



FORENSIC LINGUISTIC EXAMINATION OF MISINFORMATION AND
SPEECH MANIPULATION IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK NEWS ARTICLES

Ashurov Bobir Shakirovich

Independent researcher

Uzbekistan State World Languages University

E-mail: bashurov055@gmail.com

Annotation. *This article explores the role of forensic linguistics in identifying misinformation and speech manipulation within English and Uzbek news articles. The study focuses on linguistic markers, manipulative strategies, and pragmatic features that influence audience perception. By comparing articles from both languages, the research highlights how lexical choices, syntactic structures, and discourse strategies are used to distort facts, create bias, or mislead readers. The paper also examines the socio-political context shaping misinformation in both media landscapes. Through forensic linguistic analysis, the research aims to contribute to media literacy, offering tools to detect manipulation and false information. It emphasizes the need for critical reading skills and linguistic expertise in evaluating news content. The findings provide valuable insights for linguists, media analysts, and journalism professionals engaged in combatting misinformation in both English and Uzbek media.*

Keywords: *forensic linguistics, misinformation, manipulation, news articles, English, Uzbek, media bias, discourse analysis.*

Аннотация: *В этой статье рассматривается роль судебной лингвистики в выявлении дезинформации и речевых манипуляций в новостных статьях на Английском и Узбекском языках. Исследование фокусируется на лингвистических маркерах, манипулятивных стратегиях и прагматических особенностях, которые влияют на восприятие аудитории. Сравнивая статьи на обоих языках, исследование подчеркивает, как лексический выбор, синтаксические структуры и стратегии дискурса используются для искажения фактов, создания предвзятости или введения читателей в заблуждение. В статье также рассматривается социально-политический контекст, формирующий дезинформацию в обоих медиа-ландшафтах. С помощью судебно-лингвистического анализа исследование направлено на содействие медиаграмотности, предлагая инструменты для обнаружения манипуляций и ложной информации. Оно подчеркивает необходимость навыков критического чтения и лингвистических знаний при оценке новостного контента. Результаты дают ценную информацию лингвистам, медиа-аналитикам и профессионалам в области журналистики, занимающимся борьбой с дезинформацией как в Английских, так и в Узбекских СМИ.*

Ключевые слова: *судебная лингвистика, дезинформация, манипуляция, новостные статьи, Английский язык, Узбекский язык, предвзятость СМИ, анализ дискурса.*



Annotatsiya. *Ushbu maqola Ingliz va O'zbek tillaridagi yangiliklar maqolalarida noto'g'ri ma'lumotlar va nutq manipulyatsiyasini aniqlashda sud-ekspertiza lingvistikasining rolini o'rganadi. Tadqiqot tinglovchilarning idrokiga ta'sir qiluvchi lingvistik belgilar, manipulyativ strategiyalar va pragmatik xususiyatlarga qaratilgan. Ikkala tildagi maqolalarni taqqoslash orqali tadqiqot leksik tanlovlar, sintaktik tuzilmalar va nutq strategiyalari faktlarni buzib ko'rsatish, tarafkashlik yaratish yoki o'quvchilarni chalg'itish uchun qanday ishlatilishini ta'kidlaydi. Maqolada, shuningdek, har ikkala media landshaftida noto'g'ri ma'lumotni shakllantiradigan ijtimoiy-siyosiy kontekst ko'rib chiqiladi. Sud-ekspertiza lingvistikasi tahlili orqali tadqiqot manipulyatsiya va yolg'on ma'lumotlarni aniqlash vositalarini taklif qilib, media savodxonligini oshirishga hissa qo'shishga qaratilgan. Unda yangiliklar mazmunini baholashda tanqidiy o'qish ko'nikmalari va lingvistik tajriba zarurligiga urg'u berilgan. Topilmalar Ingliz va O'zbek ommaviy axborot vositalarida noto'g'ri ma'lumotlarga qarshi kurashish bilan shug'ullanuvchi tilshunoslar, mediatahlilchilar va jurnalistika mutaxassislari uchun qimmatli tushunchalarni beradi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *sud-ekspertiza lingvistikasi, noto'g'ri ma'lumotlar, manipulyatsiya, yangiliklar maqolalari, Ingliz tili, O'zbek tili, media bias, diskurs tahlili.*

Introduction. In today's digital era, the rapid dissemination of news and information has become a defining feature of mass media. However, the spread of misinformation and manipulative speech tactics within news articles poses significant challenges to society. Misinformation often distorts facts, misleads readers, and manipulates public opinion, making it a critical area of study for forensic linguists. Forensic linguistics, as an interdisciplinary field, applies linguistic knowledge to analyze language use in legal and investigative contexts. It plays a crucial role in uncovering deceptive strategies and hidden intentions embedded within media texts. This study focuses on the forensic linguistic examination of misinformation and speech manipulation techniques in English and Uzbek news articles. Both media landscapes demonstrate specific patterns of information distortion influenced by socio-political, cultural, and historical contexts²⁹. The comparative analysis aims to identify linguistic markers such as lexical choices, syntactic structures, and discourse strategies that journalists and media outlets utilize to misrepresent facts or manipulate audience perception.

In English-language media, strategies like selective quotation, euphemism, and sensationalism are frequently used to shape readers' attitudes. Similarly, Uzbek news articles sometimes reflect speech manipulation through vague expressions, emotionally charged words, and context omission. The study explores how these techniques affect the

²⁹ Coulthard, M., & Johnson, A. An Introduction to Forensic Linguistics: Language in Evidence. – London, Routledge, 2007. – 234 p.





audience's understanding and create biased or false narratives³⁰. Furthermore, the research highlights the importance of critical media literacy and linguistic competence in recognizing misinformation. Forensic linguistic analysis provides effective tools for identifying manipulation, ensuring transparency, and promoting ethical journalism. By comparing English and Uzbek media content, the study not only enhances awareness of manipulation methods but also offers practical insights for linguists, media practitioners, and readers. Understanding these linguistic mechanisms is vital in the global fight against misinformation and in building a more informed society. Forensic linguistics provides a systematic approach to detecting misinformation and manipulation in media texts.

This section analyzes the main linguistic strategies used in English and Uzbek news articles to distort facts, mislead readers, and influence public opinion. These strategies often reflect the cultural, political, and social contexts of each language community³¹. One of the most common techniques of manipulation is lexical choice. Journalists often select words with strong emotional connotations to shape readers' attitudes. In English media, terms like "terrorist" versus "freedom fighter" or "illegal immigrant" versus "asylum seeker" evoke different reactions, depending on the speaker's intention. Similarly, Uzbek news articles use words like "vatanparvar" (patriot) or "yovuz kuchlar" (evil forces) to influence emotional responses and create binary oppositions between "good" and "bad." Another frequent method is syntactic manipulation, where the arrangement of words and sentences subtly shifts responsibility or importance.

Passive voice is often used to obscure the agent of an action, as seen in headlines like "Mistakes were made" instead of naming who made them³². In Uzbek media, passive forms like "Xatolar qilindi" serve the same function, reducing accountability. Additionally, the use of nominalization in both English and Uzbek turns actions into abstract concepts, making it harder for readers to identify actors or causes. Omission of context is also a key strategy, where crucial information is excluded to mislead readers. English media might omit the historical background of a conflict, while Uzbek articles might avoid mentioning certain political connections to protect specific groups or interests. This selective reporting creates biased narratives that support particular agendas. Euphemism is another tactic used to soften harsh realities. Terms like "collateral damage" instead of "civilian deaths" in English, or "ishga joylashtirishda qiyinchiliklar" (difficulties in employment) instead of "ishsizlik" (unemployment) in Uzbek, downplay the severity of the issue.

Furthermore, quantitative vagueness such as "many people believe" or "some experts say" is widely used in both English and Uzbek articles. These phrases create the illusion of widespread agreement or authority without providing verifiable sources, making readers more susceptible to manipulation. Forensic linguistic analysis also reveals the role of

³⁰ Olsson, J. *Wordcrime: Solving Crime Through Forensic Linguistics*. – London, Bloomsbury Academic, 2013. – 320

³¹ Crystal, D. *Language and the Internet*. – Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2006. – 289 p.

³² Fairclough, N. *Media Discourse*. – London, Edward Arnold, 1995. – 214 p.





discourse strategies like framing and presupposition. By framing events from a particular angle, media outlets guide audience interpretation³³. English news might frame protests as "riots" to delegitimize them, while Uzbek media could frame government actions as "necessary reforms" regardless of public opinion. The comparative analysis of English and Uzbek articles shows that despite linguistic and cultural differences, the core strategies of manipulation are remarkably similar. Both use emotional appeals, vagueness, syntactic structures, and selective reporting to influence readers. Forensic linguistics equips readers, scholars, and journalists with tools to critically analyze these texts.

By understanding the linguistic techniques behind manipulation, audiences can develop media literacy skills to question information sources, identify bias, and resist misinformation. This is crucial in fostering responsible journalism and protecting society from the harmful effects of manipulated news³⁴. Additionally, speech manipulation in news articles is often achieved through the use of rhetorical devices such as metaphor, hyperbole, and irony. In English media, metaphors like "the war on drugs" or "economic meltdown" exaggerate situations to create fear or urgency. Similarly, Uzbek media uses expressions like "xalqimiz boshiga qora kunlar keldi" (dark days have come upon our people) to evoke strong emotional reactions. These linguistic tools intensify the message and persuade the audience to adopt a particular viewpoint. Another significant aspect is visual manipulation, where headlines, images, and captions work together with the text to strengthen the intended message.

Both English and Uzbek news platforms strategically select images that either support or contradict the narrative, influencing the reader's perception subconsciously³⁵. Forensic linguistic analysis not only reveals these techniques but also emphasizes the need for transparency and ethical standards in journalism. With the growing influence of social media, misinformation spreads faster and becomes harder to control. Therefore, the role of forensic linguists is increasingly vital in monitoring media content, exposing manipulation, and promoting truthful reporting. Developing critical thinking and media literacy skills remains essential for readers to navigate the complex media landscape and resist the impact of misinformation and manipulative speech.

Conclusion. In conclusion, the forensic linguistic examination of misinformation and speech manipulation in English and Uzbek news articles reveals that both media systems employ similar linguistic strategies to influence readers. Techniques such as lexical manipulation, syntactic structures, omission of context, euphemism, and emotional appeals are commonly used to distort facts and control public perception. These methods reflect not only the linguistic features of each language but also the socio-political context in which the

³³ Karimov, B. Lisoning manipulyatsiya usullari va ularning O'zbek matbuotida namoyon bo'lishi. – Toshkent, Fan, 2018. – 176 b.

³⁴ Shoazimov, S. O'zbek matbuotida axborot manipulyatsiyasi usullari. – Toshkent, O'zbekiston, 2020. – 154 b.

³⁵ Richardson, J. E. Analysing Newspapers: An Approach from Critical Discourse Analysis. – London, Palgrave Macmillan, 2007. – 263 p.





media operates. The comparative analysis shows that while cultural and historical differences exist, the core principles of manipulation remain universal. Media outlets in both languages use rhetorical devices, biased framing, and vague references to strengthen their narratives. Forensic linguistics provides effective tools to uncover these hidden techniques, promoting transparency and accountability in journalism. The findings of this research highlight the importance of developing critical media literacy skills among readers. Understanding manipulation strategies helps individuals question information, detect bias, and resist the spread of misinformation. As media continues to play a powerful role in shaping society, the need for forensic linguistic expertise becomes even more significant in ensuring truthful reporting and protecting the public from deception.

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