

GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN AI-MEDIATED ENGLISH–UZBEK DIGITAL COMMUNICATION

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Annotation

This article investigates generational differences in AI-mediated English–Uzbek digital communication. With the increasing integration of artificial intelligence into translation tools, chatbots, and predictive text systems, communicative practices vary significantly across age groups. Drawing on sociolinguistics, intercultural pragmatics, and digital discourse analysis, the study examines how younger and older generations interact with AI technologies and how this interaction affects pragmatic strategies, emotional expression, and cultural norms. The findings indicate that younger users demonstrate greater flexibility and hybrid language use, while older users adhere more strongly to conventional politeness and formality norms. The article discusses implications for language education, AI design, and intercultural communication.

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada ingliz–o‘zbek raqamlı muloqotida sun’iy intellekt (SI) vositalaridan foydalanishda avlodlararo farqlar tahlil qilinadi. Tarjima dasturlari, chatbotlar va avtomatik matn takliflari kabi SI texnologiyalarining keng qo‘llanilishi turli yosh guruhlarining muloqot uslublariga sezilarli ta’sir ko‘rsatmoqda. Tadqiqot sotsiolingvistika, madaniyatlararo pragmatika va raqamlı diskurs tahliliga asoslanib, yosh va katta avlod vakillarining pragmatik strategiyalari, emotsiyonal ifodasi va madaniy me’yorlarini solishtiradi. Natijalar yosh avlodning til va texnologiyaga moslashuvchanligi yuqori ekanini, katta avlod esa an’anaviy muloyimlik va rasmiylikka ko‘proq amal qilishini ko‘rsatadi.

Аннотация

В статье рассматриваются поколенческие различия в ИИ-опосредованной англо-узбекской цифровой коммуникации. Активное использование машинного перевода, чат-ботов и интеллектуальных подсказок приводит к различиям в языковом поведении представителей разных возрастных групп. Опираясь на социолингвистику, межкультурную прагматику и анализ цифрового дискурса, исследование выявляет различия в стратегиях вежливости, эмоциональной экспрессии и культурной интерпретации. Результаты показывают, что молодое поколение более гибко адаптируется к ИИ-инструментам, тогда как старшее поколение придерживается традиционных норм общения.

Keywords: generational differences, AI-mediated communication, English–Uzbek discourse, digital pragmatics, intercultural communication.

Kalit so‘zlar: avlodlararo farqlar, sun’iy intellekt, raqamlı muloqot, ingliz–o‘zbek diskursi, pragmatika.

Ключевые слова: поколенческие различия, ИИ-опосредованная коммуникация, цифровой дискурс, англо-узбекское общение, прагматика.

Introduction.

Artificial intelligence has become an integral component of contemporary digital communication, significantly influencing how users produce, interpret, and negotiate meaning in everyday language use. Through tools such as machine translation, predictive text, and conversational agents, AI increasingly mediates interpersonal interaction, reshaping communicative practices across linguistic and cultural boundaries. As a result, language use in



digital environments is no longer solely a human-to-human process but often involves human–AI–human interaction.

In multilingual contexts such as English–Uzbek communication, AI-mediated interaction introduces new pragmatic and cultural dynamics. AI systems operate based on large-scale language data that may not fully reflect the sociocultural norms, politeness conventions, or pragmatic subtleties of less-resourced languages. Consequently, AI-generated language can influence how meanings are framed, how emotions and politeness are expressed, and how intercultural understanding is constructed.

Generational differences play a crucial role in shaping how users adopt, trust, and adapt AI-generated language. Younger users, often characterized as digital natives, tend to demonstrate higher levels of familiarity and confidence in interacting with AI tools, frequently accepting AI output as communicatively sufficient. Older users, by contrast, may approach AI-mediated language with greater skepticism, relying more heavily on personal linguistic experience and cultural intuition. These generational variations affect not only attitudes toward AI but also patterns of language adaptation, pragmatic interpretation, and tolerance for AI-induced deviations from conventional norms.

Understanding the intersection of AI mediation, multilingual communication, and generational variation is therefore essential for analyzing contemporary English–Uzbek digital discourse. Examining how different age groups engage with AI-generated language can provide valuable insights into evolving pragmatic norms, intercultural communication challenges, and the long-term implications of AI integration in multilingual societies.

Literature Review.

Previous studies have consistently highlighted the role of age in shaping digital language practices and communicative behavior. Crystal (2011) observes that digital communication environments encourage innovation in language use, with younger users more readily adopting abbreviated forms, multimodal resources, and technology-driven discourse conventions. Similarly, Prensky's (2001) distinction between "digital natives" and "digital immigrants" underscores generational differences in technological familiarity, cognitive styles, and attitudes toward digital tools. These differences influence not only how users interact with technology, but also how they interpret and evaluate language produced or mediated by digital systems.

Research in intercultural pragmatics further emphasizes that technology-mediated communication reshapes politeness norms, discourse strategies, and interpersonal expectations (Spencer-Oatey, 2008). In mediated environments, traditional cues such as intonation, facial expression, and immediate contextual feedback are often reduced or absent, increasing reliance on linguistic markers to convey politeness, stance, and emotion. As a result, users may recalibrate their pragmatic strategies, sometimes adopting simplified or standardized forms that prioritize efficiency over cultural specificity. This shift can be particularly consequential in intercultural communication, where pragmatic norms differ significantly across languages and societies.

Despite growing interest in both digital discourse and intercultural pragmatics, generational differences in AI-mediated bilingual communication remain underexplored. Existing studies tend to focus either on general age-related patterns in digital communication or on the technical performance of AI language tools, with limited attention to how different generations pragmatically engage with AI-generated language in multilingual contexts.

AI tools such as machine translation and predictive text are increasingly employed in English–Uzbek communication across domains including education, business, and social media. These systems facilitate rapid cross-linguistic interaction and lower language barriers, particularly for users with limited proficiency. However, AI-generated output tends to favor standardized, neutral language forms based on dominant usage patterns in training data.



This summarizes key differences between younger and older generations in AI-mediated English–Uzbek communication.

Generational Differences in AI-Mediated Communication:

Younger Generation:

- High AI reliance;
- Informal register;
- Emoji and code-switching;
- Flexible politeness norms.

Older Generation:

- Selective AI use;
- Formal register;
- Limited emotional markers;
- Traditional politeness norms.

Pedagogical and Social Implications.

Language education should integrate AI literacy and digital pragmatics to address generational diversity. Teachers must guide learners in evaluating AI-generated language critically and adapting it to appropriate social contexts.

In Uzbek communicative culture, pragmatic meaning is often conveyed implicitly through honorific expressions, mitigation strategies, and context-sensitive wording. When AI systems generate overly direct or emotionally neutral translations, they risk pragmatic misalignment, potentially leading to perceptions of rudeness, distance, or loss of interpersonal warmth. These effects may be interpreted differently across generations, depending on users' technological experience, cultural expectations, and tolerance for AI-mediated deviations from traditional norms. Consequently, examining AI-mediated English–Uzbek communication through a generational lens offers valuable insights into evolving pragmatic practices in digitally mediated multilingual interaction.

Generational Differences in Digital Pragmatics. Younger users often embrace AI suggestions creatively, incorporating code-switching, emojis, and informal styles. Older users prefer accuracy, formality, and minimal modification of AI-generated content. These differences influence pragmatic interpretation and communicative success.

Conclusion.

Generational differences significantly influence AI-mediated English–Uzbek digital communication by shaping users' attitudes toward technology, their pragmatic expectations, and their strategies for interpreting AI-generated language. Variations in digital literacy, cultural orientation, and communicative experience affect how different age groups adopt, trust, and adapt AI-mediated discourse. Younger users tend to display greater acceptance of standardized or neutral AI output, while older users often rely more heavily on culturally grounded pragmatic norms and may perceive AI-generated language as insufficiently polite or context-sensitive.

From a technological perspective, insights into generational variation can inform the design of more inclusive AI systems. Emotion- and pragmatics-sensitive models that allow for adjustable levels of directness, politeness, and cultural adaptation could better accommodate diverse user expectations. Finally, promoting awareness of generational and cultural diversity in AI-mediated communication contributes to more inclusive and effective intercultural interaction, ensuring that digital communication technologies support rather than undermine socially appropriate and respectful language use.

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