

THE COLLOQUIAL STYLE AND ITS FEATURES IN LINGUISTICS

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Annotation: This article provides an extensive analysis of the colloquial style and its spheres of application. Based on the views of linguists such as E. Begmatov, B. Urinboyev, M. Tursunpulatov, G. Mahmudova, and S. Xoldorova, the paper discusses the essence of colloquial speech, its distinctive features, and lexical layers. Special attention is given to diminutive forms, dialectal units, jargon, taboo and euphemistic expressions, as well as reduplicative and imitative words as active elements of colloquial vocabulary. The article emphasizes that colloquial style is characterized by dialogic, informal, spontaneous, and situational features, making it the primary form of everyday communication. It also highlights the use of elliptical sentences, the role of intonation in enhancing expressiveness, and the importance of interjections, abbreviations, and phraseological units as lively means of expression. Furthermore, examples from literary works are analyzed to show how colloquial style increases emotional impact. Comparative approaches to stylistic classifications in world linguistics are presented, concluding with the argument that colloquial style represents a significant part of non-standard vocabulary.

Keywords: colloquial style, dialogic speech, elliptical sentence, phraseological unit, lexical layer, non-standard vocabulary, intonation, expressiveness.

Many linguists have conducted research on colloquial style and provided various definitions. For instance, E. Begmatov and B. Urinboyev describe colloquial speech as one of the stylistic, functional, and oral forms of literary language. M. Tursunpulatov divides colloquial vocabulary into groups such as diminutives, figurative meanings, dialectal words, professional terms, jargon, taboo words, euphemisms, imitative and reduplicative words. In addition, colloquial style is characterized by its dialogic nature, informality, spontaneity, and situational usage, which distinguish it from other styles. According to B. Urinboyev, dialogic speech can be studied linguistically as a form of colloquial communication and as a means of enhancing artistic expressiveness in literature. Scholars such as A. Hazratkulov, A. Boboyeva, E. Shodmonov, and S. Xoldorova have also contributed to the study of dialogic speech within Uzbek syntax. Such comparative approaches highlight the universal nature of colloquial communication, while also reflecting its unique manifestations in different languages and cultures.

Given its widespread use and distinctive features, colloquial style deserves thorough investigation, especially in the context of modern linguistics, where issues of standardization, variation, and expressivity are of great relevance. This article, therefore, aims to provide an in-depth analysis of colloquial style, with particular focus on its lexical, grammatical, and expressive characteristics. By drawing on the works of both Uzbek and international linguists, the study seeks to demonstrate the significance of colloquial speech in everyday interaction, as well as its role in literature and artistic expression.

The colloquial style, as one of the functional varieties of language, plays a crucial role in reflecting the living speech of people in their everyday interactions. Unlike formal, scientific, or literary styles, which are regulated by strict norms and conventions, colloquial speech emerges naturally and spontaneously. It is situational in character, highly dependent on context, and often elliptical in structure, yet still fully comprehensible to speakers within a shared communicative environment.

A number of Uzbek scholars, including E. Begmatov and B. Urinboyev, have defined colloquial speech as one of the stylistic manifestations of language, an oral form of literary speech, a functional variety of communication, and a reflection of daily life. Their research demonstrates that colloquial speech cannot be dismissed as a “lesser” form of language but must be treated as an independent stylistic system with its own expressive potential. M. Tursunpulatov, in his classification of colloquial vocabulary, identified several subcategories such as diminutives and affectionate forms, figurative expressions, dialectal words, profession-related terms, jargon, taboo words, euphemisms, as well as imitative and reduplicated words. This classification illustrates the richness of colloquial vocabulary and its ability to capture not only denotative meaning but also emotional nuance, cultural flavor, and social identity. Such words help speakers create intimacy, humor, or irony, and thus make communication more vivid and personal [1].

One of the most salient features of colloquial style is its dialogic nature. Unlike written discourse, which tends to be monologic and carefully structured, colloquial speech unfolds in the immediacy of interaction. It relies heavily on short exchanges, questions, interjections, and incomplete sentences. As B. Urinboyev points out, colloquial dialogue may be studied both as a linguistic phenomenon and as a stylistic device in literature, where it adds dramatic realism and enhances the authenticity of characters’ speech. Other Uzbek linguists such as A. Hazratkulov, A. Boboyeva, and E. Shodmonov have also analyzed colloquial dialogue within the framework of Uzbek syntax, while S. Xoldorova emphasized its unique pragmatic markers. Colloquial speech is often spontaneous and lacks fixed norms. G. Mahmudova points out that even elliptical sentences can still be understood within context. For example, a question like “Black or green?” may mean different things depending on the situation, such as choosing between types of tea. Intonation also plays an essential role, sometimes strengthening meaning or conveying emotions such as excitement, sympathy, or sorrow. In colloquial vocabulary, two main layers can be observed: the first includes everyday words related to domestic life and social activities, while the second consists of emotionally expressive words. Phraseological units such as “to raise one’s nose,” “to feel drowsy,” and “to have short hands” enrich speech by making meanings more concise and vivid [2].

Another feature of colloquial style is the shortening of personal names: for example, Abduraxmon becomes Adraxmon, Gulnoza becomes Guli. According to B. Urinboyev, compound sentences are more typical of colloquial speech than literary language. Sometimes, even sentences without verbs, such as “I at home,” can still be understood in context. Colloquial expressions often appear in literature as a means of enhancing emotional appeal. In Mirza Karim’s novel “Mohlaroyim,” expressions such as “oh dear,” “My soul is half gone,” and “Bless your tongue” create a strong emotional effect. M.M. Qayumov emphasizes the role of punctuation, abbreviations, and intonation in colloquial communication [3].

Colloquial speech in English also makes use of abbreviations such as “It’s no use,” “Don’t be silly,” “So what’s wrong?” and interjections like “No wonder!,” “See?,” “OK.” In Uzbek, equivalents include “Obbo!,” “Balli!,” “Yashang!,” and “Aylanay!” Lengthened vowel pronunciation is also used to emphasize surprise, admiration, pleading, or affection [4].

Linguists around the world have classified language styles differently. Voronin distinguishes between functional and expressive types, while R.G. Pyotrovskiy identifies poetic, scientific, and literary styles. J. Kenon and Y. Hannerts divide vocabulary into formal and informal categories, and V.N. Yartseva distinguishes between written-literary and spoken-colloquial types. We support the classification of Kenon and Hannerts, as the division into

standard and non-standard varieties provides clarity. Within this framework, colloquial style belongs to the non-standard lexicon, serving as an important component of both daily communication and literary expression. Another key point to highlight is the role of context and intonation in colloquial communication. Meaning in this style is often incomplete without situational clues, body language, or tone of voice, which makes it especially unique compared to written discourse. Such features challenge linguists to broaden their analytical frameworks, taking into account not only words and grammar but also pragmatic and paralinguistic aspects.

Ultimately, the study of colloquial style enriches our understanding of language as a whole. It reminds us that language is not only a system of abstract rules but also a living, breathing medium of human connection. By analyzing the lexical, grammatical, and expressive layers of colloquial speech, we gain insight into the ways people interact, express themselves, and construct their social world. For this reason, colloquial style deserves continued scholarly attention, not only within Uzbek linguistics but also within the broader context of international language studies.

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