

EXPRESSION OF MORAL VALUES IN ORATORY

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Abstract

This thesis examines the expression of moral values in oratory as an important aspect of speech culture, public communication and ethical education. Oratory is not only the art of speaking beautifully and persuasively, but also the ability to express ideas responsibly, honestly and respectfully. Moral values such as truthfulness, justice, respect, responsibility, human dignity, patriotism, tolerance and social duty are reflected in the content, tone, argumentation and purpose of public speech. The study shows that a speaker's influence depends not only on linguistic skill but also on ethical position. The thesis analyzes the concept of moral values in oratory, their structural expression, educational importance, practical application and current problems in modern public speaking.

Keywords: oratory, moral values, speech culture, ethics, public speaking, persuasion, responsibility, respect, truthfulness, communicative competence.

Introduction

Oratory has always been one of the most powerful forms of human communication. Through speech, people defend ideas, explain social problems, influence public opinion, inspire communities and educate younger generations. However, the power of speech creates not only opportunity but also responsibility. A speaker can use words to unite people, support justice and promote knowledge, but the same speech can also be used to mislead, manipulate or divide society. For this reason, moral values are not an external addition to oratory. They are one of its essential foundations.

The expression of moral values in oratory means the reflection of ethical principles in the speaker's words, arguments, attitude toward the audience and purpose of communication. A morally responsible speaker respects the listener, uses truthful information, avoids humiliation, does not distort facts and tries to serve a socially useful aim. In this sense, oratory is closely connected with ethics. The speaker's success should not be measured only by applause or emotional effect. A speech becomes truly valuable when it strengthens understanding, human dignity, justice and responsible action.

Discussion

The concept of moral values includes socially accepted ideas about good behavior, honesty, fairness, respect, kindness, duty and responsibility. In oratory, these values appear through both content and form. Content shows what the speaker talks about and what position he or she supports. Form shows how the speaker communicates with the audience. A speaker may discuss a noble topic, but if the speech contains insult, arrogance or manipulation, moral value is weakened. Therefore, ethical oratory requires harmony between meaning, language and behavior.

Truthfulness is one of the central moral values in oratory. A public speech must be based on reliable information and honest reasoning. If a speaker uses false facts, exaggeration or emotional pressure to influence the audience, the speech may be persuasive for a short time but it loses moral legitimacy. In education, politics, science and social life, the audience depends on the speaker's honesty. This is especially important in the modern digital environment, where misinformation can spread quickly. A responsible speaker checks information, distinguishes fact from opinion and avoids presenting assumptions as proven truth.

Justice is another important value expressed in oratory. A just speech recognizes different viewpoints, evaluates problems fairly and avoids one-sided judgment. In public communication, injustice often appears when a speaker blames a group without evidence, ignores important facts or presents only the information that supports a personal interest. Ethical oratory requires intellectual fairness. The speaker should be able to criticize problems without insulting people and defend ideas without denying the dignity of others.

Respect is visible in the speaker's attitude toward the audience. Respectful speech does not mean weak or passive speech. A speaker may strongly defend a position, but the language should remain culturally appropriate. Insult, mockery, rude comparison and aggressive tone reduce the moral quality of speech. In educational and academic communication, respect is especially important because students and listeners should feel safe to think, ask questions and express opinions. A respectful speaker does not dominate the audience through fear. He or she creates a space for understanding.

Responsibility in oratory means awareness of the consequences of words. Every public speech has an effect. It can motivate people, change opinions, support decisions or shape attitudes. For this reason, speakers should understand that words are not neutral. A teacher's speech can encourage a student or discourage learning. A leader's speech can unite a team or create conflict. A social media speech can spread knowledge

or cause misunderstanding. **The moral responsibility of the speaker begins with understanding that speech influences human thought and behavior.**

Human dignity is also deeply connected with oratory. A speech that protects dignity treats people as thinking and feeling individuals, not as objects of manipulation. In moral oratory, the audience is not merely a target to be persuaded. The audience is a partner in communication. This principle is important in all types of public speaking, including academic presentations, debates, sermons, political speeches and classroom communication. The speaker must not use people's emotions irresponsibly. Emotional appeal is acceptable when it supports truth and understanding, but it becomes dangerous when it replaces evidence.

The history of oratory shows that moral values have always been part of speech culture. In ancient rhetoric, especially in the works of Aristotle, persuasion was connected with ethos, logos and pathos. Ethos referred to the speaker's character and credibility. This means that the moral image of the speaker was considered essential for persuasive communication. In Roman rhetoric, Cicero and Quintilian also emphasized that an orator should combine knowledge, eloquence and moral responsibility. Quintilian's famous idea of the orator as a good person skilled in speaking shows that public speech was not separated from ethical character.

In Eastern and Uzbek cultural traditions, speech has also been closely related to morality. Respect for meaningful words, avoidance of rude speech, appreciation of wisdom and responsibility for language are common features of national speech culture. Uzbek proverbs and classical literature often warn people to think before speaking, to avoid harmful words and to value kind expression. In the works of Alisher Navoi, the word is treated as a sign of intellect, morality and spiritual culture. This tradition shows that speech is not only a linguistic act but also a reflection of personality.

In education, the expression of moral values in oratory has practical importance. Students who learn public speaking should not only learn how to stand, pronounce words and organize a speech. They should also learn why they speak, what values their speech expresses and how their words affect others. A student's presentation on social issues, literature, history or language can develop moral thinking if it encourages respect, honesty and responsibility. Public speaking tasks in English language education can also help students express cultural values, compare moral concepts and develop communicative ethics.

The structural elements of moral oratory include ethical purpose, truthful content, logical argumentation, respectful language, emotional balance and social usefulness. Ethical purpose determines the direction of the speech. Truthful content

gives the speech credibility. Logical argumentation prevents empty emotionalism. Respectful language protects communication culture. Emotional balance helps the speaker influence the audience without manipulation. Social usefulness connects the speech with real human needs. If these elements are present, oratory becomes not only expressive but also morally meaningful.

Modern public speaking faces several problems related to moral values. One problem is the spread of manipulative speech. Some speakers use fear, anger or false promises to gain attention. Another problem is the replacement of deep content with external effect. Loud voice, emotional gestures, attractive slides or viral phrases may create a strong impression, but they do not guarantee moral or intellectual quality. A further problem is the decline of respectful debate. In many public spaces, disagreement is expressed through insult rather than argument. This weakens speech culture and reduces trust between people.

Digital communication has made these problems more visible. Social networks encourage short, emotional and sometimes aggressive expression. Many speakers try to attract attention rather than develop understanding. In such conditions, moral values in oratory become even more necessary. A modern speaker should be media-literate, fact-conscious and ethically careful. The ability to speak publicly must be combined with the ability to verify information and respect the audience.

The development of moral values in oratory requires systematic educational work. Students should practice speeches that are based on real problems, reliable sources and clear ethical positions. Debates should teach not only argumentation but also respect for the opponent. Presentations should be evaluated not only by fluency and pronunciation but also by content, evidence, fairness and cultural appropriateness. Teachers should guide students to avoid offensive language, unsupported claims and emotional exaggeration. Such practice forms communicative competence together with moral awareness.

The role of the teacher is especially important in this process. The teacher's own speech becomes a model for students. If the teacher communicates respectfully, corrects mistakes politely and uses evidence-based explanation, students learn moral communication through observation. If the teacher uses humiliation or unfair criticism, students may repeat the same style. Therefore, moral values in oratory should begin with classroom speech culture.

Conclusion

Oratory is valuable when it serves human development. A strong speech should not only persuade but also educate. It should not only attract attention but also strengthen thought. It should not only express emotion but also guide people toward

truth, respect and responsibility. **The expression of moral values in oratory transforms speech from a technique of influence into a culture of meaningful and ethical communication.** In the preparation of future language specialists, this issue is especially important because language teachers, translators and philologists work directly with words, meanings and cultural values. Their professional speech must show accuracy, respect and responsibility.

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