FORENSIC LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF SPEECH MANIPULATION IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK POLITICAL DISCOURSES

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Annotation. *This research presents a forensic linguistic analysis of speech manipulation techniques employed in English and Uzbek political discourses. It explores how language is used as a strategic tool to influence public opinion, mislead, or distort facts in political speeches, debates, and media texts. The study focuses on pragmatic devices, lexical choices, syntactic structures, and rhetorical strategies commonly utilized for manipulative purposes. Comparative analysis reveals how cultural and linguistic differences shape the manipulation strategies in both languages. Special attention is given to presuppositions, implicatures, modality, and euphemisms as means of covert influence. The research provides examples from authentic political texts, offering valuable insights for forensic experts, linguists, and media analysts. Findings of the study can contribute to detecting speech manipulation, enhancing critical discourse analysis, and supporting forensic investigations in the political communication sphere.*

Keywords: *forensic linguistics, speech manipulation, political discourse, pragmatics, rhetoric, English, Uzbek.*

Аннотация. *В этом исследовании представлен судебно-лингвистический анализ методов речевой манипуляции, используемых в политических дискурсах на Английском и Узбекском языках. В нем изучается, как язык используется в качестве стратегического инструмента для влияния на общественное мнение, введения в заблуждение или искажения фактов в политических речах, дебатах и медиатекстах. Исследование фокусируется на прагматических приемах, лексическом выборе, синтаксических структурах и риторических стратегиях, обычно используемых в манипулятивных целях. Сравнительный анализ показывает, как культурные и языковые различия формируют стратегии манипуляции в обоих языках. Особое внимание уделяется пресуппозициям, импликатурам, модальности и эвфемизмам как средствам скрытого влияния. В исследовании приводятся примеры из аутентичных политических текстов, предлагающие ценную информацию для судебных экспертов, лингвистов и медиа-аналитиков. Результаты исследования могут способствовать обнаружению речевой манипуляции, улучшению критического анализа дискурса и поддержке судебных расследований в сфере политической коммуникации.*

Ключевые слова: *судебная лингвистика, речевая манипуляция, политический дискурс, прагматика, риторика, Английский язык, Узбекский язык.*
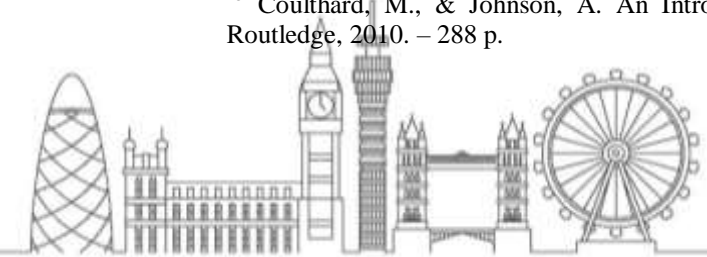
Annotatsiya. *Ushbu tadqiqot Ingliz va Oʻzbek siyosiy diskursida qoʻllaniladigan nutqni manipulyatsiya qilish usullarining sud-lingvistik tahlilini taqdim etadi. U siyosiy nutqlar, bahslar va ommaviy axborot vositalari matnlarida jamoatchilik fikriga ta'sir qilish, noto'g'ri yo'l tutish yoki faktlarni buzib ko'rsatish uchun tilning strategik vosita sifatida qanday ishlatilishini o'rganadi. Tadqiqot pragmatik qurilmalar, leksik tanlovlar, sintaktik tuzilmalar va manipulyatsiya maqsadlarida keng tarqalgan ritorik strategiyalarga qaratilgan. Qiyosiy tahlil madaniy va lingvistik farqlar ikkala tilda manipulyatsiya strategiyasini qanday shakllantirishini ochib beradi. Yashirin ta'sir vositasi sifatida presuppozitsiyalar, implikaturalar, modallik va evfemizmlarga alohida e'tibor beriladi. Tadqiqot haqiqiy siyosiy matnlardan misollar keltirib, sud ekspertlari, tilshunoslar va media tahlilchilari uchun qimmatli fikrlarni taqdim etadi. Tadqiqot natijalari nutq manipulyatsiyasini aniqlashga, tanqidiy nutq tahlilini kuchaytirishga va siyosiy aloqa sohasidagi sud-ekspertiza tekshiruvlarni qo'llab-quvvatlashga yordam beradi.*

Kalit soʻzlar: *sud-ekspertiza lingvistikasi, nutq manipulyatsiyasi, siyosiy diskurs, pragmatika, ritorika, Ingliz tili, Oʻzbek tili.*

Introduction. In recent years, the role of language in shaping political ideologies and influencing public opinion has become a central focus of forensic linguistic studies. Speech manipulation, especially in political discourse, is a powerful tool used by politicians, media representatives, and public figures to persuade, mislead, or covertly influence audiences. The ability to manipulate language allows speakers to control narratives, create specific emotional reactions, and distort facts without openly expressing bias. Such manipulative strategies are often hidden within lexical choices, syntactic structures, pragmatic devices, and rhetorical techniques, making their detection a challenging task for researchers and forensic experts. Forensic linguistics, as an interdisciplinary field, provides effective tools and methodologies to analyze and expose speech manipulation in various types of texts, particularly in political discourses. By studying linguistic patterns, implicatures, presuppositions, and the use of modality, forensic linguists can uncover hidden intentions behind seemingly neutral or persuasive statements.[25] The importance of this analysis increases in multilingual contexts, where cultural and linguistic peculiarities influence the style and methods of manipulation.

This research focuses on the forensic linguistic analysis of speech manipulation techniques in English and Uzbek political discourses. Both languages, representing different linguistic families and socio-political backgrounds, offer rich material for comparative analysis. Political speeches, media reports, debates, and official statements in English and Uzbek are examined to identify common and unique manipulative strategies. The study aims to investigate how political figures in both linguistic contexts

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[25] Coulthard, M., & Johnson, A. An Introduction to Forensic Linguistics: Language in Evidence. – London, Routledge, 2010. – 288 p.

use language to influence public perception, create ideological frames, and shape social realities. Special attention is paid to the role of euphemisms, hedging, presuppositions, and rhetorical questions in creating manipulative messages. The findings of this research contribute to the broader field of forensic linguistics, providing practical insights for analysts, linguists, and legal experts working on detecting manipulation in political communication.

Additionally, it enhances critical media literacy, helping readers recognize hidden influences in political texts. Speech manipulation in political discourse is a key area of forensic linguistics, where language is used to persuade, deceive, or obscure truth in political communication[26]. According to van Dijk, manipulation occurs when a speaker influences an audience against their own interests through covert strategies embedded in discourse. This can be achieved through presuppositions, implicatures, vague language, euphemisms, and rhetorical questions. In both English and Uzbek political discourse, manipulation is often intertwined with ideology, as political leaders shape public perception through carefully crafted messages. Fairclough emphasizes that political discourse is never neutral; it always reflects power relations[27]. In Uzbek and English political rhetoric, authority figures use various linguistic tools to construct narratives, justify policies, and create emotional appeals. The forensic linguistic approach helps uncover these manipulations by analyzing text structures, word choice, and underlying assumptions. One of the most common strategies of speech manipulation in political discourse is the use of presuppositions and implicatures.
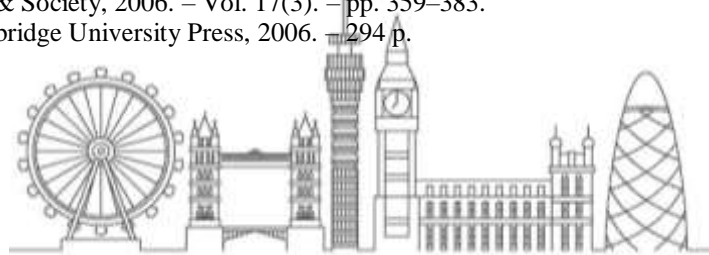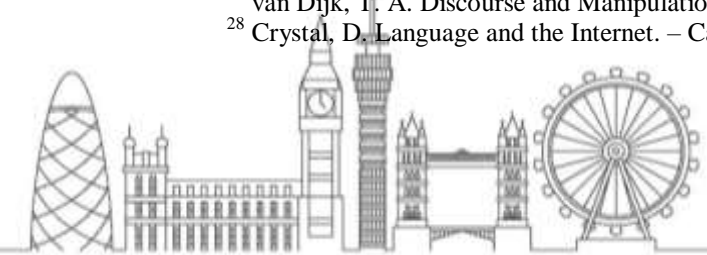
Presuppositions refer to unstated assumptions that are taken for granted, while implicatures rely on indirect meanings that the audience infers. In English political speeches, phrases like «When we restore our country's greatness...» imply that the country has lost its greatness, without explicitly stating it[28]. Similarly, in Uzbek political rhetoric, statements such as «Yangi islohotlar natijasida taraqqiyotga erishamiz» (Through new reforms, we will achieve progress) presuppose that the previous situation was unfavorable, without explicitly criticizing it. Euphemisms are another key tool in speech manipulation. Politicians use softened language to mask controversial decisions or negative consequences. For instance, in English, phrases like «economic adjustment» may be used instead of «austerity measures», while in Uzbek, «bandlikni optimallashtirish» (optimizing employment) can be a euphemistic way to refer to job cuts.

Euphemisms create ambiguity and reduce negative emotional reactions, making political messages more acceptable to the public. Another frequent technique is hedging, which allows politicians to avoid direct responsibility. Expressions like «It is believed that...» or «Some experts suggest...» in English, and «Ba'zi mutaxassislarning fikricha...» in Uzbek, serve to distance the speaker from strong claims while still conveying the

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[26] Fairclough, N. Language and Power. – London, Longman, 2014. – 272 p.
[27] van Dijk, T. A. Discourse and Manipulation. – Discourse & Society, 2006. – Vol. 17(3). – pp. 359–383.
[28] Crystal, D. Language and the Internet. – Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2006. – 294 p.
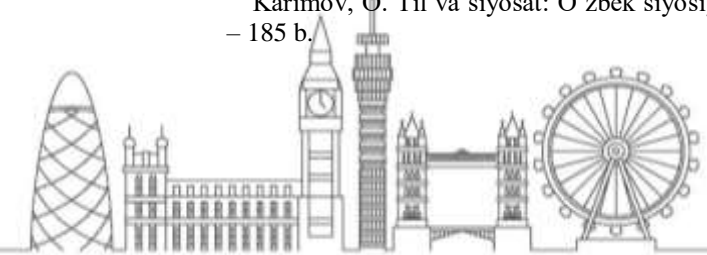
intended message. Hedging is a particularly effective tool in speeches where leaders want to introduce controversial policies without facing direct backlash. Syntax plays an important role in shaping political messages. Passive voice is often employed to obscure agency. For example, in English, «Mistakes were made in the past...» avoids specifying who made the mistakes. Similarly, in Uzbek, «Ba'zi kamchiliklar bo'lgan...» (Some shortcomings have existed...) avoids direct attribution of responsibility. Rhetorical questions are widely used to create persuasive and manipulative effects. In English, a politician might ask, «Do we want to continue down the path of failure?», implying that an alternative solution is necessary.

In Uzbek political discourse, «Axir biz xalq manfaatini o'ylashimiz kerak emasmi?» (Shouldn't we think about the interests of our people?) is used to pressure the audience into agreement. Such questions engage listeners emotionally, directing them toward a desired conclusion without explicitly presenting arguments[29]. Another syntactic feature of political manipulation is the use of parallel structures and repetition to reinforce messages. In English, Martin Luther King Jr.'s «I have a dream...» speech is a famous example of persuasive repetition. In Uzbek, speeches by political figures often include repetitive structures like «Biz taraqqiyot sari intilamiz, biz kelajakka ishonamiz, biz buyuk kelajak quramiz.» (We strive for progress, we believe in the future, we build a great future.) This technique enhances memorability and emotional engagement, making political statements more influential. While speech manipulation strategies in English and Uzbek political discourses share similarities, they also reflect cultural and linguistic differences.

English political discourse, influenced by democratic traditions, often emphasizes argumentation and rhetorical strategies that appeal to logic and rational persuasion. Uzbek political discourse, on the other hand, is shaped by collectivist cultural values and tends to rely more on appeals to national unity, historical pride, and traditional values. For example, in English political discourse, metaphorical language such as «draining the swamp» (eliminating corruption) is a common persuasive tool. In Uzbek, political figures often employ national and historical references, such as «Ajdodlarimiz qoldirgan merosni asrab-avaylashimiz kerak» (We must preserve the heritage left by our ancestors), which appeals to collective identity and moral obligation. Additionally, the tone and structure of political speeches in Uzbek tend to be more formal and ceremonial, while English political discourse frequently adopts a conversational tone to create a sense of closeness between politicians and the public. This distinction highlights how cultural contexts shape the way manipulation is embedded in language.

Forensic linguistic methods are crucial for detecting and analyzing speech manipulation in political discourse. Through discourse analysis, corpus linguistics, and pragmatic analysis, forensic experts can systematically examine political texts for

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[29] Karimov, O. Til va siyosat: O'zbek siyosiy matnlarida manipulyatsiya vositalari. – Toshkent, O'zbekiston, 2021. – 185 b.

manipulative elements[30]. Computational linguistic tools help identify patterns of biased language, frequency of euphemisms, and syntactic structures that obscure meaning. In legal and investigative contexts, forensic linguistics aids in assessing whether political statements contain deceptive language, incitement to misinformation, or strategic ambiguity. This can be particularly valuable in analyzing political speeches, media coverage, and government statements to ensure transparency and accountability.

Conclusion. Speech manipulation in political discourse is a pervasive phenomenon that affects public opinion and shapes political realities. By employing lexical, syntactic, and rhetorical strategies, politicians in both English and Uzbek contexts craft persuasive messages that may obscure truth or distort reality. While these strategies share common linguistic patterns, cultural differences influence their application and effectiveness. Forensic linguistics plays a vital role in identifying and analyzing such manipulative tactics, contributing to critical media literacy and political accountability. This study highlights the need for further research in forensic analysis, particularly in multilingual and cross-cultural settings, to enhance the detection of manipulation and promote transparent political communication.

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[30] Turaev, Sh. O'zbek tilshunosligida pragmatika va siyosiy nutq xususiyatlari. – Samarqand, SamDU nashriyoti, 2019. – 214 b.