

## ARTICLE

# THE STUDY OF SPEECH ACTS OF DISAGREEMENT ON THE BASIS OF A LINGUISTIC EXPERIMENT (BASED ON THE CHINESE AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES)

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## ABSTRACT

In this article, communicative acts of disagreement are contemplated in terms of pragmatics and semantics on the basis of linguistic experiment. The linguistic experiment was conducted in the form of a questionnaire. Based on the simulated situation, we assumed that the type of disagreement in many cases depends on many pragmatic factors that can influence and impose a certain imprint on the choice of means of expressing disagreement between the interlocutors in the communication process. In this part of the work, we have identified non-verbal means of expressing disagreement among several groups, as well as the behavior of the Chinese in this situation. It was concluded that in most cases the type of objection depends upon numerous pragmatic factors that might influence the interlocutors' choice of means to express disagreement. Based on the linguistic experiment, we can conclude that the Chinese understanding of English speech culture and vice versa can be achieved more easily than Russian Chinese or English, because the native speakers of Russian, thanks again to the national characteristics of nature are dominated by direct speech acts of disagreement over indirect.

## INTRODUCTION

### The relevance of the study

This tendency of rapid development of communicative linguistics may be preconditioned by the fact that the study of the Chinese language as a multilevel sign system has reached its peak. The entry of China into the European financial market will mean the need to understand the linguistic and cultural characteristics of this country. For this reason, problems under investigation, specifically, communicative acts of disagreement in the spheres of pragmatics and semantics remain relevant. The aim of this scientific work is to define and arrange the main characteristics of communicative acts of objection in the Chinese speech, to consider their semantics in a communicative situation and pragmatic forms in use. The aim of the work determined the following objectives: selection and arrangement of utterances of communicative acts of disagreement on the basis of linguistic experiment; definition of distinctive features of disagreement in terms of pragmatics.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Methods of study

Data has been collected by using the following groups of research methods: component analysis, discourse analysis, content analysis, method of linguistic experiment, comparison, observation.

### Materials of study

Theoretical and methodological background of this research is based on the works of Russian scientists in the field of the theory of linguistic signs, the theory and practice of translation of communicative linguistics, cognitive linguistics, theory of speech acts and discourse analysis [1-14].

In order to more thoroughly study the question of verbal remarks of disagreement, it was decided to conduct a linguistic experiment. It was conducted in the form of a questionnaire. For the purity of the experiment, the survey was conducted via the Internet, because this form of interview is the most effective, since participants can not indicate their data and, thanks to their anonymity, answer more truthfully, which reduces the error of the questionnaire to a minimum.

Just so that the data collected for study were not targeted at a particular group of people, the survey involved participants who differed in age, social status and country of residence. For the quantitative method of research, fifty people were selected, whose ages varied from 18 to 50 years old, some of whom live in Russia and part in China. The number of respondents residing on the territory of Russia and China was the same. The sample of respondents who took part in this survey was conducted randomly by the interviewer. Of course, the results of this experiment cannot be considered accurately and absolutely correct, but the information collected as a result of the survey is quite enough to be used as an investigation

### KEY WORDS

pragmatics, semantics,  
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of the issue that interests us. We can also compare which expressions are used by the interlocutors in the artwork, and which ones in the course of live communication. Similarly, the survey would give us an opportunity to test in practice the theory of the speech etiquette of the two nations and, based on real events, collect the data necessary to study the topic.

### Hypothesis of research

In our research work we put forward the hypothesis about the influence of Chinese speech etiquette on the implementation of the initial objection remarks. We hypothesized that due to its national character the Chinese are polite and considerate people. The Chinese mostly observe the rules of polite communication with people, regardless of their rank and social status. Therefore, the speech act of disagreement in the Chinese language is mainly expressed through neutral words or expressions, which in no way detract from the dignity of the interlocutor, but rather can extol certain sides of the opponent in this or that situation. Thus the Chinese in the course of live communication try more often to use indirect initial remarks of disagreement, instead of direct ones. However, after analyzing the examples from the novel, we were faced with quite the opposite result. This means that depending on the situation context or purpose of the author in the initial remarks of disagreement both direct and indirect acts of speech can be used.

### The experimental base of the study

For the respondents, a certain situation was simulated, which can take place in the life of any person. The interviewee was given the opportunity to present his line of conduct in the proposed situation and formulate the answer in free form. So, the situation in which our questionnaires turned out to be: your friend asks you to lend him your car. Your task is to respond to this request with a refusal. What will you tell him?

Asking Russian-speaking citizens, we singled out several groups of answers:

- Direct (without explanation). Such answers were "no", "I do not want", "I cannot", etc. It should be noted that such statements were very few, it shows that in Russian speech etiquette is not accepted to sharply and directly respond to disagreement in that or other situation.
- Apologies with an explanation of the reason. This group of answers includes the following phrases: "You excuse me, of course, but the car is sacred. I do not trust anyone at all. So, no. ", "I'm sorry, but no ... I need it myself", "I'm sorry, but I need it every day. I can take it myself if I need to or I'll be free. "The number of such remarks turned out to be the majority. The experiment participants tried in every possible way to apologize in the first place, only then to explain the reason why they cannot lend the car. These data confirm that the Russian national character includes compassion, sensitivity and breadth of mind. The interlocutors would like to help in this case, but because of a number of reasons they cannot.
- The reasons for disagreement. These include the answers "I really need it", "it is under repair", "the car is at my parents". This group is small, there are no apologies in the remarks. Participants of the experiment commented on their answers by saying that they do not know personally whoever wanted to borrow their car from them, so they did not find it necessary to apologize.
- Use of sayings and phraseological units. The smallest category of answers, to which the expressions "excuse me, I cannot lend the car." As they say, I will not lend anyone the car and the wife", " do not trust a sword, a horse, or a wife", " you will not go far on another's fat." Undoubtedly, the use of proverbs and sayings is inherent in the Russian language, and for many foreigners it is a great difficulty to get used to the rich content of phraseological units in Russian. But it must be noted that the Russian language is unique and, even if we do not agree with the opponent, we can use such statements in our speech.

Considering these responses to the subject of belonging to indirect or direct initial remarks of disagreement, it was determined that Russian-speaking citizens are characterized by both groups of data of speech acts. The Russian language is characterized by diverse forms of communication, but nevertheless, according to the analysis of the answers, we came to the conclusion that Russians are more likely to use indirect speech acts than direct ones. This fact suggests that the Russian language has undergone many historical catastrophes, which affected Russian speech ethics, thus, in the speech of Russians, one can hear both direct speech acts of disagreement and indirect ones.

As for the residents of China and their participation in this experiment, we were able to allocate a smaller number of response categories. Let's consider them below:

- Apologies with explanation of the reason. This group was the most numerous, since most of the Chinese remarks began with the phrases "不好意思啊,这几天我要用车" (sorry, but I need a car these days), "对不起,恐怕不行,我的车没有上租赁保险,其他人开不了"(sorry, I'm afraid not, because the insurance of my car is limited, and other people do not have the right to drive it), "很抱歉,我的车借给别人了"(I'm sorry, but I lent the car to another). We have already considered Chinese speech etiquette earlier, and the numerous answers of this category only prove the fact that the Chinese people respect their interlocutor and their desire for good manners are obliged to their Chinese speech tradition.

- 2. The reason for disagreement. This group of phrases includes answers related to why the interlocutor cannot lend the car "车不在我手上" (the car is not mine), "我爸妈要开回老家" (my parents need the car to go home). Thus, we were convinced that the Chinese are not inclined to rectilinear refusals, so there were not many such answers.
- 3. Direct remarks of disagreement. This category includes answers that openly explain the speaker's intention, they include the expressions: 不行, 不可以, 我应该拒绝. Not surprisingly, this group includes a small number of remarks, the reason, as we already noted earlier, is the Chinese verbal etiquette of the use of direct initial speech acts of disagreement.

Chinese is one of the most ancient languages, but in spite of this fact, the Chinese honor speech traditions to the present day. Analysis of live speech showed that answers belonging to indirect discrepancies of disagreement are many times higher than direct speech acts. This suggests that when studying the Chinese language, it is worth paying attention to its speech etiquette, which will help to avoid embarrassing situations with the interlocutor and lead to a general consensus.

## RESULTS

In linguistics there is a hypothesis of "the theory of linguistic relativity," it says that the language spoken by people determines their thinking, consciousness and perception of the world. And the Chinese mentality is no exception. Inhabitants of the Celestial Empire do not think like other nations. We are more abstract in our thoughts at a time when the Chinese think specifically symbolically, that is, by an algorithm that is expressed in language. The presence of hieroglyphs, which can be imagined as pictures, does not allow them to think more abstractly.

Any communication, regardless of what it is aimed at, expressing disagreement, is accompanied by emotional designs of different shades. Speech acts of disagreement carry in themselves a certain attitude of the speaker to this or that situation, his outlook and mentality. As we have already mentioned, any language corresponds to its specific speech etiquette, and in the example of the Chinese language, it can be said that the inhabitants of the Celestial Empire, because of their national character and the customs of the people, use clearly formulated, monosyllabic answers in their speech.

Summarizing the linguistic experiment and analyzing all the remarks received, we were able to more thoroughly study the speech acts of disagreement used by people of different ages, social status and living on the territory of different countries. We came to the conclusion that regardless of the situation, the inhabitants of the Celestial Empire in most cases will be polite in the process of communication, thinking about the interlocutor and respecting his opinion. Thus, in most cases in Chinese speech acts of disagreement, indirect initial remarks will be sounded. The same situation is with the Russian language.

## DISCUSSION

The purpose of our research was to identify and systematize the main features of acts of disagreement in English and Chinese speech, including the consideration of their semantic meaning in the situation of communication and pragmatic forms in the use of complex linguistic analysis of initial remarks of disagreement.

Our work was based on various teaching aids, scientific articles on linguistics, as well as on works written by Chinese authors. Having examined in detail the basic means and forms of expression of speech acts of disagreement during the conversation and on the example of works of literature we made conclusions about the use of initial remarks in Chinese speech behavior.

## CONCLUSION

Russian-speaking respondents have once again proved that the Russian language is one of the richest and most developed languages in the world. Speech acts of apology, present in the respondents' answers, were varied - from sincere to formal. Some of them cited the reasons for the refusal, clarified and clearly formulated the current arguments, while some, on the contrary, answered rather vaguely, using common phrases and expressions. In some of the answers, the cultural national identity inherent in the Russian people was traced, because some respondents preferred to use sayings and idioms, with which the refusal was explained. Almost all the questionnaires gave quite polite and tactful refusals, putting themselves in the place of the hero of the simulated situation, although some of them can only be called "relatively polite."

The answers of the inhabitants of China were not so diverse. Having its own traditions and customs, which for more than 2000 years were an integral part of the richest culture influencing the manner of communication, very different from the European, the Chinese developed their own style of behavior, which is distinguished by their courtesy and restraint. For some, it was a bit difficult to imagine ourselves in the situation that we proposed, because they value generosity very much, therefore their initial speech acts of disagreement mostly contain apologies with the subsequent explanation of the reasons for disagreement. At that, unlike the Russian-speaking part of the respondents, in the speech acts of apology that they

formulated not only courtesy, but also sincerity was traced. We can consider the conclusions of the experiment in the following [Fig. 1]:

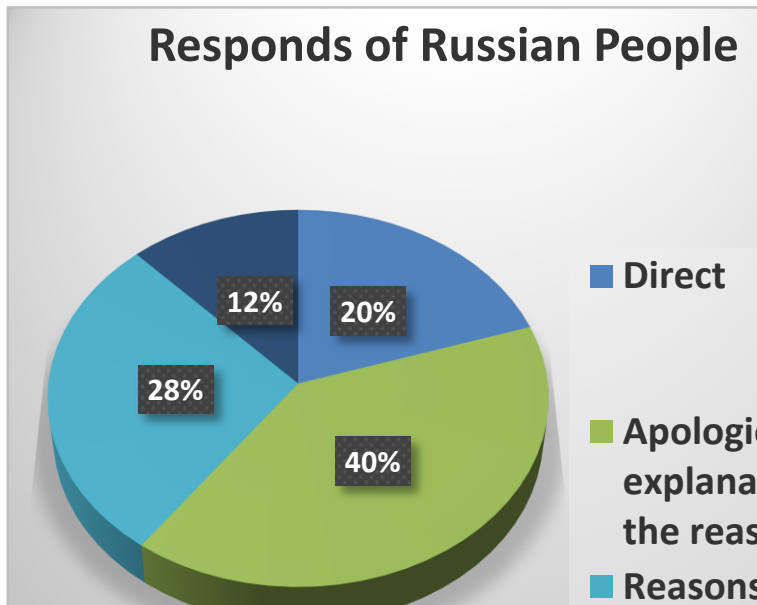


Fig.1: The results of questionnaires of Russian people.

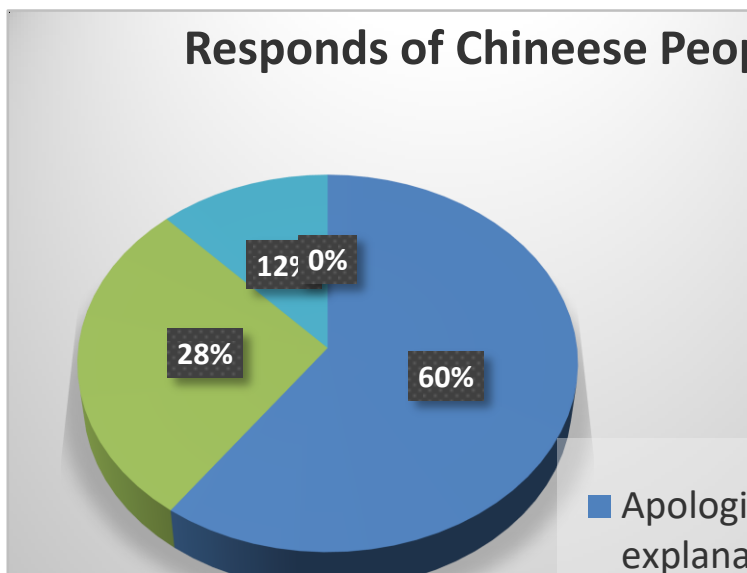


Fig.2: The results of questionnaires of Chinese people.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Research materials and results may be used by the teachers of foreign languages to develop and improve the speaking skills with understanding of the main content of the dialogues at the lessons.

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

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### FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None

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