

Determinants of Pragmatic Barriers

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ABSTRACT

Currently, linguists are paying significant attention to the pragmatic study of language. One of the important issues in pragmatic linguistics is the problem of the pragmatic barrier. This article examines the causes of communicative failure and the factors leading to the pragmatic barrier. It primarily reviews and analyzes the views expressed by Russian and Uzbek linguists on the pragmatic barrier. Commentary is provided on all the given classifications. This, in turn, helps to further elucidate the nature of the pragmatic barrier. Scientific perspectives on the study of the pragmatic barrier are explored. The pragmatic barrier and its causes of emergence are analyzed in the context of the Uzbek language and literature. The article employs methods of description and comparison.

Keywords: Pragmalinguistics, pragmatic barrier, communicative failure, communication, linguistic factors.

INTRODUCTION

Uzbek linguistics possesses a number of scientific sources related to the study of the pragmatic barrier. Analyzing them allows us to answer the question of what a pragmatic barrier is. Speech (text) used by the speaker in a non-normative situation; the emergence of age, gender, knowledge, experience, specialization, language differences, as well as national characteristics in the discursive activity of communication participants; the listener's lack of sufficient information about the propositional meaning

intended by the speaker through the speech act in the context or speech situation, or about the means of non-verbal communication; inconvenient speech situations and conditions – all these are pragmatic barriers that cause communicative failure. The pragmatic barrier is a problem that has been widely analyzed by linguists worldwide.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The article utilizes the methods of description, classification, and analysis, which are active in linguistics. Views from Uzbek and Russian linguistics are compared. Scientific literature relevant to the field and samples from Uzbek fiction serve as source materials.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Within the scope of the pragmatic barrier, the data from A. M. Peshkovskiy in Russian linguistics is noteworthy. He emphasized that communicative failures are very widespread in the communication process, stating that "a text that is difficult to understand is an inevitable companion of literary-cultural speech."¹ By the end of the 20th century, interest in the problem of pragmatic failures intensified. B.Y. Gorodetskiy, I.M. Kobozeva, and I.G. Saburova, within the framework of a model of speech interaction developed by Gorodetskiy, proposed the following definition of pragmatic failure: A communicative barrier is such a disruption of communication in which certain elements do not perform their function precisely, and the communicant cannot achieve their goal. In other words, specific elements are not implemented as instructions for changing the environment [2]. The authors see the main reason for communicative failure as the speaker's inability to achieve the communicative and practical goals they have set.

Another highly important and widely recognized study in science on the problem of barriers in language and speech is the scientific article by O. P. Ermakova and E. A. Zemskaya [3]. By communicative barrier, the authors mean "the complete or

incorrect understanding of an utterance, or the incomplete realization of the speaker's communicative intention." This means that the speaker's communicative goal and thoughts are misinterpreted by the listener. The authors discuss the non-emergence of the communicative goal and the failure to realize the goal as reasons for communicative failure, emphasizing not the strategy in general, but the failure to implement communication tactics [3]. The researchers identify three types of communicative barriers based on their causes: communicative barriers arising from language structure; communicative failures arising from differences between speakers; and communicative failures arising from pragmatic factors. Based on the above classification, it should be noted that pragmatic barriers and communication failures can arise due to both extralinguistic and linguistic reasons. For example, they can also arise due to differences in worldviews formed by different cultures, the social "inequality" of communicators, and other factors.

Modern linguists' works contain various changes and explanations regarding the definition of the pragmatic barrier. L.Y. Ivanov defines the pragmatic barrier as "a situation when a communicative act cannot achieve its communicative goal because some communicative situation occurs incorrectly in the verbal communication process" [4]. For instance, even if the speaker's speech is not inherently false, it may express an uninformative, incomprehensible meaning as a result of being misinterpreted or misunderstood by the listener. The reason for this may lie in certain language units. For example, polysemy of words, homonymy, and metaphorical properties can serve as examples.

It is appropriate to analyze the problem of the pragmatic barrier from various angles. Certainly, we must also consider its objective nature, i.e., the pragmatic barrier directly results from the structural features of language; it is a consequence of the objective property of the asymmetry of form and meaning in the language sign, and its infinite semantic valence. Sometimes the pragmatic barrier is also linked to the communicative "behavior" of the communicants in the communication process. The addressee is an active and creative subject, and their activity, on

the one hand, from the speaker/writer's perspective – is the process of verbal representation of the speaker's intention; from the listener/reader's perspective – is the process of semantization, whose mechanism is not in interpreting the text. It is reflected according to their own conditions, reflecting both their knowledge about language and their assumptions, ideas about what is and what should be, their cultural traditions, and life experience.

Modern linguistic literature uses various terms to denote the phenomenon of the pragmatic barrier: deviation from the norm, deviation, anomaly, verbal conflict, speech conflict, mismatch of considerations, communicative barrier, communicative failure, etc. In European linguistics, this phenomenon is referred to by terms such as miscommunication, pragmatic failure, verbal conflict, and pragmatic barriers. Since various factors play a role in the emergence of the pragmatic barrier, linguists have proposed several typologies for it. Below we will consider some of them.

The British philosopher-linguist J. Austin, in his research, studies speech acts as the main unit of communication. Differentiating between locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts, he also analyzes the pragmatic barrier from the perspective of speech acts [5]. He indicates that the main reason for the emergence of communicative failure is the communicants' failure to observe the principles of speech activity. The factors leading to the pragmatic barrier include:

- Differences in the worldviews of communication participants formed by different national cultures.
- Inconsistency in evaluating reality phenomena.
- Incorrect understanding of the speech purpose.
- Vagueness and deficiencies in expressing thoughts.

Russian researchers G. M. Shipitsyna and Yu. A. Vorontsova, [6] through a linguistic experiment (questionnaire survey), identified the following types based on the reasons for the emergence of the pragmatic barrier:

1. Communicative failures related to the specific manifestations of cognitive-verbal mechanisms in text construction.
2. Barriers arising from differences in the communicants' background knowledge.
3. Barriers arising from the listener's perception.
4. Communicative failures due to the pragmatic incorrectness of the statement.
5. Pragmatic barriers arising from the inclusion of argot, jargon, and vulgarisms in the text.

Based on the experiment above, we can also see the specificity of this typology for the Uzbek language. In our view, the pragmatic barrier encountered in the Uzbek language is most noticeable in literary works, primarily in the form of dialogues. Because, as noted, for a pragmatic barrier to occur, we first need communicants, i.e., an addresser and an addressee. As emphasized, peculiarities, disruptions, and pronunciation errors in speech hinder the listener from accurately perceiving the content of the speech. In Abdulla Qahhor's story "The Patient," the girl's speech, rendered in a manner characteristic of her age, caused a pragmatic barrier:

"Xudoyoayamdidaydigadavobeygin..." (Oh God, please give cure to my mother's illness...)

In the story, the girl is depicted as being 4-5 years old. The excerpt from her speech clearly shows features characteristic of her age. At a young age, children often struggle to pronounce certain sounds. Examples include sounds like r, q, and other consonants. The words *daydiga* (for her illness, from *dardiga*) and *beygin* (give, from *bering*) are rendered as a result of this phenomenon. This, in turn, served to enhance the expressiveness and authenticity of the child's speech. The word *ayamdi* (mother's) is also a word typical of dialect, serving to intensify the meaning, increase naturalness, and reveal connotation.

Researchers E. N. Shiryaev and A.P. Skovorodnikov, [7] based on identifying typical violations of literary language norms in mass media texts through three aspects of speech culture –

normative, communicative, and ethical, each with its own norms – have examined this. A. P. Skovorodnikov proposed clarifying their concepts by introducing the terms structural norm of language, speech-ethical norm, and communicative-pragmatic norm.

Violations of the structural norm of language - pronunciation errors, errors in lexical valence, substitution of paronyms, violations in phraseological units, unjustified use of colloquial words (for mass media), as well as errors in word order, in complex sentences, and in the logical order of the sentence.

Violations of the speech-ethical norm – use of abusive language, excessive intimacy of speech, disrespect, creating a mocking tone, using the informal "you", instead of the formal. aesthetic descriptiveness, expressiveness, aesthetically significant associativity.

Violations of the communicative-pragmatic norm – conditions that complicate the reader's or listener's perception of speech.

CONCLUSIONS

We consider the cause of communicative failure to be the allowance of various errors by the communicants in the communication process. Communicative errors in the text are usually interpreted as a deviation from the speech norm. However, errors found in texts vary in nature, origin, and causes, and evaluating and analyzing them sometimes presents very great difficulties. Communicative errors found in texts have become the subject of special research both from the perspective of psychology and from the viewpoint of linguistics.

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