

EMOTION AND ITS RELEVANCE TO THE LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

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Abstract: This article focuses on the relevance of emotion for language and linguistics. Emotions play an important role in the way we perceive, process, interpret, and use language. It examines how emotion influences language use and language learning, as well as how language affects our emotions. The findings suggest emotion is an integral part of language and should be considered in language models.

Keywords: exclamatory effect, sarcasm, irony, passive constructions, non-emotional information, metaphor, praise, emotive effect

Language is an essential tool for human communication, allowing us to express our thoughts, feelings, and beliefs to others. Emotions, on the other hand, are a fundamental aspect of human experience that influence our behavior, cognition, and physiology. The relationship between emotion and language has long been a topic of interest in linguistics, as researchers seek to understand how emotions are expressed, perceived, and processed through language.

Emotions are complex psychological states that are characterized by a combination of physiological and subjective experiences. These experiences are often reflected in our language use, as we use words and phrases to describe how we feel. For example, we might use words like "happy," "sad," or "angry" to convey our emotional state to others. Similarly, we might use metaphors or other figurative language to express more nuanced or complex emotional experiences.

The study of emotion in language has been approached from a number of different perspectives within linguistics. While examining the relationship between emotion and syntax, the rules governing how words are combined to form sentences are very important. For example, certain sentence structures are more likely to be used to express emotions than others. According to Elena Martinez Caro, (general) emotive effect can be expressed by selecting a certain type of a sentence. "Sentences can be classified as declarative, interrogative, imperative and exclamative. Exclamatives are used to express a statement with a certain "exclamatory effect" and are thus particularly suitable for expressing emotions.

What a shock they'll have! (EGUC);¹

What a mess he's made with the paint!

¹EGUC = *English Grammar: a University Course*. A. Downing, 2015

How I dislike that man! (Cobuild Dictionary)”

Similarly, Margarida Alpuim and Katja Ehrenberg write in one of their articles that the use of certain words or grammatical constructions can influence how emotional information is conveyed and perceived by others. “Grammar, such as active versus passive constructions, can also impact how events are perceived. If a British person sees someone break a vase, they'll most likely say, "X broke the vase", regardless of whether it was broken on purpose or accidentally. In other languages, one often uses a sentence as vague as, "The vase broke", unless there was clear intent involved”. Different grammatical structures can result in various frames for events, which can have various results. As Boroditsky states in one of her studies, "Subtle differences in linguistic descriptions can change how people construe what happened, attribute blame and dole out punishment".

The use of certain types of language, such as sarcasm or irony, can have a significant effect on how emotional information is conveyed and understood. There must be some advantage to use sarcasm to communicate as it might be more challenging to digest and comprehend than the identical information presented literally, which may warrant the increased risk of misinterpretation. Most researchers concur that using sarcasm has a form of social or emotional purpose as evidence for this. For example, according to the tinge hypothesis, one function of sarcasm is to mute the emotional impact of both criticism and praise. In other words, sarcastic criticism will be perceived as less negative than literal criticism, while sarcastic praise will be perceived as less positive than literal praise. This is because the reader or hearer's perception of the intended meaning of a sarcastic comment will be “tinged” with the literal meaning. Specifically, sarcastic criticisms such as “That was clever”, will be tinged with the positive literal meaning of *clever*, and sarcastic praise such as “That was silly”, will be tinged with the negative literal meaning of *silly*.

The studies of emotion in language has also been approached from a cognitive perspective, with researchers seeking to understand how emotions are processed and represented in the brain. Emotional information is processed differently in the brain than non-emotional information, with different regions of the brain being activated in response to emotional stimuli. Similarly, emotional information is more likely to be remembered than non-emotional information, suggesting that emotions play an important role in shaping our memories.

Overall, the relationship between emotion and language is complex and multifaceted, with a wide range of factors influencing how emotions are expressed, perceived, and processed through language. As our understanding of the relationship between emotion and language continues to evolve, it is likely that new insights will

emerge that shed light on the fundamental role that emotions play in shaping human communication and experience.

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