

Verbal Means of Expressing Misunderstanding in the English Family Discourse

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The definition of misunderstanding in family discourse has become relevant in the last decades of the XX - early XXI centuries. Misunderstanding is a communicative and cognitive phenomenon that occurs during the transmission of certain information in the process of dialogic interaction between two or more communicants and is mainly characteristic of the listener. The research of misunderstanding in the framework of family discourse is carried out by many scholars, including: Brovkina, Baranova, Semeniuk.

The relevance of the topic

is determined by the application of the latest approaches of modern philology to the analysis of structural, semantic and pragmatic aspects of speech practices of communicators of the English family discourse, taking into account the differences of participants of the communicative act and situations, during which there is an erroneous interpretation of the message. The relevance of the problem is increased by the need to determine the strategies and tactics during the conflict situation, arising from the confrontational points of view of the communicants of family discourse.

The object

is the modern English family discourse in the situation of misunderstanding.

The subject

is the structural-semantic and pragma-discursive characteristics of the implementation of misunderstanding in the English family discourse.

The purpose

is to find out the means of implementation of misunderstanding as a type of interpretation and the factors influencing the misunderstanding of the speaker's message in the communicative space of the English family discourse.

TASKS:

- I** to provide a theoretical analysis of communicative misunderstandings and consider their typology within the framework of the English family discourse;
- 2** to reveal linguocommunicative signs of misunderstanding in family discourse based on examples of the English-speaking communication;
- 3** to investigate the factors influencing the speech behavior of speakers in a situation of misunderstanding;
- 4** to analyze strategies and tactics of conflict in the English family discourse;
- 5** to identify the structural-semantic and communicative-pragmatic features of the implementation of misunderstanding in the English family discourse.



The methodological basis

covers the linguistic descriptive method. The work also includes general scientific methods, such as: induction; contextual analysis; pragmatic and conversational analysis.

Typology of failures

linguistic communicative failures

- failures caused by words of broad semantics
- deictics
- homonyms

Example:

HUSBAND: "Have you heard anything of her?"

WIFE: "No, but there is one thing I should not object to hear about her just now."

HUSBAND: "One thing? What do you mean, dear?"

WIFE: "That she had died"

(J. Le Fanu, p. 75)

Typology of failures

speech communication failures

- code
- situational
- characterological

Example:

SON: "Actually, Mom, I'm waiting for a friend."
MOTHER: "Are you talking about your new girlfriend?"
SON: "Oh, God, you misunderstood me. I'm waiting for my buddy"

(M. Selby, p. 78)

GENDER-NEUTRAL TACTICS

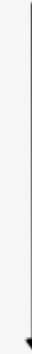


TACTIC OF REQUESTING INFORMATION

'How's school doing?'
(*K. Lawson, p. 16*)

'Is it true? Is it really happening?'
(*N. Mostyn, p. 68*)

GENDER-PREFERENTIAL TACTICS



TACTIC OF MONITORING

Examples:

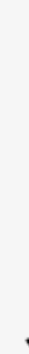
'He might simply have been satisfying his curiosity about where I went when left home most days'
(*J. Bowen, p. 76*)

NEUTRAL-AGE TACTICS



TACTIC OF REFUSAL

PREFERENTIAL-AGE TACTICS



TACTIC OF REQUEST

Examples:

'How awful it would be if I couldn't
read to my babies at all'
(*I. Hollaway, p. 160*)

'Could you teach me some of your
moves?'
(*B. Conrad, p. 172*)



Misunderstanding as a Type of Interpretation in the English Family Discourse

the lack of awareness and the communicant's knowledge

Example:

SON: "Dad, why do I shake and scare people?"

FATHER: "You scare people because you're different."

SON: "I know."

FATHER: "They don't understand. You don't talk like other people. You shake. You have cerebral palsy."

SON: "What's that?"

FATHER: "You were born that way. The brain gives wrong direction to the muscles. People don't understand so they get scared. They don't understand"

(Lesson Guide for Captioned Films, XX: A Training and Utilization Guide, p. 881)

Types of communicative strategies



destructive
(confrontational)
strategy

Example of reproach tactic:

'But, Mom, you don't understand. Mom, are you even listening to me? Oh, God'
(R. Cristofano, p. 246)



neutral
(distancing)
strategy

Example of evasion tactic:

'Please, Lisa, go and find something to do. I'm busy'
(P. Lively, p. 203)



constructive
(cooperation)
strategy

Example of compassion tactic:

'Oh, I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry you had to go through that'
(F. Kassindja, p. 546)



Conclusions

An unsuccessful communicative act leads to a communicative failure, which in turn generates misunderstanding. It is determined that gender and age are factors that influence misunderstandings in family discourse. The implementation of communicative strategies by communicators in a conflict situation mainly differ, which means the effectiveness of the conflict style only in specific conditions. The choice of strategy always depends on the emerging situation.



**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION!**