



THE USE OF DIFFERENT LINGUISTIC REGISTERS IN VARIOUS SOCIAL SETTINGS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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ABSTRACT

One of the main features of a language is the way it varies according to the social context in which it is used. This phenomenon is known as 'linguistic register' — the variation in language use depending on the setting, audience, and purpose of communication. In other words, language register can be defined as how a speaker uses language differently in different circumstances. Both in English and Uzbek languages, the use of linguistic registers plays a significant role in shaping communication across different social settings. This article examines how different registers are used in English and Uzbek across formal, informal, and neutral contexts, and highlights the cultural and social factors that influence these variations.

Key words: language, linguistic register, stylistic variation, formal register, informal register, neutral register, social setting.

INTRODUCTION

A linguistic register is defined as a variety of language used in a particular social setting, defined by specific characteristics such as vocabulary, tone, syntax, and formality. Registers typically reflect the relationship between the speaker and the listener, their social distance, the purpose of the communication, and the social context in which the interaction occurs. The three main types of registers formal, informal and neutral registers:

1. Formal register: Used in professional, academic, or official contexts. It typically avoids slang, contractions, and informal speech.
2. Informal register: Common in everyday, casual conversations among friends or family. It often includes colloquial expressions, slang, and contractions.
3. Neutral register: A balance between formal and informal language, used in less specific contexts where no high degree of formality or informality is required.



In both English and Uzbek, the use of these registers is influenced by social factors, cultural norms, and the expected tone of communication. The specific vocabulary and structures used in each register vary across these languages, offering insight into the societies that speak them.

Analyzing the employment of linguistic registers in English, it can be obvious that the use of different registers is shaped by the social dynamics between speakers, as well as the context of the conversation. English is a language with a vast array of registers, which include formal, informal, and neutral variations.

The formal register in English is employed in professional and academic settings, official documents, or when speaking to individuals of higher status. This register is characterized by the use of more complex sentence structures, a broader vocabulary, and a lack of contractions. For instance, in formal written communication such as academic papers or business letters, words like "assist" (instead of "help"), "commence" (instead of "begin"), and "endeavor" (instead of "try") are common. Additionally, formal speech avoids the use of slang and colloquialisms. The tone is serious, objective, and impersonal. For instance: "I would appreciate it if you could provide your feedback on the report at your earliest convenience."

The formal register in Uzbek is utilized in professional, educational, governmental, and other serious contexts. In this register, speakers typically use standard Uzbek and avoid regionalisms or colloquial expressions. The vocabulary is more sophisticated, and sentence structures are often more complex. Additionally, in formal situations, speakers tend to use polite and respectful forms, which are deeply ingrained in the culture. Honorifics and titles are common in formal communication, and the tone is typically respectful and distant.

The informal register is used in casual settings, such as conversations between friends, family members, or peers. The language tends to be more relaxed, with frequent use of contractions (I'm, don't, can't), colloquial expressions (gonna, wanna), and slang. The sentence structures are usually simpler, and the tone is friendly and approachable. For example, "Hey, what's up? Wanna hang out later?" In informal settings, speakers may also employ humor, exaggerations, or idiomatic phrases, which would be inappropriate in formal contexts.



In informal contexts, Uzbek speakers use more relaxed forms of language, incorporating colloquial expressions, regional dialects, and slang. The informal register is common in conversations among friends, family, or close acquaintances. Informal speech is characterized by the use of contractions, simplified syntax, and familiar vocabulary ("Salom, nechada uchrashamiz?")

The neutral register is used in everyday conversations that are neither highly formal nor entirely informal. It is common in situations like casual business meetings, professional emails, or conversations with acquaintances. The vocabulary is generally neutral and clear, avoiding extremes in tone or structure. Neutral register allows for the expression of ideas without the heavy formality of official discourse or the casualness of intimate conversation. The following can be an example for this type of register: "Let me know if you need any further information regarding the project."

The neutral register in Uzbek is similar to its English counterpart, used in situations that are neither strictly formal nor informal. It is employed in situations such as communicating with colleagues, acquaintances, or addressing groups in a more neutral manner. The tone is polite but not overly distant, and the language is clear and straightforward. Example: "Ushbu masala bo'yicha fikringizni bildiring."

It is apparent that while both English and Uzbek exhibit distinct formal, informal, and neutral registers, the specific linguistic choices in each language reflect the cultural values and social dynamics of the societies in which they are spoken. In both languages, the formal register is associated with authority, respect, and professionalism. The informal register in both languages allows for relaxed communication, but Uzbek informal speech may be more heavily influenced by regional dialects, and the use of specific familial terms is more common in intimate exchanges. Moreover, Uzbek speakers tend to use polite and respectful forms even in informal setting such as home for example, which are deeply ingrained in the culture ("Qachon kelasiz?", "Yaxshi dam oldingizmi?", etc). The neutral register in both languages serves as a middle ground, but the nuances in tone, structure, and vocabulary may vary based on the specific context and cultural expectations in each language.



CONCLUSION

The use of different linguistic registers in both English and Uzbek plays a critical role in shaping communication across various social settings. Both languages exhibit a clear distinction between formal, informal, and neutral registers, with specific vocabulary, syntax, and tone tailored to fit the social context. These linguistic choices are not only reflective of the speakers' relationships with one another but also of the broader social and cultural norms that govern communication. Understanding how linguistic registers function in both languages provides valuable insight into the intricate ways language reflects and reinforces social structures, identities, and expectations.

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