LINGUISTIC ASPECTS OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

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ABSTRACT

In the digital age, electronic communication has emerged as a dominant mode of interaction, profoundly influencing the way languages are used and understood. This article explores the linguistic aspects of electronic communication, focusing on the structural, lexical, and pragmatic changes that have occurred in English, Uzbek, and Russian languages due to the widespread use of digital platforms. The study examines how electronic communication has led to the evolution of new linguistic norms, the emergence of digital dialects, and the development of a unique communication style characterized by brevity, informality, and multimodality.

KEYWORDS: Electronic Communication, Linguistics, English Language, Uzbek Language, Russian Language, Internet Slang, Abbreviations, Code-Switching, Digital Media, Multilingualism.

INTRODUCTION

The advent of the internet and digital communication platforms has revolutionized how people interact, leading to significant transformations in linguistic practices. Electronic communication, which includes emails, instant messaging, social media, and other online interactions, has introduced new forms of language use that differ significantly from traditional written and spoken communication. This article investigates the linguistic aspects of electronic communication, with a focus on three languages: English, Uzbek, and Russian. By analyzing these languages, the study aims to highlight the broader implications of digital communication on linguistic norms and practices.

One of the most notable linguistic changes brought about by electronic communication is the alteration of traditional sentence structures. In digital communication, brevity is often prioritized, leading to the use of truncated sentences, ellipses, and non-standard grammar. For instance, in English, sentence fragments like "Got it," "On my way," or "See you!" are commonly used in place of complete sentences. Similar trends can be observed in Uzbek and Russian electronic communication, where brevity and efficiency often dictate linguistic choices.

The use of emojis, GIFs, and other visual elements also contributes to structural changes in electronic communication. These elements often replace words or phrases, adding a layer of multimodality to the communication process. For example, an emoji may convey emotions or nuances that would otherwise require a more extended verbal explanation, thus altering the traditional structure of written communication.

Electronic communication has led to the emergence of new vocabulary, much of which is driven by the need for efficiency and the influence of technological terminology. In English, terms like "selfie," "hashtag," and "unfriend" have become commonplace, reflecting the integration of digital culture into everyday language. Similarly, in Uzbek and Russian, new words and

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expressions have emerged to describe digital phenomena, such as the Uzbek "telefonchi" (phone addict) or the Russian "лайкать" (to like a post).

Abbreviations and acronyms are another significant lexical innovation in electronic communication. English users often employ abbreviations like "LOL" (laugh out loud), "BRB" (be right back), and "OMG" (oh my God), which have become part of the global digital lexicon. Uzbek and Russian speakers have also developed their own sets of abbreviations, such as "ЯБД" (я буду думать, Russian for "I will think about it") and "ИМХО" (In My Humble Opinion, borrowed from English into Russian).

The pragmatics of communication, which involves the use of language in social contexts, has also undergone significant changes in the digital age. The informality of electronic communication platforms has blurred the lines between formal and informal language use. In English, it is not uncommon for people to use informal language even in professional emails, reflecting a shift towards a more casual communication style. This trend is also evident in Uzbek and Russian, where formal linguistic conventions are increasingly relaxed in digital communication.

Another pragmatic shift is the use of language to convey identity and social belonging. Online communities often develop their own linguistic norms and jargon, creating digital dialects that serve as markers of group identity. For example, the use of specific memes, catchphrases, or linguistic patterns can signal membership in a particular online community. This phenomenon is observed across English, Uzbek, and Russian digital spaces, highlighting the role of language in constructing social identity in the digital age.

The global nature of digital communication has facilitated cross-linguistic influences and code-switching practices. English, as the dominant language of the internet, exerts a significant influence on other languages, including Uzbek and Russian. This influence is evident in the widespread borrowing of English words and phrases into these languages, particularly in the context of technology and social media.

Code-switching, the practice of alternating between two or more languages within a single conversation, is also prevalent in electronic communication. In multilingual societies, such as Uzbekistan and Russia, speakers often switch between languages to convey specific meanings, express cultural identity, or simply for convenience. This linguistic flexibility is a hallmark of electronic communication, reflecting the dynamic and fluid nature of language use in the digital age.

CONCLUSION

The linguistic aspects of electronic communication represent a fascinating area of study, revealing how digital platforms shape language use across different languages and cultures. In English, Uzbek, and Russian, electronic communication has led to structural, lexical, and pragmatic changes that reflect broader social and technological trends. As digital communication continues to evolve, it will undoubtedly continue to influence the way languages are used, understood, and transmitted across generations.

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