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DENOTATIVE AND CONNOTATIVE MEANINGS OF EUPHEMISMS FOUND IN THE SPEECH OF MEDICAL HEROES IN LITERARY WORKS.

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Abstract: In the article, we strived to explain a brief enlightenment of denotative and connotative meanings of euphemisms both in English and Uzbek language found in the speech of medical heroes in literary works. Studying application of denotative and connotative meanings of euphemisms in medical discourse defines the concept of the current article.

Keywords: denotative and connotative meaning, euphemisms, medical discourse, doctor and patient, medical communication, healthcare, literary device.

I. Introduction

Euphemism comes from a Greek word meaning "soft expression". According to Merriam-Webster, euphemism is the substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression for one that may offend or suggest something unpleasant. Euphemism is the transformation of inappropriate, unacceptable or rude words in speech making it more appropriate and acceptable option. In general, they are used to avoid directly addressing matters that might be negative or embarrassing in such situations like healthcare, sex, death and etc. Here it should be mentioned that euphemisms are the most common type of words used in literature. The author paraphrases the odd word or word combination with the appropriate one.

The terms euphemism, denotative, and connotative are always considered co-occurring because a euphemism used in a particular speech or context has its own and figurative meaning. In this case, if the denotative meaning is a lexical unit, the original, real, original meaning of a word or phrase, the connotative meaning is the transferred meaning of these words in the context. In this situation words lose their original meaning and begin to be used in a figurative sense. For example, in the sentence "It seems that it will not be poured until we hand over Ra'no to its owner," said Nigor's mother (A. Qadiri), the euphemism "hand over to the owner" was used instead of the phrase "to marry".

Especially in medical communication euphemisms play a great role to soften the situation. While trying to define the role and importance of euphemisms in medical communication the use of euphemisms in some specific medical situations and diagnoses such as heart failure, cancer and some other mortal diseases in general has been studied.

II. Literature Review

Euphemisms as lexical units are studied at the field of Lexicology, and euphemisms can be of different types depending on the context and purpose for which they are used. There are many reasons why we use euphemisms in our speech. There is also a euphemism of the language, arising from the need for a particular speech situation, the meaning of

which is often clarified through the text. As a lexical unit, euphemisms are most often used in oral speech, but also in literary works, as well as in artistic discourse, euphemisms, like all literary devices, are used to increase the effectiveness of a work, to give it a lexical coloring, to bring the work closer to real life.

Euphemism is an important literary device for writers as it gives a chance to address directly sensitive, offensive and unpleasant notions in a more delicate or less harming manner than literal words or phrases would be. Additionally, they can add to the poetic nature of writing as a means of description in a more polite manner. However, writers should take into account that overusing euphemisms can be confusing for readers as they can lose the meaning. In contrast, depending on the tone of a written work, euphemisms can actually be more rude, unpleasant and offensive than direct literal words. The reason why, euphemisms should be selected in a careful and appropriate way in order to be productive.

Medical discourse is the sphere of professional and communicative interaction of medical workers and a patient. There is a large interest in medical discourse in today's world. People are now more attentive to their health which triggers them to read more literature on medicine and to watch films related to the theme. Therefore, writers use more literary devices on their works to make them more authentic and effective, and euphemism is stated to be one. Doctors have developed special verbal behavior over the last centuries. Complex analysis of meanings of euphemisms is carried out by N. V. Efremova, E.V. Akayev, L. M. Alekseeva, M. I. Barsukova, A. V. Ageeva, L.S. Beilenson, O. N. Gordeva, N.V.Goncharenko and others.

III. Main Part

There is a term in medicine "the right language" and it means a verbal contact of an individual patient and a doctor selecting the appropriate language with its relevant characteristics. It includes a special choose of vocabulary in conversation with severe, ill or very old patients, avoiding inappropriate words associated with parts of human body, abortion, fertilization, pregnancy and birth by a particular ethnicity religion as Muslims, Hindus and others. Furthermore as Tacheva states, right and acceptable language contains other communication techniques in order to avoid judgmental and negative words, replying the patient's questions, assessing the patient's understanding, asking for agreement to fill in the patient summary form, encouragement of patients to share their opinions, feelings, emotions as well. Some people argue that in the context of healthcare, the use of euphemisms is often discouraged, because they may mislead the meaning of precise concern that need discussion. There are situations, where use of euphemisms such as equating sleep with death will cause to huge confusion and not be effective. On the other hand euphemism sometimes can be used to explain the condition of the patients with less stress which increases their better understanding about the situation.

Culture plays a significant role to describe emotions, feelings about the serious illness. However, all the people in the world can be sensitive to the issues relating to death, dying and severe illnesses like cancer. For the reason of protecting the sick person from unpleasant news people, mostly doctors use euphemisms. It is because the bad news itself would exacerbate the suffering, also it may impact on patient's losing hope. According to a survey performed in the United Kingdom it is found that public try to avoid using words death or dying, instead they used euphemisms like "Passed away" (57%), "Deceased" (23%), "Kicked the bucket" (20%), "Passed on" (18%), "Gone to a better place" (17%).

In medical conversation doctors often use following euphemisms such as:

"Passed away" - "Olamdan o'tdi", "Passed on" - "O'tib qoldi", "Gone to a better place"

- "Chin dunyoga rixlat qildi", "Is gone" - "Yolg'on/Foniy dunyoni tark etdi", "Kicked the bucket" - "Oyogini uzatdi" in order to avoid saying "He or she died".

Below there are some examples of euphemisms in the speech of medical personnel with the translation into Uzbek:

"After three drinks of rum, Alex was feeling no pain" [Cosmopolitan 2016:67] - "Uch qadah ichimlikdan so'ng Aleks o'g'riqlarni his qilmay qo'ydi".

Euphemism "feel no pain"- "his qilmay qo'ydi" here points that taking alcohol relaxed Alex as he was insensitive for the pain.

"Try not to get smashed at the beer party" - " Piva bazmida haddan ziyod ko'p ichmaslikka harakat qil".[Cosmopolitan 2016:71]

Here the phrase "get smashed" - "haddan ziyod ko'p ichish" covers the euphemism "get drunk" - "to'yib ichish" in order to soften the speech.

Here are some euphemisms connected to female health in medicine.

"Every month women have a bad week" - "Har oy ayollar qiyin hafta bilan to'qnashadilar".

In this situation euphemism "a bad week" - "qiyin hafta" means "period" which is translated into Uzbek as "hayz davri".

Another group of examples of euphemisms for describing pregnancy like "to be pregnant" - "homilador bo'lish" are the followings:

"She is in the family way" [Cosmopolitan 2016: 134] - "U oilaviy hayot ostonasida", "Uning oilasi kengayish arafasida", "Ular yaqinda ko'payishadi".

In this example the euphemism "to be in family way" is used to describe the pregnant woman but not used the word "to be pregnant" as it sounds rude and impolite. Additionally here "to be in family way" means that the woman is morally ready for taking care and bringing up children.

"She is in delicate condition" [Cosmopolitan 2016: 134] - "U nozik holatda", "U hozir ko'proq e'tibor va parvarishga muhtoj".

Here euphemism "to be in a delicate condition" is used in order to explain readers that "a woman in this condition needs a special care and attention".

There are some more examples of euphemisms which shows the physical condition of a person.

"My boss is starting to look a little thin on top" [Cosmopolitan 2016:114] - "Mening boshlig'im yuqori qismidan siyraklashishni boshlayapti".

In this example, euphemism "to be a little thin on the top" substituted the word "to be bald" which is translated into Uzbek as "kal bo'lish". Choosing this kind of euphemism in this context can explain that the colleague didn't want his boss being insulted or not to make him angry by saying "he is bald", the reason why he used more neutral words in his speech.

Many investigations have been done on the way euphemisms are used by the doctors and the way the patients perceive the use of euphemisms. As an example, the aim of one of the research was to discover which euphemisms the doctors prefer instead of the term "heart failure" translated into Uzbek as "Yurak xuruji". The results of the study showed the following: the most commonly used euphemism was: "You have fluid on your lungs as your heart is not pumping hard enough" - "Sizning o'pkangizda biroz suv yig'ilib qolganligi bois yuragingiz yetarli darajada yaxshi ishlamayapti", followed by "your heart is a bit weaker than it used to be" - "Sizning yuragingiz odatdagidan biroz zaiflashgan" and "Your heart is not pumping properly" - "Sizning yuragingiz yetarli darajada urmayapti". The least popular term was "left ventricular dysfunction" - "chap tomon disfunktsiyasi".

IV. Conclusion

Euphemisms are the most popular form of lexical diplomacy in medicine because they are more affordable, synonyms and substitutes for unwanted or unacceptable words for a particular situation. The use of euphemisms is determined by psychological factors, but in healthcare they obtain moral and social features. In this case patients show specific hypersensitivity due to their age and situation . A willingly chosen language contributes greatly to the accomplishment of positive results in diagnosis and treatment. In medical processes euphemisms play an important role to describe present realities, concepts and facts that cause negative sense. In literary works euphemisms substitute the names of stressful medical pathology, and deliver bad news in a descriptive and acceptable way, e.g. information about severe illnesses like cancer, poor prognosis, reporting the death of a patient to his/her relatives.

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