

Research on Pragmatic Errors in English as a Lingua Franca

Weizhen Fu

University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, 50603, Malaysia

Abstract: As an international language, English has become a way for many countries to communicate in terms of economy, education, and culture. However, in the context of globalization, there are still some pragmatic mistakes in English as a lingua franca (ELF). In the process of mutual communication, the original ideas and meanings are not expressed, which affects the subsequent communication. At the same time, the current academic research on ELF focuses on communication strategy, phonetic characteristics, conversation structure, and vocabulary syntax, without analyzing the pragmatic errors, which is not conducive to giving full play to the advantages of ELF. Based on this, this paper studies the types of pragmatic errors in English as a lingua franca for reference.

Keywords: Pragmatic errors; English as a lingua franca

1. Introduction

In the context of the continuous development of international communication, English has been widely used in international communication and learning. It is also used more and more widely for communication between non-native speakers from different countries and cultural backgrounds. Since people use English as an international lingua franca, special attention should be paid to English pragmatic mistakes in this context. English as a lingua franca, is no longer limited to native English speakers but belongs to all the people who use English in the world, social specification and pronunciation characteristics cannot be tied to a particular community, language culture, or language habits, need to reflect the typical characteristics of the international language, In order to correctly judge the problems of pragmatic errors in English as an international lingua franca, it is urgent to construct an objective and complete criteria standard of pragmatic errors recognition.

2. The pragmatic error of English as a lingua franca

As the common language in the world, English plays a crucial role in the cooperation and communication of different countries. The English pragmatic error specifically means that both sides of the communication do not correctly understand and catch the meaning of each other in international communication. Different countries have unique language understanding, forms of expression, and language habits, and are located in different regions, there will also be obvious differences in culture. In the process of communicating with people, they often according to their own preferences and habits bring the cultural spirit and thoughts of their regions into the communication link, which leads to the pragmatic mistakes of both sides. Especially in international communication links, people in various countries may cause misunderstandings due to some problems when communicating with others, which affects subsequent communication^[1].

The judgment of English pragmatic errors should not be limited to the communication rules of native English speakers but should include the communication rules of universal significance. During the actual communication, both parties should form the discourse ability and cultural adaptability according to their own context dynamics. At the same time, because both parties have the corresponding social value system, they can have some understanding and grasp of the relevant social norms of the English language, try to avoid the pragmatic errors when English is used as a lingua franca as much as possible, and improve the effectiveness of English use.

3. Types of pragmatic errors in English as a lingua franca

3.1 Errors in expression habits on communication occasions

In relatively formal communication occasions, it is necessary to pay more attention to the formal degree of communication,

its corresponding communication procedures, communication forms, etc., and deeply study the actual internal needs of language selection of social factors such as language style. In general, formal communication situations are in direct proportion to the use of formal discourse. When the communicative occasion is formal, the discourse used by both sides of the conversation also needs to be formal. If the English used in communication is informal or in a zonal style, then the problem of pragmatic errors will inevitably occur. If informal words are used in a formal occasion or formal atmosphere, it will make others think that they are not respected and reflect the rude offense of the speaker. At the same time, the differences in language and cultural background will also affect their communication. This difference is not based on identity, status, or situation, but both sides of the dialogue are from different regions, in different ways, and the expression habits are also different. China, for example, is relatively reserved, whether it says something that may embarrass others or when others need their help, will be more obscure, and generally will not directly express its ideas. In the same way, they say no to others also in a subtle way. The United States is the complete opposite of China. The United States is the complete opposite of China, for Americans, whether good or bad, will express themselves in a direct way. This is the difference in regional culture and expression habits, which leads to pragmatic errors in English communication [2].

3.2 The conflict between the language culture and the mode of thinking

As an international language, English is regarded as a key teaching content in schools at all stages. However, in terms of English language learning, Due to the conflict between students' study and international communication, the differences in students' thinking mode and language and culture, pragmatic errors still exist. In some countries, for historical and political reasons, English is widely used in daily life as the official language. For them, they are used to putting the subject after the English sentence is formed, rather than translating their own language word for word in English. However, the grammatical structure of Chinese is quite different from that of English. Every word in Chinese is an individual. When learning English, people tend to unconsciously correspond words to words one by one, which leads to the repeated application of relevant English words in the use of sentences, resulting in pragmatic errors, misunderstandings, and hindering people's international communication. In addition, since the two parties are often from different countries, the language norms and cultural background are quite different, and the two parties usually conduct international communication based on their own values and mother tongue culture. As cultural norms and rules cannot be fully shared, it is easy for both parties to misunderstand each other's intention and purpose of communication. In this case, if the two sides do not achieve effective communication and exchange, or do not obtain the intention of the other side, the goal of communication, then new pragmatic errors will be generated in the following dialogue.

3.3 The difference in emotional cognition at the social level

Social English mistakes are common in international communication. It is affected by social and cultural differences. On the other hand, there are obvious differences in the communication information spread by different countries. Social English pragmatic errors do not refer to the differences between learners from different backgrounds in language learning, but to different cultural concepts that are absorbed and understood by each other. For example, in Chinese tradition, older people are obviously respected, which comes from the good virtue of respecting the old and caring for the young since ancient times. However, in Western culture, the issue of age is very sensitive and usually not discussed. Blind asking the age is easy to cause the other side, which is not the lack of language, but the different understanding of social culture in the environment. The existence of such a phenomenon will lead to pragmatic errors in the process of expressing one's intention. In addition, differences in affective cognition are also common problems in English pragmatic errors. For example, in the expression of emotional distance in communication, there are huge differences between Eastern and Western cultures in emotional expression. Generally speaking, verbal communication and communication are affected by emotional distance. If the emotional distance is small, the communication will be more enthusiastic; on the contrary, if the emotional distance is large, the application of discourse will be more euphemistic and polite. [3]. Therefore, both parties involved in actual communication need to be targeted, consciously combine emotional distance, and construct language forms according to the quantitative structure, so as to avoid stiff expression or excessive enthusiasm in specific communicative language. Participants need to improve their own knowledge reserve, so as to make communication more enjoyable properly, reasonably, and scientifically, so as to ensure the effective application of English as lingua franca.

3.4 Differences in values and cultural customs

As a lingua franca, English may be influenced by different cultural customs and values in different countries, which may lead to pragmatic errors. Unintentionally touching the social customs and values recognized by the other party is also a pragmatic error, which must be avoided in international communication. The cultural customs, values and social and cultural backgrounds

of both parties affect the identity formation of both sides. Therefore, the sensitivity and tolerance of cultural differences should be solved reasonably and scientifically in communication. For the flexibility of cultural differences, if we cannot effectively and timely perceive the differences in cultural values, it is easy to produce communicative conflicts. Therefore, in international communication, a more important premise is that both parties should understand and identify with each other's social customs and values as much as possible, and dynamically adjust the pertinence and effectiveness of language in actual communication, so as to achieve the ideal communicative purpose. In addition, misunderstanding different values and cultural customs is the most common cause of language conflict in the communication of English as a lingua franca. In international communication, the customs and values of any country are respected and understood, but such content is also very sensitive in international communication. Once one party denies the cultural values of the other party, it will lead to greater conflicts in international communication. Therefore, in actual communication, both parties should fully study and understand each other's cultural characteristics, so as to lay a solid foundation for successful communication activities.

4. Conclusion

To sum up, in the context of the development of globalization, English, as an important bridge connecting human cultural exchanges, is widely used by more and more people. The use of English is no longer just the preserve of native speakers. As an international language, English has been used by more and more non-native speakers. This paper analyzes the types of pragmatic errors in English as a lingua franca; correctly defines the root of pragmatic errors, and focuses on solving the problems of pragmatic errors, so as to provide a certain reference for effective international communication.

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