

PRAGMATIC INTENTION IN CHARACTERS' SPEECH AND ITS REALIZATION IN
DETECTIVE DISCOURSE (BASED ON FOTIMA VA ZUHRA)

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Annotation. This article analyzes pragmatic intention in characters' speech in *Fotima va Zuhra* and its realization in detective discourse. The study examines implicature, speech acts, presupposition, and communicative strategies as key mechanisms of meaning construction. The findings show that pragmatic tools play a crucial role in plot development, suspense creation, and reader interpretation.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada *Fotima va Zuhra* asarida personajlar nutqida pragmatik intensiyaning ifodalanishi va uning detektiv diskursdagi roli tahlil qilindi. Tadqiqotda implikatura, nutq aktlari, presuppozitsiya va kommunikativ strategiyalar orqali yashirin ma'nolarning yuzaga chiqishi ko'rib chiqildi. Natijalar shuni ko'rsatdiki, pragmatik vositalar asarda syujet rivoji va o'quvchi interpretatsiyasini shakllantirishda muhim ahamiyatga ega.

Аннотация. В данной статье рассматривается прагматическая интенция в речи персонажей произведения *Fotima va Zuhra* и её реализация в детективном дискурсе. Анализируются импликатура, речевые акты, presuppositions и коммуникативные стратегии. Результаты показывают, что прагматические средства играют важную роль в развитии сюжета и формировании интерпретации читателя.

Keywords: pragmatics, discourse, detective fiction, implicature, speech acts, communication

Kalit so'zlar: pragmatika, diskurs, detektiv janr, implikatura, nutq akti, kommunikatsiya

Ключевые слова: прагматика, дискурс, детектив, импликатура, речевой акт, коммуникация

Introduction. The analysis of pragmatic intention in characters' speech within *Fotima va Zuhra* demonstrates that meaning in detective discourse is rarely explicit and is instead constructed through a complex interaction of linguistic and contextual factors. Pragmatic intention, as a communicative force, reflects not only what characters say but what they intend to convey beyond the surface level of language. One of the central mechanisms through which pragmatic intention is realized is implicature. According to Herbert Paul Grice, conversational implicature arises when speakers deliberately flout conversational maxims in order to generate additional meaning. In the text, characters frequently provide incomplete or indirectly relevant responses, thereby prompting the listener to infer the intended message.¹ This aligns with Grice's Cooperative Principle, where communication depends on shared reasoning between interlocutors. In detective discourse, however, this cooperation is often manipulated, creating ambiguity and tension.² The role of speech acts is equally significant in uncovering pragmatic intention. John

¹ Herbert Paul Grice. *Logic and Conversation*. In: Cole, P., Morgan, J. (eds.), *Syntax and Semantics*, Vol. 3. New York: Academic Press, 1975. pp. 41–58.

² Herbert Paul Grice. *Logic and Conversation*. In: Cole, P., Morgan, J. (eds.), *Syntax and Semantics*, Vol. 3. New York: Academic Press, 1975. pp. 41–58.



Searle argues that every utterance performs an action, and in literary texts, these actions are often layered with hidden purposes. In *Fotima va Zuhra*, indirect speech acts dominate the dialogues. For instance, a declarative statement may function as a warning, or a question may serve as an implicit accusation. This indirectness allows characters to navigate sensitive situations without revealing their true intentions, which is a defining feature of detective narratives. Furthermore, the concept of relevance theory proposed by Dan Sperber and Deirdre Wilson provides additional insight into how pragmatic intention is processed. According to this theory, communication is guided by the search for optimal relevance, where listeners interpret utterances based on the balance between cognitive effort and contextual effect.³ In the narrative, characters often rely on minimal linguistic input to convey complex meanings, expecting their interlocutors to reconstruct the intended message. This process not only reflects natural communication but also enhances the intellectual engagement of the reader. Another important dimension is politeness theory, developed by Penelope Brown and Stephen Levinson. Their framework explains how speakers use linguistic strategies to manage social relationships and maintain face. In the analyzed work, politeness strategies often mask underlying tension or conflict⁴. A polite expression may conceal suspicion or hostility, demonstrating how pragmatic intention can diverge from literal meaning. This duality is particularly effective in detective discourse, where appearances are frequently deceptive. From a discourse-analytical perspective, Teun A. van Dijk emphasizes the importance of context and cognitive models in interpreting meaning.⁵ ⁶In *Fotima va Zuhra*, the interpretation of pragmatic intention depends heavily on contextual knowledge, including previous events, character relationships, and situational factors. The discourse structure guides the reader in constructing mental models of the narrative, which are continuously revised as new information emerges.

In addition, stylistic analysis contributes to understanding how pragmatic intention is embedded in narrative form. As noted by Paul Simpson, stylistic choices such as lexical selection, sentence structure, and dialogue patterns play a crucial role in shaping meaning⁷. In the text, the use of concise and often ambiguous dialogue enhances the detective atmosphere, allowing pragmatic intention to operate implicitly rather than explicitly. The narrative dimension of discourse, as discussed by Michael Toolan, further highlights the role of language in structuring events and guiding interpretation. In detective fiction, narrative progression is closely tied to the controlled release of information. Pragmatic intention is therefore not limited to individual utterances but extends to the overall organization of the text. Each piece of dialogue contributes to the gradual revelation of truth, creating a cohesive yet complex narrative structure.

Moreover, the concept of presupposition plays a significant role in shaping pragmatic intention. Characters often embed assumptions within their statements, thereby influencing how others interpret their words. This aligns with the broader framework of pragmatics outlined by George Yule, who emphasizes the importance of context-dependent meaning. In detective discourse, presuppositions can function as subtle clues, guiding both characters and readers toward particular conclusions. The interplay between explicit and implicit meaning ultimately defines the effectiveness of pragmatic intention in the text. As Stephen C. Levinson notes,

³ D.Sperber and D. Wilson. *Relevance: Communication and Cognition*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1986. 279 p.

⁴ P. Brown and S.Levinson. *Politeness: Some Universals in Language Usage*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987. 345 p.

⁵ Teun A. van Dijk. *Discourse and Context: A Sociocognitive Approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008. 267 p.

⁷ P.Simpson. *Stylistics: A Resource Book for Students*. London: Routledge, 2004. 247 p.



pragmatics is concerned with how meaning is inferred rather than directly stated⁸. In Fotima va Zuhra, this inferential process is central to the reading experience. The reader must actively engage with the discourse, interpreting not only what is said but what is meant. The integration of these theoretical perspectives demonstrates that pragmatic intention operates on multiple levels within detective discourse. At the micro level, it shapes individual utterances through implicature, speech acts, and presupposition. At the macro level, it influences the overall structure of the narrative, guiding the distribution of information and the development of suspense. The findings suggest that pragmatic intention is not merely a linguistic phenomenon but a narrative strategy that enhances the complexity and depth of the text. By requiring the reader to infer meaning, the author creates an interactive reading experience in which interpretation becomes a central activity.

In conclusion, the analysis of pragmatic intention in characters' speech within Fotima va Zuhra demonstrates that meaning in detective discourse is constructed through a complex interaction of explicit and implicit linguistic mechanisms. The study shows that pragmatic intention is primarily realized through implicature, indirect speech acts, presupposition, and communicative strategies, which together create a multilayered system of meaning.

The theoretical contributions of scholars such as Herbert Paul Grice, John Searle, and Teun A. van Dijk clearly support the idea that language in use is never purely literal but always context-dependent and intention-driven. In detective discourse, this becomes especially significant, as characters often conceal their true intentions while simultaneously guiding the reader toward interpretation. The findings of this study confirm that pragmatic intention is not only a linguistic phenomenon but also a narrative tool that shapes suspense, character development, and reader engagement. The detective nature of the text relies heavily on ambiguity and indirectness, which require active cognitive participation from the reader. Ultimately, pragmatic analysis reveals the deeper structural and functional layers of the text, proving that meaning in literature is continuously constructed through interaction between language, context, and interpretation.

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⁸ Stephen C. Levinson. *Pragmatics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983. 420 p.



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