

**Verbal and Non-Verbal Linguistic Means of Expressing Emotivity in the English Language**

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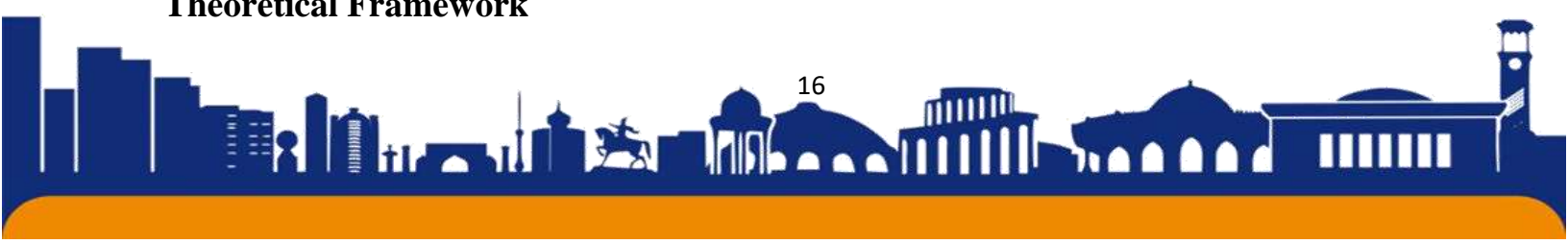
**Annotation:** This thesis explores the various verbal and non-verbal linguistic means employed in the English language to express emotivity. It examines the role of language in conveying emotions and the ways in which speakers and writers utilize different linguistic strategies to encode and communicate their emotional states. The study delves into the theoretical foundations of emotivity, analyzing the underlying cognitive and pragmatic mechanisms that shape the linguistic manifestation of emotions. The thesis also investigates the interplay between verbal and non-verbal cues, such as tone of voice, facial expressions, and body language, in the holistic expression of emotivity. The findings of this research contribute to the understanding of the complex relationship between language and emotion, with implications for fields like linguistics, psychology, and communication studies.

**Keywords:** emotivity, English language, verbal linguistic means, non-verbal linguistic means, cognition, pragmatics, tone of voice, facial expressions, body language, language and emotion

**Introduction**

Emotions play a fundamental role in human experience, shaping our perceptions, decision-making, and interactions with the world around us. The ability to express and communicate our emotional states is a crucial aspect of language use, as it allows for the conveyance of not only informational content but also the affective and experiential dimensions of our lives. In the English language, speakers and writers employ a variety of verbal and non-verbal linguistic means to encode and transmit emotivity, the linguistic expression of emotion.

**Theoretical Framework**



The concept of emotivity is grounded in the interplay between language, cognition, and pragmatics. From a cognitive perspective, emotions are understood as complex mental states that involve physiological, behavioral, and subjective components (Scherer, 2005). Linguistically, emotivity manifests through the strategic selection and deployment of various linguistic resources, which serve to convey the emotional experiences of the speaker or writer (Foolen, 2012).

### **Verbal Linguistic Means of Expressing Emotivity**

The verbal expression of emotivity in the English language encompasses a range of linguistic features, including lexical choice, syntactic structures, and prosodic elements. The use of emotion-laden vocabulary, such as adjectives, adverbs, and interjections, allows speakers and writers to directly encode their emotional states (e.g., "I am thrilled," "She spoke angrily," "Wow!") (Bednarek, 2008). Syntactic constructions, such as exclamations, rhetorical questions, and intensifiers, can also serve to heighten the emotional intensity of the utterance (e.g., "What a beautiful day!" "How could she do this to me?") (Biber et al., 1999).

### **Non-Verbal Linguistic Means of Expressing Emotivity**

Alongside verbal cues, non-verbal linguistic means play a crucial role in the holistic expression of emotivity. Tone of voice, facial expressions, and body language convey emotional information that can complement, contradict, or even supersede the verbal content of an utterance (Ekman, 1999; Knapp & Hall, 2010). For instance, a person may say "I'm fine" with a sigh and downcast eyes, indicating an emotional state that belies the literal meaning of the words.

### **The Interplay between Verbal and Non-Verbal Linguistic Means**

The interplay between verbal and non-verbal linguistic means in the expression of emotivity is complex and dynamic. Speakers and writers often employ a combination of these strategies to create a more nuanced and expressive communication of their emotional experiences. The degree to which verbal and non-verbal cues align or diverge can significantly impact the interpretation and understanding of the emotional message (Burgoon et al., 2016).

### **Conclusion**

The linguistic expression of emotivity in the English language is a multifaceted phenomenon that encompasses both verbal and non-verbal means. By examining the various linguistic strategies employed by speakers and writers, this thesis contributes to the understanding of the intricate relationship between language and emotion. The findings have implications for fields such as linguistics, psychology, and communication studies, offering insights into the cognitive and pragmatic underpinnings of emotional expression and the role of language in conveying the affective dimensions of human experience.

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