



PAPER

PRAGMATIC RESEARCH OF IRONY

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Abstract

Irony is a form of mixed communication that expresses implicit meaning through the integration of verbal and nonverbal means, since these means together transform semantic contradiction into a hidden pragmatic purpose. In linguistics, irony is classified as a pragmatic phenomenon in which the contradiction between the directive purpose (the explicit meaning in the sentence) and the implicative purpose (the true intention) is the main one.

Key words: verbal, nonverbal, irony, implicitness, ironic content.

INTRODUCTION

Verbal means (lexicon, syntax, stylistic figures) create this contrast at the semantic level, while nonverbal means (prosody, kinetics) define it contextually. As a result, irony is implicit and requires cognitive processing (inference) by the listener, which increases the interactivity of communication. The synchronous combination of verbal and nonverbal means creates a mixed (multimodal) form, in which the implicit content is formed in the following stages: 1) verbal semantics provides explicit meaning; 2) nonverbal signals indicate contrast; 3) the listener extracts the implicature based on pragmalinguistic rules (Grice's principle of cooperation). For example, the speaker emphasizes the current situation by saying "Thank you for your help" (negative irony) – when used in

conjunction with a raised tone, eye roll, and hand waving, it expresses genuine anger.

DISCUSSION

Irony – Greek. *eironeia* – deceit, trickery; knowingly taking for granted. Irony is a figure of speech in which the speaker creates a hidden or contradictory meaning with his literal (word-for-word) statement, while this meaning is understood through context and pragmatic signals. Sperber and Wilson's relevance theory (Relevance Theory) explains irony as a dissociative attitude, that is, the speaker activates the cognitive processes of the audience by introducing elements of ridicule, doubt, or social calculation into the communication process. Irony is rich in implicatures, and its semantic interpretation requires pragmatic competence,

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that is, the audience must correctly understand the speaker's intention and the contextual conditions.[1] Irony is a complex cognitive process and serves as a means of expressing subjective modality in the communication process. Russian linguist O.S. Akhmanova defines the phenomenon of irony as "a mockery disguised as a positive characteristic or praise, used in a hidden way, contrary to the literal meaning of the word".[2] The cognitive-pragmatic interpretation of the phenomenon of irony as a means of expressing implicit meaning emphasizes the importance of the speaker's intention and the role of the listener in recognizing irony. "Ironic attitude is a content that is understood in a reverse, figurative sense, with the help of some hint, rather than directly and openly expressed in linguistic units." [3.9]

In this approach, the main attention is paid to the following aspects:

1. The communicative intention of the speaker manifests positive illocutionary signs in the external structure and means of expression, such as praise, respect or warmth. However, in terms of content and pragmatics, their internal illocutionary force implies implicit goals such as criticism, irony, disapproval or maintaining a certain distance from the interlocutor, which creates an ironic tone in the communicative situation. Such forms of expression are usually evaluated as strategic speech acts of the speaker aimed at eliminating direct contradictions in communication, but at the same time indirectly expressing his position.

2. The meaning of irony arises in the process of understanding the contradiction between the listener's existing knowledge about reality, the speaker and the communicative situation and the content of the text. Therefore, the correct interpretation of ironic content directly depends on the listener's pre-formed knowledge and ability to perceive the context.

3. According to P.Grice's theory, in communication, the speaker and the listener cooperate, that is, they perform actions aimed at a common goal - the effective exchange of information. This cooperation is expressed by four main features: quantity (how much to say), quality (correspondence to reality), attitude (relevance), style (clarity and fluency). In ironic speech, the speaker usually superficially violates one or

more of them: for example, he speaks frankly incorrectly (violates the maxim of quality) or gives a contradictory assessment of the situation. The formation of ironic meaning through the appearance of a violation of cooperation is interpreted as a cognitive-pragmatic process.

"Ironic content is the content of a whole text – a predicative-relative complex, consisting of a set of contradictory thoughts, given on the basis of a subjective evaluative modality of a negative, negative nature." [3.9] Thus, it reflects the speaker's various communicative goals and criticism, as well as implicitly evaluates the object of speech. Through irony, the speaker determines the actions of the addressee, realizes that the indicated speech acts are directed against his or her interests or those of society, and opposes the speech acts, expressing his attitude to the subject of speech or the interlocutor. Such a contradiction is formed in the course of communicative activity, creating a semantic and pragmatic difference between the participants in the speech. As a result, the ironic expression abandons its literal (word-for-word) meaning and ambiguously expresses the true assessment through contextual meaning.

As means of expressing irony, we can include phonetic (the speaker's tone of voice), lexical, morphological, and syntactic means, as well as factors such as the common knowledge base between the interlocutors. "The method of expressing ironic content is a form of subjective attitude, which consists more in expressing a critical view of the interlocutor and, on this basis, a hidden negative attitude. Irony can not only be a means of artistic work that evokes ironic laughter, but also acquires a great social meaning. Its merit in the artistic style is that the thought is expressed not in a vulgar, rude way, but in a somewhat smooth, cultural dress. Through irony, sarcasm and even painful feelings are expressed in a certain shell in a work of art. The implicit expression of a negative attitude refers to a hidden discursive contradiction. In this regard, Professor E.Ibragimova emphasizes the following points on this issue: "Irony arises as a result of the conflict between negative and positive mechanisms. The implicit meaning, which is formed in opposition to the original meaning of linguistic means, is expressed in the form of their obligatory component - modality, that is, the

attitude of the speaker to being.[3.20] For example, positive words can convey a negative attitude. The sentence “You did a great job!” in a negative context conveys an ironic purpose, since the semantic meaning is positive, and the pragmatic purpose is critical.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the speaker, by giving an ironic expression, prefers indirect influence to open criticism. The appeal to the existing situation in a shell is carried out through irony.

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