



## FAMILY DISCOURSE IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK: A CROSS-CULTURAL COMPARISON OF SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

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### Abstract:

This article explores the concept of family discourse in English and Uzbek linguistic and cultural contexts. It examines the structure, norms, and functions of communication within family settings in both languages. Using examples from natural family conversations, the study identifies both universal features (such as role-based address forms and emotional bonding) and culturally specific aspects (such as hierarchical politeness or the use of honorifics in Uzbek). The paper draws on theories of discourse analysis, pragmatics, and intercultural communication. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how cultural values shape family interactions and highlight the need for cultural awareness in cross-cultural communication and language education.

### Keywords:

Family discourse, English, Uzbek, politeness, cultural values, speech etiquette, cross-cultural communication, pragmatics.

### Аннотация:

В статье рассматривается понятие семейного дискурса в английском и узбекском языковых и культурных контекстах. Анализируется структура, нормы и функции общения в семейной среде на обоих языках. На основе примеров из реальных семейных диалогов выявлены как универсальные черты (например, обращение по ролям, эмоциональная привязанность), так и культурно-специфические особенности (такие как иерархическая вежливость и использование почтительных форм в узбекском языке). Результаты способствуют более глубокому пониманию того, как культурные ценности формируют семейное общение, и подчеркивают важность культурной осведомленности в межкультурной коммуникации и языковом обучении.

**Ключевые слова:** Семейный дискурс, межкультурная коммуникация, стратегии вежливости.

### Annotatsiya:

Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o'zbek tillarida oilaviy diskurs tushunchasi lingvistik hamda madaniy kontekstda tahlil qilinadi. Har ikki tildagi oilaviy muloqot tuzilmasi, normalari va funksiyalari o'rganiladi. Tabiiy oilaviy suhbatlardan olingan misollar asosida umumiy xususiyatlar (masalan, rollarga asoslangan murojaat shakllari va hissiy yaqinlik) hamda milliy-madaniy o'ziga xosliklar (masalan, ierarxik xushmuomalalik va hurmat ifodalovchi so'zlar) aniqlanadi. Tadqiqot natijalari madaniy qadriyatlarning oilaviy muloqotga qanday ta'sir qilishini chuqurroq anglashga yordam beradi va til o'qitish hamda xalqaro muloqotda madaniyatlararo xabardorlik zarurligini ko'rsatadi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Oilaviy diskurs, madaniyatlararo muloqot, xushmuomalalik strategiyalari.

**Introduction.** Family discourse is one of the most fundamental types of interpersonal communication. It reflects the social norms, values, and roles embedded in a culture. This paper aims to analyze how family discourse operates in English and Uzbek languages, focusing on similarities and differences in structure, usage, and cultural implications. The importance of such a comparison lies in its relevance to language learning, intercultural understanding, and sociolinguistic research. **Theoretical Background.** This study builds on theories of discourse analysis (Gee, 2014), pragmatics (Levinson, 1983), and intercultural communication (Hall, 1976; Hofstede, 2001). It also considers concepts of speech etiquette, politeness strategies (Brown & Levinson, 1987), and cultural scripts (Wierzbicka, 1991). Family discourse is seen as a microcosm of national culture where language, values, and identity intersect. **Similarities Between English and Uzbek Family Discourse**

Despite differences in culture and language structure, several commonalities exist:

**Functionality:** In both languages, family discourse serves to maintain relationships, resolve conflicts, give advice, and express care.

**Role-oriented Communication:** Parents usually take the authoritative role, while children respond respectfully.

**Use of Emotional Language:** Expressions of affection (e.g., "I love you", "Men seni yaxshi ko'raman") are present, although their frequency differs.

**Differences Between English and Uzbek Family Discourse**

Key cultural and linguistic differences can be observed:

Feature	English	Uzbek
<b>Address Terms</b>	First names or "Mom/Dad"	Kinship-based: "Ota", "Oyi", "Aka", "Opam" (even among younger siblings)
<b>Formality</b>	Often informal, even with parents	More formal, especially with elders
<b>Politeness</b>	Uses indirectness and hedging	Uses honorifics, respectful verb forms, and avoidance of directness
<b>Power Distance</b>	Low; equality encouraged	High; hierarchical respect expected
<b>Turn-taking</b>	Interruptions more accepted	Strict turn-taking with deference

Examples:

English child: "Dad, can I go out now?"

Uzbek child: "Dadajon, men biroz tashqariga chiqsam maylimi?"

**Discussion.** These differences are not merely linguistic; they reflect deep-seated cultural values. English family discourse tends to support individualism and egalitarianism, while Uzbek discourse reflects collectivism, respect for elders, and social hierarchy. These differences may lead to misunderstandings in intercultural communication if not properly understood.

For example, an Uzbek student might perceive an English peer as “disrespectful” for addressing a parent by first name, while an English speaker may view the Uzbek's formality as overly distant.

**Conclusion and Recommendations.** Understanding family discourse across cultures allows for better communication, especially in language learning and multicultural interactions. Teachers should incorporate examples of family speech etiquette in curriculum, and intercultural programs should raise awareness of such norms.

**Recommendations:**

Include family discourse analysis in language textbooks.

Promote cross-cultural role-play activities.

Further research should investigate generational shifts in both cultures.

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