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PLEONASMS IN ENGLISH AND UKRAINIAN: LEXICAL-SEMANTIC AND PRAGMATIC ASPECTS

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Abstract

Pleonasm and pleonastic constructions represent complex processes of interaction between the logic of speech and its expressiveness, between the economy of linguistic means and stylistic overload. The problem of pleonasm or verbosity development represents important linguistic aspects, which are in the focus of present day linguistics. Its resolution touches upon fundamental issues of linguistics in general and semantics in particular, since in the modern context it is crucial to express oneself concisely, to form statements capable of objectively conveying information without elements that duplicate each other's content, which is the essence of the language economy law. The relevance of the study is grounded in the high frequency of pleonastic constructions in modern communication and in the lack of systematic research addressing their functional potential. Pleonasm is often perceived as a hidden linguistic phenomenon, since in everyday communication it is rarely recognized as redundancy. Speakers intuitively accept pleonastic combinations as natural and even necessary, because their redundant elements are semantically integrated and no longer consciously perceived as repetitive. In this sense, pleonasm is explicit in structure but implicit in awareness: its redundancy is objectively present, yet subjectively unnoticed by language users. The paper considers the phenomenon of pleonasm through the prism of linguistic norms and linguistic usage, outlines its stylistic and syntactic potentials. The key object of the analysis of the problem is the conscious use of pleonastic compounds as means of expressiveness, as well as underlying semantic nature and pragmalinguistic force of constructions. Despite their prevalence in everyday speech, media discourse, literature, academic and public communication, pleonasm remains insufficiently described from a comparative and pragmalinguistic perspective. This paper responds to this problem by analyzing pleonasm as a dynamic phenomenon shaped by cognitive, historical, and communicative factors. Notwithstanding a previous scientific research on pleonasm as constructions that overload the text with unnecessary words, the study proved that pleonasticity performs important pragmatic functions in both the English and Ukrainian languages such as quantitative, emphatic and vocative functions in literary texts and poetic language where these stylistic techniques emotionally color the content.

Keywords: *pleonasm, tautology, redundancy, pragmatic value, semantic meaning, stylistic potential.*



1. Introduction

The key concept of “pleonasm” lies in a redundant duplication of semantics within a combination of words that functions as a justified synonymy that has a great pragmatic potential, and an unjustified one that violates economy principles in the language. In linguistics, there is a problem of such linguistic phenomenon as pleonasm and pleonastic constructions concerning their definition, structural, semantic and pragmatic properties, and their practical popularity in language use.

The *subject-matter* of this paper is structural, semantic, and pragmalinguistic aspects of pleonastic phrases in the English and Ukrainian languages. On practical investigation and identification of the criteria of semantic redundancy formation and their pragmalinguistic features in English and Ukrainian, as well as on their comparative analysis is based the *objective* of the research.

The study comprises the following *tasks* set forth to achieve the aforementioned aim:

- to define the linguistic phenomenon of “pleonasm” and characterize its semantics, structure and stylistic manifestations;
- to reveal the essence of pleonasms in a general context;
- to provide an explanation of the semantic mechanisms that explain the appearance of pleonasms in lexical and syntactic compounds;
- to identify pragmatic functions of pleonasms and their significance in the formation of linguistic expressiveness;
- to conduct a comparative analysis of pleonasms in the English and Ukrainian language systems;
- to determine the place of pleonasms in language system and distinguish it from the identified concept of tautology;
- to determine methods of eliminating repeated lexemes in academic discourse and to justify the appropriateness of their use in biblical discourse, literature and poetry, culture of everyday communication, and business and facilitating language development through effective interaction with interlocutors.

Authentic texts in English and Ukrainian from journalistic, scientific, fiction works, films, business-related contexts, and colloquial speech provided the basis for the research paper. Dictionaries and linguistic sources served as auxiliary tools while conducting the study.

The problem of using and rephrasing semantic redundancy is not sufficiently reflected in the theory of linguistics and translation studies, which, in turn, complicates its practical research. The concept of “pleonasm” is considered in the works of such linguists as Ponomariv (2001), who argued that pleonasticity becomes a violation of the language norm, especially in the mass media; Shevelov (1971), who analyzed pleonastic complexity as a stylistic stress or rhetorical device; Zorivchak (1987), who considered the problem of pleonasms within translation studies as a result of calque; Wierzbicka (1987), who investigated the issue of expressiveness in the communicative aspect.

The current positioning of pleonasm as a linguistic approach that is inappropriate in media and scientific discourses is reflected in works by Bondarenko (2004), Kolomytsev (2009), Litkovych (2016a; 2016b), Stratulat (2021), and Marchuk in media and scientific discourses is reflected in works by Bondarenko (2004), Kolomytsev (2009), Litkovych (2016a; 2016b), Stratulat (2021), and Marchuk, Kozak, and Skorobohatova (1995), who highlighted structural, semantic, and some pragmalinguistic aspects of pleonasms from the point of view of a speech error, not concentrating on distinguishing it from the concept of tautology. Pleonasm is often biasedly identified with tautology, which calls for their differentiation.

2. Method

The criteria for distinguishing stylistically justified synonymy and pleonastic redundancy were shaped at the intersection of works of foreign and home scholars, such as Muhammed and Meftin (2016), Litkovych (2016a), Ponomariv (2001), and Wierzbicka (1987).

To achieve the outlined objectives and implement the research tasks, a range of methodological approaches was used. A descriptive method systematized the linguistic material, in particular the

structural, semantic and syntactic nature of pleonasticism. A lexicographic method was instrumental in constructive cooperation with explanatory, synonymous, phraseological and etymological dictionaries for further component analysis. A comparative method enabled us to compare pleonasm, their common features, correlations, individual attributes and irrelevance in different language environments of the English and Ukrainian languages. A semantic analysis rendered it possible to study the constituents of pleonastic constructions in order to identify semantic redundancy. Finally, a contextual analysis functioned as a key component in determining the well-suited and inadequate functional expediency of pleonasm in a communicative situations and a wide range of discourses, and facilitated refuting the identification of the phenomenon of pleonasticism with a linguistic anomaly.

3. Findings

Widespread usage of pleonasticity is characterized by its practicality in many scenarios. In cases of informal communication, it helps to purposefully emphasize the importance and argumentativeness of what is said, while in poetry it usually serves to maintain the poetic flow, namely forming rhythmic symmetry through compromise, without editing out nuances that might feel a little bit uncertain and contradict linguistic economy. As a metacommunicative component, semantic redundancy strategically adds meaning to a message, implements additional communicative intentions beyond literal words, and encourages readers to perceive and interpret information in a particular way; though in literature and religious discourses moderate excessiveness fosters empathy in readers, symbolism narratives, intentional deepness and emotional coloring in written texts and focuses readers' attention on details. At the same time, as a lack of speech and writing confidence, pleonasm entered scientific writing of the English and Ukrainian languages violating lexical-grammar norms by calquing. On the other hand, pleonasm is a multifunctional technique deliberately used by writing gurus as a lexical aid to create their own individual style. Overall, by equating pleonasm with a linguistic error that has become integrated into writing, its significance is underestimated.

Pleonasm, like every linguistic unit, is characterized in terms of its grammatical structure. The grammatical analysis allows determining which components of the multipart pleonasm duplicate each other's meaning and concretize the function each part of speech performs.

Structurally, pleonastic compounds are made up of different parts of speech; nominal word combinations prevail. However, not all combinability patterns are equally registered in English and Ukrainian. [N + Adv] patterns were not found in our English corpus; and [N + compound Adj] patterns were not found in Ukrainian (Table 1).

Table 1

Composition of nominal pleonasm

Form	English	Ukrainian	Meaning
Noun is combined with adjective	<i>true fact; final conclusion; close proximity; bad evil; hot fire; new innovation; past history; future plans; final outcome</i>	<i>мусульманська мечеть; пернаті птахи; попереднє планування; вічна традиція із року в рік; цілковита протилежність; новий початок</i>	An adjective emphasizes a feature of a noun by specifying it. Even if this feature is common understanding of the linguistic unit.
Noun is combined with adverb	Not registered	<i>Це правда, точно так і було! Ви отримуєте додатково бонус!</i>	Adverbs duplicate the meaning, reinforcing nouns.

Continuation of Table 1

Compound predicate	<i>He <u>did do</u> his homework yesterday.</i>	<i>Він <u>знову повторив ще раз</u>.</i>	In English, it is a tool of amplification effect. In Ukrainian, it usually consists of a verb and an explanatory adjunct.
Noun is combined with noun	<i>fennec fox; kiwi fruit; pizza pie</i>	<i>прейскурант цін; отара овець; факт дійсності; інтернет-сайт</i>	Excessively repeated the same meaning.
Noun is combined with two adjectives	<i>final end result; past history events; future upcoming events; necessary required documents</i>	<i>швидкі експрес-тести; колишній екс-прем'єр; щасливий хеппі енд</i>	Both adjectives include synonymous semantics and in combination, they duplicate each other's meaning.
Noun is combined with the compound adjective	<i>the cost-of-living value; working-to-tule strike</i>	Not registered	The compound adjective is redundant.

In our corpus, the tendency to form pleonasticity is immanent to all parts of speech, the numeral included (Table 2).

Table 2

Composition of numerical pleonasm

Form	English	Ukrainian	Meaning
Numeral is combined with a plural noun	<i>three triplets; both two students</i>	<i>двоє близнюків</i>	Numerals specify semantics of nouns.
Numeral is combined with verb	<i>duplicate twice; triplicate thrice</i>	<i>двічі дублювати; двічі повторити</i>	The interpretation of verbs is already based on quantity.

Pronominal pleonastic units are registered both in English and Ukrainian languages (Table 3).

Table 3

Composition of pronominal pleonasm

Form	English	Ukrainian	Meaning
Pronoun is combined with noun	<i>they all; she ... herself; he ... himself</i>	<i>усі вони; моя автобіографія</i>	The pronoun executes the pleonastic function.
Combination of pronouns	<i>personally I; he himself</i>	<i>він сам себе принизив; він сам собі на умі; я сам себе знаю</i>	Each of the pronouns fulfills its own syntactic role in the sentence, but one reinforces the whole meaning expressed in the pleonasm.

In English and Ukrainian, adverbial pleonastic elements may combine with other adverbs, with adjectives, notional verbs, and modal verbs (Table 4).

Table 4

Composition of adverbial pleonasms			
Form	English	Ukrainian	Meaning
Adverb is combined with adjective and noun	<i>very unique invention; completely final decision</i>	<i>Це абсолютно безкоштовний подарунок!</i>	Adverbs are pleonastic regarding adjectives and adjectives are pleonastic regarding nouns.
Adverb in comparative degree	<i>more better; more easier</i>	<i>більш практичніший; мені відповідальніший</i>	An excessive adverb implies grammatical and lexical redundancy to the adjective.
Adverb is combined with verb	<i>completely finish; fall down; whisper quietly; return back; sit down</i>	<i>повністю завершити; впасти донизу; тихо прошепотіти; повернутися назад; ззадалегідь попередити</i>	Semantic pleonasm is formed with a help of a redundant adverb.
Adverb is combined with adjective	<i>completely full; very individual</i>	<i>майстерно вправний; феноменально незвичайний; потенційно можливий</i>	Semantic redundancy is formed by an adverb that reproduces the meaning of the adjective and might be easily omitted.
Modal verb is combined with adverbs	<i>can possibly; could probably</i>	<i>напевно можу; точно маєш право</i>	Adverbs only repeat meanings of modal verbs.

In our English corpus, pleonastic elements are hardly ever formed by adjectives. In contrast, they tend to form a separate group of pleonastic units in Ukrainian (Table 5).

Table 5

Composition of adjectival pleonasms			
Form	English	Ukrainian	Meaning
Adjective is combined with two nouns	Not registered	<i>вечірній захід сонця; основна суть справи; безкоштовний подарунок-сюрприз</i>	An adjective acts as a definition for the first noun, and the second noun duplicates its meaning.

Whereas pleonasms mislead people and are no longer consciously perceived as repetitive, tautology is an easily detected violation of linguistic economy. While pleonasm covers only a combination of words, tautology is able to function on both semantic and syntactic levels. The substitution of the concepts is unacceptable.

At the same time, both pleonasms and tautology play a vitally important role in pragmatics, where their usage is a conscious step towards achieving linguistic goals. Their utilization might be both intentional and unintentional uncontrolled strategies.

Moreover, pleonasms are constructive stylistic tools of vocative and humorous effects, filling in speech pauses and avoiding directness by maintaining social norms of politeness and speech competence. The expediency of pleonastic redundancy is also justified in pedagogical and logopedical contexts performing cognitive and didactic functions.

4. Discussion

A pleonasm is a linguistic phenomenon, which occurs in word combinations where one unit duplicates the meaning of another: one or more elements of the phrase are semantically excessive and do not add new information to the context. This linguistic phenomenon is distinguished as a mistake in terms of linguistic norms and language economy; for instance, its functionality, namely the use of redundancies, contradicts the principle of conciseness and clarity of expression, e.g., *a pair of two*.

Historically, the roots of pleonasm lie in oral speech as in the process of communication speakers yield precision of formulation. Duplication of word semantics as a stylistic error or stylistic device gradually penetrated the written format of language, e.g., *heroic feat, burning fire*. While pleonasm in journalism and works of art for the purpose of stylization, rhythm, and poetics are justified, their presence in scientific works reduces the quality of the text, e.g., *semantic meaning*.

4.1. Principles of the formation of pleonasms in the English and Ukrainian languages

British linguist Crystal (2018, p. 183) mentions pleonasticity as a marker of naturalness, spontaneity in colloquial speech that stemmed from linguistic economy. Its application might be characterized by the following factors:

- lack of speech confidence, when the pleonasticity of word combinations causes redundancy and cumbersomeness of speech, e.g., “*смертельно вбитий труп загиблого мерця*.” Poor vocabulary manifests itself in difficulties in finding synonymous pairs and leads to a monotonous phrasing with the usage of pleonastic and tautological constructions.
- use of the potential of a stylistic tool to enhance the emotional coloring of the statement. Shevelov (1971) analyzed pleonastic redundancy as a stylistic device for the compositional construction and rhythmization, as well as a tool for enhancing expression and structure, e.g.:

- (1) “*Книга просто наповнена пахощами великодніх страв, просто дивуєшся багатоманітністю і всілякістю української великодньої кухні*.” (Kulyas, 2014, p. 59).

In order to emphasize the beginning of the statement, Carl von Clausewitz uses pleonastic construction “*repeat again*”:

- (2) “*We repeat again: strength of character does not consist solely in having powerful feelings, but in maintaining one’s balance in spite of them...*” (Clausewitz, 1984, p. 107).

Despite the fact that this expression is labelled as pleonastic one, it is widespread both in the English and in the Ukrainian languages, both in colloquial speech and poetic diction (example 3 and others below):

- (3) “*Я не втомлююсь повторювати знову...*” (Osipenko, 2018, p. 8).

- metacommunicative component, where pleonasticity functions as a hint for message interpretation. As a result, the addressee understands what to focus on or what attitude the orator has got towards what is being said, e.g., “*мій власний особистий вибір*” is a case of pleonastic emotional-marker metacommunication;
- literal translation of a foreign expression by directly replacing each element. O. Ponomariv (2001, p. 127) affirms that this problem is determined by calque from East Slavic languages. It functions as a violation of the linguistic norm, especially in the mass media, and the Ukrainian language should be stripped of unnecessary expressions because both languages have similar mechanisms for the formation of pleonasticity, such as “*small dwarf*” – “*маленький карлик*”, “*new news*” – “*нова новина*” (Litkovych, 2016a);

- habits of informal communication, when certain combinations are rooted in ethnolinguistics. E.g., the phrase “*I personally think that...*” contains a stylistically redundant adverb, cf. “я *бачив це на власні очі*” (stylistically redundant adjective). In the analysis of discourse markers Wierzbicka (1991) defined this phenomenon as a situationally pleonastic component, or metatextual pleonasm, that functions at the metatextual level and should not be considered as simply tautological extra words.
- pleonasms in religious discourse emphasize solemnity, sacredness, and form rhythmic symmetry; as a mnemonic technique, it facilitates memorization. E.g., in the English version of Quran pleonasticity is a deliberate strategy to convey the ceremonial intonation of exaltation:

(4) “*In the name of God, the Gracious, the Merciful*” (The Holy Quran, 2024, p. 327);

(5) cf. “*And Joseph dreamed a vision, [...]*” (King James Bible, 2023, p. 540).

Pleonasms are not just linguistic “redundancies,” rather living evidence of how dynamically language functions and develops. Formation of pleonasms is the consequence of natural psycholinguistic processes and, in most cases, pleonasms arise unintentionally, driven by the intent to emphasize or clarify the meaning, even at the cost of repetition. Furthermore, pleonasms are a consequence of linguistic evolution, calquing from other languages, as well as historical shifts in the meanings of words, which over time make some lexical units semantically redundant. Besides this, pleonasticity enters the language through colloquial speech, where functions as metacommunicative component for stylistic emphasis and emotional enhancement of the statement.

Moreover, a pleonasm may change into a simple word combination. Due to historical factors, namely changes or loss of the original meaning of a word, the pleonastic nature of certain lexical combinations disappears, e.g., *black ink, book library, друкована газета* (Sinclair, 2018).

Pleonastic calquing in the Ukrainian language occurs when there is a combination of:

- two loaned words with similar meaning, e.g., *динамічна* (Gr. ‘dynamic’) *трансформація* (Lat. ‘transformation’);
- word originated from foreign language is clarified by Ukrainian one, e.g., *сервісне* (Eng. ‘service’) *обслуговування* (Kulishenko, 2011).

4.2. Structural-semantic aspect of pleonasm

Pleonasms are classified according to their structural features and the types of redundancy they form. As a rule, pleonasm is a two- or three-component combination with sequential placement of components, e.g., *free gift, істинна правда*. Rarely used are redundant word combinations, where elements might be distanced from each other, e.g., *a.m. in the morning, імпортувати з-за кордону*.

Pleonastic saturation occurs in the following types of constructions:

- classic synonymous duplication – a combination of semantically similar units, e.g., *to kick it with your feet, an atmospheric air, a rich oligarch*;
- pleonasm with repetition – a noun and a semantically redundant adjective that is duplicated, e.g., *red red blood, black black coal, white white snow*. Pleonasms with paired adjectives are combinations of nouns with duplicated redundant attributive component, e.g., *pretty-pretty beauty, step by step instruction*;
- duplication of grammatical forms – a monocomponent grammatical combination of excessive prefix and suffix usage (e.g., *intertwined, irregardless*), and a multi-component grammatical combination, which occurs while adding an adverb to comparative degree of comparison of adjectives (e.g., *more easier, more better*) (Litkovych, 2016a, p. 24; Quillbot, 2025);
- usage of the unnecessary qualifying adjectives in word combinations, e.g., *qualified expert*;
- logical duplication, e.g., *basic fundamentals, остаточно зінсована річ*;
- partial synonymy of components – the constituents of word combinations are close in meanings and are used with pragmatic intent, e.g., *antique and vintage, killed and neutralized*;
- repetition of genitive and species concepts, e.g., *frozen ice, органічний мінерал природнього походження*.

Interestingly, in phraseology pleonasm is used as fixed, indivisible, coherent components of the unit that is close in meaning, e.g., *Heaven above*; *Боже небесний*; *when it rains, it pours*.

Pleonastic combinations can belong to several types simultaneously depending on their structural features.

4.3. Structure of pleonastic phrases

According to the table 1, pleonasm is a multicomponential phenomenon. To take it into consideration, pleonasticity can form combinations of any grammatical units, i.e., nouns with nouns, nouns with adjectives, nouns with adverbs, compound predicates, adverbs with adjectives, numerals with nouns or verbs, etc. In-depth analysis of a pleonastic compound gives an opportunity to determine which element is redundant and might be eliminated without damaging the meaning.

Abbreviations—the first letters of a word or phrase—are commonly accompanied by auxiliary, usually pleonastic, words for qualitative integration in both English and Ukrainian. Those words or their meanings are already included in abbreviations' decodings, but they are not depicted in written or oral forms of speech, e.g., *HIV virus* (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), *СБУ України* (Служба безпеки України), *GPS system* and *GPS система* (Global Positioning System) ("Pleonasm", 2025).

4.4. Semantics of pleonasm and tautology

Tautology (from the Greek *tauto* 'the same' and *logos* 'word') is a manifestation of redundancy in speech, which lies in unintentional or intentional formal or semantic duplication of message elements. Until recently, tautology was viewed as nothing more than a result of speakers' lack of literacy or paradoxical thinking. Vernacular approach to tautology considers it a mere manifestation of incorrect language use.

Nowadays, tautological units are distinguished as formally grammatical, that is a repetition of words with common roots, and semantics or words with the same meaning but different roots. Tautology should be distinguished from repetitions that add semantic load.

If tautology might be used intentionally, its usage with the aim to create the effect of speaker's or writer's ignorance is impractical. Accordingly, intentional tautology, same as pleonasm, functions as a stylistic and literary device, becoming a text-forming factor. With a help of the phenomenon, tropes of his works are emotive, author's position is reinforced ideologically and the context is presented structurally and semantically well. Every thought he puts on paper is abounded in tautological epithets, e.g.,

- (6) *“Люди жили нормально, думали нормально, відчували нормально [...] патріотизм був патріотизмом, космополітизмом [...] нація була нацією, а не “всенацією” [...] любов до свого була любов'ю до свого, а не – водночас – до чужого й ворожого”*
(Mykytiuk, 2019).

In Zorivchak's concept (1987), the problem of pleonasm was identified with tautology, in particular, modified repetition. In some sources, the definitions of pleonasm and rhetorical tautology coincide. Thus, tautology, like pleonasm, is a type of redundancy that is formed with the help of two or more constituents. From the semantic, not a morphological point of view, tautology corresponds to pleonasm. Nevertheless, to resolve the problem of confusing the concepts of tautology and pleonasm through the morphological prism, it is best to define tautology as a case of coincidence of morphemes of words, and the phenomenon of pleonasm as a case of duplication of their semantics. Therefore, tautology cannot be classified as a pleonastic subspecies, because it is characterized by the duplication of morphemes rather than semantic meanings. As a rule, tautology makes the text more loaded and is considered a more serious violation of language economy.

4.5. Functions of pleonasm in English-language and Ukrainian-language discourse

In spoken language, limited linguistic competence provokes unintentional and uncontrolled use of

redundancy, whereas in writing, tautology and pleonasm are desirable, motivated stylistic tools. Among the pragmatic functions of pleonasms one could distinguish the quantitative, the menasive, the promissive, and the vocative functions. In addition, pleonasm is functional in humor, literature and logopedics as well as a means of avoiding directness and a pause filler in public speeches.

The **quantitative function** of pleonasms is to express quantity, intensity, and degree of action or characteristic. Pleonastic excess serves to amplify emotional and semantic weight through quantitative and qualitative exaggeration. The speaker creates a sense of emotional tension or emphasis and conveys their subjective assessment of the situation, e.g., “усі без вийнятку” and “*all without exception*”, “*дуже сильно болить*”, “*страшенно сильно вдарив*”.

The **menasive function** of pleonasms is aimed at expressing threats that may cause certain fears or increase the level of fear by a menacing tone. Pleonasms in combination with verbs can indicate a warning in a threatening scaring form. Whether the menacing function is used successfully depends solely on the speaker’s ability to clearly express aggression towards the interlocutor and influence their psychological condition. In various texts or messages, pleonasms in the menasive are always categorical and clear, with a noticeable level of emotion and tension. The menasive function is usually used in conflict situations to influence a person’s emotional and mental state and increase their level of anxiety.

(7) “*Ще раз спробуй – і я тебе особисто власноруч розтпоу.*” (Kolesnyk, 2024).

(8) “*You’re definitely beyond any doubt having problems.*” (Crane et al., 1994-2004).

The **promissive function** involves speech acts of promise. Pleonastic elements in this case serve as auxiliary enhancers of credibility and persuasiveness, i.e. they guarantee that the promise will be fulfilled. Thus, promissives are used to influence a person in order to emphasize clarity of intent, confidence and emotional involvement.

(9) “*She guarantees, assures with total certainty that she gonna finish tommorow*” (Gatiss et al., 2010-2017).

(10) “*Я обіцяю тобі – чесно, щиро, від усього серця!*” (Horotko, 1993-1996).

The **vocative function** of pleonasms lies in attraction of attention with a help of address. Pleonasms are used deliberately and excessively to create irony, sarcasm or sarcastic modulation of politeness.

(11) “*Oh, my dearest friend and companion, who has forgotten everything again!*” (Crane et al., 1994-2004).

Pleonasm as a means of avoiding directness is an indispensable component of interpersonal communication. Pleonasticity is a soft, vague linguistic tool that veils the essence of dialogue, maintains social norms of politeness, and distracts attention at the right moment.

(12) “*Я просто хотів лише сказати одну маленьку дрібничку.*” (Crane et al., 1994-2004).

Pleonasm as a means of filling speech pauses allows the speaker to avoid silence, which is perceived as weakness or incompetence in formal speech, and to gain an opportunity to formulate the next thought. To reflect their competence, experienced speakers even have a list of prepared, often pleonastic, responses to lower the tone of the conversation, gain additional time to structure their thoughts, and strengthen the argumentativeness of their answers.

(13) “*So, as I’ve mentioned earlier, the problem is a driving force...*” (Gatiss et al., 2010-2017).

Pleonasm as an indicator of politeness and protesting rhetoric is widespread in political and public discourse and serves as a method of persuasion, e.g., “*We are all united for a common goal*” (Fabrizi, 2010). The socio-pragmatic etiquette function of speech behavior can be reflected in the repetition of speech means, if this does not violate the rule of appropriateness.

Excessive constructions are a leading transitional stage to more complex grammatical and lexical constructions in the formation of children’s speech confidence. The phenomenon of pleonasm becomes a part of their language practice, as it engraves and defines the meaning of words in their memory, e.g., “*Come over here to us*,” “*Иди сюда ось прямо тут*”. Pleonasticity is not a mistake, but a key milestone of the psychological process that helps children to better understand, build and structure the world around them, e.g., “*Я дуже сильно люблю цю улюблену іграшку*” (Horotko, 1993-1996). Pleonasms have been integrated into modern children’s songs, and shape their perception of the world. They make it easy to evoke associative connections and rhyme text.

4.6. Differential features of the pragmatics of pleonasm and tautology

Tautology, like pleonasm, is a lexical-emphatic construction, an emphatic repetition that is realized at the syntactic level with the help of intonational means of raising or lowering the tone of voice, stresses, or pauses. The emphatic effect of pleonasm is more obvious in spoken language, while tautology logically, convincingly, and semantically correctly highlights linguistic units in writing.

In literature, music, cinema, and visual arts, tautology is used to create a product that has a memorable name is associated with a strong visual image. The key features of a successful name’s choice are conciseness, euphony, and intrigue to tune the listener into the perception of the product and convey its main theme. E.g., the title of an issue of UNICEF’s children’s magazine, “*A child is a child* [...]” (UNICEF, 2017) highlights the problem of protecting the rights of all children.

The pragmatic value of both types of redundancy lies in the wide range of functions they perform. The quantitative function is represented by pleonasm only; tautology is not suitable for this pragmatic purpose. In addition, pleonasm is also considered a more useful means of formulating messages, as it sounds more natural than tautology is useful for provoking emotional excitement. In terms of linguistic etiquette, pleonasm is an important tool for interaction, as repeated requests, invitations, apologies and words of sympathy elicit more empathy and approval. Both pleonastic and tautological redundancies serve to amplify emotional and semantic weight in literature and poetry, and from grammatical and semantical points of view, tautology is perceived as a more correct artistic device. Both of them function as emphatic tools but only tautology is a summarizing idea mean justified by context.

5. Conclusions

Pleonasms—redundant word combinations—are a universal linguistic phenomenon that characterizes Germanic, Romance and Slavic languages. There is stylistically justified synonymy when pleonasms are used as stylistic devices to emphasize, interpret, rhyme, etc., and semantic redundancy, which might occur as a result of the lack of speech confidence and impoverished vocabulary.

The phenomenon has significant pragmatic value in poetry and rhythmic prose to set the rhyme symmetry and expressiveness; in literature to create deep emotional responses in readers and emotional enhancement; in cinematography and music to intensify, to convince, to make the characters sound lively, accessibly and understandably with the usage of colloquialisms, and to complete a rhythmic pattern of musicality; in journalistic sphere to highlight the main aspects of the topic; in religious discourse to enhance symbolism, lyrical pathos and exaltation.

Pleonasticity is a communicatively appropriate unit with its own place in the language system, where all parts of speech are able to perform a pleonastic function. Both pleonasm and tautology are not exclusively negative phenomena, but on the contrary, have pragmatic value depending on the context.

With a few exceptions, the results show that there are cases when tautology and pleonasm, as redundant language phenomena, have common features, but through the morphological prism,

tautology is a case of coincidence of morphemes of words, and the phenomenon of pleonasm is a case of duplication of their semantics. Additionally, pleonasticity covers only a combination of words, while tautology functions both in a combination of words and in a whole sentence.

However, their frequency and forms of realization depend on the language system. From a pragmatic point of view, pleonasms in the English and Ukrainian languages often act not only as redundant elements, but also as conscious linguistic choice that is applied for reinforcement, clarification and emotional expression.

Pleonasms should be considered as a justified tool of semantic and pragmatic influence with potential for further linguistic research.

Declaration of competing interest

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The authors declare no use of generative AI.

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ПЛЕОНАЗМИ В АНГЛІЙСЬКІЙ ТА УКРАЇНСЬКІЙ МОВАХ: ЛЕКСИКО-СЕМАНТИЧНИЙ ТА ПРАГМАТИЧНИЙ АСПЕКТИ

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Анотація

Плеоназми та плеонастичні сполучення відображають складні процеси взаємодії між логікою мовлення та його виразністю, економією мовних засобів та стилістичною надлишковістю. Проблема формування плеоназмів або багатослівності становить важливий лінгвістичний аспект, який перебуває в центрі уваги сучасного мовознавства. Її вирішення порушує фундаментальні питання лінгвістики у цілому та семантики зокрема, оскільки в сучасному контексті надзвичайно важливим є вміння викладати свої думки в лаконічній формі, будувати висловлювання, що дозволяють передавати інформацію максимально об'єктивно, без надмірних повторень, як того вимагає закон економії мови. Актуальність дослідження зумовлена високою частотою плеонастичних конструкцій у сучасному комунікативному просторі та відсутністю систематичних досліджень, присвячених їхньому функціональному потенціалу. Плеоназм часто сприймається як приховане лінгвістичне явище, яке в повсякденному спілкуванні рідко розпізнається саме як надлишковість. Мовці інтуїтивно сприймають плеонастичні сполучення як природні й навіть необхідні, оскільки повторювані в них елементи є семантично інтегрованими й уже не усвідомлюються як повторення. У цьому сенсі плеоназм є явним за структурою, але прихованим у свідомості: його надмірність об'єктивно присутня, проте суб'єктивно не помічається учасниками мовлення. У статті розглядається феномен плеоназму крізь призму мовних норм та мовного вжитку, окреслюються його стилістичні та синтаксичні можливості. Ключовим об'єктом аналізу проблеми є свідоме використання плеонастичних сполучень як засобів виразності, а також прихована семантична природа та прагмалінгвістична сила таких конструкцій. Незважаючи на їхню поширеність у повсякденній мові, медійному дискурсі, літературі, академічному та публічному мовному просторі, плеоназми залишаються недостатньо описаними з порівняльно-лінгвістичної та прагмалінгвістичної перспектив. Дана стаття присвячена аналізу плеоназму як динамічного явища, що формується під впливом когнітивних, історичних та комунікативних чинників. Незважаючи на попередні наукові дослідження, в яких плеоназми розглядалися як надлишкові конструкції, що

перевантажують текст зайвими словами, проведене дослідження довело, що плеоназми виконують важливі прагматичні функції як в англійській, так і в українській мовах, зокрема кількісну, емпатичну та вокативну функції в літературних текстах та поетичній мові, де ці стилістичні прийоми надають твору емоційного забарвлення.

Ключові слова: *плеоназм, тавтологія, надлишковість, прагматична цінність, семантичне значення, стилістичний потенціал.*

Декларація про конфлікт інтересів

Автори ознайомлені із заявою про конфлікт інтересів і заявляють про відсутність конфлікту інтересів або фінансування дослідження. Автори стверджують, що стаття не була раніше опублікована в будь-якій формі, в тому числі іншими мовами.

Автори заявляють, що під час підготовки цієї статті не використовувалися інструменти штучного інтелекту.