

FACTORS OF SUBJECT REPRESENTATION IN THE LEGAL DISCOURSE OF THE UZBEK LANGUAGE

Ubaydullayeva Kholida Manopovna
Lecturer, Asia International University

Email: xolidaubaydullayeva066@gmail.com

Annotation: This article analyzes the factors of reflection of the subject in legal discourse, their linguistic and pragmatic characteristics, as well as the functional role of the subject in legal texts. This reveals the means by which and for what purposes the subject is expressed in legal documents, laws, and decrees.

Keywords: subject, personal pronouns, legal text, prescriptive (command-directive), information-directive and prohibitive (prohibitive) functions, pragmatic, sociocultural, psychological factors

Language and speech constitute an integral means of any legal activity. Legal discourse is a specific type of speech activity that emerges and functions within the legal sphere, in which the degree and form of subject representation play a crucial role. Depending on the nature and functional orientation of legal texts, the expression of subjectivity therein acquires particular features, serving as a decisive factor in understanding the meaning of texts, interpreting legal provisions, and implementing legal norms in practice. Among the linguistic means of subject representation in legal discourse, pronouns, verb forms, modal units, as well as other grammatical and pragmatic elements hold a special place. In particular, the use of first- and third-person pronouns determines the degree of subject participation in the text and establishes its position. At the same time, whether the subject is represented directly or indirectly influences the communicative orientation of the text, its impact on the audience, and its manifestation in legal relations. In the legal discourse of the Uzbek language, the methods of subject representation, linguistic devices, and pragmatic-semantic functions are examined. Legal texts may reveal the subject explicitly or indirectly, thereby realizing illocutionary purposes such as responsibility, formality, and objectivity. Legal discourse, as a form of communication shaped within the framework of legal activity, possesses formal and socially significant characteristics. In such texts, the way in which the subject is expressed—whether explicitly or implicitly—carries essential pragmatic implications. In Uzbek legal texts, the methods of representing the subject depend on a number of linguistic and ideological factors: the position of authority, the distribution of responsibility, the necessity of preserving normativity and objectivity. This feature distinguishes legal discourse from other types of texts within the official style. Within the “text–discourse” dichotomy, discourse represents the most general and universal concept, encompassing not only linguistic components but also numerous pragmatic, sociocultural, psychological, and extralinguistic factors (such as addresser and addressee of the discourse, communicative purpose, temporal boundaries, cultural context, etc.). Among the functions of law within the sphere of social relations, the following are distinguished: prescriptive (directive), informative, and prohibitive. The prohibitive function may operate independently, but it may

also serve as a logical continuation of the prescriptive function, whereby the granting or ordering of certain actions simultaneously implies the prohibition of others. *Besides the personal rights mentioned in the Government Code, every person has the right of protection from bodily restraint or harm, from personal insult, from defamation (California Civil Code).* (In addition to the personal rights stated in the Government Code, every individual has the right to protection from bodily restriction or harm, personal insult, and defamation.) When freedom of action and personal dignity are guaranteed to an individual, the law automatically prohibits others from violating these rights. The informative function of law arises from its role as a source that directs the actions and consciousness of individuals and associations within a given society: *“The protection of violated or contested civil rights is carried out by ... the court”* (Civil Code of the Russian Federation). *“Transfer is an act of the parties ...”* (California Civil Code). In the first example, the law provides information on how a violated right can be protected. In the second example, the definition of the term *transfer* is given, thereby facilitating the application of this term in other normative provisions.

Constitution. Another institutional genre of legislative discourse is the constitution—the fundamental law of the state, in which the basic principles of state governance are articulated and the will and interests of the people are expressed [Redlich, 1999]. By definition, an essential feature of the constitution is its *popular* character, recognizing the entire people as its subject.

Unlike ordinary law, the constitution has a mixed nature: it is a legal document, a political document, and an ideological text. It derives from the values and ideology of society and exerts both direct and indirect influence on the political system of the state. In addition to the functions typical of law, the constitution is characterized by declarative and integrative functions. The declarative function consists of articulating fundamental values and principles, usually expressed in the preamble: *We, the sole people of Uzbekistan, solemnly declaring our adherence to human rights and freedoms, to national and universal values, to the principles of state sovereignty, and expressing our commitment to the ideals of democracy, freedom and equality, social justice and solidarity, ... adopting and proclaiming this Constitution with the aim of ensuring the prosperity and flourishing of our multinational, beloved Uzbekistan.* (Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 01.05.2023). From this fragment, the integrative function also emerges: the recognition of the unity of the nation, the people, and state authority. Although many assume that the style of legislative discourse is entirely neutral, expressive and emotional elements are often employed in the realization of these functions. For instance, the artistic and emotional tone of the preamble to the Irish Constitution may serve as an example.

Decree. The decree is regarded as a personalized genre of legislative discourse—a legal act issued on behalf of the head of state: *“It shall be taken into account that the main ideas are reflected in the strategy ‘Uzbekistan – 2030.’”* (Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan, PF-158, September 11, 2023)

Traditionally, law is considered the foundation of the legal system, deriving from God, reason, or the will of the people, while a decree is viewed as a specific order issued on the basis of law. It also performs prescriptive, informative, and prohibitive functions. From a historical perspective,

the subjects of decree discourse—monarchs and presidents—sought to issue documents beyond accountability or control. Through what V.V. Luchin termed *the law of decrees*, they attempted to legitimize unpopular decisions within society, as was the case during the periods of the Bukhara Emirate and the Khiva Khanate.

In such contexts, the subject seeks to present itself as an autonomous and authoritarian figure, rather than a representative of the law. Here, the paradigm of the “I” reflects individuality at the linguistic level, marking the discourse as a personalized type of legal discourse. Nonetheless, this remains within an institutional framework, as the subject is still endowed with institutional authority.

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