

SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF EMOTIONAL-EXPRESSIVE ELEMENTS IN ELECTRONICALLY MEDIATED COMMUNICATION*

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The paper examines the main features of emotional-expressive elements used in electronically mediated communication. The specificity of these elements is profoundly analysed in various types of online discourse. The research is carried out by taking into consideration the linguistic as well as gender specific factors of communication which help us go deeper into the study of people's cultural consciousness thus helping them to overcome some lingocultural barriers of virtual communication.

The emotional-expressive elements in the article are analysed also from the perspective of interrogative sentences. According to the results of our research, among most emotionally coloured elements are the rhetorical questions as they can occur in different communicative online situations.

Thus, the electronically mediated communication is more emotional as it is filled with both already accepted and stable linguistic and extralinguistic expressive means and also with new ones which in their turn help the internet users show their feelings and emotions more freely.

Key words: emotions, expressive elements, electronically mediated communication, rhetorical question, gender.

Introduction

Human life is filled with emotions and its different manifestations. First of all, emotions are natural reactions to the situations that generally happen to us during our lifetime. Emotions serve to motivate people to act. When we speak about communication the very first thing that comes to one's mind apart from its main, informative function, is the emotional element without which no communication can be effective. Emotions are an inseparable part of cognition, mentality, language and thought. They determine the quality of our lives. They occur in every relationship we care about. They can save our lives, but at the same time they can cause real damage. Emotions come and go: we feel an emotion one moment and may not feel any emotion at another.

Nowadays the expression of emotions in the process of communication is gaining more interest and significance. Hence, the subject matter of the present research is devoted to the study of the main features of expressing emotions in online electronic discourse. It is worth mentioning that the discussion of the peculiarities of online electronic language is relevant not only because it is actual, but also for the fact that by means of this discussion some features of social

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psychology and individual linguistic consciousness can be revealed. Moreover, emotiveness and expressiveness are one of the most important categories in the development of any language, which makes the speaker's speech more impressive.

In electronically mediated communication the messages containing emotional-expressive elements can be observed and analysed from different perspectives. On the morphological level emotionality and expressiveness is best expressed with the help of adjectives, adverbs, interjections, nouns and verbs (Կիրակոսյան 2012:71-73).

On the syntactical level the vocatives, the interrogatives and the rhetorical questions are worth mentioning.

In the process of the expression of emotions, interrogative sentences are of special interest. The interrogative sentences can express surprise, interest, sympathy, and other positive emotions on the one hand, and worry, condemnation, sarcasm, etc. on the other. The rhetorical questions are worth mentioning as they not only express the logics of thinking, but also transfer the speakers' feelings and emotions having a specific impact on the listener. Let us compare the following examples:

*Oh, Martha! So very sorry to hear this! I am praying for you and your Mom and hope that she will get better quickly. **Was her operation a success?***

*Congratulations! Great prize! **What will you spend your million dollars on?***

***Isn't the nature stunning?** We're so fortunate to have Mother Earth. Let's look after her!*

*Hits and runs are problem here too. Unfortunately, it's everywhere. **Is there hope for humanity? Haven't we hit rock buttom already? Time to rise up.***

The questions in the first two utterances are asked with a purpose of getting an answer, while in the following utterances like *Isn't the nature stunning? Is there hope for humanity? Haven't we hit rock buttom already?* we come across the use of the rhetorical questions where the speakers tend to have an emotional impact on the listener as well as to express their attitude concerning the situation. An interesting point to be made here is that one utterance contains connotational meanings of surprise, doubt or self-persuasion and can be commented on as follows: *The nature is stunning and we should look after her.* The second utterance is a message where the rhetorical question is used to call people to be more careful in order to avoid terrible accidents. In fact the above mentioned interrogative sentences serve to point the rhetorical meaning of the discourse which is expressed with the help of an interrogative sentence and the use of rhetorical questions in interrogative sentences depend first of all on their context. Thus we can assume that emotional-expressive rhetorical utterances can occur in various communicative situations and its perlocutionary effect is larger than that of a simple interrogative question.

Another interesting use of emotional-expressive elements is observed in the analysis of the vocatives as apart from their primary role, i.e. to address or to mention the social role and status of the listener, it also helps transfer various expressions of emotional meanings or states. The following utterances come to prove what has been said above.

*OMG! Wow! **Dear**, that dress is well and truly stunning... so gorgeous!*

*Wow, **Arevik! So wonderful!** All the best to you, your husband and your family.*

*That's right, **Annie...** For being so real and for taking the time to read our responses... Often we wonder if any of the celebrities take our comments seriously. We all have our own soap box that we stand on when we have something to say... thank you for being so real and for **remaining so down to earth. We quietly salute You!***

The emotional interjections and adjectives like *Wow! so wonderful, stunning, gorgeous, so down to earth, quietly salute You!* used in the above mentioned utterances serve to characterize the positive features of the online users and aim at praising the interlocutor or his/her actions in the process of communication. In these utterances the use of vocatives (*Wow dear! Wow Arevik! That's right Annie!*) contain also an illocutionary force of encouragement which has an aim to concentrate the speaker's attention as well as to arouse certain emotions by leaving a certain pragmatic impact on what they say or do.

So the analysis of these examples show that the expressive function is realized with the purpose of intensifying the meaning of the utterance which in its turn leaves the desired impact on the speaker in the process of communication. In other words, the expressive function serves to have a certain impact on the speaker while the emotive function just expresses the speaker's emotions without having any impact on him/her. The expressive function has a linguistic character, but its influence is seen only in speech.

However, the analysis of emotional-expressive elements is not limited only to these factors. Of special interest is the analysis of gender specific factors which helps us to go deeper into the study of people's cultural consciousness thus helping them to overcome some linguo-cultural barriers of virtual communication. The research shows that both sexes use electronically mediated way of communication equally, but female users tend to be more emotional and use more emotionally colored vocabulary, while male communicators are more objective and decisive in their comments. The analysis of our factual material from the point of view of gender differences shows that female users prefer to use words like *idiot, bastard, coward*, etc., while males more often use *stupid, pig, fool, jerk*, etc.

The following utterances of an online discourse are about father and son relations, where father becomes a heart donor for his son.

E.g. *Jake Moylan you're obviously **a jerk!** (male)*

*That's not an airport fashion, that's **an airport hell!** (male)*

*People actually believe this **shit**? You think this actually happened? Get your head out of **the clowns**... this is **incredibly stupid**. This is why we are the society of num nutz that we are. Did someone ask actually this is true?* (male)

*Can't kill yourself to give your child an organ. **Stupid!*** (male)

That's real father! (female)

***OMG, idiots!** It's just a story showing you what a parent is willing to do for his child. It's not a real story, it's just a story depicting LOVE!* (female)

As it can be seen from the above mentioned examples male and female comments on one and the same topic vary a lot where males are inclined to be more rude than females.

It should also be mentioned that by using different linguistic means male users try to keep their social status and very often they either describe the activities or motivate people to act, while women are more likely to ease the tension that can occur in the process of communication.

It is important to mention that the effectiveness of the use of emotional-expressive elements is to make the interlocutor feel or express certain emotion by making utterances or judgments connected with this or that situation. This is the reason why the emotional-expressive speech acts are expressed by the speaker and refer to an action or situation that has already taken place.

Conclusion

To sum up, we can say that electronic communication is another way to show one's emotions and feelings which quickly and steadily penetrate into human lives thus giving people an opportunity to interact with each other despite time or distance. Expressing a positive emotion, as well as a negative one, is quite natural, and only its correct interpretation can help us avoid various misunderstandings in the process of communication no matter whether the communication is online or face to face. Online electronic communication is another influencing media to show one's emotions in various ways. Moreover, it gives an opportunity to each of us to find a person who shares similar interests and emotions, which in its turn is a more effective and comfortable way to communicate freely with each other, no matter what nationality, gender, age or status you are.

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Շարահյուսական մակարդակում հուզարտահայտչական միավորների քննությունը համացանցային հաղորդակցության մեջ

Սույն հոդվածում ուսումնասիրվում են համացանցային հաղորդակցության մեջ կիրառվող հուզարտահայտչական միավորների հիմնական հնարավորություններն ու առանձնահատկությունները: Այս միավորների յուրօրինակությունը ուսումնասիրվում է համացանցային դիսկուրսի տարբեր ժանրերում՝ հաշվի առնելով նաև գենդերային գործոնը, որի ուսումնասիրությունն էլ հնարավորություն է ընձեռում ներթափանցելու մշակույթի խորքային իմաստների և ազգային գիտակցության պատկերի մեջ: Դիտարկումների արդյունքում պարզ է դարձել, որ առցանց շփման ժամանակ հաղորդակցվողների խոսքն աչքի է ընկնում առավել

հուզականությամբ, քանի որ համացանցը հազեցած է թե՛ ընդունված և կայունացած լեզվական և արտալեզվական միջոցներով, և թե՛ նոր միջոցներով, ինչն էլ իր հերթին օգտատերերին մղում է ավելի անկաշկանդ խոսել իրենց հույզերի ու զգացմունքների մասին:

Изучение эмотивных единиц на синтаксическом уровне в интернет коммуникации

В данной статье рассматриваются главные возможности и особенности эмотивных единиц в интернет коммуникации. Особенности этих единиц глубоко изучены в различных жанрах интернет дискурса, с учетом гендерных факторов пользователей, анализ которых позволяет нам проникнуть в глубину культуры, а также национального сознания. Результаты исследования указывают что в процессе онлайн общения речь пользователей становится эмоционально более насыщенной, так как интернет наполнен как общепринятыми и установленными вербальными и невербальными средствами, так и новыми способами, которые в свою очередь способствуют более свободному проявлению эмоций и чувств во время общения.