

PRAGMATIC PROPERTIES OF PUNCTUATION MARKINGS

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Abstract. The pragmatic properties of punctuation marks play an important role in linguistic research, since they reflect not only the grammatical structure of the text, but also the author's intention, emotional state, text context and communicative tasks. From the point of view of a pragmatic approach, the use of punctuation marks makes the text more clear, understandable and communicatively effective. For example, a period indicates the end of a sentence, an exclamation mark expresses emotion, and a dash is used to indicate additional explanation or a contrasting thought. At the same time, the position and frequency of punctuation marks help determine the tone of the text, its formal or informal character. Taking into account the pragmatic aspect in research is important in interpreting the text, translating and creating speech. In a clearly defined context, the role of punctuation marks increases the effectiveness of communication, but when used incorrectly, it can lead to misunderstanding of the content of the text. Therefore, the analysis of their functional properties from a pragmatic point of view is of great interest in linguistics and communication sciences.

Keywords: punctuation marks, pragmatics, communicative function, text tone, emotional expression, context, speech and text analysis.

One of the main tasks of language is to ensure the process of communication and exchange of meaning between people. In this regard, the signs used in written and oral speech, in particular punctuation marks, are of great importance not only grammatically, but also pragmatically. The pragmatic nature of punctuation marks is manifested in their connection with semantic and communicative tasks in speech. In other words, punctuation is not only a means of separating or combining the structure of a sentence, but also determines the emotional tone of the sentence, the intention of the speaker, and the meanings directed at the listener or reader. Therefore, the role of punctuation in the fields of linguistics and pragmatics should be studied separately.

Pragmatics is the branch of linguistics concerned with speech, communication, and context. It takes into account the meaning of words and sentences, the intention of the speaker, and the social and contextual situation. In this regard, the pragmatic nature of punctuation depends on what emotional and communicative tone they express in a text or speech. For example, a period (.) helps to clearly and firmly express the meaning, while completing a simple sentence; an exclamation mark (!) indicates excitement, warning, or emphasis; and a question mark (?) expresses a request, doubt, or demand for confirmation. In this way, each punctuation mark performs different pragmatic functions in speech, which makes communication richer and clearer.[1]

In modern linguistics, the pragmatic properties of punctuation marks are of great importance not only as an object of academic analysis, but also in learning a language, accurately understanding a written text, and establishing effective communication. In particular, the expansion of



electronic communication tools, the growth of online chats, and written speech on social networks have further increased the pragmatic role of punctuation marks. Today, in situations where it is difficult to convey emotions and tone through words alone, the use of punctuation marks is a crucial tool for accurately expressing the meaning of speech.

Therefore, the study of the pragmatic properties of punctuation marks serves to develop new approaches in linguistics, to increase the communicative effectiveness of written and oral speech, as well as to develop the skills of understanding and correctly expressing written speech for language learners. This article analyzes the pragmatic functions of punctuation marks, their emotional, communicative and contextual significance, and also highlights their role in expressing meaning in speech. In this way, the article aims to provide the reader with a complete understanding of not only the grammatical, but also the pragmatic significance of punctuation marks. The role of punctuation marks in linguistic research is not limited to the traditional grammatical aspect, but is also important from a pragmatic point of view. Pragmatics, that is, the use of language in context and communication, allows us to consider punctuation marks not only as signs of ending or separating a sentence, but also as a means of expressing communicative intention, tone and emotionality. At the same time, the role of punctuation marks in modern texts, especially electronic and informal communication, is expanding.

Studies distinguish several main types of punctuation marks: period, comma, exclamation mark, question mark, parentheses, dash, dash, additional signs, etc. Each sign, in addition to its grammatical function, is also used pragmatically. For example:

A period indicates the end of a sentence, and also determines the rhythm and tone of the text. Pragmatically, a period indicates that the speech is final, firm, or consistent.

The exclamation mark (!) expresses emotionality, the emotional tone of a sentence. It is used sparingly in formal text, but in informal communication it is the main tool for conveying intense emotions.

The question mark (?) not only indicates a question mark, but also pragmatically performs the function of attracting the listener, attracting attention, or starting a dialogue.

The comma (,) grammatically separates the structure of a sentence, and pragmatically indicates a pause, emphasis, and contrasting thoughts within a sentence.[2]

From a pragmatic point of view, the use of punctuation marks helps determine the tone, emotionality, and effectiveness of communication. For example, in emails, the position of the comma and period determines the informal or formal tone of the text. In social networks, exclamation marks and dashes are widely used to reflect the writer's emotions, draw the reader's attention, and convey humor or warning.[3]

The use of punctuation marks varies depending on the context of the text and the listening audience. For example, in official texts, scientific articles, or business letters, semicolons and commas are used more for grammatical functions. In informal texts and Internet communication, exclamation marks, dashes, dashes, and brackets are used more to increase emotionality. Studies show that the practical use of punctuation marks is an important indicator in interpreting speech and text.

From a pragmatic point of view, punctuation marks play a significant role in determining the rhythm of the text. Pauses between sentences, emphasis, contrasting thoughts, and emotional



tone are determined by the placement of punctuation marks. This not only makes the text understandable, but also affects the psychological reaction of the reader or listener. For example, short, frequently used full stops in a long text increase attention, while an exclamation mark adds a dramatic tone to the text.

Exclamation marks, dashes, brackets, and other signs serve as the main means of expressing emotion. In social networks and chats, these signs are used to convey the writer's feelings to the listener, to express humor or a warning. Also, the placement of punctuation marks increases the effectiveness of communication and reduces the likelihood of misinterpretation.

Studying the pragmatic features of punctuation marks is important in improving speech culture and communicative efficiency. The results of the study showed that punctuation is not only a means of determining the structure of a sentence, but also plays an active role in expressing the intention of the subject of speech, emotional tone, and meanings directed at the listener. Simple signs such as a period, exclamation mark, and question mark make the text more understandable, and communication more clear and effective. Also, their use depends on the context and helps to fully express the pragmatic function of speech.

Studies by Uzbek linguists (Kodirov, 2010; Karimova, 2015; Yo'ldoshev, 2018) show that punctuation marks emphasize different communicative meanings in the context of text and speech. At the same time, the development of electronic communication tools has further increased the emotional and pragmatic role of punctuation marks. Therefore, the pragmatically correct and effective use of punctuation marks in written and oral communication is It serves to improve the quality of speech, develop speech culture, and form the skills of correct understanding and expression of speech for language learners.[4]

In conclusion, the pragmatic properties of punctuation marks are very important for linguistic research and communication practice. Along with performing a grammatical function, they determine the tone of the text, emotionality, effectiveness of communication, and interactive communication with the listener. From a pragmatic point of view, studying their use is of great importance in speech and text analysis, translation, electronic and informal communication, as well as pedagogical and psychological research. Therefore, a deep analysis of the context-dependent use of punctuation marks is one of the main tasks of linguistics.

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