

THE PRAGMATIC FEATURES OF PEJORATIVE LEXICON IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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ANNOTATION

This thesis conveyed information on the pragmatic features of pejorative lexicon in English language. It is not secret that pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies how context influences the meaning of language. It explores how speakers use language to communicate effectively and interpret meaning beyond the literal words. Pragmatics examines how different factors, such as the speaker's intentions, the listener's understanding, social norms, and cultural background, shape the interpretation of language. It looks at how context, non-verbal cues, and implicature (the suggested meaning) contribute to effective communication. Pragmatics is essential in understanding the pragmatic meaning of utterances and how language is used in real-life situations.

Keywords: Pejorative language, expressions, interpretation, context, power dynamic, violate norms of politeness, dominant ideologies.

Pejorative language refers to words or expressions that carry a negative or derogatory connotation. It often aims to belittle or demean individuals, groups, or concepts. The use of pejorative language can vary across different contexts, and its impact is influenced by the speaker's intentions, the relationship between the speaker and the listener, and societal norms. The pragmatics of pejorative language involves examining the communicative function and effects of using such language. It explores how speakers use pejoratives to express attitudes, convey meanings beyond their literal definition, and manipulate social dynamics. The interpretation of pejorative language relies heavily on inferencing and context. Understanding the pragmatics of pejorative language involves considering various factors, such as:

1. Social dynamics: Pejoratives can be used to express power differentials, dominance, or superiority over others or specific groups.
2. Intention and effect: The speaker's intention in using pejorative language can be to insult, offend, or provoke a reaction. The effect on recipients may vary, depending on factors such as their identity, experiences, and cultural background.
3. Stereotypes and prejudices: Pejoratives are often tied to stereotypes and biases, reinforcing certain negative perceptions about targeted individuals or groups.

4. Contextual appropriateness: The acceptability and appropriateness of pejorative language may vary across different contexts, such as informal conversations, public speeches, or specific social settings.

The pragmatics of pejoratives refers to the study of how derogatory or offensive terms are used in language and how they affect communication. Pejoratives are words or expressions that are used to demean, insult, or belittle someone or something.

Here are some key points related to the pragmatics of pejoratives:

1. Context: The interpretation and impact of a pejorative term heavily depend on the context in which it is used. The speaker's intention, the relationship between the speaker and the listener, and the social and cultural norms all play a role in determining the effect of a pejorative term.

2. Offensiveness: Pejoratives are generally considered offensive and disrespectful. However, the degree of offensiveness can vary based on various factors such as intent, familiarity, and cultural sensitivity. What might be offensive in one context might be acceptable or even used playfully in another.

3. Implicatures: The use of pejoratives can often imply certain meanings or convey additional information beyond the denotation of the term itself. These implicatures can include derogatory attitudes, stereotypes, or prejudices associated with the term.

4. Power dynamics: Pejoratives are often used within a power dynamic where one group seeks to demean or dominate another. They can be used as a way to marginalize, dehumanize, or reinforce social hierarchies. Understanding the power dynamics at play is crucial in analyzing the effects of pejoratives.

5. Politeness strategies: The use of pejoratives can violate norms of politeness and social decorum. They are often considered impolite and can damage relationships and communication. However, in some cases, pejoratives can be used strategically to convey disapproval or to challenge dominant ideologies.

It is important to note that the appropriate use and interpretation of pejoratives can be complex and highly context-dependent. Sensitivity to the feelings and experiences of others, adherence to cultural norms, and respect for social dynamics are crucial when engaging with potentially offensive language.

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