

## EXPLORING PRIVATE DISCOURSE: LINGUISTIC, COGNITIVE AND SOCIOPRAGMATIC DIMENSIONS IN DETECTIVE FICTION

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes scientific perspectives on private discourse, its linguistic description, cognitive and sociopragmatic characteristics, as well as the approaches in Russian, English, and Uzbek linguistics. The study highlights participants, goals, communication tools, strategies, and tactics as key factors in describing private discourse. The article also explores the conceptual foundations of private speech, its discursive structure, and theoretical and terminological issues.

**Keywords:** private discourse, linguistic features, discourse types, sociopragmatics, cognitive approach, communicative strategy, detective fiction.

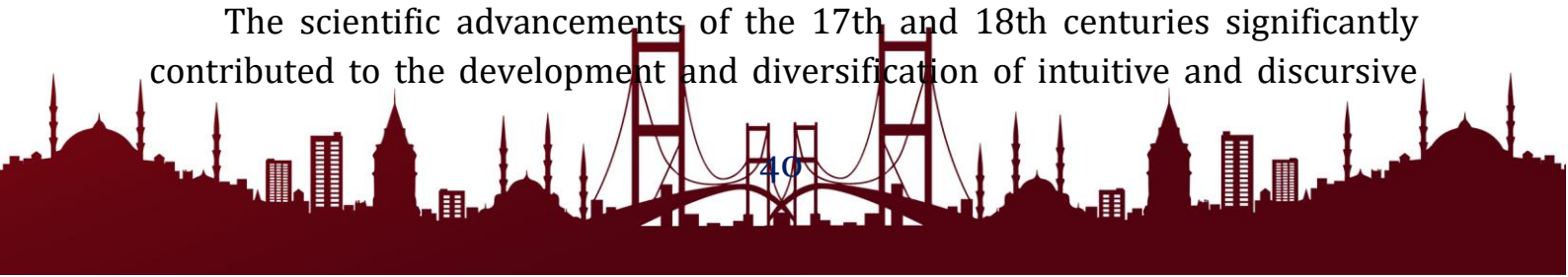
**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu maqola shaxsiy diskursga ilmiy yondashuvlarni, uning lingvistik tasvirini, kognitiv va ijtimoiy-pragmatik xususiyatlarini, shuningdek, rus, ingliz va o'zbek lingvistikasidagi yondashuvlarni tahlil qiladi. Tadqiqot shaxsiy diskursni tasvirlashda ishtirokchilar, maqsadlar, aloqa vositalari, strategiyalar va taktikalar kabi asosiy omillarni ta'kidlaydi. Maqola shuningdek, shaxsiy nutqning kontseptual asoslari, diskursiv tuzilishi va nazariy hamda terminologik masalalarni o'rganadi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** shaxsiy diskurs, lingvistik xususiyatlar, diskurs turlari, ijtimoiy-pragmatika, kognitiv yondashuv, kommunikativ strategiya, detektiv fantastika.

### Introduction

In modern linguistics, the concept of discourse allows for a complex approach to the study of human communication. Among the various approaches to discourse, personal discourse occupies a special place, as its study serves to reveal the connection between language and thought, as well as between the individual and society. This article is focused on the essence of personal discourse, its linguistic aspects, and the theoretical and practical approaches to its study.

The scientific advancements of the 17th and 18th centuries significantly contributed to the development and diversification of intuitive and discursive



interpretations of knowledge. These studies laid the groundwork for a more comprehensive understanding of the interaction between intuition and logical thinking in the process of cognition, influencing the development of various scientific and philosophical fields.

### **Literature review**

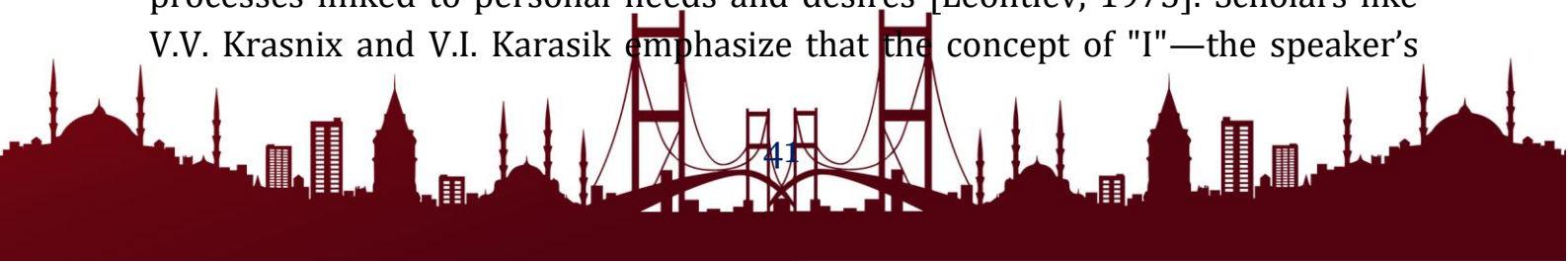
The term discourse was first introduced into linguistic theory during the structuralist period of the 20th century, particularly in the 1950s. French linguist Emile Benveniste, while developing speech theory, used the term to refer to “the speech product that arises every time we engage in conversation” [Benveniste, 1974]. This notion was significantly developed by Z. Harris in his 1952 article “Discourse Analysis,” marking a key milestone in the study of discourse. Teun A. van Dijk helped broaden the understanding of discourse beyond textual analysis, proposing that it encompasses not only linguistic structures but also extralinguistic elements such as world knowledge, thoughts, attitudes, and communicative goals [Van Dijk, 1989]. Similar perspectives were developed by Russian linguists like N.D. Arutyunova and V.I. Karasik. Arutyunova emphasized the integral link between linguistic, pragmatic, socio-cultural, and psychological aspects [Arutyunova, 1989], while Karasik described discourse as a communicative system shaped by actual and potential contexts within specific communicative situations [Karasik, 2002].

These approaches reflect the shift in modern linguistic and cognitive research toward viewing discourse as a multidimensional phenomenon that shapes and reflects social and individual consciousness. As Sinitsina puts it, “Discourse is a linguistic formation associated with the fields of human cognition. Thus, discourse is formed in the process of life” [Sinitsina, 2010].

### **Theoretical approaches**

Discourse, as a dynamic and evolving process, is shaped by social, cultural, and cognitive factors. It is inherently interactive and dialogical, constructing meaning through participant interaction. Beyond its linguistic features, discourse also reflects power structures, ideologies, and social hierarchies, making its study relevant across sociocultural and psychological contexts.

A significant domain of discourse analysis is personal discourse, where the speaker’s individuality takes precedence over group identity. According to A.N. Leontiev, personal discourse conveys a speaker’s unique thoughts and emotions, characterized by “liking,” “attention selection,” emotional coloring, and cognitive processes linked to personal needs and desires [Leontiev, 1975]. Scholars like V.V. Krasnix and V.I. Karasik emphasize that the concept of “I”—the speaker’s



inner world—is central to spoken and poetic manifestations of personal discourse [Krasnix, 2003; Karasik, 2004]. This approach shifts focus from social roles to individual experience, allowing for more intimate and subjective communication.

Personal discourse is commonly categorized into two forms: **existential discourse**, which addresses profound personal or philosophical concerns, often monologic in nature; and **everyday discourse**, which emerges in informal settings and focuses on resolving day-to-day issues. The latter is typically dialogical and emotionally nuanced, relying heavily on context and non-verbal cues. In modern discourse analysis, especially in Western traditions, the focus is primarily on spontaneous, dialogical speech—studied through methods like conversation analysis, ethnomethodology, speech ethnography, and interactive sociolinguistics.

Exploring personal discourse provides valuable insights into how individuals express their inner "selves" and how personal identity shapes communicative behavior. This field, which intersects with psychology, linguistics, and literary studies, underscores the importance of subjective and emotional dimensions in communication—an area thoroughly explored by Leontiev, Krasnix, and Karasik.

### Methods

The study of personal discourse is primarily based on the analysis of naturally occurring conversations. Methods such as conversation analysis, ethnomethodology, and membership categorization analysis are applied to investigate everyday discourse. In addition, speech ethnography and interactive sociolinguistics are essential tools for exploring the spontaneous, dialogical nature of personal communication.

### Example 1: The Hound of the Baskervilles

Consider the analysis of a dialogue from *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, where Holmes and Watson are engaged in a conversation that reveals authority dynamics:

**Holmes:** "Watson, you need to go to the village and inquire about any strange occurrences." **Watson:** "Yes, Holmes, of course. But how will I know who to speak to?" **Holmes:** "Ask about the locals' suspicions. I trust you will manage."

Here, the verbal exchange serves to reinforce the hierarchical relationship between the characters. Holmes employs directive speech acts, asserting control over Watson's actions, while Watson responds in a deferential manner. This reflects a cognitive aspect of discourse where the speaker's authority and

control are linguistically enacted, and the addressee's passive role is linguistically marked by their responses.

**Example 2: Murder on the Orient Express (Agatha Christie)**

In *Murder on the Orient Express*, Hercule Poirot's interactions with others exemplify power relations and cognitive processes. Consider this exchange:

**Poirot:** "You must not lie to me, I know you are hiding something." **Passenger:** "I'm not lying, Monsieur Poirot, I swear it!" **Poirot:** "You are, and I will prove it."

Poirot's utterances demonstrate his manipulation of discourse to control the situation. His declarative and directive sentences ("You must not lie") set the tone of authority, while the passenger's defensive responses ("I'm not lying") reflect an attempt to resist the authoritative discourse, which is ultimately ineffective. This illustrates how power and authority are embedded in discourse and the cognitive process of persuasion within the communication.

**Example 3: Shaytanat (Tohir Malik)**

In the Uzbek novel *Shaytanat* by Tohir Malik, the interaction between the detective and the assistant is rich with power dynamics:

**Detective:** "Boshqa bir kishini surishtiring, ular nimani bilishini so'rang." ("Ask someone else and find out what they know.") **Assistant:** "Ha, bosh qo'llayman. Yana nimani tekshiraman?" ("Yes, I will check it. What else should I investigate?")

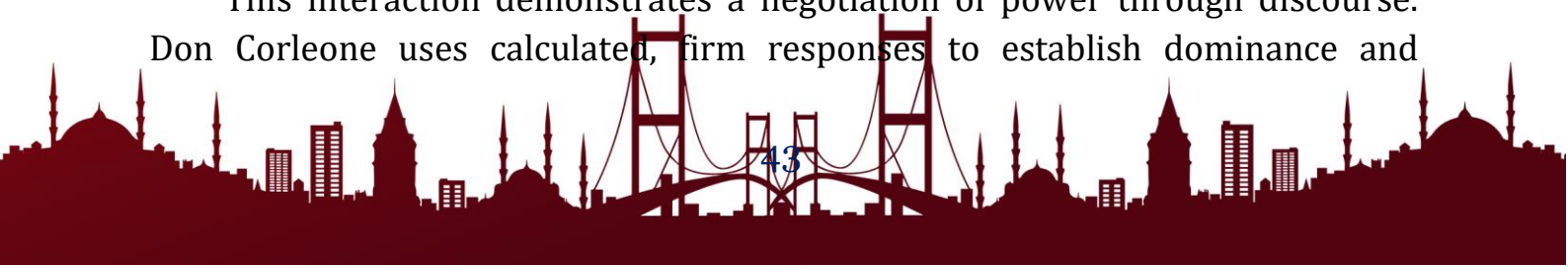
This dialogue exemplifies hierarchical communication in detective discourse. The detective's command ("Boshqa bir kishini surishtiring") is a clear directive, and the assistant's response ("Yana nimani tekshiraman?") shows a subservient, question-driven strategy that defers to the authority of the detective. The assistant's hesitation to proceed without further instructions reveals the cognitive dependence on the detective's authority.

**Example 4: The Godfather (Mario Puzo)**

In *The Godfather*, verbal exchanges among the characters convey deep power and cognitive manipulation. A key moment between Vito Corleone and Sollozzo reveals authority and negotiation:

**Sollozzo:** "I need your help, Don Corleone. I offer you, my loyalty." **Don Corleone:** "Your loyalty is nothing. What you need is protection, and you will pay for it." **Sollozzo:** "I don't want protection, I want respect." **Don Corleone:** "You will get both, but the price is high."

This interaction demonstrates a negotiation of power through discourse. Don Corleone uses calculated, firm responses to establish dominance and



control over the situation. Sollozzo's appeal for loyalty is met with a counteroffer, A which redefines the terms of the agreement. The transactional nature of the exchange highlights how discourse is shaped by social roles and cognitive processes of bargaining and persuasion.

### Results

Our analysis of dialogues from various genres of detective fiction, including works like *Shaytanat*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, and *The Godfather*, reveals how personal discourse operates within literary contexts. In these texts, the interaction between characters often hinges on the socio-cognitive dynamics of power, trust, and authority. The linguistic choices made by the characters (such as the use of directives, questions, and responses) illustrate the underlying cognitive and sociopragmatic aspects of communication.

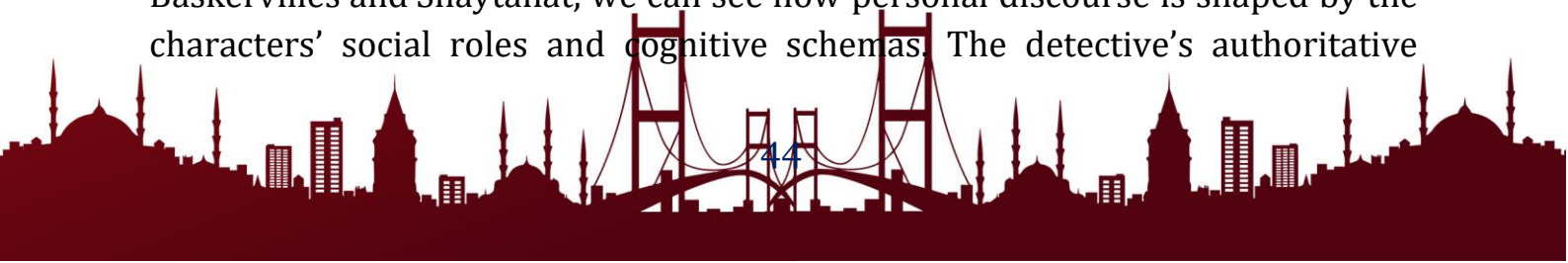
For instance, in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Sherlock Holmes frequently uses declarative sentences to direct the assistant's actions, showcasing his intellectual dominance. Meanwhile, Watson's responses, often marked by hedging or deference, indicate his subordinate role. This reflects the broader power dynamics in detective discourse, where knowledge, intellect, and authority are central to the construction of identity.

In *Shaytanat*, the communication between characters is similarly structured around hierarchies of knowledge and authority. The linguistic markers of politeness and deference, such as the use of respectful titles and indirect speech acts, highlight the role of power in shaping discourse. These findings suggest that personal discourse, especially in literary genres like detective fiction, is heavily influenced by cognitive and social factors such as status, trust, and role expectations.

### Discussion

The findings of this study highlight the complex interplay of cognitive and sociopragmatic factors in personal discourse, particularly in the context of detective fiction. In both English and Uzbek texts, the linguistic markers that denote power, authority, and subordination are key to the construction of character relationships. These markers reflect broader social structures, demonstrating how discourse is not only a linguistic phenomenon but also a social and cognitive one.

By examining the dialogue structures in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *Shaytanat*, we can see how personal discourse is shaped by the characters' social roles and cognitive schemas. The detective's authoritative



language contrasts with the assistant's more passive responses, which reinforces the hierarchical relationship between the characters. This dynamic is not only a reflection of power but also a demonstration of how personal discourse is used to shape and maintain social order.

### Conclusion

Personal discourse is a multifaceted phenomenon that reflects the cognitive and sociopragmatic aspects of communication. Through the analysis of dialogues in detective fiction, we have demonstrated how power dynamics, social roles, and cognitive structures shape the way individuals communicate. The linguistic markers used by characters in works like *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *Shaytanat* reveal the underlying social hierarchies and cognitive processes that guide their interactions. This study highlights the importance of considering both linguistic and extralinguistic factors in the analysis of discourse, particularly in literary texts, where language plays a crucial role in constructing meaning and identity.

Future research in this area could explore additional genres and contexts to further understand how personal discourse functions across different communicative situations. By expanding our analysis to include a broader range of texts, we can gain deeper insights into the role of discourse in shaping social reality and human cognition..

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