

# МЕДИЦИНА, ПЕДАГОГИКА И ТЕХНОЛОГИЯ: ТЕОРИЯ И ПРАКТИКА

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## GENDER CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MODESTY MAXIM IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES AND THEIR SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS

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### Abstract

Using a sociolinguistic approach, this paper investigates the gender-specific application of the modesty maxim in English and Uzbek languages. Geoffrey Leech's modesty maxim—a tenet of politeness theory—emphasizes reducing compliments aimed at oneself and increasing compliments aimed at others. Linguistic traditions, cultural standards, and social expectations all affect gender variations in using this maxim. This comparative research shows how male and female English and Uzbek speakers use modesty in conversation, therefore stressing the effect of sociocultural elements on language behavior. The results show notable differences in the use of modesty techniques, which reflect more general cultural ideas on gender roles in both language groups.

**Keywords:** gender traits, modesty maxim, English language, Uzbek language, sociolinguistic analysis, politeness theory, cultural standards, linguistic behavior.

### Introduction

Although it is a universal phenomena, politeness in language usage differs greatly depending on gender and culture. According Leech's Politeness Principle, the humility maxim is speakers downplaying own successes while uplifting others. With an eye on sociolinguistic elements influencing these variations, this study investigates how gender shapes the usage of the modesty maxim in English and Uzbek.

According to Geoffrey Leech's (1983) politeness theory, keeping social peace depends on the humility maxim being followed. The maxim says people should avoid praising themselves and instead focus on the achievements of others. Gender is very important in how this concept is expressed as society expectations usually determine different standards of modesty for men and women.

In English-speaking societies, humility is the usual synonym for modesty. Reflecting gender standards of politeness and humility, women often use modesty

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techniques more often than males. Women are more prone, for instance, to minimize comments ("Oh, this dress? While males may take praises straight forwardly, there was nothing unique." Studies on workplace communication also reveal women avoiding seeming boastfulness by employing hedging and mitigating language. Deeply ingrained in old and patriarchal customs, Uzbek society values modesty highly—especially for women. Women are supposed to be modest, kind, and quiet; they should not call attention to themselves. Men frequently show less strict devotion to this standard even when they are urged to be modest. To represent cultural values of humility, Uzbek women often employ diminutives and submissive words (e.g., "Kichkina ish edim," "It was a small task").

Sociolinguistic Aspects Affecting Maxim of Modesty. Many elements affect how modestly expressed among sexes in both languages: Collectivist societies such as Uzbekistan stress communal unity and the need of modesty, particularly for women, therefore strengthening their influence. Gender roles determine anticipated behavior; women frequently use more subdued words.

Formal environments accentuate the usage of modesty; professional rather than informal talks clearly show gender disparities.

Although both English and Uzbek people use the modesty principle, Uzbek language shows a more gender discrepancy because of its conservative cultural background. English displays less differences even if conventional expectations still exist because more equitable gender roles shapes it. Though the degree differs greatly, women's voice in both languages is usually more subdued.

In both English and Uzbek languages, the modesty maxim is essential component of politeness. Its use is much influenced by gender, molded by society conventions and cultural expectations. Knowing these variations improves cross-cultural communication and emphasizes the interactions among language, gender, and culture.

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