Philology Matters / ISSN: 1994 – 4233 / E-ISSN: 2181–1237
Uzbekistan State World Languages University
2026 Vol. 1 No. M 1
LINGUISTICS
DOI: 10.36078/987656164

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FORMAL AND INFORMAL REGISTERS IN THE LEXICAL-SEMANTIC GROUP OF “RESPECT AND ADMIRATION” IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Annotation. This study examines the lexical-semantic group of “respect and admiration” in the English language, with a focus on the differences between formal and informal registers. To investigate the register varieties, official dictionaries are used as resources to define the words and to present sentences as real examples. The research identifies key components expressing respect and admiration, classifying them into formal and informal register.

Formal expressions, including *esteem*, *homage*, *deference*, and *recognition* are commonly used in legal, academic, religious, and professional contexts. They are characterized by a high degree of politeness, formality, and social distance between speakers. However, informal lexical items, such as *props*, *to look up to*, and *cool* are more frequent in casual conversations, highlighting the close relationship between language users. This article aims to analyze the contextual appropriateness of these words, emphasizing how register shapes meaning and social interaction. Lexical items are presented in tables along with their definitions, typical contexts of usage, and example statements, which help illustrate distinctive features.

Keywords: formal register, informal register, context of usage, respect, admiration, pragmatic meaning, register variation.

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ФОРМАЛЬНЫЙ И НЕФОРМАЛЬНЫЙ РЕГИСТРЫ В ЛЕКСИКО-СЕМАНТИЧЕСКОЙ ГРУППЕ “УВАЖЕНИЕ И ВОСХИЩЕНИЕ” В АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

Аннотация. В данном исследовании рассматривается лексико-семантическая группа “уважение и восхищение” в английском языке с акцентом на различия между формальным и неформальным регистрами. Для изучения разновидностей регистров используются официальные словари в качестве источников для определения слов и представления предложений в качестве реальных примеров. Исследование выявило ключевые компоненты, выражающие уважение и восхищение, и разделило их на формальные и неформальные.

Формальные выражения, в том числе уважение, почтительный поклон, узнаваемость, обычно используются в юридическом, академическом, религиозном и профессиональном

контекстах. Они характеризуются высокой степенью вежливости, формальности и социальной дистанции между говорящими. Однако неформальные лексические единицы, такие как “реквизит”, “на кого равняться” и “круто”, чаще встречаются в повседневных разговорах, подчеркивая тесные взаимоотношения между пользователями языка. Цель этой статьи - проанализировать контекстуальную уместность этих слов, подчеркнув, как регистр формирует значение и социальное взаимодействие. Лексические единицы представлены в таблицах вместе с их определениями, типичными контекстами употребления и примерами высказываний, которые помогают проиллюстрировать отличительные особенности.

Ключевые слова: формальный регистр, неформальный регистр, контекст употребления, уважение, восхищение, прагматическое значение, вариативность регистра.

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INGLIZ TILIDA “HURMAT VA EHTIROM”NI IFODALOVCHI LEKSIK-SEMANTIK GURUHNING RASMIY VA NORASMIY NUTQ USLUBLARIDA IFODALANISHI

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada rasmiy va norasmiy nutq uslublari o‘rtasidagi farqlarga e’tibor qaratgan holda ingliz tilidagi “hurmat va ehtirom”ni ifodalovchi leksik-semantik guruhi ko‘rib chiqiladi. Nutq uslublarining turlarini o‘rganib chiqishda rasmiy lug‘atlar leksik-semantik guruh tarkibidagi so‘zlarni aniqlash va jumlalarni haqiqiy misol sifatida taqdim etish uchun manba sifatida ishlatildi. Tadqiqotda “hurmat va ehtirom”ni ifodalovchi asosiy komponentlar aniqlandi va ular rasmiy va norasmiy qismlarga ajratildi.

Rasmiy iboralar, shu jumladan hurmat, ehtirom, izzat ko‘rsatish kabi so‘zlar, odatda huquqiy, akademik, diniy va professional kontekstlarda qo‘llaniladi. Ushbu so‘zlar asosan yuqori darajadagi xushmuomalalik, rasmiyatchilik va ijtimoiy masofa saqlab turish jihatlari bilan ajralib turadi. Biroq, norasmiy leksik birliklar kundalik suhbatlarda ko‘proq uchraydi va til foydalanuvchilari o‘rtasidagi yaqin munosabatlarni ifodalaydi. Ushbu maqolaning maqsadi leksik-semantik guruh tarkibiga kiruvchi so‘zlarning kontekstual maqsadga muvofiqligini tahlil qilish, rasmiy va norasmiy uslubning ma’noni qanday shakllantirishini aniqlashdan iborat. Leksik birliklar jadval ko‘rinishida taqdim etilgan va ularning ta’riflari, foydalanish kontekstlari o‘ziga xos xususiyatlarni tasvirlashga yordam beradigan misollar bilan birga keltirilgan.

Kalit so‘zlar: rasmiy uslub, norasmiy uslub, foydalanish konteksti, hurmat va ehtirom, pragmatik ma’no, nutq uslublarining o‘zgaruvchanligi.

INTRODUCTION

The lexical-semantic group of respect and admiration is considered one of the most socially significant conceptual domains in the English language. The group includes a wide range of words and expressions, all of which convey positive regard, value, and recognition towards someone or something. The words included in the lexical-semantic group of respect and admiration relate to social hierarchies, cultural values, and interpersonal relationships in society. These terms can be differentiated based on their usage in formal and informal situations. Terms such as *esteem, honor, reverence, and appreciation* are often used in formal contexts, while words like *to look up to, mad respects and shout-out* are commonly occupied in everyday spoken discourse, particularly in informal registers.

The above-mentioned expressions are unified on the basis of their core semantic conceptual domain, which is evidenced by sharing a positive evaluation of somebody’s actions,

words, status, and personality. The choice between formal and informal expressions in the lexical-semantic group of respect and admiration is determined by the communicative setting, audience, their social status, age, and background. As Halliday (1978) stated, "variation in register is not simply about formality but reflects complex social meanings embedded in everyday communicative act" [Halliday, 1978, p. 33]. Similarly, the usage of respect related words and expressions is highly dependent on the context and complex communicative situations. In this context, Wierzbicka (1992) relevantly noted that "words referring to attitudes such as respect and admiration are deeply embedded in cultural norms and values, and their usage reflects specific social expectations and ideologies [Wierzbicka, 1992, p. 213].

The choice of language in various settings, formal and informal, is not just a random and natural process, but it is shaped by the communicative aim and the context of interaction. As it was mentioned, "a register is a variety of language used for a particular purpose or particular communicative situation" [Wikipedia, n.d.]. The lexical-semantic group of respect and admiration is an important example to evidence how language differs based on the social context. In a formal context, including public speaking and formal business meetings, more structures respect related expressions are used. Phrases like *"I deeply appreciate your accomplishments"* or *"It is honourable to meet with you"* often express formality and social distance between speakers and addressees. On the other hand, in informal situations, like everyday speech, conversation with friends, the phrases, such as *"I really look up to you"* or *"Your hard work is awesome,"* are relevant to use. They often emphasize equality or familiarity rather than social hierarchy.

The study of register variation in the lexical-semantic group of respect and admiration is vitally important in academic and real-world contexts. In the language learning process, for example, understanding how respect-related terms differ across formal and informal settings enables the development of learners' overall communicative competence. By becoming aware of diverse social situations with appropriate tone and politeness strategies, they can communicate easily in the target language. Similarly, in sociolinguistics, such analysis contributes to a deeper comprehension of how language reflects power relations, cultural norms, and identity construction. In the real-word situations, distinguishing the registers is important in expressing respect and admiration, which can influence negotiations and mutual understanding.

This article is aimed at investigating the functions of formal and informal registers in the lexical-semantic group of respect and admiration in English. By focusing on some lexical items in this group, the study identifies the linguistic peculiarities, contextual differentiation, and categorization of these items in various communicative settings. The purpose also includes understanding how speakers convey social values and relationships through language. As Halliday (1978) proposed, register represents "the configuration of semantic resources that the members of a culture typically associate with the situation type [Halliday, 1978, p. 111]. This emphasized the role of register in shaping meaning in context.

METHODS

In this research, a qualitative approach was adopted to analyze the formal and informal lexical items of the lexical-semantic group of "respect and admiration". The selection of vocabulary was compiled based on their frequency and semantic relevance, as identified in official dictionaries, including Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Cambridge Dictionary, Longman Online Dictionary. The examination of register variation is based on authentic usage examples from a wide range of sources, including newspaper articles, formal speeches, academic texts, online forums, daily conversations and social media platforms.

Each lexical item was investigated within its context to determine whether its usage aligned with formal or informal discourse, including different peculiarities such as tone, semantic structure, communicative purpose. Classification of register followed Halliday's (1978) model of field, tenor and mode, which helps to distinguish between professional, educational, literary and casual settings.

The data was collected from the British National Corpus (BNC) and Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). These corpora

offer access to thousands of lexical items across various genres and registers, including spoken conversation, academic texts, news articles, fictions and web contents. The key lexical components of the group of respect and admiration were collected from both formal contexts, such as academic and journalistic texts and informal settings, including spoken conversations and online dialogues. The corpus-based analyze valuable data, supporting the identification of subtle distinctions in how the words respect and admiration lexical-semantic group are linguistically verbalized across different context. As McEnery and Hardie (2012) noted, corpora enable researchers to investigate real language use across registers, offering a more objective foundation for sociolinguistics and stylistic analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

It is evident that the categorization of the lexical items in the lexical-semantic group of respect and admiration is challenging, since identifying respect-related words as formal, informal and neutral words is based on the semantic, stylistic, and pragmatic features of each item. The definition, grammatical classification, and contextual usage are of utmost importance to classify these lexical elements.

The lexical components of formal register are characterized by professional tone and often the usage of sophisticated vocabulary. The words in the formal register are commonly used in academic, professional, and legal contexts, often emphasizing the clarity and precision of the words. Additionally, "formal register is usually characterized by the use of complex syntax, precise vocabulary, and a more structured and impersonal style, which is employed in official communications to convey respect and the authority" [Biber, Conrad &Leech, 2002, p. 11].

Lexical items that belong to the formal register typically possess peculiarities such as low frequency in colloquial contexts, casual speech, high semantic precision, and usage in ceremonial, official, and institutional situations.

Table 1.

Formal lexical items in the lexical-semantic group of "respect and admiration"

Lexical items	Definition	Typical context of usage	Example sentence
Esteem	*Respect for a good opinion of someone*	*Academic writing, formal speeches*	*There has been a drop in public esteem for teachers.*
Reverence	*A feeling of respect for somebody or something*	*Religious ceremonies, eulogies*	*The congregation bowed their heads in reverence as the sacred hymn echoed through the cathedral.*
Deference	*Respect and politeness*	*Diplomatic language, legal discourse*	*The judge showed deference to the precedent establishment by the Supreme Court in making the rule.*
Veneration	*Feeling of very much respecting someone*	*Religious texts, historical commemoration*	*Gandhi became an object of widespread veneration because of his unceasing struggle for freedom and equality.*
Commendation	*Praise for someone who did something admirable*	*Award ceremonies, formal appraisals*	*Firefighters received commendation for their bravery.*
Homage	*Deep respect shown for a person or God*	*Historical tributes, memorials*	*They knelt in silent homage to the dead.*

Tribute	*To praise someone or something*	*Public speeches, national celebrations*	*The minister paid tribute to the men who had fought the blaze.*
Dignity	*Controlled behaviour that makes people respect you*	*Official documents, formal meetings*	*He managed to retain his dignity throughout the performance.*
Honor	*Great respect for someone*	*Academic awards, workplace commendations*	*The dinner is in honor of a colleague who is leaving.*
Admiration	*Feeling of respecting someone*	*Formal reviews and speeches*	*She gazed in admiration at his broad, muscular shoulders.*
Worship	*To show respect for God*	*Religious service, sacred texts*	*The churches were built to worship God.*

The informal register is commonly used in everyday speech in casual context and everyday conversations with family members, friends, and close acquaintances. Informal language is characterized by usage of colloquialisms, slang, contractions, and idiomatic expressions, all of which creates friendly atmosphere and approachable tone. Informal language, unlike formal register, is concerned with strict grammar and vocabulary norms, which enable speakers to express emotions and attitudes in approachable and freeways [Biber et al., 1999].

The informal lexical items that carry respect and admiration are usually colloquial, simple, more emotive, and friendly. These words are usually used to show respect, praise, and appreciation towards somebody or something in casual settings, usually in casual interactions and conversations among peers. For example, lexical items such as *cool*, *awesome,* and *to look up to* are considered typical informal expressions of respect and admiration. These informal lexical choices maintain warmth and approachability in everyday communication.

Table 2.

Informal lexical items in the lexical-semantic group of "respect and admiration"

Lexical items	Definition	Typical context of usage	Example sentence
cool	*Showing admiration to someone as impressive and socially desirable*	*Everyday conversation among peers*	*That idea was really cool, I wish I had thought of it.*
awesome	*Causing feeling of respect*	*Informal praise*	*You did an awesome job.*
kudos	*The public admiration that a person receives as a result of an achievement*	*Informal recognition in academic setting and workplace*	*Being an actor has a certain amount of kudos attached to it.*
props	*Respect for someone*	*Informal American English*	*Props to her for organizing such an amazing party.*
legend	*Someone very famous and admired*	*Used to admire someone as remarkable*	*Jazz legend Ella Fitzgerald once sang in this bar.*

Big up	*Praise someone more than is deserved*	*Slang and music culture*	*Big up all the fans who supported us.*
Look up to	*Admire someone because of their character and quality*	*Used to express deep respect*	*I really look up to my grandmother.*
Hats off	*To praise and thank someone*	*Spoken English*	*Hats off to the volunteers - they did an amazing job.*
Shout-out	*A public expression of greeting and praise*	*Media and social platforms*	*Big shout-out to my coach for always believing in me.*

The formal and informal lexical items presented in the tables reveal the distinctive features and peculiarities in how respect and admiration are verbalized on the basis of different linguistic units. Formal components tend to be used mainly in religious, academic, political, and professional discourse. On the other hand, informal lexical units such as *shout-out*, *look up to,* and *big up* are idiomatic and phrasal and are frequently used in spoken interactions.

CONCLUSION

This study investigates the lexical-semantic representation of "respect and admiration" in English by identifying how this concept is materialized in formal and informal contexts. It is evident that the register influences the tone, structure, and contextual use of the respect-related terms. It was evidenced on the basis of a comparative analysis of formal and informal lexical units to denote respect and admiration.

Formal expressions, such as *homage, reverence, dignity, and deference* are commonly used in more academic, professional, and institutional settings to carry a tone of solemnity. Unlike informal and colloquial expressions, they indicate social distance when they are used by speakers in different communicative settings. In contrast, informal expressions, including *look up to, big up, and hats off,* reflect personal attitude and are used in friendly and colloquial contexts. They tend to represent spontaneous and culturally dynamic modes of communication in everyday interactions.

These formal and informal lexical choices are of utmost importance to mark social relationships in communication. Additionally, they are used to index attitudes, power dynamics, and cultural values of language users. Through investigating the lexical items in the group of respect and admiration, it is revealed that register is not simply a matter of stylistic preference, but it is deeply linked to the function and appropriateness of language in different contexts. This lexical-semantic investigation helps to understand how abstract social values, on the basis of the lexical-semantic group respect and admiration, are linguistically shaped and transformed in the community.

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