



## EXPRESSIONS OF COMPASSION IN ENGLISH LINGUOCULTURE

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### ABSTRACT

The British place a high value on manners and pass down politeness customs from generation to generation. The ability to express sympathy and sorrow is an essential component of English communication as politeness is such a fundamental and integrated part of English culture and psychology. Sympathy and condolence are used in human communication to address negative circumstances. A distinct kind of sympathy, condolences have their own characteristics. When condolences are offered, they are not the same as when sympathies are expressed. This article discusses the differences between expressing condolences and sympathy in English communicative language and their practical basis.

### KEYWORDS

Sympathy, manner, empathy, compassion, condolence, etiquette, politeness.

### INTRODUCTION

Possessing and using speech etiquette correctly is one of the most crucial conditions for gaining authority since it fosters respect and trust. When speaking etiquette is used appropriately, one can feel relaxed and at ease.

Etiquette is very important to the British. The ability to communicate sympathy is a crucial component of English communication, as civility is an essential and fundamental aspect of English culture and mentality.



Sympathy and condolence are examples of emotions that are intended to regulate the other person by forming verbal contact and preserving social and linguistic relationships. In casual communication, playing the role of a conversation starter is one of sympathy's key functions.

When expressing compassion or condolences, the addresser's primary means of self-expression is the performance of a social act. In speaking, one responds to a variety of unpleasant circumstances for another by expressing sympathy and condolences. People most frequently talk about trivial household issues and small daily problems in casual conversation. The media and online discussion boards tend to concentrate more on socio-political subjects, such as politics, sports, social, moral, and ethical issues. In the media, tabloid magazines that report on the private lives of celebrities frequently display sympathy in ordinary and intimate circumstances. In an interview, one may be able to express sympathy or personal comfort to a reputable newspaper.

Many people think that sympathy and condolence are synonyms, and very often they use them as synonyms, but in fact these words have certain semantic differences. Empathy is a more general term for a variety of emotions, and condolences are used in specific situations and in a certain period of time. We will look at condolences in more detail in this article.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Condolence is stylistically more emotionally colored than sympathy, and is used most often in

a formal setting, in oral or written form and it is a type of sympathy, but has its own specific features of expression and usage cases that differ from the usage cases of sympathy. As a rule, condolences are appropriate to use only as an expression of sympathy for a great misfortune, grief. In a ritual situation, condolences are more stereotyped. Condolence has certain characteristics, it is appropriate for a few days after death and, therefore, loses its relevance a few months or years after the sad event. The condolences analyzed by us can be divided into two types, which correspond to two types of communication. The first type is colloquial speech, the second is network communication, usually it is represented by forums or guest books, and there is also such a section as "tributes" on the official BBC website. In addition, there are various columns for expressing condolences on the official websites of organizations, on information websites, on the websites of television and radio stations, printed and electronic versions of periodicals. The concept of "tribute" needs some clarification and explanation. This word is relevant and common in English and British culture, but there is no clear and unambiguous translation. This indicates the national-specific conditionality of the concept.

The word "tribute" itself is described in dictionaries as follows:

Something that you say, write or give which shows your respect and admiration for some a formal occasion [11.1556].



Tribute – something done, said, or given to show respect or admiration for someone [12,1437].

Also, this word has a narrower meaning. It is used in the situation of death and implies the so-called "commemoration", whether it is a verbal or non-verbal expression of condolences. New large English-Russian dictionary Yu.D. Apresyan gives the expression to pay tribute to smb. - to give to smb. last duty, last honors, say goodbye to smb. [9, 264].

We have reviewed the materials that collected "tributes" posted on the BBC website. They can be translated into Uzbek as "responses to death." It was revealed that "tribute" is a verbalized reaction of people to the death of a famous person, for example: an actor, athlete, politician, businessman, or singer. So some of the messages that were sent after the death of the British Queen Mother, in a rather sharp and open form, criticized the general heightened attention and, in particular, the attention of the media to the situation.

However, a large number of messages contain condolences expressed directly or indirectly. It is no coincidence that sometimes the site editors suggested: "send us your messages of condolence" - "send us your condolences" instead of "you can add your tribute to the latest tribute page here".

## **DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION**

Next, let's move on to the means of expressing condolences. The studied material revealed the

following ways of performative expression of condolences:

1. Performative words include such verbs as: "condole" and "sympathize".

As an example, consider an excerpt from a telephone conversation between two colleagues, the caller learns information about the death in the family of a colleague: What's that? I'm sorry, Ann. Ann don't cry. Goodbye.

The use of a performative verb in English when expressing condolences is a fairly common occurrence in various messages. An interesting fact turned out to be that in English, the pureperformative I condole is common, while I sympathize is rare. This can be explained by the fact that the verb "to sympathise", unlike the noun "sympathy/sympathies", does not have a meaning for expressing condolences in English. Its main meaning is an expression of sympathy.

2. Analytical constructions with the deverbative "condolences", "sympathy", and "sympathy/sympathies". These designs may be complete or incomplete.

The complete constructions include the phrases "verb + deverbative" (express ... condolences / -s, bring ... condolences, etc.; I offer my condolences to ...; I send condolences to ...; we send our condolences (to); I send all my condolences to...; accept... condolences. Please pass on our condolences to...).

Condolences to the Royal Family on the death of the Queen Mother:



Although I am not a diehard supporter of the monarchy it is part of my heritage and I offer my condolences to the Queen, Prince Charles and his sons.

Full analytical construction of the phrase with modal verbs: I just wanted to send my condolences to; I wish to extend my condolences to; I wish to send my condolences to...; I'd like to pass on the most sincere condolences to...; I'd like to send my condolences to...; I would like to send my condolences; I'd like to offer my condolences to...; (organisation) would like to extend our condolences to...

Condolences on the death of actress Charlotte Coleman:

I'd like to send my condolences to Mr and Mrs Coleman who have lost a wonderful daughter, while the world has lost a great actress. I pray that she will rest in peace [14].

The BBC News website offers condolences from British political leaders, including the Foreign Secretary, on the death of Yasser Arafat:

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said it would be "hard to imagine the Middle East without" Mr Arafat. In a statement, he said: "I want to express my deep sympathy and condolences to the Palestinian people on the death of Yasser Arafat"[14].

Most often, in the official expression of condolences, the greatest preference is given to exclusively complete constructions and

incomplete constructions are used very rarely or practically not used at all.

Constructions with a deverbative without the verb condolences (to ...) are considered incomplete; my condolences (to...); sympathy(to...); sympathies (to...).

It is worth noting that the word sympathies in the plural in many explanatory dictionaries is directly associated with the situation of condolence, and the word sympathy in the singular is defined as sympathy in a broader sense. Although in real speech these words can be used to express sympathy.

Personal English-language condolences, as already noted, often use constructions with the words sympathy and sympathies, as, for example, in condolences on the murder of popular TV presenter Jill Dando and the death of the Queen Mother:

It is a tragic loss, not unlike Lady Di's untimely death. I send my very deepest sympathies to her family and those close to her [13]. I was saddened by the news of the passing of the Queen Mother, she was a lovely lady. I know how heartbreaking it is to lose a loved one who is very close. I send all my sympathy to the Royal Family at this very sad time [13].

Thus, we can conclude that in English the connection between sympathy and condolence is stronger than in Uzbek.

When analyzing the ways of expressing sympathy, the following verb constructions were



encountered: somebody has my earnest condolences, my/our condolences go to, (my) sympathies/sympathy are/is with, my sympathy goes (out) to, my/our sympathies go (out) to, my sympathies lie with and some others.

If we are talking about the death of a famous person, the fact of writing condolences suggests that a person takes this death to heart and does not remain indifferent. For example, Princess Diana, the Queen Mother and TV presenter Jill Dando earned great love and popularity among the British. Many condolences on this occasion indicate that the British took their death to heart and experienced it as their loss.

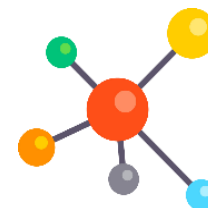
Somewhat different characteristics of the addresser and his relationship with the addressee are essential for official condolences. All addresses are in official relations with the addressees. It is possible to single out condolences with a religious style, condolences in the form of official diplomatic messages and condolences - informational messages. Of these three varieties, the last one will have the most concise and most etiquette expression. Such condolences are characterized by the use of only the standard etiquette formula: performative expressing condolences without involving additional tactics and with almost zero emotionality.

If the addresser is one person, even if it is an official, then the text of condolences may be less clichéd and stereotypical than when the addressee is an organization.

In official condolences, clichéd standard formulas are often used: bereavement, tragic death, irreparable loss, glory to heroes, etc. At the same time, in most cases, the text of condolence does not seem to be a mere formality and a tribute to etiquette. This effect is achieved, firstly, by constructing a condolence text in the first person, which makes the message more personal and sincere.

Official condolences often have double addresses and double addressees. A formal addresser - an official - sometimes and quite often in political discourse, in addition to his own expressions of condolences, acts as an intermediary addresser-relay, transmitting an expression of condolences from the people or some group, whose representative is, be it the head of state, city, church, etc.

On behalf of my colleagues, I wish to express my heartfelt sympathy to the Brown family at this difficult time. Every parent, every person in Scotland, will share and understand the pain and sorrow that Gordon and Sarah will be feeling at this time and will join in sending heartfelt condolences to them. I know I speak for everyone expressing my sympathy to those who have been caught up in these events and, above all, to the relatives and friends of those who have lost their lives. In this case, the opinion of the people is not asked, but a priori assumed and simply expressed. This corresponds to the internal political and diplomatic etiquette, as well as the communication of the higher clergy.



As for the gender factor, the material does not reveal significant differences between female and male speech when expressing sympathy, although women in general, but not much more and more diversely, use emotionally expressive means. When expressing condolences, men are slightly more likely than women to choose standard performative formulas (condolences, I express my condolences, accept my condolences, my condolences/sympathies, etc.). The relationship between the addressee and the addresser does not play a significant role in the expression of sympathy as such. A person is able to sympathize, console or express condolences both to a person close to him and to a complete stranger. In both cases, sympathy can be both emotional and sincere, and superficial, purely factual, acting as a means of maintaining a conversation. It all depends on the situation and on the psychological characteristics of a person, as well as on his emotional state. The emotional state of the addresser affects the general tone of condolences. The more the death of someone affects the addresser personally, and his feelings, the more sympathetically he will express condolences.

Constructions with the phrasal verb “go out” are standard for expressing sympathy-condolences in English, which is recorded in dictionaries: Go out - your sympathy goes out to somebody also your heart goes out to somebody: used to say that you feel a lot of sympathy for someone because they are in a very sad or difficult situation. Our

sympathy goes out to all the families affected by this tragedy [11, 148].

The norms for the use and expression of emotions are unstable, they undergo changes from era to era within one culture, from culture to culture, from one social class to another [15, 22]. So, for example, in the XVIII century, it was fashionable to faint, it was forbidden to pronounce and print invectives, and the sign "handkerchief" was part of the semiotics of grief and separation. In the middle of the 19th century, judging by the literature of that time, English-speaking people demonstrated coldness and indifference to each other, which were replaced in the 20th century by an expression of sympathy and warmth. It is also known that in the XVIII century sentimentality was both attractive and fashionable, but in the 20th century, it was not. Accordingly, both linguistic and non-linguistic means of expressing sentimentality have lost their relevance and pragmatism.

## CONCLUSION

Sympathy and condolences are less widespread than they were in earlier ages since the turn of the century. But, as the centuries have passed, the British continue to value the customs of civility, which include offering regrets and sympathy. Several results were reached after taking into account the pragmatic underpinnings of expressing sympathy in English communicative conversation. Humans employ words of sympathy and condolence to express their reactions to unpleasant circumstances. A condolence is a



specific type of sympathy with unique qualities. There are instances when sympathy is utilized, and there are instances when condolences are used.

Situations that elicit a sympathetic response can be categorized into two kinds. Situations that are caused by external events and do not depend on an individual are included in the first group. The scenarios in which the individual is at fault are included in the second category.

The only purpose of a condolence message is to show sympathy for a significant loss or tragedy. Most condolence messages have a formulaic and stereotyped tone. There are other features of condolences as well. First, they are acceptable for a few days following the death and, second, they lose their meaning a few days after the incident. There are two categories for the condolences that we looked at, and these categories match the two kinds of communication. Colloquial speech is the first form, while network communication is the second. Forums and guest books are typically used to symbolize network communication, and the official BBC website also has a part titled "tributes." The content under study demonstrated how to convey condolences using performative verbs like "condolences" and "I sympathize." When expressing condolences in English, performative verbs are frequently used. Another method of expressing something is by the use of deverbative analytical structures, which can be both complete and incomplete. When expressing condolences in an official capacity, whole constructions are typically preferred while incomplete constructions are used sparingly.

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