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LINGUISTIC PERSONALITY AND PERSONAL IDENTITY: THEORETICAL DISTINCTIONS AND CONSTRUCTION

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Abstract The concepts of linguistic personality and personal identity are important areas of contemporary linguistic and interdisciplinary research. This article examines the theoretical relationship and distinction between linguistic personality and personal identity, with particular attention to their manifestation in Internet discourse. The study is based on conceptual, comparative, and discourse-analytical approaches and draws on major theoretical perspectives in linguistics, discourse studies, and identity research. The analysis suggests that linguistic personality provides the linguistic and communicative basis through which different aspects of personal identity can be expressed and constructed. In Internet discourse, this relationship becomes especially visible through various forms of self-presentation and linguistic choices. The distinction between the two concepts contributes to a clearer theoretical understanding of how language participates in the construction and representation of personal identity in digital communication.

Keywords: linguistic personality, personal identity, linguistic identity, Internet discourse, online identity, self-presentation, identity construction, discourse.

LISONIY SHAXS VA SHAXS IDENTIKLIGI: NAZARIY FARQLARI VA QURILISHI

Annotatsiya. Lisoniy shaxs va shaxs identikligi tushunchalari zamonaviy lingvistik hamda fanlararo tadqiqotlarning muhim yo‘nalishlaridan hisoblanadi. Mazkur maqolada lisoniy shaxs va shaxs identikligi o‘rtasidagi nazariy munosabat va farqlar, xususan, ularning Internet diskursida namoyon bo‘lishi tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot konseptual, qiyosiy va diskursiv-tahliliy yondashuvlarga asoslanadi hamda lingvistika, diskurs tadqiqotlari va identiklik masalalariga oid asosiy nazariy qarashlarni qamrab oladi. Tahlil natijalari lisoniy shaxs shaxsiy identiklikning turli jihatlarini ifodalash va shakllantirishga xizmat qiluvchi lisoniy hamda kommunikativ asosni ta’minlashini ko‘rsatadi. Internet diskursida mazkur munosabat, ayniqsa, o‘zini taqdim

etishning turli shakllari va lisoniy tanlovlar orqali yaqqol namoyon bo‘ladi. Ushbu ikki tushunchani farqlash raqamli kommunikatsiyada tilning shaxsiy identiklikni shakllantirish va ifodalashdagi rolini yanada aniqroq nazariy jihatdan tushunishga xizmat qiladi.

Kalit so‘zlar: lisoniy shaxs, shaxs identikligi, lisoniy identiklik, Internet diskursi, onlayn identiklik, o‘zini taqdim etish, identiklikni shakllantirish, diskurs.

ЯЗЫКОВАЯ ЛИЧНОСТЬ И ЛИЧНОСТНАЯ ИДЕНТИЧНОСТЬ: ТЕОРЕТИЧЕСКИЕ РАЗЛИЧИЯ И ИХ КОНСТРУИРОВАНИЕ

Аннотация. Понятия языковой личности и личностной идентичности являются важными направлениями современных лингвистических и междисциплинарных исследований. В статье анализируются теоретические взаимосвязи и различия между языковой личностью и личностной идентичностью, в частности особенности их проявления в интернет-дискурсе. Исследование основывается на концептуальном, сравнительном и дискурсивно-аналитическом подходах и охватывает основные теоретические положения в области лингвистики, дискурсивных исследований и изучения идентичности. Результаты анализа показывают, что языковая личность обеспечивает лингвистическую и коммуникативную основу для выражения и конструирования различных аспектов личностной идентичности. В интернет-дискурсе данная взаимосвязь особенно ярко проявляется посредством различных форм самопрезентации и языкового выбора. Разграничение данных понятий способствует более глубокому теоретическому пониманию роли языка в формировании и выражении личностной идентичности в цифровой коммуникации.

Ключевые слова: языковая личность, личностная идентичность, языковая идентичность, интернет-дискурс, онлайн-идентичность, самопрезентация, конструирование идентичности, дискурс.

Introduction. The concept of linguistic personality occupies a central position in anthropocentric linguistics and linguopersonology. It refers to the individual as manifested through language and encompasses the linguistic, cognitive, and communicative characteristics revealed in the process of language use. In Karaulov’s model, linguistic personality is represented through three interrelated levels: the verbal-semantic level, which concerns the individual’s command and organization of linguistic units; the linguocognitive level, which reflects concepts, meanings, and the individual’s linguistic worldview; and the motivational-pragmatic level, which involves communicative intentions, goals, and needs. Thus, linguistic personality should not be reduced to linguistic competence alone. It represents the complex organization of an individual as a language user, manifested through particular patterns of linguistic choice, conceptualization, and communication.

The concept of personal identity belongs primarily to sociocultural, interactional, and discourse-oriented approaches to the study of the self. It refers to the ways in which individuals define, represent, and position themselves in relation to other people, social groups, cultural contexts, and particular communicative situations. Contemporary research generally treats

identity as dynamic and context-dependent rather than as a completely fixed characteristic. In this perspective, identity is constructed and negotiated through social interaction and becomes observable through linguistic and other semiotic practices. Bucholtz and Hall (2005), for example, conceptualize identity as an emergent phenomenon and emphasize its relation to positionality, indexicality, relationality, and partialness.

Although linguistic personality and personal identity are closely interconnected, they are not equivalent concepts. Linguistic personality primarily concerns the individual as a language user, whereas personal identity concerns the ways in which the self is represented and positioned within a particular social and discursive context. In other words, linguistic personality provides the linguistic, cognitive, and communicative resources through which individuals express themselves, while personal identity concerns the particular configurations of the self constructed through the use of these resources.

This distinction becomes particularly significant in Internet discourse, where individuals consciously or unconsciously select linguistic resources to present particular aspects of themselves. Usernames, profile descriptions, professional or social labels, evaluative expressions, metaphors, lexical choices, and code-switching may reveal characteristics of the linguistic personality while simultaneously contributing to the construction of an online identity. A person may therefore employ the same linguistic resources both as an expression of their established linguistic repertoire and as a means of foregrounding a particular identity position in a specific communicative environment.

Materials and Methods. The study employs **qualitative, comparative, and discourse-analytical approaches** to examine the relationship between linguistic personality and personal identity in English and Uzbek Internet discourse. The material consists of publicly available usernames, social media profiles, biographies, self-descriptive texts, and online comments.

The analysis combines conceptual, lexical-semantic, comparative, and discourse analysis. Conceptual analysis establishes the distinction between the two concepts; lexical-semantic analysis identifies relevant linguistic resources; comparative analysis examines English–Uzbek similarities and differences; and discourse analysis determines their identity-related functions in context. For operationalization, linguistic personality is examined through recurrent patterns of language use, including lexical choices, self-nomination, evaluative expressions, lexical combinations, code-switching, metaphorical and creative nomination. Personal identity is examined through the identity positions constructed by these resources, particularly professional and social roles, personal characteristics, interests, values, affiliations, and aspirations.

Results and Discussion. The analysis demonstrates that linguistic personality and personal identity are closely related but analytically distinct phenomena. The main finding is that linguistic personality concerns the individual as a language user, whereas personal identity concerns the particular representation and positioning of the self constructed through language in a given communicative context. Linguistic personality is manifested through recurrent patterns of language use. In Internet discourse, these patterns can be observed in lexical choices, self-nomination, evaluative expressions, forms of self-reference, and other linguistic practices. Such features provide evidence of the individual's linguistic and communicative repertoire.

However, an isolated linguistic expression cannot be regarded as a complete representation of linguistic personality; its significance becomes clearer when examined as part of broader and recurring patterns of language use.

Personal identity, in contrast, is manifested through self-positioning and self-representation. Users selectively foreground particular aspects of themselves, such as professional roles, personal qualities, interests, values, or aspirations. Expressions such as *teacher*, *researcher*, *creative*, *ambitious*, or *future doctor* therefore function not only as linguistic units but also as resources for constructing particular identity positions. The existing corpus demonstrates that lexical choices can simultaneously identify the user and make a particular aspect of the self salient.

A key finding is that the same linguistic resource may operate at both levels. At the level of linguistic personality, it reflects how an individual selects and organizes linguistic material; at the level of personal identity, it contributes to the construction of a particular self-representation. For example, a professional label may reveal a user's preferred form of linguistic self-expression while simultaneously positioning the user within a professional identity.

Personal identity is selective, contextual, and relational. Individuals possess a broad range of linguistic, social, and experiential resources, but they do not activate or foreground all aspects of the self in every communicative situation. Instead, particular characteristics become salient depending on the communicative context, intended purpose, anticipated audience, and interactional setting. In Internet discourse, this selectivity is particularly visible because users have considerable control over the information they make publicly available and the linguistic forms through which they present themselves. A profile description, username, or short self-description may therefore foreground only one or several aspects of the individual, such as professional activity, personal interests, social roles, values, or desired characteristics. Such selective representation does not necessarily indicate that other aspects are absent; rather, it demonstrates that identity is constructed through the contextual foregrounding of particular dimensions of the self. This contextual character also explains why the same individual may construct different identity positions across different communicative environments. A person may emphasize a professional identity in one online context, an interest-based identity in another, and a familial or social identity elsewhere. These different representations should not necessarily be interpreted as contradictory or as evidence of a change in the individual's linguistic personality. Instead, they demonstrate that personal identity is multidimensional and dynamically configured according to communicative circumstances. The linguistic resources available to the individual may remain broadly consistent, while their selection and functional deployment vary according to the identity position being constructed.

The principal theoretical implication of the analysis is therefore that linguistic personality should not be treated as synonymous with personal identity. Linguistic personality refers to the individual as a linguistically and communicatively organized subject, encompassing the linguistic, cognitive, and pragmatic resources manifested through language use. Personal identity, by contrast, concerns the particular ways in which the self is represented, positioned, and made socially meaningful through discourse. Linguistic personality can consequently be

viewed as providing a repertoire of linguistic and communicative resources, whereas personal identity emerges through the contextual selection, organization, and interpretation of those resources.

This distinction is particularly significant for understanding the relationship between language and identity in Internet discourse. Digital communication provides individuals with a wide range of linguistic and discursive resources through which they can express themselves, establish social meanings, and construct particular representations of the self. These resources may include lexical and grammatical choices, forms of self-reference, evaluative language, stylistic patterns, discourse strategies, and other ways of organizing meaning. Their significance, however, cannot be determined solely by their linguistic form. The same linguistic resource may perform different identity-related functions depending on the communicative situation, the purpose of interaction, the intended audience, and the broader discourse in which it occurs. Consequently, personal identity should not be understood as being directly encoded in particular linguistic forms. Rather, it emerges through the interaction of linguistic choices, communicative intentions, social relations, cultural meanings, and contextual interpretation. From this perspective, Internet discourse provides a dynamic environment in which linguistic personality is manifested through language use, while personal identity is continuously represented, negotiated, and reconstructed through discourse.

The relationship between the two concepts can thus be expressed as a resource–construction relationship: linguistic personality provides the resources and patterns through which the individual communicates, while personal identity is constructed through the contextualized use of these resources. This formulation allows the two concepts to be studied together without collapsing them into a single category. It also provides a more precise framework for explaining how language functions both as a manifestation of the individual and as a mechanism through which particular representations of the self are constructed, negotiated, and communicated in Internet discourse.

Conclusion. Linguistic personality and personal identity are closely interconnected but conceptually and analytically distinct phenomena. Linguistic personality concerns the individual as manifested through language use and encompasses linguistic, cognitive, and communicative resources, patterns, and orientations. Personal identity, in contrast, refers to the ways in which individuals represent, position, and construct the self within particular social and communicative contexts.

The analysis has shown that linguistic personality can be observed through recurring patterns of language use, including lexical choices, self-nomination, evaluative expressions, and other linguistic and discursive practices. Personal identity becomes evident through the selective use of these resources to foreground particular aspects of the self, such as professional roles, personal qualities, interests, values, affiliations, and aspirations. Thus, linguistic forms do not constitute identity independently; their identity-related significance emerges through their contextual and communicative functions.

A major finding of the study is that the relationship between the two concepts can be understood as a **resource–construction relationship**. Linguistic personality provides the

linguistic and communicative resources available to the individual, while personal identity is constructed through the contextual selection, organization, and interpretation of these resources.

The findings also demonstrate that personal identity is **dynamic, selective, and context-dependent**. Individuals may foreground different aspects of themselves in different communicative situations without necessarily changing their underlying linguistic personality. Internet discourse makes this process particularly visible because users can selectively construct and modify their self-representations through usernames, profile descriptions, self-identifying expressions, and other linguistic resources.

Overall, language functions not only as a means of expressing an already existing self but also as an important resource for constructing and negotiating personal identity. This perspective is particularly relevant to Internet discourse, where linguistic choices are closely connected with processes of self-presentation and online identity construction. The proposed conceptual distinction can provide a theoretical basis for further research into the linguistic, discursive, and sociocultural mechanisms through which personal identity is constructed in digital communication.

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