

Gender-Based Emotional Expression in Uzbek And French Speech: A Comparative Study

Dilshod Komiljonovich Axmedov

Independent Researcher, Uzbekistan State University of World Languages (UzSWLU), Uzbekistan

Received: 25 February 2026 Accepted: 22 March 2026 Published: 11 April 2026

ABSTRACT

This article examines the use of emotional linguistic devices in male and female speech based on Uzbek and French language materials. The main objective of the study is to identify the linguistic and pragmatic features of emotional expression in the speech of different gender groups. The research is based on the analysis of literary texts, interviews, questionnaires, and observational data. Particular attention is paid to interjections, introductory words, evaluative adjectives, and metaphorical expressions as means of emotional expression. The results of the statistical analysis show that emotional and evaluative linguistic units occur more frequently in female speech than in male speech. Women tend to employ expressive vocabulary, interjections, and metaphorical language more actively, whereas men generally demonstrate a more restrained and rational manner of expressing emotions. Furthermore, the study reveals that French communicative culture maintains a balance between emotionality and formality, while Uzbek speech is characterized by a higher degree of emotional expressiveness and interpersonal closeness. The findings contribute to the fields of gender linguistics, sociolinguistics, and discourse analysis.

Keywords: Gender linguistics, emotionality, interjections, discourse, pragmatics, female speech, male speech, French language, Uzbek language.

INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, the influence of the gender factor on speech processes has become an independent field of research in linguistics. Within the framework of gender linguistics, differences in male and female speech, their communicative strategies, emotional expression devices, and pragmatic characteristics have been widely studied [3,4,9].

Many scholars emphasize that differences between male and female speech are determined not only by biological factors but also by social and cultural influences. In particular, the use of emotional linguistic means in communication is closely related to gender identity, communicative roles, and culturally shaped stereotypes [1,7].

In Uzbek and French linguistic cultures, the expression of emotionality in speech demonstrates specific features. In Uzbek communicative practice, emotional expressiveness and sincerity are often regarded as important elements of interpersonal interaction and politeness. Emotional speech serves not only as a means of expressing feelings but also as a mechanism for strengthening social bonds between interlocutors. In French communicative culture, emotional expression tends to be balanced with logical argumentation and a certain degree of formality. Emotional means such as interjections, evaluative adjectives, and expressive lexical units are frequently used, yet they often remain within the boundaries of stylistic moderation and rhetorical control (Kerbrat-Orecchioni, 2005).

Therefore, the present study aims to conduct a comparative

analysis of emotional linguistic devices used in male and female speech in Uzbek and French languages, focusing on their pragmatic and discursive functions.

METHODS

The study was conducted using the following research methods:

- discourse analysis;
- comparative linguistic analysis;
- statistical analysis;
- sociolinguistic survey.

The empirical material of the research was collected from several sources, including:

- texts from literary works;
- interviews with French actors and journalists;
- questionnaire data;
- observations of spontaneous spoken speech.

A total of 50 participants took part in the study, including 25 male and 25 female respondents. The participants were mainly between 25 and 29 years of age. The collected data were analyzed in order to identify the frequency and functional characteristics of emotional linguistic devices used in male and female speech.

RESULTS

According to the results of the study, significant differences were observed in the use of emotional linguistic devices in male and female speech.

1. Use of Interjections

The statistical analysis showed that:

- interjections are used more frequently in female speech than in male speech;
- in the French language, interjections such as Super!, Bravo!, and Extra! are more common in female speech;

- negative interjections such as Merde! and Bon sang! occur more frequently in male speech.

2. Interjections in the Uzbek Language

Among the ten interjections analyzed in Uzbek, the following were found to occur more frequently in female speech:

- voy
- uf
- o
- uh

For example:

Interjection	Women	Men
voy	84%	24%
uf	92%	56%
o	76%	32%

3. Use of Adjectives

In French speech, the following emotional evaluative adjectives were more frequently used by women:

- magnifique
- extraordinaire
- génial
- superbe

A similar tendency was observed in Uzbek speech, where women more often used adjectives such as:

- go‘zal (beautiful)
- chiroyli (pretty)
- ajoyib (wonderful)
- yoqimli (pleasant)

Overall, these adjectives were used almost twice as often in female speech compared to male speech.

DISCUSSION

The analysis demonstrates that female speech is generally characterized by a higher degree of expressiveness and emotionality. This phenomenon can be explained by several interrelated factors. First, the sociocultural factor plays an important role. In many societies, women's communicative roles are traditionally associated with maintaining interpersonal relationships and emotional closeness. As a result, women tend to employ more emotionally colored linguistic units in order to establish rapport and strengthen social interaction [3]. Second, the pragmatic factor is also significant. In communicative situations, women often attempt to express empathy, support, and solidarity with their interlocutors. Therefore, their speech tends to include more expressive lexical items, interjections, and evaluative adjectives that reflect emotional involvement in the conversation [9]. Third, the discursive strategy of female speech frequently involves the use of evaluative expressions, metaphors, and emotionally marked vocabulary. Such linguistic devices contribute to the creation of a more vivid and expressive discourse and allow speakers to convey personal attitudes and feelings more effectively [4].

In contrast, male speech tends to demonstrate different communicative tendencies. It is often characterized by:

- a more logical and structured organization of discourse;
- a restrained and controlled emotional tone;
- a stronger focus on cognitive evaluation and factual information rather than emotional expression [4].

Furthermore, the analysis also revealed the importance of the age factor. Younger respondents were more likely to use expressive linguistic units, including interjections and emotionally evaluative vocabulary, whereas older participants tended to prefer more neutral and conventional forms of expression. This observation suggests that emotional expressiveness in speech is influenced not only by gender but also by generational and sociocultural dynamics.

CONCLUSION

The results of the study allow us to draw the following conclusions:

- The use of emotional linguistic devices differs significantly in male and female speech.
- Female speech is characterized by a higher frequency of interjections and emotionally evaluative adjectives.
- Male speech tends to demonstrate a predominance of cognitively evaluative units and a more restrained style of emotional expression.
- In French communicative culture, emotionality is generally balanced with a certain degree of formality and logical structure.
- In Uzbek speech, emotional expression often functions as an important means of strengthening interpersonal communication and social closeness.
- The age factor also has a noticeable influence on the choice of linguistic units, as younger speakers tend to employ more expressive and emotionally marked vocabulary.

Overall, the findings of this study provide an important theoretical basis for further research in the fields of gender linguistics, discourse analysis, and sociolinguistics, particularly in comparative studies of emotional expression in different linguistic and cultural contexts.

REFERENCES

1. Eckert P., McConnell-Ginet S. *Language and Gender*. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. – 366 p.
2. Cameron D. *Gender and Language*. – Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003. – 176 p.
3. Holmes J. *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. – 2nd ed. – London: Longman, 2001. – 412 p.
4. Lakoff R. *Language and Woman's Place*. – New York: Harper & Row, 1975. – 328 p.
5. Kerbrat-Orecchioni C. *Le discours en interaction*. – Paris: Armand Colin, 2005. – 320 p.
6. *Gender Differences in Language*. – 3rd ed. – London: Routledge, 2013. – 256 p.

7. Coates J. Women, Men and Language: A Sociolinguistic Account of
8. Talbot M. Language and Gender. – 2nd ed. – Cambridge: Polity Press, 2010. – 248 p.
9. Tannen D. You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation. – New York: Ballantine Books, 1990. – 352 p.
10. Trudgill P. Sociolinguistics: An Introduction to Language and Society. – 4th ed. – London: Penguin Books, 2000. – 224 p.
11. Wardhaugh R., Fuller J. An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. – 7th ed. – Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2015. – 432 p.