A Contrastive Study of Linguistic Indirectness in English Language and Indirect Speech Acts

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Abstract: Indirectness is a common phenomenon of human language and plays an important role in people's speech practice. English euphemism and indirect speech act both study the indirectness of language. In the process of communicating with others, there is a kind of tension and anxiety caused by not understanding or misunderstanding the other party's psychological state, language ability, etc. In this case, we can alleviate this problem in different ways. First, learn to properly use the existing knowledge and experience in your hands; second, read more books and articles to see if the content conforms to objective facts; finally, it is necessary to pay attention not to express your inner thoughts with some obscure words, and try to avoid direct words the occurrence of behavior. This paper compares and analyzes the similarities and differences of language indirection between English euphemism and indirect speech acts, which helps people to use language more accurately and appropriately, and promotes the achievement of ideal communicative effects.

Keywords: English Language; Indirect Speech Act; Linguistic Indirectness

1. Introduction

With the changes of social, economic and cultural background, political system and living environment, it puts forward higher requirements for people's communication skills. English euphemism is a special phenomenon in language, it has certain rhetorical function, and there are great differences between different countries and regions [1]. Due to this cultural background and living habits, people have many different understandings of euphemisms. Indirect speech act is a way of using direct language to express in information processing and analysis. In the process of daily communication or dialogue, due to some objective factors, such as the content of the other party's speech, emotional changes, etc., others will cause some emotional or psychological reactions, and these subjective reasons or behavioral effects may also affect others to varying degrees. At the same time, it will also form a certain impact and pressure on the goals that people want to achieve, and even cause a sense of harm and frustration, so it is necessary to carry out verbal expression activities indirectly [2]. The concepts of English euphemism and indirect speech actism are consistent, and both belong to oral communication. Both refer to the use of language means to achieve the purpose of expressing and communicating emotions. In the English classroom, we can find that students often encounter some problems when using direct vocabulary. For example: "I don't know why you said that?", "Why are you so stupid!", etc. And if these problems cannot be solved, they need to solve the problem through indirect speech behavior or carry out psychological suggestion to help them better complete the communication task, which is the ability of language expression and comprehension. The concept of English euphemism and indirect speech actism is consistent, but in real life, we can find that Chinese euphemism and direct lexical behavior are very different.

2. Linguistic Indirect Analysis of English Euphemisms and Indirect Speech Acts

Euphemisms and indirect speech acts are indirect speech expressions that people use to achieve expected communicative effects in social processes. As common linguistic phenomena, they focus on explaining the indirectness of language from a pragmatic perspective.

2.1 Linguistic Indirectness of English Euphemisms

English euphemism behavior refers to a polite language or communication method that people use to avoid embarrassment in daily life. It is indirect and uncertain. English euphemism behavior is closely related to factors such as

language environment and cultural background. American psychologist William Allen (1890) believed that the frequency of use of speech depends on its understanding of the content expressed in the context [3]. If a person cannot understand the context of his speech well in the language environment, he may be laughed at or even punished by others. Therefore, the behavior of English euphemism is closely related to social culture, political background and other factors, and the behavior of English euphemism can also be realized through pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar. In English euphemism, the existence of indirectness has a great advantage, it can not only make the language more vivid and humorous, but also can improve the mutual understanding and tacit understanding between the two parties.

2.2 Linguistic Indirectness of Indirect Speech Acts

In the middle and late 20th century, the speech act theory proposed by John L Austin and John R Searle aroused extensive attention in linguistics. Indirect speech act is put forward based on this theory-a more important concept. In speech acts, language indirectness refers to the expression of a message through direct or without intermediaries. Its existence can enable people to express the content to be conveyed from multiple angles and in all directions. The use of indirect language behavior is a process that presupposes direct conversation, and finally achieves a certain goal and finally achieves a specific goal, and this is related to the discourse mode adopted by the speaker. Therefore, we can find that there are very obvious differences between different types, different genders or different cultural backgrounds using the same discourse habit. In daily communication, we will find that there are significant differences in indirect speech behaviors among different groups, classes and genders [4].

3. Linguistic Indirect Commonality of English Euphemism and Indirect Speech Acts

3.1 The same premise

Euphemism is a form of language used in social communication, which is mainly used to express the remarks, attitudes and opinions of an individual or a group towards others. First of all, from the perspective of speech behavior, with the continuous development and progress of the times, people's living environment has undergone great changes, we have abandoned the previous closed and conservative ideas, and communication is not only limited to daily communication, but also in the society. There are also more possibilities in communication, which is also an ideal state pursued by people in modern society. Secondly, from the perspective of speech acts, in the traditional sense, we generally use "euphemisms" and "indirect words" to express whether the words that appear in other people's speech are positive. Indirect speech act means that people express things with words, act with words, and achieve certain purposes with words. Among them, how to use words to act is the core content of indirect speech act theory. The production of euphemisms and indirect speech acts depends on the needs of social life. The purpose of both is to conduct voice communication in a more harmonious and comfortable environment, and finally achieve the ideal communication effect [5].

3.2 Politeness Factor is a Common Motivation

Both euphemisms and indirect speech acts follow the principle of politeness, and their starting points contain politeness factors. In English euphemism, people take politeness as a criterion for judging language. Because when we express it directly or indirectly with inappropriate words, it may be considered by the other party as unruly and inconsistent with the rules. In this case, if there is no reasonable and effective solution or strategy to regulate yourself, misunderstandings and conflicts will easily occur; However, if it is used properly, it can also enable both parties to communicate in harmony, then people will be more willing to choose polite words to deal with problems. The pragmatic function of indirect speech act is very strong, and it has been a widely used pragmatic strategy for a long time. People use one speech act to indirectly engage in another speech act when politely making a request to another or indirectly rejecting another's offer, the main reason for doing this still boils down to politeness [6].

4. Linguistic Indirect Differences Between English Euphemism and Indirect Speech Acts

4.1 Euphemisms Emphasize the Difference in Meaning

Euphemisms emphasize the difference in meaning. For example, in our daily life, speakers will use some speech acts with indirect or verbal characteristics intentionally or unintentionally, but they do not involve the intention and purpose they

want to express, or they may directly use euphemism to express their views or Ask a question about something, etc. These languages all contain obvious indirect components. The indirect components in these euphemisms have certain similarities with words, but they are not exactly the same. They affect the speakers to different degrees, and some of them also appear when we learn spoken language. A topic that does not have a clear meaning but has some meaning. Secondly, due to the inconsistency of speech behaviors used by both parties in the communication, there are two results: the first is that the expression ability is insufficient or incorrect, resulting in the inability to accurately express their intentions; the second point is that the euphemism is lacking in expression. , or for some reason cannot achieve the desired effect in the speech. Therefore, we need to study euphemisms, understand the insufficiency of different types of expressive abilities, and exert subjective initiative in the process of language communication. Indirect differences in language are caused by different contexts, so we must learn to use euphemisms flexibly, and only in this way can we correctly exert the ability of indirect normative expression [7].

4.2 Indirect Speech Act Emphasizes the Indirectness of Indirect Implementation of Speech Act

Indirect speech acts emphasize the indirectness of the indirect implementation of speech acts. Indirect speech act refers to expressing the content of discourse directly or with the help of other people or media . Therefore, there are certain differences in terms of vocabulary and syntax that we usually say. "Metaphor theory" believes that a word can reflect the phenomenon of interconnectedness between things in many ways; under uncertain factors, after people observe and recognize a certain type of things, behavior plays an important role in language communication , the meaning of its existence is to effectively transform euphemism into a new way. Indirect speech acts refer to the intention to indirectly perform another speech act through one speech act, and they are of two types: convention and non-convention. For example, "Can you give me this book?". In this example, we mean "request" indirectly by "asking". On the other hand, euphemisms are characterized by subtle, clear, rich expressions. We see that both indirect speech acts and euphemisms are indirect, but different leve ls of emphasis are placed on indirect speech. Indirect speech acts focus on the implementation of indirect speech acts, while euphemisms focus on expressing meaning [8,9].

5. Conclusion

Euphemism and indirect speech act belong to indirect language. As two common language phenomena, they are ubiquitous. In people's work and daily life, the use of appropriate euphemisms and indirect speech acts may reflect the communicative competence of language users. We should fully understand the difference between euphemisms and indirect speech acts in expressing indirectness and their intersections, and use euphemisms and indirect speech acts correctly, which not only promotes harmonious interpersonal relationships, but also helps to carry out various social work.

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