



TANQIDIY NAZAR, TAHLILIIY TAFAKKUR VA INNOVATSION G'OYALAR



VALUES IN LINGUISTICS

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Abstract: *In this thesis, the issues of different values in linguistics are analyzed with defining and how values are reflected in language use and language identity. Linguistics, the scientific study of language, is not only concerned with the structural and functional aspects of language but also deeply intertwined with cultural and social values.*

Key words: *defining values, discourse, politeness, narrative, objectivity, subjectivity*

Values in linguistics refer to the principles, beliefs, and norms that influence language use, shape linguistic behavior, and affect how language reflects social realities. These values are both implicit and explicit in language, influencing everything from word choice and politeness strategies to discourse organization and language attitudes.

Values in linguistics can be defined broadly as the socially and culturally embedded norms and beliefs that influence language practices. These include:

Ethical values such as politeness, respect, and honesty.

Cultural values like community orientation, individualism, or collectivism.

Aesthetic values related to language style, formality, and creativity

Cognitive values involving clarity, precision, and logical structuring of language.

Values operate at multiple levels of linguistic analysis—from phonology and syntax to pragmatics and discourse—affecting not only what is said but how it is said and interpreted.

Values Reflected in Language Use

Politeness and Social Hierarchy

One of the most studied areas where values appear in linguistics is politeness. Politeness strategies in language reflect cultural norms about respect, social distance, and hierarchy. For instance, the use of honorifics, formal pronouns, and indirect speech acts signal values related to maintaining social harmony and showing respect. In many languages, such as Japanese, Korean, or Uzbek, honorific forms are mandatory in certain social contexts, explicitly encoding the value of respect for elders or superiors. In English, politeness is often conveyed through modal verbs ("could," "would"), hedging ("perhaps," "maybe"), and indirect requests ("Would you mind...?"), reflecting a cultural preference for individual autonomy and face-saving. These linguistic choices demonstrate how deeply embedded social values shape communication, guiding speakers on how to appropriately express requests, refusals, compliments, and criticisms.

Language and Identity

Language is a key marker of identity and social values. Through dialect, accent, code-switching, and choice of vocabulary, speakers signal their belonging to particular social,





ethnic, or cultural groups. For example, African American Vernacular English (AAVE) in the United States carries cultural values linked to heritage, solidarity, and resistance. Values in linguistics also relate to attitudes toward language varieties. Prestige dialects often embody values such as education, power, and social mobility, while non-standard dialects may be stigmatized, reflecting societal biases and inequalities.

Values in Discourse and Narrative

Values are also reflected in how people construct narratives and organize discourse. Cultural narratives embed shared values, teaching norms and ethical lessons. Linguistic features such as metaphors, proverbs, and storytelling structures convey cultural worldviews and moral codes. For example, the use of war metaphors in political discourse ("battle against poverty," "fight crime") reflects values of struggle and victory. Similarly, storytelling traditions in Indigenous communities use language to encode respect for nature and community cohesion.

Values in Linguistic Research and Theory

Objectivity vs. Subjectivity

In the academic study of linguistics, values play a dual role. Traditionally, linguistics aspired to scientific objectivity, aiming to describe languages without imposing evaluative judgments. However, modern linguistic theory recognizes that complete neutrality is impossible because research questions, language descriptions, and analyses are influenced by researchers' cultural and ideological values. For instance, the decision to study certain languages or dialects over others, or to describe certain language forms as "correct" or "standard," reflects value judgments about language prestige and importance.

Language Change and Value Shifts

Language is dynamic, and linguistic values evolve over time alongside social changes. For example, terms once considered polite may become outdated, or formerly taboo words may be reclaimed by communities as empowering. The influence of globalization, technological advancement, and social movements shapes linguistic values, reflected in changes in vocabulary (e.g., gender-neutral pronouns), discourse norms, and language attitudes.

Conclusion

Values in linguistics represent the deep connections between language, culture, and society. They are manifested in politeness strategies, identity expression, discourse construction, and the very choices linguists make in studying language. Recognizing and analyzing these values enriches our understanding of language as a living social phenomenon.





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