

EXPLORING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF ORAL DISCOURSE

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**Annotatsiya :** *Ogʻzaki nutq yoki ogʻzaki muloqot inson hayotining muhim qismidir, chunki u odamlar oʻrtasida maʼlumot almashish uchun xizmat qiladi. Ushbu tadqiqotda biz ogʻzaki nutq tushunchasi va uning xarakterli xususiyatlarini tasvirlaymiz. Bundan tashqari, ushbu maqola ogʻzaki nutqni tartibga soluvchi elementlar va qoidalar haqida maʼlumot beradi.*

**Tayanch iboralar:** *Ogʻzaki nutq, verbal va noverbal elementlar, dinamika, nutq, ritm.*

**Abstract:** *Oral discourse or oral communication is an essential part of human life since it serves to exchange information between people. In this study, we will describe the notion of oral discourse and its characteristic features. Furthermore, this paper gives information about the elements and rules governing oral discourse.*

**Key words:** *Oral discourse, verbal and non-verbal elements, dynamics, utterance, rhythm.*

**Аннотация:** *Устная речь или устное общение является неотъемлемой частью человеческой жизни, поскольку служит для обмена информацией между людьми. В данном исследовании мы опишем понятие устного дискурса и его характерные особенности. Кроме того, в этой статье дается информация об элементах и правилах, регулирующих устную речь.*

**Ключевые слова:** *устная речь, вербальные и невербальные элементы, динамика, высказывание, ритм.*

Oral discourse, in other words the art of spoken communication, serves as a fundamental aspect of human interaction. It is dynamic and complex process of conveying ideas, sharing information, building connection which relies on spoken language. Researches which are carried out in the domain of cultural anthropology has shown that there were a need for communication from the early stages of the human beings to do their basic activities of everyday life such as hunting, breeding and eating. However , the first people of the world used body movements and gestures to express their feelings and emotions as animals did. Constant preoccupation of human beings leads to the



development of thoughts into words. According to the language theory the humanity express ideas through the usage of verbal and non-verbal codes. The former one is the act of speech while the latter one refers to communicative uses involving visual and tactile modes, such as kinesics, body movements.

Further researches in this domain have shown that the people who are involving in the process of communication do not only exchange the ideas, but also they express the elements of the cultural knowledge, social perception and personal identity. This complex process which involves the cognitive processes is known to be oral discourse. It refers to a unit of language longer than a single sentence. The word discourse is derived from the latin prefix dis-meaning “away” and the root the word currere meaning “to run”. Discourse, therefore, translates to “run away” and refers to the way that conversations flow. According to Henry and Tator (2002), discourse is the way in which language is used socially to convey broad historical meanings. It is language identified by the social conditions of its use, by who is using it and under what conditions. Language can never be ‘neutral’ because it bridges our personal and social worlds.

Understanding the key characteristics of oral discourse is essential for navigating a variety of contexts, from everyday conversations to formal presentations.

1. **Dynamic interaction:** Oral discourse is inherently interactive, fostering dynamic exchanges between participants. Unlike written communication, which can be static, oral discourse allows for immediate responses, creating a lively and engaging atmosphere. The give-and-take nature of conversation enables the flow of ideas and the exploration of multiple perspectives. According to Bloor, the study of discourse can involve matters like context, background information or knowledge shared between a speaker and hearer.

2. **Verbal and non-verbal elements:** Beyond the spoken words, oral discourse incorporates non-verbal elements such as facial expressions, gestures, and tone of voice. These non-verbal cues enhance the richness of communication, providing additional layers of meaning and conveying emotions that words alone might not capture. Scientist Goytisolo describes non-verbal elements as the essential elements of public performances which involves the participation of five senses as the public sees, listens, smells, tastes and touches.

3. **Real-time feedback:** One of the distinctive features of oral discourse is the ability to receive the real-time feedback. Participants can gauge the reactions of their audience, adjust their message accordingly, and ensure that the intended



meaning is conveyed. This immediate feedback loop contributes to the fluidity of conversation.

4.Contextual Sensitivity: Successful oral discourse requires an acute awareness of context. Participants must consider the setting, cultural nuances, and the background of their audience. Adapting communication styles to fit the context ensures that messages are received and interpreted appropriately. Regarding participants, according to Johnson(1981), oral communication is depicted as an activity involving two (or more) people in which the participants are both hearers and speakers having to react to what they hear and making their contributions at high speed. In the interaction process, he adds, each participants has to be able to interpret what is said to him and reply to what has just been said reflecting their own intensions.

5.Social Dynamics: Oral discourse is a social activity, fostering connections and relationships. Whether in a professional meeting or a casual conversation, participants navigate social dynamics, establishing rapport, and creating a sense of community through shared language and mutual understanding. Herbert Clark applied the concept of common ground to his discourse studies as a way of accounting for the various agreements that take place in successful communication. "Discourse is more than a message between sender and receiver. In fact, sender and receiver are metaphors that obfuscate what is really going on in communication. Specific illocutions have to be linked to the message depending on the situation in which discourse takes place...Clark compares language in use with a business transaction, paddling together in a canoe, playing cards or performing music in an orchestra.

A central notion in Clark's study is common ground. The joint activity is undertaken to accumulate the common ground of the participants. With common ground is meant the sum of the joint and mutual knowledge, beliefs and suppositions of the participants," (Renkema 2004).

6.Flexibility in Structure: While some oral discussions may follow a predefined structure, many are flexible and organic. Topics can evolve naturally, and participants have the freedom to introduce new ideas or respond to unexpected points. This adaptability allows for creativity and spontaneity in communication. Besides, this phenomena, called as interaction phenomena, have been described recently as follows: turn-taking and different types of sequences such as sequences of topics, speech acts, and subactivities. ( Brown and Yule 1983)

7.Active Listening: Effective oral discourse hinges on active listening. Participants must not only articulate their thoughts but also engage attentively



with others' contributions. This emphasis on listening fosters a deeper understanding of the topic at hand and promotes respectful and constructive dialogue.

8. Cognitive Engagement: Oral discourse requires cognitive engagement from participants. The process of formulating thoughts, organizing them coherently, and articulating them verbally demands a unique set of cognitive skills. Engaging in oral discourse enhances critical thinking and communication proficiency.

In simple terms, oral discourse is a dynamic and diverse form of communication due to its inherent qualities. Knowing these traits enables people to successfully negotiate the challenges of spoken communication, from the collaborative nature of discussions to the subtle interaction of verbal and non-verbal factors. Using the power of oral discourse to its full potential in social, professional, and educational contexts is essential for promoting mutual understanding, idea sharing, and connection-making in today's diverse and interconnected world.

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