

BEST JOURNAL OF INNOVATION IN SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT



**ISSN
2835-3579**

Impact Factor 9.1

www.bjisrd.com



www.bjisrd.com

Expression of the Modesty Maxim in English

Yuldasheva Feruza Erkinovna

Senior teacher of English linguistics department Bukhara state university,
yuldashevaferuza475@gmail.com

***Annotation:** Politeness is an interesting subject to be discussed. In this article the analysis of politeness is based on the modesty maxim proposed by Leech. He proposed six types of politeness maxim. The discussion shows that communicators use all types of maxim in their conversation. Modesty plays an important role in politeness because it helps us avoid coming across as arrogant or boastful when interacting with others. When we are modest, we show respect for the other person and demonstrate that we value their opinion and perspective.*

***Key words:** the modesty maxim, showing respect, modest language, mutual trust.*

Politeness becomes an important aspect in the society; it is used to recognize social-culture within a community in a region. It means that politeness can also be regarded as some kind of social norm determined by the convention of the community. Sometimes, they have to be polite in order to show that they are civilized people and they will not be accused as rude people who have bad manner. Even though politeness can be used to recognize social-culture, in many ways, it is a universal norm. Politeness is a branch and one of the major topics of pragmatic study.

Pragmatics is a study of language in its relation to language use and how the language is used by its speaker in their interaction in the speech community. Pragmatics also studies the language in its context and the relation between language and context that are grammaticalized, or encoded in the structure of a language. The context in this case can be the context of situation or context of culture. Pragmatics is very important because it gives people the skills to behave in society so that in its development many people developed some theory of pragmatics to support their skills in communicating. One of them is Geoffrey Leech with his Politeness Principles (PP) theory. According to Leech, Politeness Principle is minimizing the expression of impolite beliefs, and there is a corresponding positive version or maximizing the expression of polite beliefs which is somewhat less important. Leech proposed it to produce and understand language based on politeness. The purpose of Politeness principles itself is to establish feeling of community and social relationship. Further, Leech

proposed six maxims, namely Tact Maxim, Generosity Maxim, Approbation Maxim, Modesty Maxim, Agreement Maxim, and Sympathy Maxim.

Modesty comes from the Latin *modestus*, which literally translates as “keeping due measure.” Knowing the correct measure of yourself is modesty, and when someone praises you too much, your modesty might kick in and make you want to tell them to be quiet. *Modesty* also means you keep things decent and not too outrageous, like wearing clothes that hide your skin, or painting your walls beige instead of covering them with glow-in-the-dark diamond wallpaper.

Modesty in dress, appearance, thought, and behavior is evidence that we understand the covenants we have made that bless us, protect us, and empower us in our preparation to return to His presence.

According to Geoffrey Leech, there is a politeness principle with conversational maxims similar to those formulated by Paul Grice. He lists six maxims: tact, generosity, approbation, modesty, agreement, and sympathy. The first and second form a pair, as do the third and the fourth. These maxims vary from culture to culture: what may be considered polite in one culture may be strange or downright rude in another.

The maxim of modesty is one of the six maxims proposed by Leech (1983) in his PP (politeness principle). The modesty maxim states: "Minimize the expression of praise of self; maximize the expression of dispraise of self." For example:

Oh, I'm so stupid – I didn't make a note of our lecture! Did you?

Both approbation maxim and modesty maxim concern with the degree of good or bad evaluation of other or self that is performed by the speaker. However, this maxim usually occurs in apologizing something.

The expression of the modesty maxim in English is to refrain from self-promotion or boasting about oneself and instead maintain a humble and modest demeanor. It is important to avoid excessive praise or attention-seeking behavior and to show respect and consideration towards others. The modesty maxim is often expressed through phrases such as "I don't mean to brag, but..." or "I don't want to sound conceited, but..." followed by a modest statement that downplays one's accomplishments or abilities.

Here are a few examples of how the concept of modesty can be used in English:

1. Interviewer: "What would you say is your greatest strength?"
Interviewee: "I don't want to sound conceited, but I'm a very organized person and I think that helps me to manage my workload effectively."
2. After receiving praise for a successful project at work, you might say: "Thanks, but it was really a team effort. I couldn't have done it without my colleagues' help."
3. If someone compliments your outfit, you could respond by saying: "Thank you, but it's nothing special. I just threw it on this morning."
4. When discussing your qualifications for a job, you might say: "I have some experience in this area, but I still have a lot to learn. I'm eager to gain new skills and knowledge."
5. In a conversation with a friend who is feeling down about their own accomplishments, you might say: "Don't be so hard on yourself. You've done a lot of great things and you should be proud of your achievements."

Modesty plays an important role in politeness because it helps us avoid coming across as arrogant or boastful when interacting with others. When we are modest, we show respect for the other person and demonstrate that we value their opinion and perspective.

Using modest language, such as avoiding exaggerated claims about our abilities or achievements, can help us establish a good rapport with others and promote a positive and collaborative atmosphere in social and professional settings.

Using modest speech in communication is important because it helps us to come across as humble and respectful, rather than arrogant or overly confident. Here are a few tips for incorporating modest language into your communication:

1. **Avoid making exaggerated claims:** Try to never make exaggerated claims about your abilities or accomplishments. Instead, focus on describing what you have achieved in a factual and objective way.
2. **Show gratitude:** When someone compliments or congratulates you, respond by thanking them and showing gratitude for their support or kind words.
3. **Use tentative language:** You can use tentative language (e.g. "I think," "Perhaps," "Maybe") to show that you are open to other opinions and perspectives, rather than trying to dominate a conversation.
4. **Avoid interrupting:** Interrupting someone can come across as rude and aggressive. Instead, practice active listening and wait for the other person to finish speaking before responding.
5. **Be respectful:** Always try to show respect for others, even if you disagree with them. You can do this by acknowledging their point of view, speaking calmly and respectfully, and avoiding aggressive language or behavior.

By using modest speech in your communication, you can demonstrate your respect and consideration for others, build stronger relationships, and promote a positive and collaborative environment.

By acknowledging our limitations, expressing gratitude, and downplaying our accomplishments, we can show humility and empathy, which can make others feel more comfortable and valued. Modesty is thus an essential element of respectful communication and can help us build relationships based on mutual trust and understanding.

REFERENCES

1. Rasulov, Z. I. (2011). Syntactic ellipsis as a manifestation of the economy of language): abstract of dissertation.. Candidate of philological sciences/Rasulov Zubaidullo Izomovich.-Samarkand, 2011.-27 p.
2. Rasulov, Z. I., & Saidov, K. S. (2022). Linguistic Economy as an Inseparable Law of Language Evolution. Integration of Pragmalinguistics, Functional Translation Studies and Language Teaching Processes, 8–12.
3. Izomovich, R. Z., & Fazliddinova, U. D. (2021). The Problems of Second Language Acquisition and Writing in Teaching English Language. "ONLINE-CONFERENCES" PLATFORM, 229–233.

4. Yuldasheva Feruza Erkinovna. (2021). POLITENESS MARKERS IN SPOKENLANGUAGE. Euro-Asia Conferences, 37–40. Retrieved from <http://papers.euroasiaconference.com/index.php/eac/article/view/528>.
5. Yuldasheva Feruza Erkinovna. (2022). The Principle of Politeness in the English and Uzbek Languages. Eurasian Research Bulletin, 6, 65–70. Retrieved from <https://www.geniusjournals.org/index.php/erb/article/view/799>
7. Yuldasheva, F. E., & Gulomov, S. (2022, January). POLITENESS LANGUAGE PATTERNS IN REQUEST. In International journal of conference series on education and social sciences (Online) (Vol. 2, No. 1). <https://ijorces.org/index.php/ojs/article/view/152>
8. Rasulova, N. (2023). TILSHUNOSLIKDA “LISONIY SHAXS” TUSHUNCHASI QO’LLANILISHI. Integration Conference on Integration of Pragmalinguistics, Functional Translation Studies and Language Teaching Processes, 184–186. Retrieved from <https://www.conferenceseries.info/index.php/online/article/view/1040>
9. Alisherovna, R. N. . (2023). Lisoniy Shaxs Nazariyasi Va Tilshunoslikda U Haqidagi Qarashlar. Miasto Przyszłości, 33, 193–196. Retrieved from <http://miastoprzyszlosci.com.pl/index.php/mp/article/view/1214>
10. Эльманова, М. (2023). ПРОБЛЕМА СЕМЕЙНЫХ ЦЕННОСТЕЙ В РОМАНАХ “МАТЬ ПРОПАВШАЯ БЕЗ ВЕСТИ” И “МЫ БЫЛИ МАЛВЭНАМИ” ДЖОЙС КЭРОЛ ОУТС. ЦЕНТР НАУЧНЫХ ПУБЛИКАЦИЙ (buxdu.Uz), 31(31). извлечено от https://journal.buxdu.uz/index.php/journals_buxdu/article/view/9324
11. Эльманова, М. Т. (2023). Успех И Неудача В Романах Джойс Кэррол Оатс «Ради Чего Я Жил» И «Исповедь Моего Сердца». Miasto Przyszłości, 32, 312–315. Retrieved from <http://miastoprzyszlosci.com.pl/index.php/mp/article/view/1156>
12. Эльманова, М. (2023). ПРОБЛЕМЫ СОЦИАЛЬНОЙ МОБИЛЬНОСТИ В РОМАНАХ ДЖОЙС КЭРОЛ ОУТС. ЦЕНТР НАУЧНЫХ ПУБЛИКАЦИЙ (buxdu.Uz), 31(31). извлечено от https://journal.buxdu.uz/index.php/journals_buxdu/article/view/9326
13. Habibovna, U. Z. (2023). Rey Bredberining “Marsga Hujum” (“The Martian Chronicles”) Asari Tarjimasida Leksik Xususiyatlar. Miasto Przyszłości, 32, 354–357. Retrieved from <https://miastoprzyszlosci.com.pl/index.php/mp/article/view/1166>
14. Habibovna, U. Z. . . (2023). the Main Features of Analyses on “I, Robot” by Isaac Asimov. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE LEARNING AND APPLIED LINGUISTICS, 2(4), 206–210. Retrieved from <http://inter-publishing.com/index.php/IJLLAL/article/view/1552>.
15. Nazarova Navbahor Ahrorovna, & Akhmedova Marjona Rashidovna. (2023). DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AMERICAN AND BRITISH ENGLISH. INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENTS AND RESEARCH IN EDUCATION, 2(16), 156–161. Retrieved from <https://interonconf.org/index.php/idre/article/view/3909>
16. Nazarova, N. (2022). Antroponimlarning o’rganilishi. Integration of Pragmalinguistics, Functional Translation Studies and Language Teaching Processes, 110-112.