

FORMAL AND INFORMAL DIPLOMATIC DISCOURSE

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Annotation: This article is about diplomatic discourse which is a fundamental component of international relations, shaping the communication between states, international organizations and diplomatic representatives. This article examines the nature, characteristics, and significance of both types of diplomatic communication, emphasizing their role in negotiation, conflict resolution, and international cooperation.

Keywords: diplomatic discourse, formal communication, informal communication, international relations, diplomatic negotiation.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola diplomatik nutq haqida bo'lib, u xalqaro munosabatlarning asosiy tarkibiy qismi hisoblanadi va davlatlar, xalqaro tashkilotlar hamda diplomatik vakillar o'rtasidagi muloqotni shakllantiradi. Ushbu maqola diplomatik muloqotning ikki turi – rasmiy va norasmiy shakllarining mohiyati, xususiyatlari va ahamiyatini tahlil qiladi hamda ularning muzokaralar, nizolarni hal qilish va xalqaro hamkorlikdagi rolini yoritadi.

Kalit so'zlar: diplomatik nutq, rasmiy muloqot, norasmiy muloqot, xalqaro munosabatlar, diplomatik muzokaralar.

Diplomatic discourse plays a crucial role in international relations, facilitating communication between states, international organizations, and governmental representatives. The language used in diplomacy can be categorized into formal and informal discourse, each serving different purposes and contexts. While formal diplomatic discourse is characterized by structured, polite, and legally binding language, informal discourse tends to be more flexible, conversational, and relationship-oriented. This article explores these two types of diplomatic communication, their characteristics, and their significance in international interactions.

Diplomatic discourse can be defined as a structured system of communication between diplomat and officials in international roles. It is a form of institutional discourse in which interaction between the addresser and the addressee of messages plays a central role. The addresser is responsible for creating and transmitting the written messages while the addressee interprets and understands them. Diplomats or government representatives act as addressers while other diplomats, institutions or the public are considered to be the addressees. Diplomatic discourse is characterized by formality, precision and conciseness, requiring participants to adhere to strict communicative norms. Diplomats do not express personal opinions but represent their country's official position. If they disagree with their government, they must either comply or step down, following the principle: "se soumettre ou se demettre" (submit or resign). For diplomats, "independence of judgment should not amount to violation of discipline." [2, 58].

Although the style of diplomatic discourse differs across cultures, they follow universally accepted conventions and international protocols. Formal diplomatic discourse is typically used in official documents, treaties, legal agreements and diplomatic correspondences such as notes verbales, communiqués and official speeches. It adheres to strict linguistic and rhetorical norms, emphasizing clarity, neutrality and legal precision. Informal diplomatic discourse is used in less rigid settings, such as private meetings, behind-the-scenes negotiations and informal diplomatic correspondence. It allows for a more personal and dynamic exchange of ideas, often fostering trust and diplomacy outside official channels.

Diplomats must follow strict rules that they have to deal with handling important documents. They are responsible for reading, preparing and executing these documents which might be addressed to foreign representatives or the government. This means diplomatic documents can be either internal (for the government) or external (for interaction with other countries).

A key part of diplomatic documentation consists of internal government records. Another important category includes documents used for official communication between countries, expressing their positions on various issues. These documents are written in diplomatic language which is specifically used for official diplomatic relations. This language includes standard phrases, set expressions and specialized terms that form a universally accepted diplomatic discourse.

Although diplomatic writing should be clear and simple, it should be in a formal and precise way. Instead, it follows a refined form of simplicity, where every word is chosen carefully to convey the intended meaning precisely. There is an avoidance of the use of unnecessary adjectives as they are not essential for accuracy.

Moreover, the main types of diplomatic correspondence, which plays a central role in foreign policy and diplomatic activities, include personal notes, memorandums and notes verbales.

Diplomatic discourse also has specific participants, known as agents. These agents fall into two categories: professional diplomats within the diplomatic corps and senior government officials involved in political decision-making. The audience or addressee, of diplomatic discourse is equally distinct. It includes diplomats of various ranks and, in some cases, the general public, who receive information through the media. [2, 59].

The purpose of diplomatic discourse is to inform both national and international audiences about a government's stance on main international issues.

Diplomatic discourse has a political and public nature shaped by its purpose and context. The way people communicate in diplomacy depends on the situation and goals of interaction. Beyond the primary objectives, a crucial secondary goal of the participants is to foster agreement in international politics. This includes conflict resolution, the establishment of mutually beneficial relations between states, the alignment of interests and the expansion of cooperation. In this sense, diplomatic discourse is a structured negotiation process based on communication psychology.

This means diplomacy is a specialized field requiring specific skills. As communication is just one part of any speech, the process of expressing thoughts with words happens within a

particular situation, influenced by different factors. Therefore, this process involves the linguistic expression of cognitive constructs related to the subject matter. As a result, a comprehensive speech act integrates cognitive, communicative and linguistic dimensions.

A.A.Leontiev explains that how a speaker structures their message depends on how they understand the situation. In other words, even if a conversation has a shared topic and goal, the way the situation is perceived might vary among speakers and listeners due to their unique psychological characteristics. Within diplomatic discourse, the linguistic personality of a diplomat plays a key role. Effective communication relies on the diplomat's cognitive, communicative and linguistic abilities. Therefore, diplomatic discourse is considered to be different from regular conversations. What sets it apart from other types of communication is its multidirectional nature as it takes place in both public and private settings. The audience can be both the general public and informed and highly trained diplomatic partners. This affects how diplomats choose their words, interact, and achieve their goals, all depending on their language skills and communication style. [2, 59-60].

FORMAL DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTS

In the past, full powers were granted through a general proclamation without a specific recipient. For example, the British foreign secretary used to receive such powers from the queen. However, modern diplomatic practice and the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations recognize that a foreign minister automatically has the authority to represent their country in international affairs.

Accreditation letters, on the other hand, are always addressed to a specific person, such as a head of state, foreign minister, or secretary-general. These letters follow a standard format, expressing confidence in the accredited person and requesting recognition of their authority.

Diplomatic notes between governments follow a traditional style, usually starting with a polite introduction like "XXX presents its compliments to YYY and has the honour to..." and ending with a respectful closing. Official names of institutions are used at first (e.g., "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of..."), but shorter versions like "the Ministry" appear later in the text. Even when sending protests or breaking relations, a respectful tone is maintained. Today, diplomatic notes have become less formal, similar to the Aide-Mémoire style. In agreements made through an exchange of notes, it is now common for the accepting party to simply refer to the original offer instead of repeating the full text. [3, 107].

In the past, treaties were written in a very formal way. The title included the full names of the countries involved, followed by an introduction that listed the names and titles of their representatives. A preamble came before the main clauses, and the final clauses were also written in a formal tone. For bilateral treaties, two original copies were made, with each country's name appearing first in its own version. These copies were signed by representatives and then exchanged. Today, treaties are often simplified, omitting the names of representatives except in the signature section at the end.

Previously, when a country agreed to be legally bound by a treaty without signing it, this was done through an official document called an instrument of ratification or accession. For bilateral treaties, this document included the full national version of the treaty and a statement of

ratification. For multilateral treaties, a standardized statement of ratification or accession was submitted in a formal ceremony. Today, countries can express consent to be bound by a treaty through diplomatic notes instead. This method, if allowed by the treaty, simplifies the process, especially for bilateral agreements, by removing the need for a formal exchange of documents. Now, notifications of consent can even be sent by diplomatic missions or mail.

In conclusion, diplomatic discourse remains a cornerstone of international communication, ensuring effective interactions between nations, organizations and diplomats. Its structured nature, adherence to formalities and use of specific linguistic conventions contribute to clarity, neutrality and the facilitation of negotiations. As diplomatic practices evolve, the balance between formal and informal discourse plays a crucial role in fostering international cooperation, resolving conflicts and shaping global policies. The adaptability and precision of diplomatic language remain essential for achieving diplomatic objectives in an increasingly interconnected world.

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