



## Communicative Taboo in Russian and Uzbek Languages

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**Abstract:** A ban arising in the sphere of public life is usually called a taboo. Taboos have been known to people since antiquity and were originally associated with the beliefs of peoples. For example, the verbal designation of death, illness, the names of gods and some animals was prohibited. And to replace taboo words, other words were needed, which linguists call euphemisms. Why does the language need them? What are they? What is the impact on communication in general? In this article, the author attempts to say communicative taboos in the Russian and Uzbek languages.

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Euphemisms are emotionally neutral lexemes or expressions used in place of synonymous words that seem to speak obscene or rude.

For example, our ancestors had their own euphemisms for animals: snake, bear. They were afraid of the bear, so the ancient people tried not to pronounce his real name, replacing it with a euphemism. The Proto-Slavic euphemism bear (\* medvěď) is an invented word meaning "eater of honey".

Not only the Slavs were afraid of the bear, but also other peoples who also replaced the taboo word: in the Germanic languages the forest dweller was called "brown", in Lithuanian - "lizun".

But in the Romance languages (Latin, French, Italian) the original name of the bear has been preserved: ursus, ours, orso. These names allow you to get close to the original name of the animal, which, by the way, is well known to the native speakers of the Russian language.

So, in the Indo-European language, the name of the bear goes back to the root \* ṛkṔos, which in the ancient Greek language will change to ἄρκτος and from which the names Arctic and Antarctica will later appear.

Over time, in Russian, the word bear ceased to be perceived as a euphemism. Then the northern hunters began to use new replacements: mohnach, forester, Potapych and just him.

However, euphemisms were used not only in antiquity. There are enough of them in modern Russian too. What makes a modern person taboo his speech?

First, the desire to mitigate the situation without naming the phenomenon directly. We often avoid nominating death and disease in speech. It is unpleasant and difficult to say "a person died", therefore they use euphemisms: death, died, died, etc. The terrible disease cancer is increasingly called oncology or neoplasm.

Secondly, even in modern society, a number of superstitions persist, primarily in professions associated with a risk to life. For example, pilots avoid the last word, instead say extreme, sailors say that the ship is sailing instead of floating. However, in everyday speech, these euphemisms are often inappropriate: "last lesson ended" or "last called" sounds funny.

Thirdly, speech taboos can be caused by the desire to change the attitude towards a particular topic, to soften the negative assessment. For example, in the media you can hear: forest fires, data leaked to scammers, payments to employees of liquidated enterprises, or "Washington" lost in the first playoff match. Let's compare how these phrases would have sounded without euphemisation: a forest fire sounds alarming, a fire is more neutral, as if the process has just begun. The data didn't leak, of course, it was stolen by fraudsters. Stole causes negative associations, so they use the verb leaked.

In addition, with the help of renaming, they often try to raise the social prestige of some professions. Have you recently heard that a cleaning lady is needed somewhere? Now a technician or a cleaning manager is invited to work, although the word cleaner does not have any negative connotations. It is important to understand that linguistic means alone are not enough to raise prestige. An example of the renaming of the police into the police will be illustrative here.

Not fat, but in the body

Another reason for tabooing words is political correctness, etiquette, fear of rude or indecent expressions. Surprisingly, in the modern communicative space, the topics of race and nationality, sexual orientation and some parts of the body, body secretions and physical characteristics are tacitly prohibited. In a public speech, we are unlikely to call a person stupid, old, fat. In order not to offend, we use euphemisms: narrow-minded, elderly, in the body. Increasingly, the desire to get away from a categorical assessment or open expression of one's attitude leads to the use of completely "faceless" expressions of "norms", "well, this", etc.

OffenilanguageandRussianmat

Profanity continues to be banned in public speech. However, this ancient prohibition is regularly violated, which leads to a decrease in the expressiveness and expressive power of the Russian mat.

In some closed social groups, their own jargon developed, where euphemisms replaced common and special lexemes and made it possible to create a secret language that was understandable only for this group. For example, such a language was used by itinerant traders - the Offeni.

Note that the concept of a speech situation is important for the euphemization process: who is talking to whom, place, formality and other conditions. Euphemism appears when there is a risk of offending, frightening or offending the interlocutor. As a rule, prohibitions arise in public speech, while in informal communication with family and friends, a native speaker can afford to call a spade a spade. The frequency of the use of the euphemism is also becoming an important factor. Initially, any euphemism is intended to reduce the tension of communication, to make it less categorical and negative, but the more often we use "substitution" in one context or another, the lower its effect.

The language taboo was and is in our life. There are quite a lot of "not allowed" in this world, for example, you cannot pronounce obscene words, gaze intently into the eyes of another person, and also be interested in the age of the interlocutor or his salary. Some taboos get old and forgotten, and new ones come to replace them. The famous philologist Maxim Krongauz knows why this is happening.

## Taboo classification

According to Krongauz, the world can be conditionally divided into a human part, a part of higher forces and lower ones. It is usually the last two parts or individual phenomena that are usually tabooed. In ancient times, it was often forbidden to pronounce the names of the devil and god.

In some cultures, it is customary to hide a person's name, and this is associated with certain fears. Tabooing something can manifest itself at once at all levels - human, lower and higher. This includes death, which is something beyond the control of and belongs to the higher forces. But at the same time, death is also something unpleasant and causes negative emotions.

Also, a taboo can extend to a topic in general, for example, even in the modern world it is not customary to talk openly about sex. Such taboos can be attributed to the weak, because if necessary, a person can still touch on this topic, even when he understands that he should not do this. However, if necessary, the phrase can be replaced with a euphemism, for example, using the word bed, which will already look somewhat different. There are strict taboos, for violation of which serious punishments can follow.

It is also worth noting that usually all taboos apply to a middle-class person who is educated, cultural and religious, but at the same time is completely absent from the upper and lower strata of the population.

## Swear words and obscenities

Taboos on profanity existed in France, as well as England and Germany. However, over time, the appearance of swear words in conversation has become more the norm than the exception. Despite the fact that it is not customary in society to use obscene words, they are very popular in various films.

In Uzbekistan, the ban on obscene words is stronger than in other countries of the world. The reason for this is oriental upbringing and the old approach to many things. Mat refers to those words that in one way or another affect the topic of genitals or sex, which is not customary to talk about in society.

Often the taboo of any words occurs due to the fact that the literary meaning supplants the jargon meaning. Earlier, people said that they had finished their studies, but today such a word is perceived as associated with sexual intercourse. Based on this, it becomes clear why this word was no longer used in literature.

## Rattling

All prohibitions associated with taboos can be violated by society. A direct violation occurs when a person acts as an aggressor and deliberately violates a prohibition. The second method includes euphemisms, when a forbidden word can be replaced without losing its meaning.

In Russian, even in ancient times, it was forbidden to pronounce the root "ark" and the word for a bear. This beast was considered a totem and over time the word ceased to exist. However, people still had to remember the beast, denoting it with this word. Thus, the bear became a so-called euphemism, which meant "eater of honey".

Thus, in the Russian language, a substitution of words occurs when people are faced with the fact that it is necessary to adhere to speech restraint. So, for example, many have learned to replace obscene words with more restrained ones, while during their pronunciation it becomes clear what is meant. Many swear words are associated with sex and today there are no expressions that would be neutral. Based on this, there are either very rude statements or euphemisms.

An example is how the word "toilet" replaced the word "restroom", "restroom", in turn, replaced the "latrine". But earlier, "toilet" did not mean at all what we are used to hearing and saying.

#### **Taboo words and children**

Above, we figured out what taboo words mean in the lives of adults. However, children are very curious and pick up new words in a matter of seconds. In this case, the adult does not need to keep a distance and rely on the fact that he will figure it out, but it is better to explain to the child in time why this or that word does not need to be pronounced. In most cases, the prohibition to pronounce taboo words is due to the norms of behavior adopted in society. People are not used to openly discussing forbidden topics and words, as they fall into the list of intimate experiences. Adults often react to such topics as something unpleasant and repulsive.

Each parent should help his child to understand the topics that can and should not be supported in society. To do this, it is recommended to explain to the child what words are better to express emotions, and how any incorrect word can be replaced. Thus, developing your knowledge in the field of taboo topics, you can easily get around them and help your child in this.

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