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ВЫРАЖЕНИЕ ПРАГМАТИЧЕСКИХ КОНЦЕПЦИЙ В АНГЛИЙСКИХ АНЕКДОТАХ

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Статья фокусируется на прагматических особенностях, которые встречаются в английских анекдотах, подчеркивая, как эти нарративы представляют более глубокие значения и социальные нюансы. Anekdoty часто используются в повседневных взаимодействиях и литературе, служа средством достижения прагматического понимания, выражая культурные концепты, намерения говорящего и интерпретации слушателя. Через качественный анализ исследование выявляет основные прагматические особенности, присутствующие в выбранных английских анекдотах, отражая их значение в значимой коммуникации.

Ключевые слова: прагматика, анекдоты, коммуникация, скрытое значение, контекстуальное значение, намерение говорящего, интерпретация слушателя.

Introduction. Anecdotes are expressed as narrative, engaging stories that are often derived from real-life incidents or experiences. They serve not only as entertainment but also as powerful tools for communication and criticism in various contexts, from daily conversations to formal speeches as well as literary works. The essence of anecdotes lies in their feature that conveys complex pragmatic meanings that extend far beyond their surface levels. This work explores the pragmatic concepts embedded in English entertaining narratives, focusing on how they reveal cultural perceptions, Intentionality and Acceptability of the anecdotes.

“Pragmatics, as a branch of linguistics, is focused on the context-dependent aspects of meaning. It encompasses how people comprehend spoken or written language in its social context, where not only what is said matters but also how it is said, by whom, and under what circumstances” [1, p. 21]. Moreover, pragmatics studies the way texts and phrases are used in the speech process and the meanings they convey in different contexts. These meanings may differ from the general lexical meanings of the words and phrases. In many cases, they can be used to express apologies, make requests, or convey politeness in relation to the speaker's intended purpose. Thus, it can be concluded that pragmatics studies the speaker's internal intentions, the listener's level of understanding, and the internal rules of society. An example of the applications of pragmatics is its use in indirect rather than direct address. For instance, the statement “The room is very warm” can serve as an indication to take an action, such as “Open the window.”

Anecdotes, due to their narrative structure and personal nature, provide ripe examples for analyzing these pragmatic concepts. “Anecdotes play several roles in communication. They can illustrate points, provide evidence for arguments, or simply entertain. The capacity of anecdotes to convey pragmatic meaning is heavily influenced by cultural context, speaker-audience relationships, and the situational context in which they are

shared” [2, p. 354]. Furthermore, anecdotes can serve as the main tool to build close emotional connection between the speaker and the audience by sharing real life taken experiences. Also, anecdotes can be utilized to persuade or convince the audience with its extreme examples to sway opinions.

Literature review. Understanding the context in which anecdotes are shared is essential for comprehending their pragmatic implications. For example, in English-speaking societies, humor often serves as a social lubricant, making anecdotes a popular choice for simplifying situations or fostering connections. “The cultural underpinnings inform how anecdotes are constructed and interpreted. In a professional setting, a manager might share an anecdote about a past error to create a relatable atmosphere and encourage open dialogue among team members. The implicit messages about vulnerability and learning from mistakes hinge on the shared understanding within that specific context” [3, p. 155]. Thus, analyzing the context reveals much about the intended impact of the anecdote.

Speaker Intentions and Audience Interpretation is significantly depended to the situation as the speaker uses these short, narrative stories to achieve their implicit goal such as persuading, entertaining or criticisizing but the interpretation of the listeners is highly related to some aspects ranging from their social background and knowledge to the emotional engagement. “The success of an anecdote often depends on the shared knowledge between the speaker and the audience. A speaker craftily embeds intentions within the narrative structure of their anecdote. For instance, while a speaker may share a humorous story about a personal mishap, their intention could be to highlight resilience and adaptability rather than merely entertain” [4, p. 17]. Grasping the meaning by the audience becomes vital. Because, if listeners comprehend the underlying meaning while being entertained, the anecdote achieves its communicative aim. Conversely, if they misinterpret the aim or intent, the anecdote may fall flat or even might cause to misunderstandings.

It is possible to identify that several pragmatic features consistently appear in English anecdotes that have valuable functions: One of them is implicature that refers to the meanings that are implied but not explicitly stated in communication. “In anecdotal narratives, speakers often allude to broader themes or messages, leaving gaps for audiences to fill in. A classic example might involve a speaker mentioning a chaotic dinner party, leading the audience to infer not only the humorous chaos but also potential critiques of social gatherings or personal relationships” [5, p.45].

“Anecdotes can also function as speech acts, conveying actions through the narrative itself” [6, p. 20]. The performance feature of storytelling is crucial; for instance, narrating an embarrassing moment during a talk may serve to elicit empathy, lead to laughter. The story becomes an act of communication-a way to connect with the help of shared human experiences. Furthermore, the speech act theory believes that language can enact behaviors, with anecdotes functioning as a medium to perform apologies, offers, or requests.

Politeness theories, such as those proposed by Brown and Levinson [7, p. 61], reflects how speakers can direct social relationships through language. In the text of anecdotes, speakers often demonstrate politeness and social harmony. For example, a speaker might narrate their faults while expressing a relatable mistake made by someone else. This strategy can ease tough, potential criticism and create a more agreeable atmosphere.

Methodological review. This study employs a qualitative analysis approach to identify the main pragmatic features present in selected English anecdotes. The methodology consists of the following steps:

Corpus selection: The authors selected English anecdotes from everyday interactions, literature, and public discourse. Specific examples are drawn from comedic anecdotes (e.g., public speaking events) and reflective anecdotes (e.g., classroom settings).

Analytical framework: The analysis is guided by key pragmatic concepts including:

Implicature (meanings implied but not explicitly stated)

Speech act theory (language as behavior)

Politeness theory (Brown & Levinson)

Speaker intention and audience interpretation

Contextual meaning (cultural, social, and situational context)

Procedure: Each anecdote was examined for:

Surface-level narrative content

Underlying pragmatic meanings

The relationship between speaker intention and listener interpretation

Cultural and contextual dependencies

Results: The qualitative analysis yielded the following results regarding the expression of pragmatic concepts in English anecdotes:

For instance, a speaker may ask, A. “Do you like your new boss?”

B. “Yes, he has very nice and comfortable office”.

Implicature. No, I do not like my new boss.

In this case, B is ignoring the direct question about personality and focusing on irrelevant details.

Anecdote:

Last summer, I attended a family reunion where everyone was excited to see my cousin, Lara, who has a knack for telling funny stories. During dinner, someone asked her about her recent trip to Europe. “Oh, it was amazing,” Lara began. “I visited Paris, but you wouldn’t believe how many times I got lost. I even accidentally ended up in a mime’s performance!”. Everyone laughed, and then my aunt chimed in, “So, you were just a part of the show?” Lara grinned and replied, “Well, I didn’t have much choice. When you’re trapped in a silent performance, you can’t really tell the mime to let you go!”

In this story, Lara’s comment about being “trapped in a silent performance” carries an implicature. While on the surface, she’s humorously recounting her experience, the underlying implication is that getting lost in a foreign city can leave someone feeling confused and helpless. Additionally, her playful tone suggests a light-hearted perspective on an otherwise frustrating situation, indicating that it’s okay to find humor in mistakes. The relatives of her understand that although the general meaning is about her experience with mimes, the underlying meaning of the case (feeling lost and overwhelmed) gives additional depth and a positive attitude to her story. This is a real sample for underlying meanings based on situation, tone, and shared experiences. Such implicatures enrich the literary work, providing listeners with deeper meanings. In order to give additional pragmatic nuances in English anecdotes, the following several examples drawn from literature and public discourse.

Example 1: The Comedic Anecdote

In a public speaking event, a speaker recounts a humorous incident where they accidentally attended a meeting meant for a different department. Here, the anecdote serves a dual function: it entertains while simultaneously conveying a message about work-

place awareness and adaptability. The audience's laughter signals their engagement and understanding of the underlying implications [8, p. 24].

Example 2: The Reflective Anecdote

In a classroom, a professor shares a personal story of failure as a student to illustrate the lesson of perseverance and growth. This reflective anecdote resonates with students, allowing them to feel a sense of connection and encouragement in their academic journeys. The intended message of resilience is thus effectively communicated through a relatable narrative [9, p. 102].

1. Implicature as a dominant pragmatic feature

The analysis of the family reunion anecdote demonstrates that implicature enriches anecdotal narratives. In the story where Lara describes getting lost in Paris and ending up in a mime's performance, her comment about being "trapped in a silent performance" carries an underlying implication: getting lost in a foreign city can leave someone feeling confused and helpless. Her playful tone suggests a light-hearted perspective on an otherwise frustrating situation, indicating that it is acceptable to find humor in mistakes. The relatives understand that although the surface meaning is about her experience with mimes, the underlying meaning (feeling lost and overwhelmed) gives additional depth and a positive attitude to her story.

2. Dual functions of comedic anecdotes

In Example 1 (public speaking event), a speaker recounts a humorous incident of accidentally attending a meeting meant for a different department. The anecdote serves a dual function: it entertains while simultaneously conveying a message about workplace awareness and adaptability. The audience's laughter signals their engagement and understanding of the underlying implications [8, p. 24].

3. Relational and persuasive functions of reflective anecdotes

In Example 2 (classroom setting), a professor shares a personal story of failure as a student to illustrate the lesson of perseverance and growth. This reflective anecdote resonates with students, allowing them to feel a sense of connection and encouragement in their academic journeys. The intended message of resilience is thus effectively communicated through a relatable narrative [9, p. 102].

4. Pragmatic features identified

The study identifies the following pragmatic features consistently present in English anecdotes:

- Implicature (implied meanings beyond literal statements)

- Speech acts (narratives performing actions such as connecting, persuading, or criticizing)

- Politeness strategies (maintaining social harmony through self-deprecation or indirect critique)

- Context dependency (meaning shaped by cultural, professional, or relational context)

- Shared knowledge utilization (success depends on common ground between speaker and audience)

5. The role of indirectness

The example dialogue about a new boss ("Yes, he has very nice and comfortable office") illustrates how pragmatic indirectness functions: the speaker ignores the direct question about personality and focuses on irrelevant details, implying a negative evaluation without stating it explicitly.

Conclusion: Anecdotes convey pragmatic meaning through implicature, allowing speakers to communicate complex ideas indirectly while engaging audiences. The study of pragmatic features in English anecdotes demonstrates their multifaceted roles in lin-

guistics. By dissecting the information, Intentionality and Acceptability of anecdotes, we uncover the rich layers of meaning that this type of narrative works possess. These stories are not only means for entertainment but also serve as a bridge to convey deeper social concepts and fostering connections among speakers and listeners. An understanding of the pragmatic dimensions of anecdotes enhances our communicative approach, enabling us to craft meaningful narratives that resonate with our audiences. Future research could extend this analysis to cross-cultural comparisons of anecdotal pragmatics or to the role of digital media in transforming anecdotal communication.

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THE EXPRESSION OF PRAGMATIC CONCEPTS IN ENGLISH ANECDOTES

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Article focuses on the pragmatic features that are found within English anecdotes, highlighting how these narratives represent deeper meanings and social nuances. Anecdotes are often used in everyday interactions and literature, serving as a means to achieve pragmatic understanding by expressing cultural concepts, speaker intentions, and listener interpretations. Through qualitative analysis, the study identifies the main pragmatic features present in selected English anecdotes, reflecting their significance in meaningful communication.

Keywords: Pragmatics, anecdotes, communication, underlying meaning, contextual meaning, speaker intention, listener interpretation.