

THE SPECIFIC FEATURES OF SPEECH STYLE

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Abstract: This article investigates the specific features of speech style as a key component of linguistic, communicative, and socio-cultural competence. Using IMRAD structure, the study analyzes how phonetic, lexical, syntactic, and pragmatic choices shape functional styles such as conversational, scientific, official-business, publicistic, and artistic styles. Drawing on Uzbek scholarly sources, the research demonstrates that speech style is determined not only by linguistic norms but also by communicative intentions, social relationships, and cultural expectations of speakers. The findings reveal that speech style is a dynamic phenomenon that adapts to changing communication needs in contemporary society.

Keywords: speech style, functional style, discourse, pragmatics, stylistics, communication.

Introduction

Speech style (nutq uslubi) is one of the central concepts in modern linguistics, connecting the structural and functional aspects of language. In Uzbek linguistics, speech style is defined as the purposeful selection of linguistic means according to communication goals, social context, and cultural norms (Yoʻldoshev, 2020). It reflects the speaker's intention, relationship with the listener, communicative situation, and the mode of interaction. As communication becomes increasingly diverse—spanning face-to-face interaction, mass media, academic discourse, official documentation, and digital communication—the need for understanding speech style grows accordingly.

Speech style is not merely a linguistic category but a socio-cultural and pragmatic phenomenon. It determines how individuals organize their speech, how they maintain politeness and respect, how they present information, and how they adapt their language to fit specific communicative purposes. Uzbek scholars such as Karimov (2019) and Qodirova (2022) emphasize that stylistic competence is essential for effective communication in both written and oral forms. Misusing speech style can lead to misunderstanding, miscommunication, or a mismatch between intention and perception.

Despite significant research in stylistics, the specific linguistic and pragmatic features that distinguish speech styles require continuous analysis. Globalization, technological development, and social change have altered communication practices, making stylistic diversity wider and more complex. This article aims to investigate the specific features of speech style through a comprehensive analysis of linguistic, pragmatic, and socio-cultural aspects. The goal is to present a systematic understanding of how speech style functions within the modern communicative landscape.

Methods

This study employs descriptive, comparative, and discourse-analytic methods, which are widely used in stylistic research and supported by Uzbek linguistic scholarship. The descriptive method is used to identify and examine the linguistic features characteristic of various speech styles. It enables detailed analysis of phonetic tendencies, lexical choices, syntactic structures, and pragmatic markers present in conversational, scientific, official-business, publicistic, and

artistic communication. This methodological approach aligns with the descriptive traditions of Uzbek linguists, particularly in the analysis of functional styles (Karimov, 2019).

The comparative method is applied to reveal similarities and differences among speech styles. It examines how communicative goals, audience expectations, and situational variables influence stylistic choices. By comparing real examples from varied communication domains, this method helps clarify the boundaries and overlaps between different styles. Such comparisons are essential for understanding the dynamics of modern communication, where hybrid styles increasingly appear.

Discourse analysis is used to interpret stylistic features within real communicative contexts. As Qodirova (2022) notes, speech style cannot be fully understood without examining how language functions within social interactions. Therefore, the data for this study come from a range of sources including conversational dialogues, academic texts, official documents, public speeches, media texts, and literary works. The combination of these methods allows for generating a comprehensive and context-sensitive understanding of speech style.

Results

The analysis shows that speech style is defined by a combination of structural, pragmatic, and socio-cultural features that collectively determine how language functions in a given communicative situation. Structurally, each speech style exhibits distinct phonetic, lexical, and syntactic characteristics. Conversational speech is marked by phonetic reductions, rapid tempo, assimilation, expressive intonation, and fillers such as *ha*, *ee*, and *xo'sh*. Informal vocabulary, slang, dialectal expressions, and borrowed words are frequent elements of conversational style. These features contribute to the spontaneity and emotional richness characteristic of everyday communication (Yo'ldoshev, 2020).

In contrast, scientific style exhibits phonetic clarity, terminological precision, and structurally complex sentences. Its vocabulary includes abstract nouns, technical terms, and logic markers such as *demak*, *natijada*, and *shundan kelib chiqib*. Scientific style avoids ambiguity and emotionality, focusing instead on accuracy, objectivity, and coherence. Publicistic style, which includes news articles, speeches, and commentaries, blends expressive vocabulary with neutral language to influence public opinion. It employs rhetorical devices such as parallelism, repetition, and evaluative words, aiming to persuade and emotionally engage the audience (Karimov, 2019).

Official-business style is characterized by formulaic expressions, standard terminology, passive constructions, and formal vocabulary. Phrases such as *qaror qilindi*, *tasdiqlansin*, and *ma'lumot uchun taqdim etilsin* demonstrate its administrative function. Syntactically, official style favors long, impersonal, and highly structured sentences. Artistic style, on the other hand, distinguishes itself through figurative language, symbolic vocabulary, creative syntax, and expressive intonation. Literary works rely on imagery, metaphors, epithets, and narrative devices to create emotional depth and aesthetic impact.

Pragmatically, speech style is shaped by communicative purpose, social distance, cultural norms, and speaker intention. Conversational style aims to create intimacy and solidarity, whereas scientific style seeks objectivity and credibility. Publicistic style aims to persuade and mobilize, official-business style aims to regulate and formalize, and artistic style aims to evoke emotions and imagination. Pragmatic markers such as hedges (*menimcha*, *balki*, *ehtimol*), clarifiers (*ya'ni*, *boshqacha aytganda*), and politeness formulas (*iltimos*, *marhamat*, *Siz*) contribute significantly to stylistic variation (Turdiyev, 2021).

Socio-cultural influences also play a major role. Uzbek communication norms emphasize respect, hierarchy, politeness, and indirectness in formal interactions. Honorifics, respectful pronouns, and culturally marked expressions are central to maintaining social harmony. Generational differences also affect stylistic preferences: younger speakers often employ slang, digital abbreviations, and hybrid stylistic forms influenced by social media. These observations align with Qodirova's (2022) claim that contemporary speech style increasingly reflects global and digital influences.

Discussion

The findings of this study demonstrate that speech style is a multifaceted phenomenon shaped by structural linguistic elements, pragmatic functions, and socio-cultural norms. The interplay of these factors explains why stylistic competence is essential in modern communication. The results confirm the views of Uzbek linguists such as Karimov (2019) and Yo'ldoshev (2020), who argue that speech style must be understood as a complex system of linguistic and communicative choices rather than as a fixed category.

An important implication of the study is that speech style must be considered dynamic. Digital communication has blurred traditional stylistic boundaries by combining elements of conversational, publicistic, and even artistic styles in online discourse. For example, social media posts may mix slang, abbreviations, rhetorical devices, and visual aids to produce hybrid styles. This supports Qodirova's (2022) argument that speech style in the modern era is influenced by both technological innovation and global culture.

Culturally, speech style reflects social hierarchy, respect, community values, and interpersonal attitudes. Politeness strategies, indirectness, and honorific forms remain central to Uzbek formal communication. Thus, speech style functions not only as a linguistic phenomenon but also as a reflection of cultural identity and social relationships. Understanding stylistic features enables speakers to navigate different communicative contexts effectively, maintaining appropriateness, clarity, and interpersonal rapport.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the investigation into the specific features of speech style demonstrates that speech style is defined through its linguistic structure, pragmatic purpose, and socio-cultural background. Each functional style—conversational, scientific, official-business, publicistic, and artistic—has distinct characteristics that serve particular communicative functions. Awareness of these stylistic features enhances communicative competence and ensures effective interaction in both formal and informal contexts. As communication continues to transform with technological and cultural change, further research is needed to explore hybrid and emerging styles in digital environments. This study contributes to the ongoing development of stylistics within Uzbek linguistics and highlights the importance of stylistic awareness in modern communication.

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