications.

A linguocultural analysis of Uzbek lexemes of etiquette involves examining the cultural, social, and linguistic features embedded in the words and expressions used for politeness, respect, and interpersonal communication in the Uzbek language.

Importance of Etiquette in Uzbek Culture: Uzbek culture places a strong emphasis on respect for elders, hospitality, and social harmony. These values shape the lexicon and use of etiquette-related expressions.

Role of Islam: As a predominantly Muslim country, Islamic teachings on manners and morality influence the Uzbek lexicon of etiquette, with many expressions derived from Arabic or Persian sources. Politeness strategies in Uzbek often involve indirectness and softening expressions to avoid conflict or offense.

Uzbek culture is deeply rooted in respect for elders, hospitality and community cohesion. These values influence the structure and usage of etiquette-related expressions. For example, addressing elders with terms of respect like *ota* (father) and *ona* (mother) highlights the emphasis on hierarchical relationships and familial bonds.

As a predominantly Muslim society, Uzbek etiquette heavily reflects Islamic principles. Phrases like *Assalomu alaykum* (Peace be upon you) and *Va alaykum assalom* (And peace be upon you too) not only serve as greetings but also express goodwill and spiritual blessings, rooted in Arabic traditions.

Hospitality is a cornerstone of Uzbek social norms, with specific lexemes dedicated to welcoming and hosting guests. Expressions such as *Mehmon keldi* (A guest has come) underscore the high cultural value placed on hosting and caring for guests.

Linguistic Features of Uzbek Etiquette Lexemes deals with morphological characteristics, loanwords and etymology, syntax and pragmatics.

Politeness and respect in Uzbek are often conveyed through morphological structures. The diminutive suffix *-jon*, as in *Opajon* (dear sister), adds a layer of warmth and affection. Similarly, plural forms are used to express formality and respect, e.g., *Siz* (you, formal) versus *Sen* (you, informal).

Many Uzbek expressions of etiquette are borrowed from Arabic and Persian, reflecting historical and cultural exchanges. For instance, *Rahmat* (thank you) originates from Arabic *rahmat* (mercy), while *Marhamat* (welcome/go ahead) is derived from Persian.

The structure of polite expressions in Uzbek often involves indirectness to avoid confrontation or imposition. For example, instead of directly commanding, speakers might use softer, more deferential forms such as *"iltimos"*.

Assalomu alaykum (Peace be upon you) and its response *Va alaykum assalom*.

Xayr (Goodbye) and *Ko'rishguncha* (Until we meet again).

Iltimos (Please) is used to soften requests.

Rahmat (Thank you) expresses gratitude.

Kechirasiz (Excuse me) is used to apologize or get attention politely.

Kinship terms like *Aka* (older brother) and *Opa* (older sister) are used to address unrelated individuals respectfully. Honorifics, such as *Domla* (teacher) and *Xonim* (lady), indicate status and respect.

Younger speakers may incorporate modern or borrowed expressions, such as *Russian Spasibo* (Thank you) or *English Thank you*, reflecting globalization's influence.

Urban areas, with greater exposure to diverse cultures, might display more linguistic borrowing and adaptation. Rural areas, in contrast, tend to preserve traditional Uzbek lexemes and forms of etiquette.

Expressions of etiquette often reflect gender roles. For example, women are traditionally expected to use more deferential language, reflecting societal norms around modesty and respect.

Comparing Uzbek etiquette lexemes with those of neighboring cultures reveals both shared and unique features. For instance, Tajik and Uzbek share Islamic greetings but differ in their use of Persian versus Turkic honorifics. In contrast, Western languages like English emphasize individualism, with less emphasis on hierarchical or kinship-based politeness.

In comparison to English, Uzbek etiquette lexemes often prioritize collectivism and hierarchy, reflecting the collectivist nature of the society. Older generations may use more traditional lexemes, while younger speakers might incorporate modern or foreign terms.

Urban areas may see more influence from Russian or English, while rural areas preserve traditional Uzbek expressions. The lexemes of etiquette in Uzbek provide a window into the cultural fabric of the society, reflecting values such as respect, hospitality, and community cohesion. These expressions are not merely linguistic tools but also carriers of historical and cultural heritage. Understanding their linguocultural dimensions enhances our appreciation of Uzbek identity and social norms.

The lexemes of etiquette in Uzbek language encapsulate the cultural values of respect, hospitality, and community. Through their linguistic and cultural analysis, one gains deeper insights into Uzbek social norms and the interplay between language and culture.

Future research could explore the impact of globalization and digital communication on the evolution of Uzbek etiquette lexemes, offering insights into how tradition and modernity coexist in linguistic practices.

References

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