

**LEXICAL, GRAMMATICAL AND INTONATIONAL MEANS OF EXPRESSION OF
WORDS WITH THE MEANING “PLEASE”**

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Pragmatic analysis of the type of speech action in the interpretation of the speaker's request includes advanced linguistic theories and methodologies. This analysis delves into how speech actions are carried out, what goals they pursue, and what social and communicative contexts they depend on. Analysis of the pragmatic goals of speech actions: a detailed review The concept of the act of speech and its pragmatic goals The act of speech is the minimum unit of speech communication that performs a certain communicative function. Each speech action is aimed at achieving a specific goal, which is determined not only by the lexical meaning of words, but also by the context of communication, the intentions of the speaker and his relationship with the interlocutor. Pragmatics studies how language is used in certain communicative situations, taking into account the social context, knowledge and intentions of the participants in communication. The analysis of the pragmatic goals of speech Actions allows for a deeper understanding of how people interact with each other through language.

The expression of politeness, particularly through the word "please," can be analyzed through three primary linguistic means: lexical, grammatical, and intonational. Each of these plays a crucial role in how requests are framed and understood across different languages and contexts.

Lexical means refer to the choice of words and phrases used to convey politeness. The word "please" itself is a prime example, but there are various ways to express similar sentiments across languages:

- Direct Use of "Please": In English and many other languages, the word "please" is directly inserted into requests (e.g., "Could you help me, please?").

- Synonyms and Alternatives: Different languages may have various terms or phrases that serve a similar function. For instance:

- Spanish: "por favor"

- French: "s'il vous plaît"

- Polite Forms: Some languages have specific polite forms or vocabulary that elevate the request's politeness level (e.g., using honorifics in Korean).

Grammatical means involve the structural aspects of language that signal politeness:

- Use of Modal Verbs: Modal verbs can soften requests (e.g., "Could you...?" vs. "Can you...?"). This grammatical structure adds a layer of politeness.

- Conditional Structures: Phrasing requests conditionally (e.g., "If you could...") can also serve to make a request sound more polite.

- Subjunctive Mood: In some languages, using the subjunctive mood can indicate politeness or formality (e.g., "I would appreciate it if you..." in English).

- Indirect Requests: Instead of making a direct request, speakers might use indirect language (e.g., "I was wondering if you could..."), which often sounds more polite.

Intonational means involve the use of pitch, stress, and rhythm in spoken language to convey politeness:

- Rising Intonation: In some contexts, a rising intonation at the end of a request can make it sound more polite or tentative.

- Stress Patterns: Placing stress on certain words (e.g., emphasizing "please") can enhance the politeness of a request.

- Pauses and Rhythm: Strategic pauses before or after "please" can signal sincerity and enhance the overall politeness of the interaction.

The expression of the concept of "please" is multifaceted, involving lexical choices, grammatical structures, and intonational nuances. Understanding these means allows for more effective communication across cultures, as it highlights the importance of context, relationship dynamics, and social norms in expressing politeness. By mastering these elements, speakers can navigate requests more diplomatically and foster positive interactions. Here are some extra tips for our topic:

1. Lexical Means

Definition and Importance: Lexical means refer to the specific words and phrases used in communication. The choice of vocabulary can significantly influence how a message is perceived in terms of politeness.

- Polite Markers: Words like "please," "thank you," and "excuse me" are considered polite markers. Their presence often transforms a command into a request, softening the tone and making it more acceptable in social contexts.

- Euphemisms: Using euphemistic language can also function as a lexical means of politeness. Instead of saying "I need you to do this," one might say, "It would be great if you could..."

- Contextual Vocabulary: The context in which a request is made can dictate the choice of words. Formal settings might require more elaborate expressions compared to casual conversations.

2. Grammatical Means

Definition and Importance: Grammatical means encompass the structural elements of language that convey politeness. These structures can indicate deference, respect, or formality.

- Modal Verbs: The use of modal verbs (could, would, might) is a common grammatical strategy to soften requests. For example:

- "Could you pass the salt?" is more polite than "Pass the salt."

- Conditional Clauses: Phrasing requests conditionally can enhance politeness. For instance:

- "If you have time, could you help me?" indicates that the request is contingent on the listener's willingness.

- Subjunctive Mood: In some languages, using the subjunctive mood can reflect politeness or hypothetical situations. For example:

- "I would appreciate it if you could..." implies a polite request rather than a direct demand.

- Indirect Speech Acts: Indirect requests (e.g., "It's cold in here") imply a request without stating it directly, which can be perceived as more polite.

3. Intonational Means

Definition and Importance: Intonational means involve the use of pitch, stress, rhythm, and other prosodic features of speech to convey meaning and emotion.

- Pitch Variation: Rising intonation at the end of a request can make it sound more tentative or polite. For instance:

- "Could you help me?" with a rising intonation may sound less demanding.

- Stress Patterns: Emphasizing certain words can alter the perception of politeness. Stressing "please" in a request (e.g., "Can you PLEASE help me?") can highlight the speaker's desire for compliance.

- Pauses and Timing: Strategic pauses before or after polite markers can enhance their effectiveness. A pause after "please" can signal sincerity and give the listener time to process the request.

- Rhythm and Flow: The overall rhythm of speech can affect how requests are received. A smooth, flowing delivery may come across as more polite than a choppy or hurried one.

The expression of politeness through requests involves a complex interplay of lexical choices, grammatical structures, and intonational features. Understanding these means allows speakers to navigate social interactions more effectively, adapting their language to suit different contexts and relationships. This theoretical framework highlights how nuanced communication can be, emphasizing the importance of both linguistic form and social context in expressing politeness. The expression of politeness, particularly through the word "please," involves a multifaceted approach that encompasses lexical, grammatical, and intonational means.

1. **Lexical Means:** The choice of words significantly shapes the politeness of a request. Utilizing polite markers like "please," euphemisms, and culturally specific expressions can soften commands and foster a respectful tone in communication.

2. **Grammatical Means:** The structure of a request plays a crucial role in conveying politeness. Employing modal verbs, conditional clauses, and indirect speech acts allows speakers to frame their requests in a way that emphasizes deference and consideration for the listener's feelings.

3. **Intonational Means:** Prosodic features such as pitch variation, stress patterns, and rhythm enhance the meaning behind requests. Thoughtful intonation can signal sincerity and urgency while maintaining a polite demeanor.

Together, these means create a nuanced framework for expressing requests with the meaning of "please." Mastery of these elements enables effective communication across different contexts and cultures, ensuring that interactions remain respectful and considerate.

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