

# PRAGMATIC FEATURES OF UZBEK FOLK ANECDOTES

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## **Abstract:**

It is known that one of the unique features of the text of anecdotes in the process of generating laughter is its pragmatic nature. In it, the intended purpose of anecdotes is revealed through the change of sentences and words in context.

**Keywords:** Pragmatics, anecdote, deixis, speech acts, implicature, presupposition, principles of communication.

## **O‘ZBEK XALQ LATIFALARINI PRAGMATIK XUSUSIYATLARI**

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## **Annotatsiya:**

Ma'lumki, latifalar matnining kulgu hosil qilish jarayonida o'ziga xos xususiyatlaridan bu uning pragmatik xususiyatidir. Unda latifalarda kutilgan maqsad jumlar va so'zlarning kontekstda o'zgarishi orqali ochib beriladi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Pragmatika, latifa, deysis, nutq aktlari, implikatura, presuppozitsiya, muloqot tamoyillari.

## **ПРАГМАТИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ УЗБЕКСКИХ НАРОДНЫХ АНЕКДОТОВ**

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**Аннотация:**

Известно, что одной из уникальных особенностей текста анекдотов в процессе вызывания смеха является его прагматический характер. В нём предполагаемый смысл анекдотов раскрывается через изменение предложений и слов в контексте.

**Ключевие слова:** Прагматика, анекдот, дейксис, речевые акты, импликатура, пресуппозиция, принципы коммуникации.

**Introduction**

The development of humour in anecdotes relies heavily on both linguistic and non-linguistic elements. Non-linguistic aspects of language are referred to as “**extra-linguistic**” aspects by G. Salomov. Besides language, various other non-linguistic influences the translation process, and non-linguistic aspects of language encompass extra-linguistic factors that do not pertain to the aforementioned linguistic units, including context, conditions of speech, the status of the listener and speaker, their behaviour during the communication, the intent of the speech, as well as its structure and development. The forthcoming analysis will uncover the non-linguistic aspects of the text in translation.

Within the framework of the present study, the following linguistic domain to be examined is pragmatics, a branch of linguistics concerned with the study of language in context. Pragmatics explores how the meaning of words and utterances is shaped by situational, social, and communicative factors. Unlike other linguistic disciplines, which primarily focus on structural aspects of language, pragmatics emphasises language use and the interpretation of meaning in real-life communication.

Pragmatics encompasses several key areas of investigation:

First, **deixis**, which refers to context-dependent expressions whose interpretation relies on the speaker’s temporal, spatial, and personal perspective. For instance, in the expression “**here,**” the meaning varies depending on the location and time of the utterance.

Second, **speech act theory**, which examines how utterances perform specific communicative functions. For example, the imperative “**Close the door**” functions as a directive, whereas the declarative “**The door is open**” may indirectly serve as a request.

Third, **implicature**, a concept introduced within conversational analysis, denotes meanings that are implied rather than explicitly stated. For example:

**A: “Have you arrived?”**

**B: “I just came in.”**

In this case, the response implies affirmation without directly stating it.

Fourth, **presupposition**, which involves background assumptions embedded within an utterance. For instance, the question “**Do you still have water to drink?**” presupposes that the interlocutor previously had water and has been consuming it.

Fifth, **the Cooperative Principle**, formulated by H. P. Grice, which outlines conversational maxims such as quantity (providing sufficient information) and quality (ensuring truthfulness). These principles facilitate effective communication and interpretation of meaning in discourse.

Pragmatics is considered a relatively recent development in linguistic science. One of its foundational figures is Charles Morris, whose work *Foundations of the Theory of Signs* (1938) significantly contributed to the emergence of the field. Subsequent developments were advanced through seminal works such as H. P. Grice's "**Logic and Conversation**", John Searle's "**Speech Acts: An Essay in the Philosophy of Language**", and Stephen Levinson's "**Pragmatics**". Additionally, contributions from Russian linguists, including Yu. D. Apresyan and Elena Kubryakova, as well as Uzbek scholar Sh. Safarov, have played a crucial role in shaping modern pragmalinguistics.

#### **In Uzbek:**

Afandi bir kuni uyiga mehmon boshlab kelib, xotiniga:

-Hozir non yop!-dedi.

Xotini urishib berdi:

-Uyingizda bir siqim un yo'q, nimadan yopaman!

-Undoq bo'lsa yog'liq patir qila qol,-dedi Afandi.

#### **In English:**

Once, Efandi brought a guest to his house and said to his wife:

"Bake bread immediately!"

His wife replied angrily:

"There isn't even a handful of flour in the house—what should I bake it from?"

Efandi responded:

"In that case, bake a greasy flaky flatbread." (The translation is from the author)

Concerning the anecdote "**Yog'li patir qila qol!**" (**bake a greasy flaky flatbread!**) the pragmatic analysis reveals the interaction between linguistic form and contextual meaning. In the anecdote, Efandi instructs his wife: "**Bake bread now!**" This utterance functions as a directive speech act, indicating urgency and obligation. The wife's response highlights the lack of necessary resources, thereby introducing a contextual constraint. Efandi's subsequent remark, "**Then make a greasy flatbread,**" reflects adherence to social norms of hospitality, implying that the presence of a guest necessitates immediate action regardless of practical limitations. This illustrates how meaning is negotiated through context and shared cultural expectations.

In conclusion, the analysis of humorous discourse, particularly anecdotes, demonstrates that both linguistic and extra-linguistic factors play a significant role in meaning construction. While linguistic elements pertain to the formal properties of language, extra-linguistic factors—including context, cultural norms, and situational dynamics—are equally essential for interpretation.

Anecdotes, despite their brevity, possess a strong humorous effect, which is largely achieved through the strategic use of linguistic devices. In the process of translation, a comprehensive understanding of both linguistic and extra-linguistic elements is essential. This ensures that the translated text accurately conveys not only the semantic content but also the pragmatic and cultural nuances of the original, thereby preserving its communicative impact.

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