

COMMUNICATIVE STRATEGIES AND PRAGMATIC TYPOLOGY OF SPEECH IN DETECTIVE FICTION CHARACTERS

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Annotation. This article explores the communicative strategies and pragmatic typology of characters' speech in detective fiction. The study is grounded in the theories of Western pragmatics (J. Austin, J. Searle, H. Grice) and Russian stylistics (M.M. Bakhtin, V.V. Vinogradov). It examines key strategies such as evasion, politeness, psychological pressure, and irony. The classification of speech acts demonstrates how linguistic choices contribute to character development and plot progression within the detective genre.

Anotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada detektiv asarlardagi personajlar nutqining kommunikativ strategiyalari va pragmatik tipologiyasi tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot J. Ostin, J. Searl, H. Grays kabi g'arb tilshunoslari hamda M.M. Baxtin, V.V. Vinogradov kabi rus olimlarining nazariy ishlanmalariga asoslanadi. Detektiv janrida ishlatiladigan asosiy strategiyalar — yashirish va chetlab o'tish, muloyimlik, psixologik bosim, istehzo kabi usullar o'rganiladi. Shuningdek, nutq aktlari pragmatik jihatdan tasniflanib, ularning syujet rivoji va personaj xarakterlarini ochib berishdagi o'rni yoritiladi.

Аннотация В статье рассматриваются коммуникативные стратегии и прагматическая типология речи персонажей детективных произведений. Исследование опирается на теории западных прагматистов (Дж. Остин, Дж. Серль, Х. Грайс) и работы русских лингвистов (М.М. Бахтин, В.В. Виноградов). Анализируются основные стратегии: уклонение, вежливость, психологическое давление, ирония. Проводится прагматическая классификация речевых актов, показывающая их роль в развитии сюжета и раскрытии характеров персонажей.

Keywords; detective fiction, communicative strategies, pragmatics, speech acts, stylistics..

Kalit so'zlar: detektiv janr, kommunikativ strategiyalar, pragmalingvistika, nutq aktlari, stilistika.

Ключевые слова: детективный жанр, коммуникативные стратегии, прагматика, речевые акты, стилистика..

Abstract. Detective fiction has long been one of the most popular genres in world literature, attracting readers with its intellectual intrigue, mystery, and the logical reasoning of its protagonists. The speech of detective characters is central to shaping the narrative and the relationships among characters. The way detectives speak — their style, pragmatic

strategies, and rhetorical tools — reveals not only their intellect but also the cultural background of the text. The study of detective characters' speech lies at the intersection of stylistics and pragmatics. Stylistics examines how language choices convey meaning, while pragmatics explores how utterances function in context, considering speaker intention, implicature, politeness strategies, and audience interpretation. Detective fiction, as a narrative genre, presents a unique communicative environment in which language becomes not only a vehicle for storytelling but also an instrument of psychological influence, persuasion, and information concealment. Characters in detective fiction—detectives, suspects, witnesses, and villains—engage in dialogues where meaning is often implicit, and strategic use of language is central to the narrative tension. The study of communicative strategies and pragmatic typology of their speech draws upon insights from both Western and Russian linguistic traditions. Scholars such as J. Austin, J. Searle, and H. Grice have explored speech acts and implicature, while Russian theorists like M.M. Bakhtin, V.V. Vinogradov, and Yu.N. Karaulov have analyzed stylistic and dialogic aspects of fictional speech. This paper aims to investigate the communicative strategies employed by detective fiction characters and classify their speech pragmatically, focusing on how these strategies shape the plot and reveal character traits.

1. Communicative Strategies in Detective Fiction. Characters in detective fiction frequently employ indirect communication and strategic manipulation of meaning. Key strategies include:

- Evasion and Concealment: Suspects often avoid direct answers, using vague language, ellipsis, and topic-shifting. For example, Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories frequently feature evasive witnesses whose speech requires interpretation beyond surface meaning.
- Politeness and Face-Saving: Using Brown and Levinson's politeness theory, detectives strategically maintain or threaten the "face" of interlocutors depending on investigative needs.
- Persuasion and Pressure: Interrogations illustrate pragmatic moves such as requests, commands, or presuppositions aimed at eliciting hidden truths.
- Irony and Sarcasm: Frequently used by detective protagonists to assert intellectual dominance and challenge the opponent's credibility. These strategies highlight how speech functions as both a tool for plot progression and a reflection of psychological interaction.

2. Pragmatic Typology of Detective Speech. The pragmatic classification of speech acts in detective fiction can be approached through J. Searle's typology:

- Assertives: Statements used to describe or deduce facts (e.g., Holmes' analytical explanations).
- Directives: Commands, requests, or questions aimed at obtaining information.
- Commissives: Promises or threats, often used by antagonists or law enforcement figures.

- Expressives: Speech acts that express emotions such as fear, anger, or admiration.
- Declaratives: Rare but significant acts where speech itself changes the social situation (e.g., announcing an arrest).

Russian linguistic studies add an important stylistic dimension. Bakhtin's dialogism emphasizes the polyphonic nature of detective narratives, where each character's speech reflects social and ideological diversity. Vinogradov's stylistic analysis explains the use of professional jargon (legal, medical, criminological terms) mixed with colloquial or ironic remarks.

3. Stylistic and Cross-Cultural Insights. Detective fiction in English and Russian traditions reveals both universal and culture-specific features.

- Western tradition: Greater reliance on logical deduction, understatement, and conversational implicature (Gricean maxims often flouted for dramatic effect).
- Russian tradition: Richer dialogic texture with socially marked speech, reflecting diverse social strata. For example, Dostoevsky's and Umarbekov's works show how suspects' and officials' speech signals power dynamics and psychological tension.

This combination of pragmatic and stylistic tools creates the intricate verbal interplay that sustains the genre.

Conclusion. Communicative strategies and pragmatic typology of speech in detective fiction reveal the intricate relationship between language and narrative. The detective genre thrives on dialogue where meaning is negotiated, concealed, and revealed through deliberate linguistic choices. Applying both Western pragmatic theories and Russian stylistic approaches allows for a deeper understanding of how characters' speech shapes the plot and reflects broader cultural and psychological dynamics. Future research may focus on cross-genre comparisons or corpus-based analyses of detective dialogue to uncover patterns of pragmatic markers, politeness strategies, and narrative implicatures.

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