

# THE ANTHROPOCENTRIC FEATURES OF PSYCHOLINGUISTICS IN DIPLOMATIC DISCOURSE

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**Annotation:** The anthropocentric features of psycholinguistics in diplomatic discourse explore the relationship between human cognition, psychology, and language use in diplomacy. Understanding how language is employed in diplomatic communication helps to reveal the cognitive processes, message construction, and interpretation nuances that diplomats face in sensitive and high-stakes interactions. This paper delves into how diplomats utilize psycholinguistic strategies, including cognitive processes, pragmatic and politeness strategies, emotional and social intelligence, power dynamics, and cultural sensitivity in their communication. The complexity of diplomatic discourse and the role of language in managing international relations through diplomacy are also discussed. The paper highlights how psycholinguistics provides insight into the human aspects of language and its importance in fostering diplomatic relationships.

**Keywords:** Psycholinguistics, diplomatic discourse, cognitive processes, cultural sensitivity, diplomacy.

**Аннотация:** Антропоцентрические особенности психолингвистики в дипломатическом дискурсе исследуют взаимосвязь между человеческим когнитивным процессом, психологией и использованием языка в дипломатии. Понимание того, как язык используется в дипломатическом общении, помогает выявить когнитивные процессы, построение сообщений и нюансы

интерпретации, с которыми сталкиваются дипломаты в чувствительных и высокорисковых взаимодействиях. В статье рассматривается, как дипломаты применяют психолингвистические стратегии, включая когнитивные процессы, прагматические и вежливые стратегии, эмоциональный и социальный интеллект, динамику власти и культурную чувствительность в своем общении. Также обсуждается сложность дипломатического дискурса и роль языка в управлении международными отношениями через дипломатию. В статье подчеркивается, как психолингвистика предоставляет ценные знания о человеческих аспектах языка и его важности для укрепления дипломатических отношений.

**Ключевые слова:** Психолингвистика, дипломатический дискурс, когнитивные процессы, культурная чувствительность, дипломатия.

It is well known that language, due to its emergence in the process of live speech, is also the subject of study for both linguistics and psychology. As a result, psycholinguistics (or linguopsychology) emerged as a synthesis of these two fields. This discipline is the process of studying internal feelings and emotions, as well as issues related to speech comprehension and language acquisition. The term "psycholinguistics" was first introduced in 1936 by Jacob Robert Kantor in his book *The Objective Psychology of Grammar*. Later, this term began to be used among his colleagues at Indiana University. Incidentally, it was popularized in the scientific community due to the article *Language and Psycholinguistics: A Review*, written by his disciple, the American psychologist Nikolai Henry Prang, in 1946, and started to be widely used<sup>1</sup>.

In 1953, at an inter-university scientific seminar organized by the Linguistics and Psychology Committee at Indiana University in Bloomington, USA, psycholinguistics

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<sup>1</sup>Levelt W.J. Psycholinguistics. The Pre-Chomskyan Era. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press. 2013.

was officially declared as a separate field of study. This seminar was initiated by renowned American psychologists Charles Osgood, John Carroll, and linguist and literary scholar Thomas Sebeok. In 1954, the book *Psycholinguistics: Theory and Research Problems* was published, which outlined the main theoretical issues and problems of psycholinguistics discussed during the seminar, as well as the key directions of experimental research. This book played a crucial role in promoting interdisciplinary psycholinguistic research<sup>2</sup>. However, even before psycholinguistics emerged as a distinct field of study, there is considerable evidence suggesting that its development dates back to ancient times. For example, the earliest empirical research, such as Plato's *Allegory of the Cave* and the emergence of neuropsychology, can be considered the initial steps of psycholinguistics. This would not be an exaggeration.

The development of the field of psycholinguistics also includes the research efforts of scholars from around the world. Notably, the studies of German philologist, philosopher, and linguist Wilhelm von Humboldt, German linguists A. Schleicher and X. Steinthal, Russian and Ukrainian philologist and psychologist A.A. Potebnya, Russian-Polish linguist I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay, Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure, American linguist Leonard Bloomfield, and other scholars have played a significant role in the development of psycholinguistics as a scientific field<sup>3</sup>. Psychological issues entered linguistics through naturalistic and logical educational ideas. In this regard, the concept of Wilhelm von Humboldt's approach to linguistic creativity in semantic construction is noteworthy. The psychologism trend in linguistics strongly criticizes naturalism, arguing that the development stages of language are closely tied to human thought and its psychological development. The

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<sup>2</sup>Osgood C.E. Psycholinguistics. A survey of theory and research problems. 1954. – P. (212). Baltimore: Waverly Press.

<sup>3</sup>Уланович О.И. Психолингвистика электронный учебно-методический комплекс по учебной дисциплине для специальности. Белорусский государственный университет. 2015. – С. 4. (67).

roots of this perspective trace back to the psychologism movement, which emerged in the 19th century, based on comparative-historical linguistics.

The unique characteristics of biologism were expressed in the teachings of Schleicher, while logical grammar was further developed in the theory of Bekker. Steinthal, in his creative works, studied this process based on human behavior and the development of national psychology. However, psycholinguistics did not develop based on the example of a single nation<sup>4</sup>.

Today, psycholinguistics is closely linked with the analysis of a range of issues related to new areas in linguistics, such as communicative linguistics, text linguistics, discourse analysis, cognitive linguistics, pragmalinguistics, sociolinguistics, and linguocultural studies. Both theoretical and practical aspects of psycholinguistics are of significant relevance today. Firstly, there is a need to address the issue of modeling the semantic structure of a text and adequately reflecting the concept of text that emerges through the interaction between the receiver and the text. Secondly, it is essential to study the semantic structure of the text in such a way that the results of the research have pragmatic significance for optimizing the communication process, processing semantic data in electronic machines, improving foreign language teaching methods, and advancing translation activities.

Psycholinguistic research is based on the theoretical principles developed within the Russian psychological school by L.S. Vygotsky (1956), A.A. Leontyev (1977-1981), and A.R. Luria (1959, 1962, 1975, 1979). Psychological schools emerged in the first half of the 19th century and the early 20th century, focusing on the functional characteristics of language and speech issues, as well as the structure of language and speech activity. It is well known that the functional-structural approach is considered crucial for psycholinguistics.

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<sup>4</sup> Primov A., Qodirova X. Tilshunoslikning dolzarb muammolari. O'quv-uslubiy qo'llanma.

Psycholinguistic research primarily focuses on studying the meaning of a text through experimental methods, analyzing how it is understood by the reader or listener, and how its content is formed and structured. Based on the works of A.A. Leontiev, we interpret the text as a form that reflects a communicative situation — that is, it includes components such as the subject of communication (what the message is about), the sender (addresser), and the receiver (addressee) of the message<sup>5</sup>. A text, in turn, is regarded as: 1) a form, and 2) a certain logic (or concept) expressed through that form. This field studies the actual psychological aspects of language, including models of speech production, speech culture, speech pathology, the relationship between thought and speech, the genesis of speech, and all other issues related to verbal communication. It is important to emphasize that language and its elements serve as essential tools in shaping a person's social background and political views. Psycholinguistics examines various characteristics of language, particularly the use of linguistic units in speech activity and how these are connected to an individual's traits, psychology, thinking, character, and mood. This suggests that without language and its elements, the formation of thought would be impossible.

**Conclusion:** The study of psycholinguistics within the context of diplomatic discourse highlights the inherently anthropocentric nature of language, wherein speech reflects not only cognitive and psychological processes but also the speaker's social identity, emotional state, and communicative intent. Diplomatic communication, characterized by strategic language use, politeness, and nuance, serves as a rich domain for analyzing how linguistic choices are shaped by individual psychological traits and sociocultural factors. Psycholinguistics, therefore, provides essential insights into how diplomats construct meaning, manage interpersonal relations, and influence perceptions through language. This interplay between

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<sup>5</sup>Леонтьев А.А. Психолингвистические единицы и порождение речевого высказывания. – М.: Наука, 1969.

language, thought, and human behavior underscores the central role of the individual in discourse, affirming that effective diplomatic interaction is as much a psychological and cognitive act as it is a linguistic one.

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