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Some investigating features of culturally
distinguished interjections

The paper is concerned with the most important aspects of interjections, giving a more detailed account of the different exclamations, the formal characteristic, implications of interjections by being distinguished culturally (Uzbek, Russian, English), The analysis is complemented with comprehensive list of interjections that are used in the English language with corresponding explanations of their meaning and their cultural differences as well as similarity in using interjections

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Language, as a perfect tool of communication, is a very complex symbolic system organized into a structure the elements of which have definite relationships among themselves and with the structure as a whole. However, probably every single day in our common language communication with the others we use forms which cannot be easily and distinctly defined as words, but which have to be considered as phonemic clusters with or without characteristic meaning assigned to convey various messages. But these messages are not necessarily thoughts and ideas any longer, but rather emotions, feelings and attitudes. Forms with emotional charge and expressive value used in communication to signal these are called *interjections*.

Interjection literally means “thrown in between” from Latin “inter” (between) and “iacere”(throw). As a part of speech it belongs to the independent elements – words, phrases or clauses without any grammatical relation to the other parts of the sentence (Curme II 104 “Interjections are generally uninflected function words and have sometimes been seen as sentence-words, since they can replace or be replaced by a whole sentence (they are holophrastic)” (Wikipedia).

In the grammar books of the language, interjections are usually spared only a couple of sentences of description and are most often classified with other classes of

uninflected words, considered to be exclamatory sounds or outcries of pain, surprise, anger, pleasure, etc. uttered to express strong emotion or feeling. As many authors in philology and linguistics suggest, interjections might have been among the first utterances or words used by humans at the dawn of language. The expressiveness and simplicity of such forms of communication may be among the reasons for that. It is not difficult to imagine how complex and almost awkward language might be if we were to obliterate this means of expression from our everyday communication. A simple **Ouch!** Would have to be substituted with, for example, "This thing you are doing to me is considerably hurtful", which is quite long, let alone its being rather awkward or even humorous.

Everything in language has meaning, which can be interpreted; if nothing else than as representing this or that sound as produced by this or that entity. Therefore, saying that particular interjections mean nothing is not utterly correct. In this respect, certain authors claim that interjections "...are purely emotive words which have no referential content nor any particularly significant grammatical function".⁵ See: R. Quirk, et al. (1972) *A Contemporary Grammar of English*, Longman group, London, pp 413-414.

According to Ameka 1992 (in Taontsainen 1998; p198) interjections are defined as linguistic gestures which express a speaker's mental state, action or attitude, or reaction to a situation.

Vladimir Jovanic, a Serbian scholar gives more precise information and also offers an extensive list of them. He discussed meaning, position and usage of interjections, his research: "the form position and meaning of interjections in English" published in 2004 in linguistics and literature.

There are over 550 interjections in English, and still new ones appear, mainly as a product of pop-culture – young urban population is the most productive in creating new interjections "as a part of their unique linguistic identity" (Jovanović 20).

It is clear to identify that there are some interjections that means differently in different cultures, one of the perfect example of it:

"Oy" means "hey, you!"

Mainly British: Used to get someone's attention, similar to "hey!".

Oy! You forgot your wallet!"

Also used disapprovingly ("Oy, you spilled your drink all over me!").

However, it is accepted as one of the common expressions in Russian culture with a meaning of amazement or wondering when someone does something accidentally, or by mistake.

Example: **Ой, не советую тебе этого делать.**

As a alternative form of this interjection in Uzbek language under the meaning of amazement can be used **"ibiiy"** mostly used for wonering

Example: **Ibiiy, bu haqda umuman bexabar ekanman.**

Yet, surprisingly, the similar form of this interjection **"Ibiyay"** is used absolutely different cases with the meaning in strong feeling of anger as somebody has done something bad or been unkind to you

Example: *Ozoda bir gapni qayta qayta ezmalayverganidan Otabekning jahli chiqib baqirib yubordi: "Ibiyay, bu nima qilganing?"*

The second one, which is in the same form but used absolutely different cases in English and Uzbek communication, is "Uff"

Mainly American, used when they full, completing meal or when finishing something eating.

Example: *Uff, I am full, I have eaten so much that do not want anything else.*

However, on the contrary in the Uzbek language it can be seen completely negative using, with the meaning of complaining.

Example: *Uff, I fed up with everything in my life.*

However, this piece of interjection is currently not seen in the dictionaries according to our investigation, thus, we can say that it is considered as a pure version of neologism being produced by people. There is no any connection in meaning with the previous example, however, they can be encountered in the same form, so knowing and using the interjections is helpful hand so as not to meet cultural misunderstanding.

Next one, which is showing extremely amazement and wondering used in English culture is "wow" means expressing astonishment or admiration

Example: *wow, that's incredible.*

Although this one is new coming as a neologism to Uzbek language, an alternative form of this interjection can be used: "o'xxo'" or "o'xx"

Example: *Oxxo, buncha chiroyli bo'lmasa bu ko'ylak!!!*

As for the Russian communication the word exclamation *вау!, круто!, здорово!* (выражает удивление и восторг) is commonly used for this sense

i.e: *это круто! Опят встречаться с тобой!*

Turning to the next phase "yuck" or similarly "ugh" which gives the meaning of disgust, annoyance or horror in English form and considered the same word as "vakk" in Uzbek spoken language and in the form of "Фу" is seen in Russian communication which gives an exclamation of disgust and dislike.

i.e: 1. *Yuck, I wouldn't want to touch that!!!*

Ugh - what's this disgusting object?

I can't bear the sight of blood, yuck!

2. *Vakk, buncha jirkanch bo'lmasa!!!*

3. *Фу, какая гадость!*

Фу! ужасно противное лекарство!,

"Фу! надоел курилка журналист". Пушкин.

As regarding another interjection word "oops" provides with the meaning of Being surprised at or acknowledging your own mistakes, used to show recognition of a mistake or minor accident, often as part of an apology.

Example: *Oops! I'm sorry. I just made you miss your bus!*

Oops, I knocked your cup over!!!

Comperatively, we do not face the very exclamation word in Russian language, however, another word form is employed which gives identical sense of showing recognition or being surprised

Ой, чуть не забыл тебе сказать!

Ой, я не знал об этом!

Ой, не советую тебе этого делать

Last example of our observation which we found quite expressive is that “**ouch**” an exclamation of sharp sudden pain, used when somebody feels physical sudden pain or sense of hurt.

Example: *She was barefoot and stones dug into her feet. ‘Ouch, ouch,’ she cried.*

Ouch, that hurts!!!

Although this interjection form is not encountered in the Uzbek expressions, alternatively another form can be used as a substitute for it, it is “**vohh**” with exact meaning.

i.e: **vohh, og’riyapti...**

As interjections is not considered as a part of sentence they are only expressions of mental and physical state of human, by this point it is clear that exclamations are not translated from one into another language it is just the sudden production of people which is similar and pervasive.

Conclusion

The interjections of all languages make up comparatively small but varied group of words with particular communicative significance. As we have seen, various interjections can be used to suggest certain emotions or attitudes, like, anger, disgust, fear, joy, pain, pleasure, surprise and wonder. Recognizing the meaning of interjection in different cultures so as not to be misunderstanding, helps people to provide effective communication, as well as mastering the use in everyday communication makes a constituent element of every speaker’s linguistic competence and performance.

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