

LEXICAL AND SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF THE EXPRESSION OF REPROACH

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Abstract

Reproach is a commonly observed mode of communication in human interactions. Whenever an individual feel dissatisfied or let down by someone else's actions, they tend to convey their disapproval through reproach. This can manifest in various ways, such as direct criticism, subtle insinuations, or indirect remarks. The present article aims to delve into the lexical and syntactic aspects of reproach, encompassing the words and structures frequently employed to convey disapproval.

Keywords: directive speech, semantic component, specific vocabulary, directive illocutionary, reproach, deadline, reproach, careless, thoughtless, irresponsible.

Introduction

When expressing reproach, individuals frequently employ specific vocabulary and phrases that indicate their discontent with the actions or conduct of others. These lexical characteristics may vary depending on the cultural and social context, but certain universal expressions of reproach are commonly utilized across different languages and cultures. One lexical characteristic of reproach involves the utilization of negative adjectives and adverbs to describe the offending behavior. For instance, terms such as "careless," "thoughtless," "irresponsible," and "inconsiderate" are frequently employed to convey disapproval. They communicate the speaker's evaluation of the other person's actions and imply that these actions were unacceptable. Another lexical characteristic of reproach is the inclusion of modifiers to intensify the disapproval. Words like "very," "extremely," and "utterly" are used to emphasize the seriousness of the offense and to convey the speaker's strong disapproval. For example, stating "You were very careless with the project deadline" underscores the gravity of the other person's mistake. In addition to negative adjectives and adverbs, reproach often entails the use of direct or indirect accusations. Phrases such as "You always do this," "You never listen to me," and "You constantly ignore my feelings" explicitly express the speaker's dissatisfaction with the other person's behavior. These accusatory statements serve to hold the other person accountable for their actions and to assert the speaker's disapproval.

The formal aspect of expressing reproach lies in the syntactic structure of the communication, encompassing various sentence types such as narratives, interrogatives, and optatives. These forms serve as means to convey the illocutionary purpose of reproach indirectly. Through linguistic analysis, it has been observed that assertive and directive speech acts are predominantly employed to express the intentional meaning of reproach. For instance, a



statement like "You shouldn't cross the road" can serve as a directive illocutionary act by highlighting the danger involved, while also conveying evaluative disapproval (e.g., "It's too bad") under specific circumstances, thus emphasizing its expressive nature.

Narrative sentences are predominantly utilized in speech acts with a primary assertive purpose to accurately depict the reality of a situation. In the context of reproach, the use of narrative sentences is linked to the prerequisite for the success of this speech act, specifically the communication of a state of affairs that the speaker disapproves of. Assertives can elucidate the reasons behind the speaker's reproachful expression.

In the given example, the primary illocutionary goal can be identified as "praise." However, the successful execution of the speech act of praise requires the violation of the sincerity rule, which entails expressing approval of the existing state of affairs. The speaker's intentional state, characterized by a feeling of disapproval towards a particular state of affairs, contributes to an expressive rather than an assertive illocutionary goal.

Example in English

The stolen items have been polished so skillfully that we can't detect any fingerprints[1].

Example in Uzbek

*"Hayda, qo'ylaringni tezroq bozorga yetkaz! Kun choshka bo'lib ketdi-yu, qo'ylarni bozordan qoldirib, senlar salqinda uxlab yotibsan, **itdan tarqaganlar!**"*[2]

In this example, we can see that the rich used the sentence to his servants *itdan tarqaganlar* in the place of reproach. The evaluative significance is derived through implication from the literal meaning when considered in conjunction with the surrounding context, background knowledge, and the specific circumstances of the speech. In the given instance, the primary illocutionary force of a speech act can be conveyed by the performative verb "advise" in an assertive manner. For the council's speech act, it is crucial to elicit a positive impact on the listener about a future action. When a young girl, who lacks swimming skills, accidentally falls into the water from a boat, her mother playfully expresses disapproval by jokingly stating that "bathing in a coat is bad," thereby concealing her fear. By aiming to prevent such disapproving actions in the future, this speech act aligns itself with speech acts that possess a directive illocutionary intention.

Next time you choose to plunge into the water, kindly remove your coat beforehand[3].

In the given example, the performative "compliment" serves as the primary illocutionary force in the utterance. According to D.Vanderwecken, expressing a compliment entails endorsing the actions of a communication partner, specifically referring to the conditions of propositional content[4]. However, it is important to note that the statement also incorporates a value judgment. It suggests that a true knight should extend assistance to any lady, irrespective of her physical appearance, rather than solely focusing on those who are conventionally attractive. This aspect allows for the interpretation of the illocutionary force of this speech act as a reproach. The reproach being directed towards a friend implies that one should not disguise their actions with noble intentions if their underlying motives are different.

It is worth mentioning that incorporating adverbs of time such as again, at last, ever, and always can be beneficial in determining the purpose of criticism, as they serve as intensifiers. According to E.M.Wolf, the ability to intensify or de-intensify the expression of evaluation is a distinctive aspect[5].



He expressed, "Finally, you emerge. I must admit, I have been patiently waiting for quite a while"[6].

In this instance, the primary emphasis is placed on the words "at last" as the individual had endured a considerable wait, resulting in a justifiable reprimand. The function of these adverbs within the act of reproach can be elucidated as follows: they frequently serve to criticize actions that occurred without any corresponding lessons learned. The subsequent adverbs underscore the recurring nature of these actions, such as "again," "always," and "many times."

I have repeatedly advised you on numerous occasions to have the ash tree pruned...[7],

Speech acts that have a directive illocutionary purpose are characterized by their motivational nature, where the speaker obligates the listener to perform a certain action. These acts prioritize the speaker's social position and are aimed at preventing undesirable actions that the speaker desires to avoid. According to Vanderveken, directive speech acts share a semantic component with reproach, as both aim to prevent undesirable actions [5]. However, reproach expresses disapproval towards the person being addressed, while directive speech acts focus on the beneficial outcome of acting.

One conventional way of expressing reproach is through speech acts that have a directive illocutionary purpose and involve the use of modal verbs. In our study, we specifically examine the various ways modal verbs are used to express modality.

Modal verbs in the English language form a complex semantic system, allowing for the expression of different degrees of possibility and necessity. They not only convey the relationship between the subject and a certain feature, influenced by internal and external factors but also indicate the values of probability and reliability. Additionally, modal verbs are frequently employed to express deontic modality, which reflects the necessity and possibility based on social norms or the will of the subject.

According to E.I.Belyaeva, modality is a linguistic category that represents the speaker's evaluation of the connection between the object of reality and its sign, as well as the level of understanding or desirability of this connection by the speaker. This perspective enables us to observe how the use of modal verbs is influenced by the communication situation, role relationships, and socio-psychological closeness between individuals involved in the conversation. When it comes to evaluative statements with modal verbs like should, ought to, might, could + Perfect Infinitive, the illocutionary force of reproach conveys a sense of duty related to the past. For instance, when someone says "I should have done, but I didn't, that is, I acted badly," they are expressing regret or acknowledging their wrongdoing. These particular linguistic methods, which tend to adhere to standard forms, are often perceived as reproaches when taken out of context. However, the key factor in interpreting these statements as reproaches lies in indicating the action's connection to the past and the intended direction of the reproach.

The results of the analysis of the factual material indicate that the modal verb "should" is the most frequently used among all modal verbs. This can be attributed to the fact that the reproaches expressed using "should" reflect the subjective expression of will. When a reproacher uses the modal verb "should," it signifies their subjective opinion. In most cases, we believe that the primary illocutionary force can be understood as a weak attempt to persuade someone to do or not do something, which can be represented by the performative "suggest."



The dominant aspect of this speech act is the expression of disapproval towards a desired action, whether it is perfect or imperfect. Therefore, it is justifiable to classify such a speech act as expressive.

You should retire to bed, my dear (I recommend you take action).[9]

Such statements may be subject to modification through the inclusion of a negative element, wherein the execution of the mentioned action is deemed unfavorable by the critic.

In Uzbek, the lack of modal verbs results in a focus on the tone or state of the sentence when reprimanding, as well as the specific meaning conveyed by the reprimand. For instance:

“Shundan buyon Po‘latxo‘ja o‘rtoqlarimiz ichida Nabi mirshabingdan ham, Mochalovingdan ham, Ko‘r Rahim qorovulingdan ham qo‘rqmayman, deb kekkayib yuribdi. “Qo‘y-qo‘y”, desak, “Hammangni otib tashlayman”, deb do‘q qiladi. – O‘zim borganda tanbehini berib qo‘yaman, – dedim. Omon piching aralash: “Shunday qilib qo‘y”, – dedi”[8]

In this instance, shum informs the young boy that during his discussion with his friend Omon, his companion reproaches the poodle. The motive behind this reprimand was the steelworker's exclamation, stating his intention to shoot all of them.

Reproach exhibits a particular syntactic characteristic through the utilization of direct commands or imperatives to express disapproval and dissatisfaction. This can be observed in statements such as "Do not repeat that action," "Cease interrupting me," and "Pay attention to my words," which assert the speaker's authority and convey the expectation that the recipient should modify their behavior accordingly. By employing imperatives, the speaker directly confronts the objectionable conduct and demands a response from the individual in question. Another syntactic feature of reproach involves the use of conditional statements to convey disapproval. Conditional sentences, such as "Had you exercised greater caution, this unfortunate event would not have occurred" and "If you had heeded my advice, we would not find ourselves in this predicament," express the speaker's dissatisfaction with the actions of the other party and imply that their behavior has led to undesirable consequences. These conditional statements serve to underscore the cause-and-effect relationship between the actions of the other person and the disapproval expressed by the speaker. Reproach also encompasses the use of rhetorical questions to convey disapproval and dissatisfaction. Questions such as "How could you display such carelessness?" and "Why did you not consider the potential ramifications?" express the speaker's disbelief and disappointment regarding the behavior of the other person. Rhetorical questions are employed to accentuate the speaker's disapproval and to prompt the individual to contemplate their actions.

Conclusion. To summarize, the act of reproach encompasses distinct lexical and syntactic elements that effectively communicate disapproval and dissatisfaction towards the actions or conduct of others. Negative adjectives and adverbs, both direct and indirect accusations, intensifying modifiers, direct commands and imperatives, conditional statements, and rhetorical questions all contribute significantly to the successful expression of reproach. Familiarity with these lexical and syntactic features empowers individuals to express their disapproval assertively and unambiguously, while also equipping them to effectively address reproach directed at them.



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