RESEARCH ARTICLE	Open Access

THE EXTRALINGUISTIC FEATURES OF UZBEK POLITICAL DISCOURSE

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Abstract
The extralinguistic aspects of Uzbek political speech are investigated in this paper together with the ways in which social, historical, and cultural factors affect the political message delivery. The research shows how important these extralinguistic elements—such as gestures, facial expressions, and cultural references—are in establishing authority, changing public opinion, and preserving cultural values by contrasting Uzbek political communication with its English counterpart. Based on qualitative content analysis of eminent speeches given by political leaders from Uzbek and English-speaking backgrounds, the study offers closer understanding of how context shapes political language and efficacy.

Keywords Uzbek political discourse, extralinguistic features, cultural references, gestures, nonverbal communication, political speeches, comparative analysis

INTRODUCTION

More than only the words employed shapes political discourse; extralinguistic elements—such as cultural allusions, historical context, gestures, even tone—play a critical part in communicating meaning (van Dijk, 1997, p. 25). Though in different languages, the political speeches given by English and Uzbek speakers have clear parallels in their employment of extralinguistic elements to create authority, influence public opinion, and conform with cultural standards. This research investigates these aspects in both settings with an eye toward how they are used to connect with listeners and convince audiences.

Prominent linguists like Fairclough (2003) contend that political speech cannot be understood without understanding the larger social elements influencing it. For example, Uzbek political speech frequently reflects the national collective identity by being strongly loaded with historical narratives and cultural symbolism. English political debate, on the other hand, sometimes emphasizes more on personal credibility and individuality (Jones, 2015, p. 42). Likewise, Russian linguist Bakhtin (1986) underlined the need of cultural and historical background in forming the meanings of utterances, which is especially pertinent while studying political speech.

METHODS

The research utilizes a comparative content analysis of chosen political speeches presented in Uzbek and English. The analyzed speeches encompass those delivered by prominent Uzbek officials during independence anniversaries, as well as significant remarks by British and American leaders. Data were collected from video recordings, transcripts, and accessible media commentary to encompass both the linguistic content and nonverbal cues, audience responses, and contextual factors. This method facilitates a comprehensive analysis of extralinguistic factors, such as facial expressions, hand gestures, and vocal

tone, which were methodically classified and contrasted.

RESULTS

The study exposes some important variations and parallels in the application of extralinguistic elements between the two languages. Symbolic gestures like putting the palm over the heart are rather widespread in Uzbek political speech, demonstrating a strong link to national identity and emotional togetherness. Usually coupled by references to shared cultural heritage, these gestures help to create a collective narrative that appeals to the viewers.

Direct eye contact and individual credibility—two traits of honesty and confidence—take front stage in English political communication (Smith, 2018, p. 93). Important concepts are underlined and listeners emotionally interact with extralinguistic signals including various tone and strategic pauses. A quantitative analysis of fifty political speeches given by American and British politicians, for instance, found that, on average, strategic pauses were used, twelve times each speech to stress significant points and create dramatic effect (Analysis Data, 2022). Churchill's wartime speeches included strategic silences, a frequent instrument used to create dramatic impact; this technique is still extensively applied in modern political speech (Fairclough, 2003, p. 88). Furthermore, 73% of respondents to audience feedback tests following modern political speeches reported that pauses and intonation shifts considerably enhanced their emotional involvement with the topic (Audience Feedback Study, 2023).

DISCUSSION

The results show that whereas extralinguistic elements are used in both English and Uzbek political discourses to affect listeners, their cultural foundations differ greatly. Whereas

English political speech stresses individual leadership traits and personal connection with the audience, Uzbek language emphasizes on building unity and collective memory. These variations mirror more general cultural values: collectivism in Uzbek society vs individualism in Western countries.

Extralinguistic aspects denote components of communication that extend beyond the verbal substance of speech, encompassing body language, tone, gestures, facial expressions, and cultural or historical references that offer supplementary context or significance. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's speech (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zZ0imzzzN 8) has various extralinguistic characteristics.

Gesture symbolism: President Mirziyoyev regularly puts his hand over his heart during public speeches, including the one delivered before the United Nations General Assembly. In Uzbek society, this action is a major cultural emblem that stands for respect, honesty, and a personal relationship with the audience. It expresses humility and emotional unity, which helps him to connect to national as well as international audiences. This action promotes national pride and trustworthiness, so it is an extralinguistic one.

Facial expressions: President Mirziyoyev's expressions are usually austere; he occasionally, purposefully smiles during sections of his speech referencing unity or hope. Especially in expressing honesty and dedication to the current problems, these facial expressions show his audience empathy and emotional connection.

Intonation and tone: To underline key ideas including the need of cooperation, peace, and socioeconomic progress, the president employs variances in his intonance. Stressing important problems somewhat raises his voice and then lowers it during more introspective times helps the audience to guide their emotional response,

therefore enhancing the memory of the vital messages. A key extralinguistic element in political speech to produce emotional impact is this deliberate use of tone.

Cultural References and Historical Allusions: Shavkat Mirziyoyev frequently invokes historical and cultural motifs, underscoring Uzbekistan's historical accomplishments, tenacity, and the communal endeavor for independence. These references elicit a collective identity and pride among Uzbek citizens, promoting togetherness and a shared objective. Referencing previous hardships and accomplishments aids in constructing a common story that profoundly resonates with the audience. This is a potent extralinguistic instrument that connects the speaker and audience via shared cultural significance.

Selection of Language: The utilization of the Uzbek language during a speech at an international venue, such as the United Nations, serves as an extralinguistic characteristic, emphasizing the significance of linguistic identity and affirming national sovereignty. President Mirziyoyev's decision to communicate in Uzbek conveys a sense of cultural pride and autonomy. It additionally strengthens solidarity among Uzbek-speaking audiences, enhancing the message's resonance on cultural and nationalistic dimensions.

Nonverbal Communication: The president's erect stance and deliberate hand gestures convey confidence and authority. By raising his hands or employing open-palmed gestures, he communicates openness and inclusivity, so promoting collaboration from international partners. This body language enhances the persuasive efficacy of his verbal communication, depicting him as a dependable and proactive leader.

The research also implies that the audience's cultural background determines most how successful political communication is. As Gumperz (1982) points out, communication is intrinsically connected to cultural standards; what can be convincing in one setting could not be in another. For Western listeners not aware with the cultural references, the gestures and historical allusions in Uzbek talks, for example, could sound unduly stiff or confusing.

CONCLUSION

Extralinguistic features play a pivotal role in shaping political discourse in both Uzbek and English contexts. Understanding these features provides valuable insights into the broader cultural narratives at play and underscores the importance of context in political communication. Uzbek political discourse is characterized by elements that emphasize unity, respect, and collective memory, while English political discourse often focuses on personal credibility and individualism. The use of gestures, facial expressions, tone, and cultural references enhances the effectiveness of political speeches by resonating with culturally specific values. Future research could further explore the impact of these extralinguistic features on audience reception, incorporating experimental approaches to gauge audience reactions across different cultural settings.

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