

THE FUNCTIONS OF EUPHEMISM IN UZBEK LANGUAGE (ON THE EXAMPLE OF O’TKIR HOSHIMOV’S SHORT STORIES)

Xujanazarova Xosiyat

1Master’s degree student, National university of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek

Shoira Yusupova Batirovna1

2Associate professor, National university of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek

ABSTRACT	KEYWORDS
There is a rising tendency to avoid speaking directly about sensitive topics in the increasingly complicated, globalised society. Naturally, human being are tend to hear positive feedback rather than negative one. This article is focused on the functions of euphemism in the short stories entitled “ Hayollarga bo’laman tutqun”, “ Urushning so’nggi qurboni” , and “ O’zbeklar” written by O’tkir Hoshimov with the concept of the functions of euphemism in speech acts. The research is conducted by descriptive qualitative method related to social phenomena, in this case the uses of euphemism either in a literary or social text.	euphemism, politeness, softening function, veiling function, communicative function, corrective function, conceptual meaning, positive attitude

INTRODUCTION

Language is a reflection of one's personality; even language is a mirror of the nation's personality. The meaning of this statement is that through the language used, a person or a nation can know the level of their personality. The quality

INTRODUCTION

Language is a reflection of one's personality; even language is a mirror of the nation's personality. The meaning of this statement is that through the language used, a person or a nation can know the level of their personality. The quality of the personality of a person or group of people will be difficult to measure, if they do not express their thoughts or feelings through language acts (both verbal and nonverbal) in a polite manner (Caplan, Adams, Boyd, 2020) [1]. Language politeness is a reflection of a person’s character.The strategy of language politeness as one of the efforts to build the character of a nation can be effected through: 1) family education by having habitual, creating a conducive atmosphere and guidance; 2) positive language attitudes, both local and national languages, by building cognitive, affective, and conative aspects, and 3)

mastery of polite vocabularies, both receptive and productive (Sulastriana, 2018) [2]. Politeness plays a crucial role in all cultures and societies for maintaining relationships and for face saving. Language politeness is closely related to euphemism. As a symptom of language, euphemism is a kind of reference in the form of expressions that do not offend people, or subtle expressions to replace references that may be felt insulting, offensive, or suggesting something unpleasant. In everyday communication, both spoken and written, we often hear or read words or sentences that contain such euphemisms. However, it feels natural, considering that communication requires the accuracy of message disclosure so that the intended message can be understood by those who receive the message properly (Sibull, et.al. (2019) [3].

MAIN PART

Euphemism is a way of conveying information to audiences in the form of words, phrases or in a broader grammatical unit because euphemism is essentially using language politely without losing the concept of meaning it contains. The beginning of meaning is conceptual meaning, that is, meaning based on language conventions. Conceptual meaning is the most important element in conveying messages because it includes logical, cognitive, and denotative meanings. In other words, the conceptual meaning is the meaning according to the concept, according to the referent, and there is no association or other meaning. However, in a certain text, euphemisms that are present may contain associations or other meanings because humans as reporters are creative through language. Therefore, words, phrases, or sentences may experience changes in meaning and there is a tendency to manipulate reality because of this form of creativity. This can happen according to the practical interests of language users, including expressing arguments for social and cultural problems (Mohammed and Majeed, 2018) [4]. Euphemisms give color to the use of language and reflect the attitude or policy of a person in presenting a message between uncertainty in facing facts and the need to convey information. This is related to the value of the taste of the language. Choices of words that have a high sense of value tend to stick in the minds of listeners or readers than choices that have low value. The choice of words (diction) that has a high sense of value shows respect for the person or institution that is being discussed. Euphemism can be positive because people, groups, institutions, authorities can use euphemisms to reconcile the atmosphere and stability, but it can also be negative because the reality is not known for certain. It is undeniable that the use of euphemisms in language is found in almost all ethnic groups in the world. Its use is increasingly spreading to various fields of life and professions in our society. Euphemisms which are part of language politeness are seen as important to use to maintain relationships with friends, work partners, relatives, and superiors. The use of euphemisms in language can be identified from the use of certain words in communication. The right choice of words or diction marks the use of euphemisms in each professional field and life activity (Al-Khasawneh, 2018) [5]. The study of euphemisms is able to describe various uses of word meanings related to the tendency of language culture in modern society in general. Changes that occur in a society can also be seen from the frequency with which certain words are used in everyday life. The emergence of new meanings in language, especially literary texts, indicates a change in the value system in the language that is closely related to the culture of the speaking community. Avoiding language taboos and using euphemisms in communication is a form of politeness in language. The expression of euphemistic words makes us feel comfortable to

express things that we feel are inappropriate, and neutralize them, for example topics about death, unemployment, taboos, and animals. We are constantly naming and labeling the words with expressions that make them sound better (Serli, 2018) [6].

Scientists highlight two main functions of euphemisms: **softening** and **masking (veiling) functions**. In the first function, euphemisms have as their goal to soften rude and indecent meaning, to provide a comfortable discussion of non-tactful or disgusting objects in the modern, civilized society. Veiling euphemisms conceal the true picture of the situation, mask the disturbing sides of social phenomena in order to preserve the face of the speaker (Karasik 1991) [7] and soften the addressee's reaction to his statement (Bazylev 2007) [8]. Euphemisms also perform a **corrective (tactical) function**, reflecting the desire of the speaker to overcome existing in society discrimination or restriction in the rights of certain population groups. Language correctness, writes S. G. Ter-Minasova, is a very positive effort not to offend, not to hurt a person's feelings, to preserve his dignity, good mood, health, life (Ter-Minasova 2000) [9]. Some researchers, along with basic functions of euphemisms, highlight optional functions. For example, G. N. Mukhamedjanova singles out **an aesthetic (decorative) function** in which substitute words have expressive power (Mukhamedjanova 2005) [10]. M. L. Kovshova especially highlights the **game function** of euphemisms, that characterizes the newspaper and journalistic speech and literary texts. There are the other functions of euphemism that can be found. According to Allan and Burridge (1991) [11] the common functions of euphemism are:

- 1) **Avoiding taboos** (body parts, special body parts, sex, menstruation, illness, mental disability, something discharged or excreted and death);
- 2) **Avoiding objects that are considered frightening**, such as about war, sickness, supernatural things, including God, things related to death, and also something about animals;
- 3) **As sense of respect to the words which is uncomfortable for speaking**, especially for matters relating to religion, politics, God, physical, illness, physical, mental or criminal action.

Wijana and Rohmadi (2008) [12] explains that there are 5 kinds of functions/benefits of euphemism as follows:

- a) Euphemism as a tool to smoothing speech.
- b) Euphemism as a tool to keep something secret in medicine.
- c) Euphemism as a tool for diplomacy.
- d) Euphemism as an Educational Tool.
- e) Euphemism as a Tool to Resist the Dangers.

The use of euphemism can avoid conflict and this is the main function of euphemism which is under the umbrella of sociolinguistics. Euphemism through a sociolinguistic approach and based on the concept of the function of euphemism becomes the object of this research, with the aim of identifying and analyzing the functions of euphemism in O'. Hoshimov's short stories "*Hayollarga bo'laman tutqun*", "*Urushning so'nggi qurboni*", and "*O'zbeklar*" so that the readers, especially the academic community, understand and apply the functions of euphemism in spoken or written language.

METHOD

This type of research is qualitative research with content analysis method. Qualitative method that requires categories as units of analysis, various categories made based on theoretical

references, both categories of form and purpose and of meaning which are then simplified in steps by rational thinking. The object of this research is related to euphemism. The data of this research are words, phrases and sentences that contain euphemisms. The data sources are the short stories “*Hayollarga bo’laman tutqun*”, “*Urushning so’nggi qurboni*”, and “*O’zbeklar*” by O’tkir Hoshimov and the data are taken randomly in the forms of words, phrases and sentences oriented to euphemism. The data collection techniques used in this study are observation and recording. In order for this research to be more accurate, the writer (1) reads the stories intensively, (2) notes the use of euphemism in the storyline, (3) sorts out the types of data that contain the functions of euphemism to be further presented in the form of discussions. The data analysis procedures in this study are related to the symbolic message of information with the following steps. 1) determine the form and function of each euphemism, 2) explore and reveal each euphemism meaning. 3) express the purpose or function of the euphemism used. 4) and based on these steps, conclusions are drawn which are then used as the basis for realizing the research report.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Euphemism, a subtler expression instead of a harsh one and considered harmful or unpleasant becomes the object of this research based on the short stories by O’.Hoshimov. The data studied are in the form of words, phrases and sentences taken from the short story focused on the functions of euphemism, among others: communicative function, naming of the intimidating object, instead of an unpleasant and annoying word, instead of words that are considered obscene, instead of a frightening word, and masking the stated concept.

Communicative function

Data 1: “*-Maktabda bo’lsa har doim “He, bola” deb chaqirardi, shayton qiz!*” (O’.Hoshimov “*Hayollarga bo’laman tutqun*” hikoya. 2002.1-b) [13].

Analysis: The phrase “*He, bola*” in Data 1 is included in the euphemism category because it is considered more polite expression to describe a situation that is happening to address to someone with the same age of the character Kholida in this story. The writer uses this phrase instead of saying directly the name of the another character Erkin in Kholida’s speech.

Instead of words that are considered obscene

Data 2: “*— Sizga aytadigan gapim bitta — baxtli bo’ling. Siz...o’rtog’ingiz*” (O’.Hoshimov “*Hayollarga bo’laman tutqun*” hikoya. 2002.6-b) [14].

Analysis: The word “*o’rtog’ingiz*” in Data 2 is euphemisms because it is felt to be subtler in expressing the word *husband* directly which sounds more impolite in oral speech.

Data 3: “*—Siz meni... o’shanaqa... yomon xotinlardan deb o’ylayapsizmi? Shunaqami?*” (O’.Hoshimov “*Hayollarga bo’laman tutqun*” hikoya. 2002.7-b) [15].

Analysis: The word “*o’shanaqa*” and the phrase “*yomon xotin*” in Data 3 are also considered euphemism. Because the two items denote the meaning of *prostitute*. The prostitute means a woman, who earns money by having sex with people.

Data 4: “*Uning xotini yonidan o’tib ketsa ham boshqorong’i bo’laveradi*”. (O’.Hoshimov “*Urushning so’nggi qurboni*” 2002. 9-b) [16].

Analysis: The phrase “*boshqorong’i bo’laveradi*” in Data 4 is euphemism because it refers to the meaning of being *pregnant*.

Data 5: “ *Xudo bergandan keyin tashlab bo'larmishmi deb ketma-ket 3 ta qiz tug'ib berdi*” (O'.Hoshimov “*Urushning so'nggi qurboni*” 2002. 9-b) [17].

Analysis: The phrase “*tashlab bo'larmishmi*” ,which is used instead of the word *abortion*, is euphemism in Data 5. This euphemism gives more sensitive feeling using alternatively of the harsh word *abortion* in this sentence.

Data 6: “ *Xadicha og'iroyoq emasmi, o'zi bilan o'zi ovvora bo'lib bilolmay qolibdi*” (O'.Hoshimov “*Urushning so'nggi qurboni*” 2002. 11-b) [18].

Analysis: The word “*og'iroyoq*” in Data 6 is euphemism as it means being *pregnant*. Using the word *pregnant* in speech sounds a bit impolite therefore, the author chooses this euphemism.

Instead of a frightening word

Data 7: “ *Iskandarning aqalli bittagina bolasini bag'riga bossa, oyoq-qo'lini bemalol uzatib ketaverardi*”. (O'.Hoshimov “*O'zbeklar*” 2002. 15-b)[19].

Analysis: The sentence “*Oyoq-qo'lini bemalol uzatib ketaverardi*” which is given in Data 7 is a euphemism sentence which is utilized instead of using directly the concept *death*.

Data 8 : “—*Vaqt qazoim yetsa, bolam bechora yugurgilab qolmasin, deymanda*” (O'.Hoshimov “*O'zbeklar*” 2002. 15-b) [20].

Analysis: The phrase “*Vaqt qazoim yetsa*” in Data 8 conveys the meaning of *becoming dead* or *the time death* that is somehow prohibited to say commonly because it gives sadness to the listener. Therefore, this euphemism phrase is used here by the writer.

Masking the stated concept

Data 9: “ *Haligi qurg'urdan jinday-jinday qilib o'tirsak, davramizga oq yaktak. Oq do'ppi kiygan ketmonsoqol yigit kelib qo'shildi*” (O'.Hoshimov “*O'zbeklar*” 2002. 24-b) [21].

Analysis: The sentence “*Haligi qurg'urdan jinday-jinday qilib o'tirsak*” in Data 9 is euphemism as it is used while masking the concept of *drinking alcohol*. Due to the fact that, this euphemistic sentence gives more the veiling function in everyday usage, the author choses it skillfully.

CONCLUSION

Euphemism is an integral part of social interaction. Humans as social beings must have social interactions to maintain life. One important means of sustaining life is the use of language, which must be polite, kind, and to the point and, more importantly, not offending others. Thus, euphemism is a must to be implemented by language users.

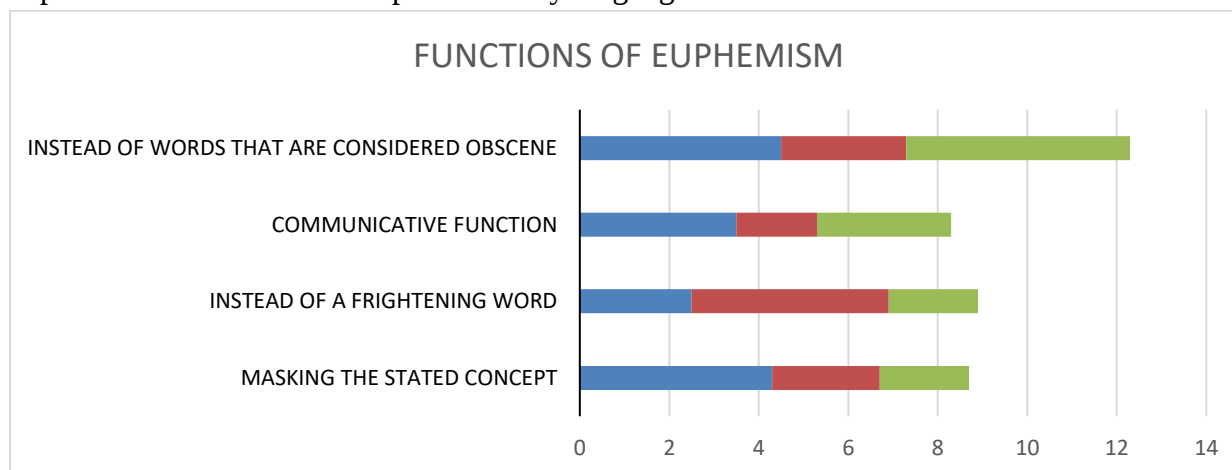


Figure 1. Functions of euphemism in O'. Hoshimov's short stories

The focus of this research is to identify and analyze the functions of euphemism in the short stories of O'.Hoshimov, based on the concept of euphemism initiated by N.Ismatullayev. There are six main functions of euphemism in oral and written speeches: communicative function, naming of the intimidating object, instead of an unpleasant and annoying word, instead of words that are considered obscene, instead of a frightening word, and masking the stated concept. Out of the 9 euphemism data taken from the short stories, 5 data are found as instead of words that are considered obscene ; 2 of them are instead of a frightening word; 1 of them is communicative function and 1 datum belongs to masking the stated concept. While no data is found for naming of the intimidating object functions. From the explanation, it is clearly seen that there is a relation between euphemism, politeness strategies and face. Politeness is defined by the euphemistic strategies employed and face can be measured according to the degree of euphemism present in social interaction. Euphemism serves the language as a much softer form than a real expression and this phenomenon serves to enrich the possibilities of the language.

REFERENCES:

1. Caplan, J. E., Adams, K., & Boyd, R. L. (2020). Personality in language. In *The Wiley Encyclopedia of personality and individual differences: Models and Theories*. (pp.311-316).
2. Sulastriana, E. (2018), Strategy of language politeness in effort to build character. *KnE Social Sciences*, 3(9). DOI 10.18502/kss.v3i9.2715.
3. Sibull, V., Malyuga, E., Bazhura, I. (2019). Linguistic and cultural analysis of politeness forms fixed in language consciousness and their role in corporate communication. *Modern Journal of Language Teaching Methods (MJLTM)*, 9(11). www.mjltm.org.
4. Mohammed, F. O., and Majeed, S. H. (2018). A content analysis of euphemistic strategies in the Evro daily newspaper. *Humanities Journal of University of Zakho (HJUOZ)*, 6(2).
5. Al-Khasawneh, F. (2018). An intercultural study of euphemistic strategies used in Saudi Arabic and American English 2018. *Jurnal UPI*. doi:10.17509/ijal.v8i1.11466
6. Serli, Y., Hamzah., Wahyuni, D. (2018). An analysis of euphemism in crimes and politics news of Posmetro Padang. *English Language and Literature Online Journal*, 7(4). <http://ejournal.unp.ac.id/index.php/ell/article/view/101388>
7. Karasik V. I. Iazyk sotsial'nogo statusa / V. I. Karasik. M.: In-t iaz-ia AN SSSR, Volgogradskii pedagogicheskii in-t, 1991. – 495 p.
8. Bazylev V.N. Iazykovye imperativy «Politicheskoi korrektnosti» / V.N. Bazylev // Politicheskaja lingvistika. Vypusk (3) 23 / Ural. gos. ped. un-t; Glavnyi red. Chudinov A. P. – Ekaterinburg, 2007. – Pp. 8-10
9. Ter-Minasova S. G. Iazyk i mezhkul'turnaia kommunikatsiia / S. G. Ter Minasova. – M.: Slovo/Slovo, 2000. – 315 p.
10. Mukhamed'ianova G. N. Evfemiia v obshchestvenno-politicheskoi leksike: Na
- 11materiale sovremennogo nemetskogo, russkogo i bashkirskogo iazykov: diss. ... kand. filol. nauk / G. N. Mukhamed'ianova. – Ufa, 2005. – 194 p
11. Allan K. and Burridge K. Euphemism and Dysphemism: Language Used as Shield and Weapon. -New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.
12. A Comparative Study of Euphemism in English and Buginese: Pragmatic Stylistics Contexts. *ELS Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies on Humanities* Volume 1 Issue 4, 2018

13. O'.Hoshimov "Hayollarga bo'laman tutqun" hikoya.-T., 2002.
14. O'.Hoshimov "Hayollarga bo'laman tutqun" hikoya.-T., 2002.
15. O'.Hoshimov "Hayollarga bo'laman tutqun" hikoya.-T., 2002.
16. O'.Hoshimov "Urushning so'nggi qurboni" hikoya.-T., 2002.
17. O'.Hoshimov "Urushning so'nggi qurboni" hikoya.-T., 2002.
18. O'.Hoshimov "Urushning so'nggi qurboni" hikoya.-T., 2002.
19. O'.Hoshimov "Urushning so'nggi qurboni" hikoya.-T., 2002.
20. O'.Hoshimov "O'zbeklar " hikoya.-T., 2002.
21. O'.Hoshimov "O'zbeklar " hikoya.-T., 2002.
22. O'.Hoshimov "O'zbeklar " hikoya.-T., 2002.