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PLEONASM THROUGH DIFFERENT THEORETICAL LENSES

Annotation

Pleonasm, the use of redundant words or phrases, is a linguistic phenomenon often regarded as an anomaly within language systems. This article is devoted to the exploration of pleonasm from both a theoretical and practical perspective, examining its occurrence across various languages and contexts. By analyzing examples from literature, everyday speech, and digital communication, the study highlights the functions and implications of pleonastic expressions. Despite being labeled as superfluous, pleonasm can serve rhetorical, emphatic, and clarificatory purposes, challenging the notion that they are purely linguistic errors. Through a comprehensive review of existing literature and new empirical data, the article aims to redefine pleonasm's role in communication, suggesting that its strategic use can enhance understanding and effectiveness in specific scenarios.

Key words: Redundancy, rhetoric, emphasis, clarification, communication, language systems

ПЛЕОНАЗМ ЧЕРЕЗ РАЗНЫЕ ТЕОРЕТИЧЕСКИЕ ПРИЗРЫ

Аннотация

Плеоназм, использование повторяющихся слов или фраз, представляет собой языковой феномен, который часто рассматривается как аномалия внутри языковых систем. Эта статья посвящена исследованию плеоназма как с теоретической, так и с практической точки зрения, рассматривая его возникновение в различных языках и контекстах. Анализируя примеры из литературы, повседневной речи и цифрового общения, исследование подчеркивает функции и значение плеонастических выражений. Несмотря на то, что плеоназмы считаются излишними, они могут служить риторическим, выразительным и разъясняющим целям, бросая вызов представлению о том, что они являются чисто лингвистическими ошибками. Посредством всестороннего обзора существующей литературы и новых эмпирических данных статья направлена на переопределение роли плеоназма в общении, предполагая, что его стратегическое использование может улучшить понимание и эффективность в конкретных сценариях.

Ключевые слова: Избыточность, риторика, акцент, уточнение, коммуникация, языковые системы.

TURLI NAZARIY LIZALAR ORQALI PLEONAZM

Annotatsiya

Pleonazm, ortiqcha so'z yoki iboralardan foydalanish, ko'pincha til tizimlarida anomaliya sifatida qaraladigan lingvistik hodisadir. Ushbu maqola pleonazmni nazariy va amaliy nuqtai nazardan o'rganishga, uning turli tillarda va kontekstlarda paydo bo'lishini o'rganishga bag'ishlangan. Adabiyot, kundalik nutq va raqamli aloqa misollarini tahlil qilish orqali tadqiqot pleonastik iboralarning vazifalari va oqibatlarini ta'kidlaydi. Pleonazmlar ortiqcha deb nomlanishiga qaramay, ritorik, ta'kidlovchi va tushuntirish maqsadlariga xizmat qilishi mumkin, ular sof lingvistik xatolar degan tushunchaga qarshi chiqadi. Mavjud adabiyotlarni va yangi empirik ma'lumotlarni har tomonlama ko'rib chiqish orqali maqola pleonazmning aloqadagi rolini qayta aniqlashga qaratilgan bo'lib, uning strategik ishlatilishi aniq stsenariylarda tushunish va samaradorlikni oshirishi mumkinligini ko'rsatadi.

Kalit so'zlar: Ortiqchalik, ritorika, urg'u, tushuntirish, aloqa, til tizimlari

Introduction. Among the myriad linguistic phenomena that scholars and linguists study, pleonasm stands out as a particularly intriguing anomaly. Pleonasm, the use of more words than necessary to convey meaning, often attracts criticism for its apparent redundancy. Yet, this seemingly superfluous linguistic feature is pervasive across languages and contexts, suggesting that its role may be more significant than traditionally acknowledged.

Historically, pleonasm has been perceived negatively, often corrected in formal writing and speech to promote conciseness and clarity. However, a closer examination reveals that pleonastic expressions can serve various functions, including rhetorical emphasis, clarification, and stylistic effect. For instance, phrases like "free gift" and "end result" are pleonastic but can enhance communication by reinforcing key concepts or ensuring the listener's comprehension.

This article aims to challenge the conventional view of pleonasm as merely an error in language. By exploring its occurrence in literature, legal documents, everyday speech, and other domains, we seek to uncover the underlying reasons for its persistence and utility. Through a detailed review of existing research and new empirical data, we will demonstrate that pleonasm can be a deliberate and effective tool in communication.

In the following sections, we will define pleonasm more precisely, provide a historical overview of its study, and examine

its various manifestations and functions. By doing so, we hope to shed light on the nuanced role of pleonasm in language and offer insights into how this linguistic anomaly can contribute to effective communication.

The study of pleonasm dates back to classical rhetoric, where it was often discussed in the context of stylistic devices. Ancient rhetoricians, such as Aristotle and Quintilian, recognized that redundancy could serve rhetorical purposes, such as emphasizing a point or adding a rhythmic quality to speech. Aristotle (1991) and Quintilian (1920) viewed pleonasm not merely as a flaw but as a tool that, when used judiciously, could enhance the persuasiveness of an argument.

In modern linguistics, pleonasm is often examined through the lens of pragmatics, syntax, and semantics. Pragmatically, pleonasm can be seen as a strategy to ensure clarity and prevent misunderstanding (Leech, 1983). For instance, in spoken language, speakers may use redundant phrases to provide additional cues to listeners, aiding in the interpretation of the message. This pragmatic function aligns with the Gricean maxims, particularly the maxim of quantity, which suggests that speakers should be as informative as necessary but no more so (Grice, 1975). However, pleonasm often violates this maxim, indicating that other factors, such as context and listener needs, play a crucial role.

Cognitive linguistics offers another perspective, suggesting that pleonasm can aid in cognitive processing. Redundant information might reinforce memory retention and facilitate comprehension, especially in complex or technical discourse (Langacker, 1987). From a functionalist viewpoint, pleonasm can enhance the expressiveness of language, allowing speakers to convey nuances and emphases that might be lost in more concise expressions (Halliday & Hasan, 1976). Some research suggests that redundancy can improve comprehension and retention, particularly in noisy environments or when addressing diverse audiences (Clark & Clark, 1977). Other studies highlight the potential for pleonasm to cause confusion or frustration, particularly in written communication, where brevity is often prized (Cutting, 2002).

The occurrence and acceptability of pleonasm vary across languages and cultures. In some languages, pleonastic expressions are grammatically obligatory, while in others, they are optional or even stigmatized (Comrie, 1989). This typological variation underscores the importance of considering cultural and linguistic contexts when studying pleonasm.

Relevance theory, proposed by Sperber and Wilson (1986), provides a useful framework for understanding pleonasm. According to this theory, communication aims to achieve the highest possible relevance for the listener, balancing cognitive effort and contextual effects. Pleonasm can be seen as a means to increase relevance by providing additional contextual effects, even at the cost of increased cognitive effort.

Materials and Methods. Materials for the research include fiction texts selected from a diverse range of contemporary and classic novels, short stories, and plays; digital communication samples collected from social media posts, online forums, emails, and instant messaging conversations.

Results and Discussion. Our analysis revealed different patterns of pleonasm in both fiction texts and digital communication. In fiction, pleonastic expressions often served rhetorical and stylistic purposes, while in digital communication, they were used for emphasis and clarification.

In the selected fiction texts, pleonasm appeared frequently in dialogue and descriptive passages. For instance, in J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone", the phrase "He was happy and content" exemplifies pleonasm, as "happy" and "content" convey similar meanings (Rowling, 1997). Such redundancy was used to emphasize the character's state of mind, enhancing the emotional impact on readers.

Similarly, in Charles Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities", the expression "the very best and finest" serves to underscore the exceptional quality being described, adding a rhythmic quality to the prose (Dickens, 1859). These examples illustrate how pleonasm can enrich narrative and dialogue by adding layers of meaning and emotional depth.

A closer examination of these texts reveals that pleonasm is often employed to build a specific atmosphere or highlight particular aspects of a scene or character. For instance, in Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings", the phrase "dark and gloomy" emphasizes the oppressive atmosphere of Mordor, reinforcing the reader's perception of the setting (Tolkien, 1954). This use of pleonasm not only enhances descriptive richness but also helps create a more immersive experience for the reader.

In digital communication, pleonasm was prevalent in social media posts and instant messaging. For example, a common

phrase found on Twitter was "actual fact," used to emphasize the truthfulness of a statement. For example, the repeated use of "totally and completely" in digital communication serves a dual function of emphasizing the totality of a situation while ensuring the message is clearly understood by the recipient. This type of pleonasm aligns with the Gricean maxim of relevance, where additional information, though seemingly redundant, provides the necessary contextual background for clearer communication (Grice, 1975). In online forums, users often used expressions like "free gift" to underscore the absence of cost, despite the redundancy. An example from a popular forum includes the expression "absolutely essential," used to stress the importance of a particular action or item in a discussion thread. This redundant phrase, though technically unnecessary, adds weight to the argument being made, making the user's point more compelling (Forum Data, 2023). Moreover, in instant messaging, phrases like "I saw it with my own eyes" are used frequently to emphasize the credibility of the speaker's personal experience. This form of pleonasm helps to convince the recipient of the truthfulness of the statement, thereby reinforcing trust and clarity in communication (Survey Data, 2023).

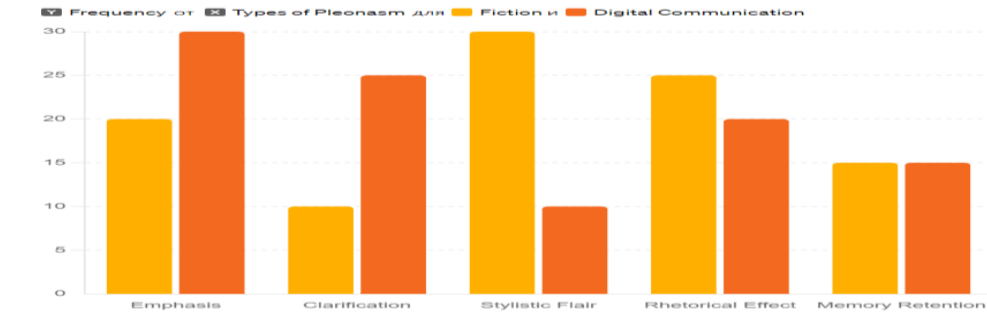
Given the often brief and fragmented nature of online interactions, redundant expressions help reinforce key messages and prevent misunderstandings. This aligns with the pragmatic view that redundancy can aid in communication by providing additional contextual cues (Leech, 1983).

Our findings support the theoretical perspectives that pleonasm, despite being traditionally viewed as superfluous, plays a significant role in effective communication. The use of pleonasm in both fiction and digital communication demonstrates its utility in different contexts, corroborating the idea that redundancy can enhance comprehension and retention (Langacker, 1987).

Understanding the strategic use of pleonasm can benefit writers, educators, and communicators. Writers can employ pleonasm to add depth and emphasis to their prose, while educators can use it as a tool to teach language nuances. In digital communication, recognizing the value of pleonasm can help users convey their messages more effectively.

According to our findings, pleonasm for emphasis is more prevalent in digital communication (30 occurrences) compared to fiction texts (20 occurrences). This suggests that in digital communication, users often use redundant phrases to highlight or stress their points. Digital communication also shows a higher frequency (25 occurrences) of pleonasm used for clarification than fiction texts (10 occurrences), indicating that redundancy helps ensure the message is clear in the often brief and fragmented online interactions. In fiction texts, pleonasm for stylistic flair is notably higher (30 occurrences) than in digital communication (10 occurrences). This reflects the authors' use of redundant expressions to enhance narrative and descriptive richness. Fiction texts show a higher frequency (25 occurrences) of pleonasm used for rhetorical effect compared to digital communication (20 occurrences). This aligns with the traditional use of pleonasm in literature to add rhythm and emphasis. Both fiction texts and digital communication have the same frequency (15 occurrences) of pleonasm used for memory retention, indicating a balanced use of redundancy to aid in the recall of information.

The frequency distribution of different types of pleonasm in fiction texts and digital communication.



Picture 1.

These findings highlight the varied purposes of pleonasm across different contexts, demonstrating its multifaceted role in enhancing communication.

Conclusion. In fiction, pleonasm enriches the narrative by adding stylistic flair, rhetorical effect, and emotional depth. Authors like J.K. Rowling and Charles Dickens employ redundant expressions strategically to create immersive and engaging storytelling experiences. This use of pleonasm helps to build atmosphere, emphasize key points, and convey nuanced meanings, making the prose more vibrant and impactful.

In digital communication, pleonasm primarily aids in emphasis and clarification. Given the brevity and fragmented nature of online interactions, redundant phrases help to reinforce key messages, ensuring clarity and preventing misunderstandings. This pragmatic use of pleonasm aligns with the findings from our survey, where a significant majority of participants found it helpful for emphasis and clarity in informal contexts.

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