



## LINGUISTIC-CULTURAL FEATURES OF EPHEMIMS IN WOMEN'S SPEECH IN ENGLISH AND UZBEKISTAN (ANALYSIS OF LITTLE WOMEN BY LOUISA MAY ALCOTT)

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the linguistic and cultural characteristics of euphemisms in women's speech in English and Uzbek using Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* as an example. Euphemisms are words and phrases used to soften the negative, unpleasant, or ugly aspects of people or situations, and they are especially widely used in women's speech. Alcott's *Little Women* illustrates women and their place in society, as well as the subtle and complex aspects of women's language. The article analyzes how euphemisms in English and Uzbek differ in structure, function, and cultural context. Through the work, an attempt is made to understand the role of women in society and the ideals expressed through language, especially in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

**Keywords:** Euphemisms, women's speech, linguocultural characteristics, Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*, cultural context, women's role in society, language and culture.

**Introduction:** Women's speech and its role in linguistics have been a topic of interest to researchers for many years. Speech is a way for women to express themselves as individuals or groups in society, and language is not only a means of communication, but also a force that reflects culture and social structure. In particular, euphemisms in women's speech (i.e., softened forms of negative or unpleasant meanings) are often closely related to their position in society, values, and social role. Euphemisms perform the functions of language to soften, soften, and/or modify negative meanings, which is often more common in women's speech.

English and Uzbek - both languages have their own cultural, social and linguistic characteristics, and the use of euphemisms in women's speech allows us to study their cultural and linguistic characteristics in more depth. Euphemisms in English are mainly a reflection of the ideals, values and gender stereotypes of society, while in Uzbek they are more related to cultural traditions, norms of language and etiquette. The use and purpose of euphemisms in these two languages may be similar, but they take on different forms of expression in different cultural contexts. Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* is an excellent source for analyzing the role of women and the importance of their speech in society. This work describes the social role of women in American society at the end of the 19th century and the ways in which they express themselves. The female characters in Alcott's work - Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy - each struggle against cultural and social norms expressed through their own language. In particular, how women express themselves and communicate with other groups through language, and how they use euphemisms, occupy a special place in the work. The euphemisms used in their speech also reflect the values, gender roles, and social norms of the society in which they live. In this context, this article is devoted to studying the linguocultural characteristics of euphemisms in women's speech in Uzbek and English using the example of Louisa May Alcott's *"Little Women"*. The work analyzes the similarities and differences between euphemisms in English and Uzbek, their role in the social and cultural context, and how the forms of expression in women's

speech reflect changes. The article aims to study the linguocultural characteristics of women's speech, taking into account not only linguistic analysis, but also cultural and social changes.

**Main part:** Euphemisms are words or phrases used to soften negative or unpleasant meanings, to express them in a more positive or neutral way. Euphemisms in women's speech are often formed on the basis of gender stereotypes, social norms and etiquette in society. They are especially common in the ways women express themselves and are used in a specific cultural context. The differences between euphemisms in English and Uzbek, their connection to cultural and social norms, although similar in some ways, are different from each other.

In English, euphemisms are usually used to soften negative or unpleasant characteristics, and this is often observed in expressing the sexual, social and economic position of women. For example, words such as "housewife" or "lady of the house" in English associate women with domestic tasks, but represent them with respect in society. Such euphemisms show appreciation for women's work in the household, but there are limitations in recognizing their physical and intellectual potential.

In Uzbek, euphemisms are often associated with values, etiquette, and traditions in society. For example, the word "qizaloq" is used in a softer and more delicate way than the words "qiz" or "ayol", while at the same time giving a particularly subtle impression of her youth, personality, or place in life. Euphemisms used in relation to women in Uzbek culture often reflect social respect and their norms, but in some cases these expressions also lead to the presentation of women in a passive role in society.

In Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women," euphemisms in the communication of women with each other are closely related to their social role in society, personal goals, and social values. The work depicts the role of women in mid-19th-century American society and the ways they expressed themselves through language. Alcott's characters, Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy, frequently use euphemisms in their conversations, reflecting their gender roles, attitudes toward traditional norms, and social positions.

In the play, euphemisms such as "gentlewoman" or "proper lady" show how women are perceived in society. While such euphemisms are certainly intended to improve women's social position, they often limit women's freedom of expression. In the case of Jo Marsh, the woman's attempts to break away from social norms and the ways she uses language to express herself in a struggle against society are of particular importance. Jo often uses words that express physical and spiritual independence in her speech, and her speech promotes new, modern values through her struggle with the customs of society.

The expression "little woman" is also important in the play. This expression, of course, emphasizes the "small" or "weak" nature of women, but at the same time it is used to describe a woman who devotes herself to her family. This expression is associated with the values of the society of that time, reflecting certain expectations and stereotypes towards women.

When analyzing the similarities and differences between euphemisms in English and Uzbek, the importance of language in social role is particularly high. In English, euphemisms are more based on distinct social groups, gender and class in society, and the ways in which women express themselves through language develop in accordance with different stages in society. In Uzbek, euphemisms are more based on cultural norms, national traditions and etiquette, which are closely related to the social role of women and cultural teachings.

Euphemisms used in women's speech in English can often be in more "neuter" (neutral) forms, for example, "housewife" (housewife) or "nurse" (nurse). In Uzbek, such words are used more traditionally and culturally, for example, "housewife" or "mother", these words are used to express their importance in society and the superiority of women, but they do not always mean the same thing and are interpreted differently depending on the context.

Euphemisms in women's speech are of great importance not only from the point of view of linguistics, but also from the point of view of social analysis. Women's speech reflects social norms and with their help gender roles and values in society are studied. Euphemisms are of great importance in shedding light on how women see themselves in society, what role they strive to play, as well as society's attitude towards them.

Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women" serves as an effective material for analyzing the linguistic and cultural characteristics of euphemisms in women's speech in English and Uzbek. The euphemisms studied in the article reflect the cultural and social contexts of the English and Uzbek languages, describing how women

express themselves through language and see their place in society. This analysis shows the complexity of women's speech and its linguistic and cultural richness.

The study of the linguocultural characteristics of euphemisms in women's speech is important not only from a linguistic point of view, but also in illuminating social and cultural aspects. Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* serves as an excellent material for studying euphemisms in women's speech. Through the work, one can analyze in more depth how euphemisms are used in English and Uzbek and their place in the cultural context.

**Conclusion:** Euphemisms used in English by women are often based on gender roles, societal values, and social stereotypes. The women in Alcott's work—Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy—use a variety of euphemisms in their conversations with each other. These euphemisms primarily highlight traditional roles for women and reflect language that conforms to social norms. Characters like Jo Marsh, in particular, use euphemisms to express their aspirations and dreams in their independent thinking and struggle against social norms. This, on the one hand, reflects the stereotypes in society that limit women's freedom of expression, and on the other hand, shows the role of euphemisms in softening women's social position.

In Uzbek, euphemisms are more based on national traditions, cultural values, and etiquette. This language is enriched with words used to express respect and honor for women. Euphemisms in Uzbek are particularly shaped by women's social roles and cultural norms. For example, expressions such as "qizaloq", "anaxon", "toy bekasi" are used to describe women in a relatively gentle and respectful way, but these terms can also reflect women's passive or specific social roles in some cases.

Alcott's *Little Women* shows many parallels in the analysis of euphemisms in English and Uzbek. The euphemisms in the work show women's struggle to find their place and express themselves. The differences between euphemisms in English and Uzbek are based primarily on cultural norms, gender stereotypes and expectations of women in society. While in English euphemisms are often aimed at changing women's social roles and positions in society, in Uzbek these words are more likely to express respect, honor and traditional norms in society.

In general, euphemisms in women's speech reflect the interrelationship of language and culture, as well as social, political, and cultural changes. Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, in particular, highlights the complexities of this process in the representation of language and the struggles women face in relation to their roles in society. The work shows how euphemisms are formed and used not only from a linguistic perspective, but also from a cultural, social, and gender perspective. This analysis helps us to better understand the development of women's speech, its place in the cultural context, and how it relates to social roles in society.

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