

**PRAGMALINGUISTIC SYNONYMY AND POLYSEMY OF PUNCTUATION MARKS
IN MODERN UZBEK LANGUAGE****Shoniyozova Gulshoda Baxromovna**Teacher of the Department of Philology,
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Abstract. This article examines the pragmalinguistic synonymy and polysemy of punctuation marks in modern Uzbek. Punctuation is analyzed not only as a grammatical tool but as a dynamic pragmatic mechanism of speech communication. The empirical base consists of over 1000 examples from fiction, journalistic texts, and digital discourse (2023–2026). Using contextual-discourse and linguostatistical methods, synonymic pairs and polysemic meanings of punctuation marks were classified. The results reveal context-dependent synonymy and polysemy of ellipsis, exclamation mark, dash, and colon. In digital discourse, interaction with emojis creates new pragmatic loads. Practical recommendations for mother-tongue teaching and media practice are provided.

Keywords: punctuation marks, pragmalinguistics, synonymy, polysemy, contextual analysis, digital discourse, multimodal communication, Uzbek language.

Introduction: In modern linguistics, the anthropocentric and discursive paradigm has elevated the study of punctuation marks from the grammatical to the pragmatic and communicative level. Although punctuation in Uzbek linguistics is mainly studied in logical-grammatical and methodological approaches, their pragmalinguistic synonymy and polysemy have not yet been fully and comprehensively studied.

In the context of digital communication, punctuation marks, together with emojis and visual elements, are acquiring new pragmatic meanings. One punctuation mark can convey several meanings in different contexts (polysemy), and different marks can fulfill the same pragmatic purpose (synonymy). This article is aimed at an in-depth analysis of this problem.

Purpose: to conduct a contextual analysis of the pragmalinguistic synonymy and polysemy of punctuation marks in the modern Uzbek language and reveal their role in speech communication.

Tasks

- Definition of the concepts of synonymy and polysemy from a pragmalinguistic perspective;
- Creation of a contextual classification of punctuation marks based on empirical material;
- Analyzing the interaction with emoji in digital discourse;
- Developing practical recommendations.

Methods

The following methods were used in the study:

Contextual-discursive analysis - consideration of each punctuation mark within a specific text and communicative situation.

Linguostatistical method - calculation and comparison of the frequency of punctuation marks (corpus approach).

Comparative-typological method - comparison of the situation in the Uzbek language with English and Russian.

Experimental methods - study of the interpretation of punctuation marks by respondents (questionnaire).

Empirical base: more than 1000 examples (fiction - 300, journalistic texts - 200, digital discourse - 500). The corpus was compiled from materials from 2023–2026.

Results: As a result of the study, the following classification of pragmalinguistic synonymy and polysemy of punctuation marks was proposed (Table 1).

Table 1. Classification of pragmalinguistic synonymy and polysemy of punctuation marks

Punctuation mark	Polysemous meanings (context)	Synonymous pairs	Examples (context)	
Many points (...)	Pause, apology, irony	ambiguity, open mind, Period	Hyphen, Question	“Kechirasiz... keyinroq” (Telegram); “Men keldim...” (O‘. Hoshimov)
Exclamation mark (!)	Excitement, joy, empowerment	anger, question	Question + exclamation	“Ajoyib!!!” (Instagram); “Molodes!!!” (T. Malik)
Hyphen (—)	Contradiction, clarification, condition	Colon	Colon	“O‘shish — farovonlik” (“Popular saying”); “Qalbi — toza...” (A. Qodiriy)
Colon (:)	Explanation, evidence	list, Hyphen	Hyphen	“Dolzarb masala: ta’lim” (newspaper article)
Question mark (?)	Question, sarcasm, irony	doubt, question	Exclamation + question	“Siz buni jiddiy deb o‘ylaysizmi??” (Facebook)

Linguistic statistical results: In digital discourse, the frequency of multiple dots is 34.6%, and the exclamation mark is 27.9%. In literary texts, emotional loading prevails.

Results of interaction with emoji: The combination “Awesome!!!” + increases the modality of joy by 2.5 times; “Excuse me...” + increases the softness of the apology.

Discussion: The results confirm the theories of Grice and Verschueren in the Uzbek material. Punctuation is context-dependent, and its polysemy is sharply enhanced in digital discourse. In Uzbek, the synonymy of the dash and colon enhances the argumentative function in the journalistic style, while in digital conversation, the colon creates a soft implicature.

Compared with foreign studies (Crystal, 2015), it was found that the emotional load of punctuation marks in the Uzbek language is higher. This can be considered a specific feature of the Uzbek speech culture.

In practice, the proposed classification can be used in native language textbooks and media styles. For example, it is recommended to teach a combination of emoji and punctuation marks in digital literacy lessons.

Conclusion: Pragmalinguistic synonymy and polysemy of punctuation marks are dynamic, context-dependent phenomena in the modern Uzbek language. The proposed classification and empirical analysis prove that punctuation marks are an important tool for increasing the effectiveness of speech communication. The results create a new approach in Uzbek linguistics and open up great opportunities for practical application.

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