

GENDER ASPECT OF EXPLICATING EMOTIONS IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

Emotional states often determine the nature of communication and tactics of human behavior in certain real-life situations and are specific not only to different cultures, but also to each individual. This explains genuine interest of researchers to the concept of emotions. Variety of linguistic representations of emotions has been demonstrated by many generations of researchers but there are still a lot of gaps waiting for their turn. Therefore there is an increasing interest to the study of the speaker's emotional state. So this article makes an attempt to identify the ways of explicating emotions in gender aspect. Besides this, with the aim of a brief acquaintance with the emotional state as a whole the authors offer the general characteristic of basic emotions expressed in speech patterns that were found during the study of the Russian language literary sources. Thus, the article defines the range of various emotions represented in the gender aspect.

Keywords: linguistics, gender, emotions, feelings, explication, language.

INTRODUCTION

Modern science has increasingly focused attention on a person and people with their inner feelings, emotions, thoughts, experiences and worldview [1, p.14]. Language is a means of expressing thoughts and experiences, and thus scientists in the linguistic field pay special attention to the study of speech based on the inner world and the ways of its expression. Contemporary anthropocentricity of various sciences, especially linguistics causes the need for studying emotions, as this sphere is one of the most important aspects in a human language. Due to the fact that all the people are influenced by emotions, there is a certain need to study speaker's linguistic behavior and choice of means to express emotional states. Thus, the relevance of the research is attributed to a high social importance of emotions and is characterized by the ability to influence human activity. In this paper, special attention is paid to the gender component of explicating emotions in the Russian language.

METHODS

Emotion is a complex phenomenon that still has no single, generally accepted definition. Scientists view emotions in terms of modality, distinguishing between positive and negative, sthenic and asthenic and create gradation scale of emotional states. Such categories as intensity, duration, depth, awareness of emotions, their origin, conditions of appearance and disappearance, development dynamics, ways of expressing emotions and others are also the focus of attention in sciences.

The term "emotion" is often used quite freely and subjectively. Modern dictionary of the Russian Language offers the following definition: "emotions are subjective human and animal responses to the impact of internal and external stimuli, manifested in form of joy, fear, pleasure or displeasure" [2, p. 951]

(here and henceforward translated by the authors of the article). V.A. Maslova gives a more generalized explanation: emotion is a specific form of human attitude to the world [3, p. 228].

Speech situations where the speaker explicates emotional state at the moment of communication in Russian serve as the object of our study. Gender aspect of explicating emotions in the national and cultural perspectives is considered to be the subject of the study. Speech situations have been taken from the texts of Russian writers' literary works of the late nineteenth – early twentieth centuries (A.I. Kuprin and A.P. Chekhov). The number of speech situations with explication of emotional states amounted to 800 units. An important condition of selecting the speech situations for the study is direct naming of emotions experienced at the time of speech communication, i.e. its explication. The frequency of speaker's emotional state explication is ontologically limited, as it is stated by Z.K. Temirgazina: "Some assessments, for example, sensory-taste, psychological, emotional, and aesthetic ones are considered to be fundamentally unmotivated in a logical sense, as there are sensations and emotions in the background that defy explication and verbalization" [4, p. 89].

"Expression is manifestation of feelings, emotions, and expressiveness" [5, p. 905]. "Sovetskiy Entsiklopedicheskiy Slovar" treats this concept as follows: "bright, significant expression of feelings, moods, and thoughts" [6, p. 1533].

A.V. Petrovsky and M.G. Yaroshevsky define expressiveness in the following way: "power of expression of feelings and emotions. Expressive reactions are the outward manifestations of human emotions and feelings (facial expressions, pantomime, voice and gestures)" [7, p. 458]. D.E. Rosenthal and M.A. Telenkova interpret the term as "expressive-figurative speech quality, reported by lexical, grammatical and word-formation means" [8, p. 613].

The concept of expression is directly related to the explication of emotions. The meaning of "explicitness" concept and its definition is proposed by M.L. Makarov: "... the content explicitly imparted to the statement, if and only in case it serves as manifestation and development of logical form expressed by a linguistic code" [9, p. 124]. Another dictionary interprets the term as follows: "Explication clarification, explanation; explanation of symbols, used in plans, maps, etc." [10, p. 752, v. 4] identical interpretation is found in D.N. Ushakov's work [11, p. 1406, v. 4].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

It is known that there is a long-held belief about women being more emotional and expressive, but based on the received results we consider that this statement does not accurately reflect the situation existing in real-life language. There is a relatively high variability of the ways to express emotions linguistically. Verbal means can be represented explicitly and implicitly, the first refer to the direct naming of communicant's emotions. Implicit ones include the ways to express emotions by means of interjections, duplicating words or phrases, changes of intonation patterns, the use of invective vocabulary and others.

Despite the belief that women are more emotional, one cannot just rely on the stereotypes and consider any features as typically male or female. The analysis of the material shows the opposite. The number of speech situations where women nominated their own emotions comprised 8.5%, men did so in 61.5%. So, it is clear that women are less likely to explicate emotions than men. Men, being more prone to reality, tend to avoid narrative structures and ambiguity of the meanings and naming their emotions as they actually feel. Women have a common practice of using descriptive style of communication.

It seems to be interesting to note that some of the emotions still dominate among the females (*fear*, *boredom*, *sadness* and *envy*).

One of the most relevant life instincts for a person is the law of self-preservation. It causes the expression of *fear*, which explains the large number of situations where the speaker makes this emotion explicit. *Fear* shows a negative emotional state that appears when receiving the information about real or imagined

danger [12, p. 905].

The Russian language synonyms dictionary offers an article on *fear* emotion: *strakh*, *boyazn'*, *ispug*, *uzhas*, *panika* (fear, phobia, fright, horror, panic) is an unpleasant feeling or condition, which happens when a person feels or thinks to be in a dangerous situation over which there is no control [13, p. 109].

Having selected the cases with explicit actualization of the considered emotion in the literary works, we found only 7 synonyms united by a common seme: *boyazn'*, *strakh*, *uzhas*, *ispug*, *opaseniye*, *robo**st'*, *koshmar*. Nominations for this emotion was reflected in 136 communicative situations where women explicitly verbalized fear in 70 cases, while men in 66. Men are not usually inclined to show their weaknesses and tend to hide or disguise such emotions. Most women in similar cases are incapable of hiding their own emotions and express them directly.

Dangerous, unforeseen situations caused by external circumstances can serve as factors causing expression of emotions. Danger can be real or imaginary.

The following speech situation describes the trial. The defendant explicates *fear* through its synonyms in verbal form *ispuzhalsya* and *boyalsya*. This way the speaker grounded his actions to justify his own behavior. The use of synonyms is explained by the desire to demonstrate the intensity of emotions and need for the not guilty verdict: «*Podsudimyi, – obratilsya predsdatel k Kharlamovu, – ne mozhete li vy obyasnit sudu, gde vy nakhodilis v eti dva dnya posle ubiystva?*» – «*Po polyu khodil... Ne yevshi, ne pivshi...*» – «*Zachem zhe vy skrylis, yesli ne vy ubivali?*» – «*Ispuzhalsya... Boyalsya, chtob ne zasudili...*» (Chekhov, «*V sude*»).

Females quite frequently express *fear* being afraid of something vague and ambiguous. As for males, expressing the feeling in most cases they specifically refer to the cause of fear, trying to ground and explain the reason for expressing emotions and thus justifying their behaviour.

Joy/ gladness is the second emotion in terms of frequency. The total number of cases with its explicit expression equals to 107 units, where men appealed to its direct nomination in 78 cases, and women just in 29 cases.

According to the results, *joy* takes the leading position on explication in the process of communication among positive emotions. *Joy* is of great importance in human life and strengthens social bonds, thereby increasing the adaptive characteristics of a personality and labeling exemption from negativity and stress states.

According to lexicographic sources it is: “a sense of pleasure, feeling of great spiritual satisfaction, or something that gives pleasure and/ or happiness” [2, p. 662]; “Joy, delight, pleasure, inner state of enjoyment, pleasant, due to the coveted event” [14, p. 554].

In some situations, there is a question about the sincerity of explicated emotions. Sometimes there are doubts if a person really enjoys the meeting or just demonstrates the emotion using conventional and recommended etiquette phrases.

There is an examples where one of the communicants anticipates the reaction, directing the partner to the traditional clichés. «*A vot i ya!*», – *govorit on, vkhodya k Andrey Yefimychu. – «Zdravstvuyte, moy dorogoy! Nebos ya uzhe nadoyel vam, a?» «Naprotiv, ochen rad», – otvechayet yemu doktor. – «Ya vseгда rad vam»* (Chekhov, «*Palata № 6*»).

In this situation, the person who came to visit leads the host to standard patterns of speech, but does it in a peculiar manner from the opposite. Hearing the phrase *Nebos ya uzhe nadoyel vam* – *I suppose you've already been tired of me* a well-bred man would not allow himself to confirm the phrase. Therefore, the

doctor, as a representative of the intelligentsia, refutes with a traditional cliché phrase suitable to the situation.

To designate higher degree of joy in the Russian language speakers use such intensifiers like *kak, tak, vesma, ochen, chrezvychaino* demonstrating the depth of explicable feelings. The use of intensifiers identified in speech situations can be explained by a desire to emphasize the sincerity of feelings.

In conventional cases of meeting or acquaintance except for the expressions *rad znakomstvu / vstreche – pleased to meet / get acquainted* there are other speech patterns that can be used *priyatno poznakomitsya / ochen priyatno* or *imet' udovolstviye – nice to meet you / how do you do and have fun*.

The use of intensifiers does not always indicate a high degree of explicated feelings. This emotion in some cases is actually just a conventionalism that does not mean much for interlocutors. The context of the following speech situation shows the negative attitude of one of the participants in communication. It becomes clear from addressing through the use of the pronoun *ty – you* in the second person singular, which is not always acceptable in a situation of acquaintance, as well as through rather rude form of a question: *ty oglokh, chto li – are you deaf?* Thus, we can conclude that the phrase *ochen priyatno – nice to meet you* does not always reflect the true feelings of the speaker. «*Ty oglokh, chto li? Kak tvoya familiya, ya tebya sprashivayu?*» *Bulanin vzdrognul i podnyal glaza. Pered nim, zalozhiv ruki v karmany pantalon, stoyal roslyy vospitannik i rassmatrival yego sonnym, skuchayushchim vzglyadom.* «*Moya familiya Bulanin*», – *otvetil novichok.* «*Ochen rad. A u tebya gostintsy yest, Bulanin?*» – «*Net...*» – «*Eto, bratets, skverno, chto u tebya net gostintsev. Poydesh' v otpusk prinesi*» (*Kuprin, «Na perelome»*).

This situation is more common for a male style of communication, to which deliberate coarsening of speech is more typical.

Based on the study of language material, we can conclude that women are more inclined to give characteristics to the feelings, to use metaphorical expressions, to appeal to intensifiers and quantifiers and to exaggerate, while men tend to clarify the reasons behind the feeling. Use of intensifiers in men's speech is mainly observed in conventional contexts, where the established rules of conduct dictate the use of clichéd phrases.

Speaking of etiquette formulas in communication, it is necessary to turn to consideration of *guilt*. Modern dictionary of the Russian language defines *guilt* as a misdemeanor or a crime [2, p. 79].

The number of expressing their own guilt by women and men in the selected situations equals to 13 and 37 times respectively. So, it is clear that men more easily perceive this feeling and bare the blame, while women more rarely resort to the designation of their own guilt.

In the found examples the communicants are usually in different social statuses. A lower status person apologizes more frequently. Both communicants may feel uncomfortable situation and express the viewed emotion. Manifestation of emotional state sometimes may be by insincere and is implemented by the speaker just to compensate for the earlier circumstances.

Let us pay attention to the emotions that are more inherent to women. We have already mentioned the feeling of *fear*, which is more intrinsic to the females. Other emotional states belonging to this category are *boredom, sadness* and *envy*.

E.V. Uryson describing synonyms for *sadness* suggests two entries: *toska, unyniye, pechal, grust – melancholy, dismay, grief, sadness* – “unpleasant feeling which occurs when one does not have what is wanted, and when it is considered to be impossible” [13, p. 1165]; *skuka (toska) – boredom (longing)* – “an unpleasant feeling, which occurs when a person is not busy or when there is a lack of new impressions” [13, p. 1032]. Synonyms may vary on different basis: 1) possible cause of feelings;

2) attitude of the person to the circumstances; 3) impact of the feelings on condition of a human as a whole; 4) controllability of the state; 5) intensity and degree of unpleasant feelings [ibid]. Almost similar explanations of the feelings under consideration are found in other dictionaries: “feeling and state of grief, light dismay” [2, p. 144], “feeling of light languid sadness, melancholy” [11, p. 633, v. 1].

The factors contributing to the explication of negative emotions could be depression or subdued spirits. This causes *boredom, anguish, suffering, fear, sadness, grief, resentment, despair* and other emotions and feelings of the kind.

Another factor causing explication of negative emotions is desire to possess something. It usually brings to verbalization of *envy, resentment, anger* and *pity*. These feelings arise towards those who have something material or have the qualities that are not typical for those who explicate the emotion.

CONCLUSION

As it is seen from the results, the most preferable means of explicating emotions for both sexes are the following: emotive lexemes, intensifiers, quantifiers, synonyms, and duplicating nominations of emotions. It is typical for a female communication to appeal to metaphors, exaggeration means and descriptive vocabulary. As for the male, we can note the accuracy of emotions nomination and naming the causes of emotions.

We were faced with a lot of works which indicated the prevailing amount of emotions expressed precisely by women. The results showed that men actualize their own emotions, naming them directly, more often than women.

So, based on the analysis of linguistic means used for explicating emotional state of speakers belonging to different genders, we can conclude that explication of feelings in terms of direct nomination of emotions are more appropriate for men. Gender differentiation of emotional sphere was considered both on a qualitative level (in the implementation of certain emotions) and formally (use of typical verbal means of explicating emotions).

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