

# **PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF THE EXPRESSION OF THE CONCEPT OF REPRIMAND IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH THROUGH PARALINGUISTIC MEANS**

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## **Abstract**

This article analyzes the pragmatic characteristics of how reprimanding speech acts are expressed through paralinguistic means in Uzbek and English. Paralinguistic tools are non-verbal yet meaning-enhancing elements that reflect the speaker's emotional state, social position, and communicative intent in accordance with the context. The paper examines the phonatory, kinesics, and graphic (paragramphemic) aspects of these tools and explores their culturally specific usage in both English and Uzbek. Examples are used to compare social-emotional expression tools unique to each language, and to demonstrate how the pragmatic impact of a reprimand can be intensified through paralinguistic means.

**Keywords:** Reprimand, paralinguistic, pragmatics, phonation, paragramphemic, kinesics, context, sociolinguistic specificity.

## **Introduction:**

In interpersonal communication, while language serves as the primary tool, the underlying emotional and social intentions are often conveyed through non-verbal or paralinguistic means. Especially in delicate speech acts such as reprimands, tone, body language, facial expressions, and graphic features help convey deeper meanings. This article explores the paralinguistic expression of reprimanding speech acts in Uzbek and English, along with the pragmatic weight these tools carry. Each language and culture develop such expressions based on its communicative strategies, leading to different ways of expressing disapproval, reprimand, or emotional response. Language is the primary means through which people engage with social reality and reflect it. Every language conveys emotional relationships, disapproval, accusation, or reprimand in its own culturally specific manner. Reprimanding speech acts are formed based on the socio-cultural characteristics of each community and are conveyed not only linguistically but also through paralinguistic means. These tools in both Uzbek and English are used with distinctive pragmatic implications and communicative strategies. One of the key

aspects of the pragmatic approach is context. The meaning of a reprimand lies not only in the words spoken but also in the tone, body language, and facial cues used to express it. These very paralinguistic elements reveal the true intention of the speech, the speaker's position, their attitude towards the listener, and even their social status.

*Paralinguistic* is derived from the Greek word *para*, meaning *beside* or *around*. It refers to elements surrounding speech that are not directly linguistic but participate in the communication process. Paralinguistic is a branch of linguistics that studies non-verbal tools which contribute meaning alongside verbal elements in speech messages [1]. Paralinguistic elements are tools used in written speech that add tone and emotional nuance to sentences. These include exclamation marks, ellipses, combinations of exclamation and question marks, illustrations and diagrams, graphical layout of the text, font selection and color coordination, as well as unconventional writing styles [2]. In our previous research, we noted that paralinguistic tools also encompass various qualities of the human voice, including timbre, pitch, strength (i.e., sonority and expressiveness), diction clarity, melodic movement, and speech rate [3]. Such tools also include phonatory phenomena known as *extralinguistic phonation*, such as extra breathing, breath-holding, groaning sounds expressing sadness, or guttural tones indicating anger [4]. Fillers like *ee...*, *um...*, or gestures enhancing expressiveness also fall under paralinguistic expressions. Sudden rises or falls in intonation, emphasis shifts between sounds, and articulatory differences play a vital role in identifying the speaker's emotional state and communicative purpose. Delicate speech acts such as reprimands derive their pragmatic impact from these very paralinguistic tools. For instance, a low-toned sarcastic sentence in English or a loudly uttered phrase in Uzbek both reveal the actual (often critical) meaning through phonatory features rather than context alone.

In contemporary linguistics, paralinguistic tools are also studied within the framework of paragraphemic. Paragraphemic investigates non-verbal elements that do not belong to the graphemic system of language but influence the expressive content of written texts. These tools add emotional color to a text and help amplify speech acts such as reprimands. Paragraphemic expressions include stylistic variations in punctuation, font manipulations, and unusual page layouts. For example, sequences of exclamation and question marks, all caps text, or special formatting styles help emphasize sarcasm or discontent [5]. Such tools facilitate a deeper understanding of reprimands in both English and Uzbek by conveying not only semantic content but also the speaker's emotional state, intonation, and communicative intent. In Uzbek, reprimands are often rooted in social context and delivered with strong emotional expression. Here, a lowered voice, prolonged tone, facial expressions, and hand gestures all enhance the speech's impact [6]. For example, a parent's statement to a childlike *Did you really have to do that?* may be spoken with gentle sarcasm. However, the tone, filled pauses, and stern or saddened facial cues intensify the reprimanding content. In many such speech acts, the speaker's intent is not explicitly stated, yet paralinguistic tools express it unmistakably. In English, cultural norms often require that disapproval or reprimand be expressed indirectly—through softened, sarcastic, or neutral observations. Here, paralinguistic elements like a sarcastic tone, a masked smile, eye movements, or a subtle hand gesture play a crucial role. For

instance, *oh really, that was a brilliant idea* [7], when said sarcastically, serves as a reprimand or disapproval. In such cases, understanding the intended meaning requires attention to the pragmatic context rather than surface semantics. While emotional intensity dominates reprimands in Uzbek, social tact and surface calm are more prevalent in English. These differences are clearly reflected in paralinguistic expressions. For instance, a mother shaking her head while telling her child *I never expected this kind of behavior from you* [8], along with sad eyes and a solemn face, conveys a strong reprimanding message through paralinguistic cues. In English, the equivalent phrase *I didn't expect that from you* is spoken in a cooler tone, with pauses and a downward gaze, subtly conveying emotional depth.

Another important aspect is the social role tied to the speech act. In Uzbek society, where relationships are often hierarchically structured, reprimands from elders to younger individuals can be quite sharp. However, this sharpness is rarely expressed directly—instead, it is softened with emotional undertones, care, and affection. In such cases, tone, pauses, eye contact, and facial expressions significantly increase the pragmatic weight of the speech. In contrast, in English-speaking societies where interpersonal relationships are more horizontal, paralinguistic reprimands are often expressed through passive-aggressive or ironic speech acts. For instance, when a coworker makes a mistake, saying *That was an interesting choice* conveys criticism subtly, supported by non-verbal cues indicating disapproval.

Another key factor is the interpretation of paralinguistic elements based on cultural codes. Uzbek listeners immediately recognize changes in tone or signs of sadness on the speaker's face and use them to grasp the speech's deeper meaning. In English, this process sometimes involves contextual analysis to uncover underlying implications. The role of paralinguistic elements in reprimands has been extensively studied in mass media, theater, literature, and everyday communication. In English linguistics, Brown and Levinson's theory explores mitigation strategies for face-threatening speech acts. In Uzbek linguistics, these phenomena are often explained through socio-literary traditions. In both cases, paralinguistic tools make the speaker's intent, emotions, and communicative goals more explicit. The similarities and differences in how reprimands are paralinguistically expressed in Uzbek and English are directly influenced by language-specific culture, communicative norms, social roles, and the degree of familiarity between interlocutors. Therefore, thoroughly analyzing this process is vital for both pragmatic linguistics and cross-cultural communication.

*Conclusion:* Paralinguistic means play a significant role in expressing reprimands in both Uzbek and English. In Uzbek, these tools are often fused with emotional intensity, whereas in English, cultural tact and subtle sarcasm prevail. Tone, pauses, facial expressions, gestures, and graphic features reveal not only the speaker's emotional state but also their social status and the hidden intent of the message. This research shows that a deep understanding of paralinguistic tools enables more effective intercultural communication and broader analysis of speech pragmatics.

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