

## THE DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF PRAGMATICS AND SOMATIC UNITS

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### Abstract

This article depicts the historical development and theoretical roots of pragmatics and somatic units within the framework of language and cognitive science and illustrates the disparity of pragmatics and somatic units, which may seem entirely different in the approaches they take but are both equally important in meaning formation; one takes on language and the other relies on experience. The multidisciplinary exploration gives the readers an insight from both historical and theoretical perspectives how language, body, and thought are intertwined in.

**Keywords:** Pragmatics, somatic unit, expressions, sociolinguistics, pragmalinguistics, speech acts, deixis, conversational implicature, phraseological units, verbal and non-verbal sign systems.

### Introduction

Language is the main tool for implementing human thinking and communication processes, in which traces of social, cultural and psychological processes are clearly visible. Each language creates different layers of meaning through its own unique expressions, word combinations and semantic system. At the same time, language is a very important tool for expressing human thinking, feelings and experiences. Pragmatic linguistics is aimed at studying the functional and contextual meaning of language units, which allows us to analyze language not only as a linguistic system, but also as a means of social communication. Expressions in Uzbek and English are formed on the basis of various cultural and social conventions, and analyzing their semantic and pragmatic properties sheds light not only on language differences, but also on the specific features of national mentality, traditions and worldview. Each people form expressions according to its own culture and values, which increases their depth of meaning. In particular, it is important to understand how expressions change depending on the context, take on different meanings, and identify the pragmatic meanings conveyed by them.

A person is conscious of a surrounding reality through perceiving it by senses. Different sense organs of human body carry out definite sensing functions. So different people's activities are fulfilled by means of their physical organs that are by their parts of body. On the other hand,



human body is an accessible object of man's observation since his first paces. This unique fact promotes us to consider it through phraseological units containing names of parts of body.

Somatism - is a component (Greek word «body») of phraseological unit denoting a part of the human body.

Despite the fact that somatism (somatic units) is a topical topic in the linguistic landscape of the world, the studies conducted are few and have hardly been studied through the method of comparative research. The concept of somatism has entered the prism of linguistics in recent times, and in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, linguists have been paying special attention to somatic vocabulary, trying to find the necessary solutions to the problems of intercultural communication and increase the effectiveness of studying the lexical composition of the language.

### **Literature Review**

The first idea of pragmatics was put forward by the American scientist Charles Peirce. In his scientific research, Peirce explained the connection between language and communication, paying special attention to meaning and its importance in communication. These theories of his served as the basis for the science of semiotics. Later, another American scientist, Charles Morris, further developed these ideas of Peirce in 1937, when he collected five of his papers written after 1934 and published them under the title Logical Positivism, Pragmatism and Scientific Empiricism. In his Foundations of the Theory of Signs published in 1938, Morris divided semiotics into three branches: syntactics, semantics and pragmatics and introduced the term pragmatics into science as one of the important sections of semiotics, proposing to analyze the use of language units and the effectiveness of communication achieved through them.

The study of language is linguistics, and pragmatics is a subset of linguistics. A procedure in which the speaker makes a suggestion and the listener infers is known as conversational implicature. Pragmatics is a branch of philosophy that focuses on this process. Simply said, pragmatics is the study of non-verbal communication. Instead, the speaker alludes to or hints at a meaning, and the listener deduces the correct idea.

Pragmatics can be regarded of as a collective agreement among people to obey certain principles of interaction. In everyday conversation, the meanings of words and phrases are typically implied rather than explicitly stated. In some situations, words can have a special meaning. Although you may believe that all words have the same meaning, this is not always the case. The study of how words are used is known as pragmatics.

Pragmatics is widely studied today as a separate section of linguistics. This branch is engaged in the study of the selection of language units in the process of communication, their correct use and the impact of these applications on the participants in the communication. The scope of research of pragmatics is not limited to the study of language units, but also covers their sociolinguistic, psycholinguistic, and cultural aspects. These issues are extensively analyzed in Sh. Safarov's monograph "Pragmalinguistics". This work, which explains in detail the theoretical foundations of pragmatics, is aimed at highlighting the functional role of language units in the process of communication. In this study, special attention is paid to the selection of linguistic units in various situations of communication, the influence of contextual factors and the results of their use.



Pragmatics has become a branch of linguistics that studies human social activity and speech processes. It analyzes the interactions of individuals participating in communication, situations, and the contextual use of language units. Pragmatics does not have a specific form or appearance, since its main focus is on specific issues in the speech process. In other words, it shows that the interactions between language users are closely related to social relations and contextual factors. Pragmatic issues are usually manifested in the communication between the speaker and the listener and include the following aspects: first of all, what words and phrases are chosen to convey information or ideas. Examples of this include various speech tactics such as requests, orders, requests, advice, promises, apologies, greetings, complaints. Also, communication etiquette, conversation, and rules of communication are an important part of pragmatics. Pragmatics pays attention not only to how the speaker uses language, but also to social and personal approaches to the listener.

In the field of pragmatics, one of the most well-known theories is one on conversational implicature developed by H.P. Grice in 1975. Grice's theory claims speakers mostly use indirect ways of expressing meaning and the listener is competent enough to understand the meaning using general principles of cooperation. For example, a speaker asking, "Can you pass the salt?" is not really saying a question with respect to the ability of the listener, but rather requesting for the salt and the listener recognizes this because of the context.

Another important feature of pragmatics is its focus on speech acts developed by John Searle in 1969. This theory addresses the use of language as a medium to carry out actions which can be in the form of promises, commands, questions, etc. These actions include: illocutionary acts (the speaking of an expression and as a result, the expression is that of a constitutive act, command in this example) and perlocutionary acts (what is done by uttering these acts).

Lastly, deixis, which is the study of words and phrases which depend on the context in which they are used, quite literally is a part of pragmatics. Demonstratives such as 'here', 'there', 'I', and 'you' are deictic words because they depend on the person speaking and where that person is situated at a particular time.

### **Key Features of Pragmatics:**

**Context-Dependent Meaning:** Most of meaning can also be derived from the context in which the communication takes place.

**Speech Acts:** Communication is looked at as performing an action rather than just a vehicle to offer information.

**Conversational Implicature:** The indirect meaning is given through the cooperative principles.

**Deixis:** Meaning is relative to the situation such as who is saying it and where they are speaking from.

S. Levinson describes: "Pragmatics is a field that looks at the linguistic structure and studies the grammatical (coded) interactions between language and context, pragmatics is the study of all hidden aspects of meaning that semantic theory does not cover, analyzes the ability to select sentences appropriately to form a context"

The subject of pragmatics at the level of phraseology are primarily such components of the semantics of phraseological units as evaluative and emotive. However, the pragmatics of



phraseological units can be understood more broadly as the summing of “connotations (social, cultural, ethical, historical, emotive, expressive, evaluative, and associative).

In general, pragmatics is determined by the need to choose linguistic means (in our case, phraseological units) speaking to express a wide variety of intentions. Thus, pragmatics can be characterized in the most general form as the attitude of speakers to the signs of the language” Sh. Safarov clearly showed the role of pragmatics in linguistics and described the field of pragmatics as follows: “Pragmatism is a separate branch of linguistics, the study of the selection of linguistic units, their use and the impact of these units on the participants of communication. The main idea of linguistic analysis is also to determine the nature of language in relation to its application in practical activities, or in other words, in the context of the function it performs. The concept of task (function) is the basis of a pragmalinguistic approach to language analysis.” F.O. Wakk, who first used this concept, put forward the conclusion that somatisms belong to one of the oldest layers of phraseology and constitute the most frequently used part of the vocabulary of any language. According to the Russian linguist Reichstein, somatisms are nouns that have the original meaning of parts of the human or animal body.

There are several lexical-semantic groups related to the semantic properties of somatic stable expressions. These groups allow us to distinguish between common features common to the entire linguistic community, as well as specific features of somatic stable expressions in different languages. "Somatism" is a linguistic concept that unites the internal and external organs of a person under a common name, and a characteristic feature of this group of lexical units is their belonging to the noun category.

E.M. Vereshchagin and V.G. Kostomarov consider somatic language to consist of the following five phenomena. 1. gestures - the expression of the main movements of the body, consciously performed in front of the observer; 2. facial expressions - the expression of meaningful facial movements; 3. Poses - the phenomenon of meaningful positions of the human body, maintained for a certain period of time - short or long; 5. the phenomenon of various signs of mental state and actions. The four phenomena mentioned - gestures, facial expressions, positions, facial expressions - are united by such an important feature as intentionality, arbitrariness. At the same time, the human face and body involuntarily express the emotions inherent in a person. From the statements of scientists, it is inevitable to conclude that somatisms can include lexemes that express mental state, gestures, postures, and facial expressions (smiling, being sad/happy, waving, sitting, etc.). However, it would be more appropriate to call the above-mentioned not somatic units, but a group of expressions that arise due to the functions they perform.

### **Discussion:**

Connection of somatic units and pragmatics plays a role on how people communicate. Understanding language in a particular social or cultural context applies somatic units, or non-verbal communication, enhances and sometimes contradicts the pragmatic meaning attached to speech. Both systems heavily depend on social context and common practices, but their interplay makes communication more rich and informative.

Pragmatic unit: The area of linguistics that studies meaning, context and social norms in a given interaction.



Somatic unit: Nonverbal communication, including body language and other forms such as gestures or attitude instead of speaking.

Through integration of pragmatic and somatic approaches, effective communication becomes easier, especially in cross-cultural interactions which tend to have miscommunication moments. Intended meaning may not be relayed where verbal and non-verbal signals are not cohesive.

Pragmatics and somatics work hand-in-hand in daily interactions. Often accompanying speech are non-verbal signs that contribute to a better understanding of what the speaker means. Consider a scenario where a speaker is requesting something: in addition to what is said (a speech act), their body language, such as a particular pose or gesture, can either emphasize or heighten the request, and thus affect how the request is understood.

In other instances somatic units capture details that may contradict the literal expression of words, sentence's uttered phrase, and change their meaning. For example, an utterance which was meant in a jocular sense can evoke laughter when spoken with a ridiculously serious expression, showing the importance for alignment of both verbal and non-verbal sign systems. Differences in culture influence as heavily as is the case both for the understanding of a given pragmatic and nonverbal communication. What might be a polite gesture in one society could be misinterpreted as offensive conduct in another society. Thus, pragmatic competence requires not only the sociolinguistic context for the use of language but also the proper attention to body language of any given culture.

Effective communication is resolved with regards to its pragmatics and somatic units and their multifaceted process which play essential roles. Somatic units assist in understanding nonverbal gestures while pragmatics deals with intentions, contextual meaning, and gives interpretation of words which navigates space for assisting comprehension.

### **Conclusion:**

Both components are essential in facilitating successful communication across social situations. Regardless of whether the interaction occurs face to face, in text, or from different cultures, speakers utilize both verbal and non-verbal elements simultaneously and adjust to one another's cultures to enable mutual understanding. The reliance of somatic units with communication demonstrates the depth and complexity of life since it shows that language goes beyond words, but rather on how the words are said and comprehended within certain situations. Thus, it is better to study both pragmatics and somatic units, gives a comprehensive understanding humans of how share meaning with one another.

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