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Examining the Features of Using English Language to Express Emotions in a Speech Text

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Abstract

This article investigates the characteristics of the use of the English language in expressing emotions in a text of British Prime Ministers D. Cameron, T. May, B. Johnson, and M. Truss's first speeches. The study is important because emotiveness in political discourse is important because it allows politicians to elicit the desired emotional response from the audience and, to some extent, manipulate their consciousness. The paper investigates the most common approaches to developing emotional impact on the audience. The study also seeks to distinguish between concepts such as emotiveness and emotionality using numerous examples of various linguistic components used to verbalize emotiveness in political discourse.

Keywords: English Language; English Text; Emotional Response.

1. Introduction

Modern linguistics is a multifaceted study of many linguistic phenomena that is primarily applied and considers lexical and grammatical categories in the context of complex functional-semantic text analysis. As a result, linguistic questions are frequently studied within the context of a specific discourse - political, economic, moral, religious, and so on (Khusainova, 2014). We examine the political discourse of British Prime Ministers D. Cameron, T. May, B. Johnson, and L. Truss through the lens of emotiveness of speech, which researchers define as "the ability of the English language to express a person's psychological (emotional) states and experiences." Emotions are an essential part of human existence and a natural feature of man as a higher being. This is because emotions are directly related to central nervous system activity and rely on consciousness for their entire essence.

Thus, the English language, working in tandem with human consciousness and reflecting the product of thought, describes not only cognitive processes but also sensations, creates a holistic view of the world and contributes to the formation of emotions. This fact calls into question the long-held belief that emotions are purely philosophical, psychological, or even physiological phenomena. However, there are numerous approaches and theories in modern science to the study of emotions in English. At the same time, each of the sciences provides its own English definition of emotions. Emotions, for example, are defined in biology as human and animal responses to internal and external stimuli that are highly subjective in color and encompass a wide range of sensitivities and experiences. Emotions, from a psychological standpoint, are man's direct reactions to the world, resulting in certain mental states (Shakhovskii, 2009). Emotions, according to philosophy, are a type of reflection of reality (Repina, 2022).

2. Literature Review

Emotions are expressed verbally in a personal way; as modern research has shown, emotions do not manifest in isolation and can only be considered in interaction with the situation and subject. As a result, the English language used for their expression is not chosen at random but rather based on the goals and objectives of the speech act, the situational manifestation of the subject's mood, and a variety of other factors that influence the development of live speech. Dodonov

claims that in a conversation, people use the same words to describe different experiences and life situations. As a result, the true nature of emotion is determined by the context. The same emotion can be expressed using different words. This leads to the conclusion that emotions and the English language are inextricably linked, and they must be considered in light of this relationship, as the English language is both the object and the means of experiencing emotions. However, the close relationship between English language and emotion does not imply that they are identical (Dodonov, 1978).

Many linguistic works consider the emotiveness of linguistic units from the perspective of the psychological theory of emotions. Research in the field of psychology, which is often carried out on linguistic material, indicates the relationship between linguistics and psychology, which is most visible when studying the psychological aspects of the English language, such as expressiveness, modality, and emotiveness (Mullagaliev, 2020). Simultaneously, this approach reveals a distinct distinction between emotionality and emotiveness. Shakhovskii, one of the proponents of concept differentiation, first proposed to understand by emotiveness the property of linguistic units to express emotions, explaining it by the erroneous application of the term «emotionality» regarding the units of the English language because this term characterizes the property of the human psyche and, in Shakhovskii's opinion, is not applicable to the units of English language. The scientist explains in one of his works that emotive is the same as emotional but about the English language, its units, and its semantics (Shingarov, 1971).

Many foreign and Russian linguists are interested in studying the category of emotiveness in linguistics. Arnold, Shakhovskii, Stepanov, and Babenko, according to Gerasimenko, have raised this issue. In his study, Gerasimenko raises the issue of emotiveness as a distinct linguistic category (Gerasimenko, 2016). Nonetheless, Shakhovskii and his students are prominent researchers in this field. Foreign scholars consider the problem of emotiveness of speech alongside categories such as expressiveness modality, and this is reflected to some extent in the linguistic research of Sapir, Bally, Bréal, and Guillaume. Shakhovskii, Wierzbicka, Zhel'vis., Lukashevich, and others are modern researchers of textual emotional coloring. However, research on this topic is somewhat contentious. It does not constitute a systemic approach to this category but rather indicates a scarcity of empirical material on emotional interpretation (Gerasimenko, 2016).

3. Methodology

Shakhovskii asserts in this work, "English Language and Emotions in the Aspect of Linguocultural Studies," that world science has accumulated a vast English Language knowledge of emotions: emotions are included in the structure of consciousness and thinking; emotions are intricately linked to English knowledge; knowledge change entails a change in emotions. Basic emotions are universal and recognizable in all ethnic cultures, but their expressions vary (Shakhovskii, 2009). Since the turn of the century, there has been a surge in interest in the study of emotions in the English language and speech. As a result, we are now operating a science that combines results and methods from both psychology and linguistics. This combination is known as emology, or "using the English language to express emotions."

Shakhovskii, for instance, concludes in his investigation of emotiveness that concepts such as "emotionality" and "emotiveness" must be distinguished, and he provides a precise description of each category. As per the scientist's assertion, emotionality pertains specifically to the affective aspect of the subject and is utilized to define and characterize their psychological realm. Simultaneously, emotiveness is regarded as "the characteristic of the English language that facilitates the expression of emotions through speech." The primary objective of emotiveness in this particular approach is delineated by the speaker's capacity to evoke an "emotional response from the listener or reader." On the basis of this assertion, it can be hypothesized that the examination of various emotions and sentiments via the English language, which is employed to convey emotions and assess the speaker's emotional state, will enable the identification of distinct categories of psychological and emotional impact (Gerasimenko, 2016).

Despite the considerable number of studies in the field of emotology and the recognition of the emotional factor's importance in English language learning, there are still some contentious issues. One of them is the interpretation and application of related concepts such as "emotionality" and "emotiveness." Traditionally, emotology has studied cognitive psychology and linguistics. Issues are researched using cross-disciplinary knowledge of emotional expression. The linguistic concept of emotions is developed following data processing. As a result, we understand emotology as the science of verbalizing emotions (Sazhina, 2019).

4. Results

There exist scholars and individuals who scrutinize matters of emotiveness through the lens of political texts. Bosova argues in her article "Emotiveness of the Political Text" that their respective orientations distinguish emotionality and emotiveness: the former is more subject-oriented, whereas the latter is object-oriented. Emotional communication is the natural, spontaneous, and unplanned expression of emotion. Emotive communication refers to the deliberate and regulated exhibition of emotion. Emotional communication serves primarily to convey a feeling or attitude toward the partner (Bosova, 2018). Therefore, the second category assumes paramount significance in political discourse due to its capacity to mobilize public opinion and function as a tool for political engagement. As a result, a political text serves as a crucial tool for exerting influence over the recipient. It is a work produced by the author with the intention of convincing the audience of the speaker's statements and viewpoints.

Altunyan argues that it is incumbent upon politicians to persuade the audience that their perspectives and conceptions of society and problems are the only viable means of resolving them (Altunyan, 2010). Persuasion, functioning as a form of speech influence, is initially executed with cognition supported by logical reasoning, substantiating evidence, and rationales. For knowledge to attain the status of a belief, it must align with the individual's interests, satisfy their material and spiritual needs, and occupy their emotional sphere. Manipulating an audience is impossible in the absence of an emotional component. Politicians endeavor to captivate the widest audience possible in order to sway the greatest number of individuals to their side, particularly those who have yet to resolve their stance. In other words, in addition to seeking logical methods to persuade the audience, the authors of political texts must also employ linguistic strategies that motivate the reader to take the required political action (Repina, 2022).

Emotionality is achieved in the rhetoric of politicians through a variety of means; however, we consider linguistic and stylistic elements that are frequently universal to be the most significant. In the inaugural addresses of the following British prime ministers—David Cameron, Theresa May, Boris Johnson, and Mary Elizabeth Truss—consider the application of such linguistic devices. We shall analyze the various facets of the English language—lexical, syntactic, and word-forming—in order to comprehend how and by what means politicians employ emotive communication to attain their objectives. An inaugural address delivered by a politician entails delineating objectives and providing strategies to attain them. Partisans engage in discourse, demonstrate their political objectives, present factual information, and primarily strive to garner support from the public, bolster their public image, broaden their base of supporters, and earn their civic and political allegiance. For this reason, politicians employ strategies that heavily rely on appeals to emotions and sentiments. A prominent characteristic observed in the discourse of British politicians, and politicians at large, is the extensive employment of emotive influence elements, with lexical ones constituting a sizable portion of this influence. The prevailing notions include, but are not limited to, freedom, justice, democracy, order, security, and the future. These are foundational principles that politicians predominantly employ to emphasize the significance, pertinence, and indispensability of their endeavors. In this instance, emotion conveys a positive message by demonstrating that the speakers are committed to resolving critical issues for the benefit of the nation and its citizens (Gorbunov, 1971).

5. Discussion

The adjectives that aim to form a positive message and often resonate with a decent life and progress are the second most common: vital, great, fundamental, positive, true, transparent, equal, and so on. Following that are various stylistic devices aimed at improving the emotional coloring of sentences and forming a favorable attitude toward politicians' work, such as repetition, metaphors, comparisons, epithets, metonymy, and so on. The following excerpt from Theresa May's speech exemplifies this:

"We are living through an important moment in our country's history. Following the referendum, we face a time of great national change. Moreover, I know because we are Great Britain that, we will rise to the challenge. As we leave the European Union, we will forge a bold, new, positive role for ourselves in the world, and we will make Britain a country that works not for a privileged few but for every one of us. That will be the mission of the government I lead, and together, we will build a better Britain" (May 2016). We see multiple elements of creating the necessary political emotiveness in this example, where the politician's main message is her desire to demonstrate that she understands the country is going through challenging times. She can, however, assist Britain in regaining its former glory. To begin, it is important to note that Theresa May immediately establishes the roles: she will lead (...the government I lead,...), and those who follow her will prosper. Second, in political speeches, nouns that already have a positive message are modified by

adjectives that reinforce their meaning (important moment; national change; a bold, new, positive role; privileged few; a better Britain). Third, the politician's speech is full of stylistic devices such as metaphors (to forge a bold role, new, positive role, build a better Britain), personifications (... will make Britain a country that works...; we leave the European Union), epithets (a great national change, a better Britain, a privileged few), and various forms of repetition (we are living - we face - we will rise - we will leave - we will forge - we will make Finally, it should be noted that the passage follows all literary text canons - it contains both an antagonist (life's problems, difficulties) and a protagonist (a leader who knows how to solve these problems). There is a storyline in which good will triumph over evil (the message that the times are quite difficult, but people coming together as one nation can defeat evil or privileged minorities and life difficulties).

6. Conclusion

The techniques outlined in this study imbue a politician's speech with imagery and emotion in an effort to elicit a favorable response from the audience. Emotiveness is a significant element of political discourse; depending on the communicative context, it manifests at various levels of the English language (lexical, stylistic, and semantic). The significance of emotion in political discourse lies in the fact that it enables a politician to elicit the required emotional response from the audience and, to some degree, influence consciousness. In summary, it is noteworthy to mention that the textual material comprising the initial addresses of British Prime Ministers is quite intriguing when examining the expressiveness and sentimentality of speech, given that the primary message of politicians is predominantly sentimental rather than informative. It is not the case that politicians use speech as a means of one-on-one communication with the public; rather, they employ it as a method to establish and maintain their political image and exert the necessary influence over the electorate through emotional and psychological means. This occurs as a result of the necessary aura being generated, which enhances the effectiveness of political statements and causes them to penetrate more deeply into the audience's consciousness.
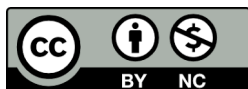
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