

THE ROLE OF SILENCE IN THE SPEECH ACT OF REPROACH

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Abstract:	Keywords
Our article analyzes the role of silence in the speech act. Communication is a fundamental aspect of human interaction, and it plays a crucial part in expressing and conveying our thoughts, emotions, and intentions. Speech acts, in particular, are actions performed through speech, such as promising, requesting, thanking, and reproaching.	Reproach, interpersonal dynamics, disapproval, criticism, silence, appropriate response, rendering, thoughtful silence, non-verbal communication, painful silence, prim silence, ominous silence, ritual silence.

Introduction

Reproach, in the context of speech acts, involves expressing dissatisfaction, disapproval, or criticism towards a person's behavior or actions. While reproach is often associated with verbal communication, the role of silence in the speech act of reproach is equally significant and can have a profound impact on the effectiveness and interpretation of the message. Silence, as a means of communication, possesses an equal amount of influence as words. It has the capacity to convey meaning, emotions, and intentions in ways that verbal language cannot. In the act of reproach, silence can be utilized in various manners to enhance the communication of disapproval or criticism. This article aims to examine the role of silence in the speech act of reproach, delving into its significance, functions, and implications in interpersonal communication. The study of silence as a form of non-verbal communication has been extensively explored within the realms of communication and linguistics. It is an integral component of human interaction and can serve multiple purposes in different contexts. In the context of reproach, silence can function as a tool for expressing disapproval, conveying disappointment, creating tension, and indicating the severity of the situation. When employed strategically, silence can amplify the impact of reproach, rendering it a potent communicative strategy within interpersonal dynamics. One of the primary functions of silence in the speech act of reproach lies in its capacity to convey disapproval or criticism in a non-verbal manner. When an individual is reproached, the utilization of silence can serve as a powerful indicator of the speaker's emotional state and the gravity of the situation. For instance, a prolonged and tense silence following an individual's inappropriate behavior can effectively communicate the speaker's disapproval more than words alone. This form of silence can instill a sense of discomfort and unease, prompting the recipient to reflect upon their actions and recognize the seriousness of the reproach.

Literature review

Numerous domestic and foreign scientists, including N.D.Arutyunova, V.V.Bogdanov, G.G.Pochepstov, P.E.Orlandi, T.J.Bruneau, S.C.Levinson, and M.Saville-Troike, have highlighted the necessity for a comprehensive linguistic examination of silence. N.D.Arutyunova asserts that there has been a notable shift in the perception of silence, transitioning from its association with sound to its connection with content. In her words, silence has become intertwined with speech, allowing the meaning of utterances to seep into it[1]. It is crucial to emphasize that these researchers emphasize the importance of distinguishing various forms of silence, such as silence, pause, and silence itself, as significant acts of communication. Silence and pause can be categorized as silence that holds no communicative value. Consequently, linguistic examination solely focuses on the silence that possesses communicative significance. This type of silence is capable of fulfilling specific communicative functions, serving as a communication unit, a sign, or a communicative act. According to Krestinsky, this particular silence can retain the intentional content of a speech act, imply the mental state of the individual, and reflect social conditions[2].

Numerous researchers argue that silence should be regarded as an external manifestation of internal speech. When an individual refrain from verbal communication for any reason, it does not imply a cessation of thought. Communicatively significant silence can be categorized into two types: the silence of the speaker, which occurs when a person remains silent instead of speaking, and the silence of the listener, known as the "silence of speech attention." In the latter case, the listener processes information to construct an appropriate response, following the principle of role reversal.

Silence encompasses various meanings, such as "painful silence," "ominous silence," "prim silence," "thoughtful silence," and "ritual silence." E.Esterberg, considering silence as a behavioral strategy, identifies common types of silence, including silence prompted by uncertainty, expectancy, or offense. Additionally, there are rare types of silence, such as silence resulting from fatigue, discouragement, or surprise[3].

Research methodology

Silence can be seen as a way for someone to withhold specific information, and in certain situations, silence can be influenced by social norms and legal regulations (such as the "right to remain silent" or a "minute of silence"). Researchers acknowledge silence as a form of communication and highlight its various communicative functions, including communication, influence, judgment, recognition, sociocultural aspects, psycholinguistic factors, and interactive silence. The significance of silence, which is linked to social and moral beliefs, can be exemplified through proverbs in different languages.

Engl; Speech is silver, silence is golden (There is a time to speak and a time to be silent)

Uzb; Sukunat oltin, so'z esa kumushdir

It is important to acknowledge that the meaning of silence is contingent upon the circumstances of a specific speech act, serving as a substitute for verbal response and being

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interpreted based on the particular situation, meaning, and illocutionary function of the preceding utterance.

In the existing literature on the interpretation of silence, attention has been given to the role of silence in response to remarks. While A.Stredje rightly suggests that "all aspects of silence provide sufficient material for further research"[4] it is intriguing to examine instances where silence is not a reaction to a stimulating remark, but rather a means through which the speaker expresses reproach.

How can we investigate a non-verbal act when the intention of reproach is not conveyed through language?

V.V.Bogdanov presents an interesting approach to interpreting silence, utilizing the communicative principles of G.P.Grice. According to Bogdanov, an analysis of acts of silence should consider the implicit content that can be logically deduced from the context and intuitively understood[5]. In such cases, a comprehensive description of the characters' emotional states, moods, social status, and interpersonal dynamics, as well as their shared knowledge, plays a pivotal role.

Consider this scenario: while sailing on a lake, a young girl accidentally slips off the boat. Meanwhile, her elder sister and close relative, who were present in the boat, were unable to prevent her fall.

Marie's gaze remained fixed on Karen as she slowly shifted her pale, expressionless countenance towards me. With a somber tone, she confessed, "Mommy, I couldn't control it. I truly couldn't." Her words spilled out in a rush, accompanied by a visible unease reflected in the lines etched around her eyes. Clutching her knees tightly, her arms constricted, while her hand desperately clung to her leg, only to have her foot slip out of her shoe[6].

Mary's deliberate gaze and silence convey a profound message. This silence can be articulated as follows: "You have done something wrong, not in the way I expected." In this particular context, silence serves multiple purposes: a) it adheres to the principle of informativeness, b) it upholds the principle of quality or truthfulness - silence cannot be deceitful in this case, as it reflects Mary's emotional state, c) it aligns with the principle of relevance, as silence is deemed appropriate here and is associated with politeness[7] - explicitly expressing a negative assessment can harm interpersonal relations, d) it adheres to the principle of method or clarity - silence can be unambiguously interpreted in this situation, as the action in question deserves a negative evaluation. The girl's response can serve as confirmation of the accurate interpretation.

To comprehensively examine the concept of "silent reproach," it is essential to consider the response replicas, specifically the perlocative effect. This effect refers to the reproached individual's response aimed at rectifying the discrepancy that the reproacher silently communicates, ultimately restoring equilibrium in their interaction. The restoration of balance and the re-establishment of a positive atmosphere is achieved through reciprocal speech acts of apology or justification. *I'm sorry..., I thought I was right...*

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In such a situation, the accused expresses apologies to resolve the conflict and restore a state of harmony. When considering the issue of reproach through silence, it is crucial to understand that both the reproacher and the reproached are in a balanced relationship as communication partners. The act of reproach through silence is typically directed towards close individuals and friends. Through the analysis of empirical evidence, it becomes evident that the primary motive behind the silent expression of reproach is the reluctance to offend the accused for an action or misconduct that was unintentionally committed. The reproacher acknowledges the unintentional nature of this action.

Certainly, my dear, it was beyond your control. I am aware that you couldn't have anticipated or prevented it [6].

However, engaging in an action that can be categorized as a misdemeanor can have significant repercussions, leading to a shift in the emotional state of both the individual reproaching and the one being reproached. The latter is fully aware of the gravity of their actions. Consequently, silence becomes a form of reaction to such behavior, necessitating evaluation in situations where refraining from verbal expression is deemed preferable.

According to N.D.Arutyunova, silence is generally viewed with less severity, particularly within a social context, compared to actively engaging in overtly negative actions[1]. In the realm of speech acts, it becomes imperative to linguistically convey the negative evaluation of the action. It is important to acknowledge that the interpretation of silence is contingent upon the mental state and temperament of the individuals involved in the communication process. Prolonged silence, for instance, can signify disapproval of someone's conduct, as in the case of "sulking at someone." Additionally, the presence of a situation where conversation appears unnecessary also influences the understanding of acts of silence.

Upon entering the room, William caught Matthew's gaze. A profound silence enveloped them as their eyes locked in a mutual exchange[8].

*"Dildorning yuragi shuv etib ketdi. Rais endi uni boplaydi. Kechagi payhon qilingan g'o'zalar uchun ko'pchilik o'rtasida **tanbeh beradi**. Yo bo'lmasam: «Qo'ya qol, qizim, chopiqqa chiq, traktor yurgizishni bilmas ekansan», deydi."*[9]

The author in this passage conveys their disapproval of the chairman by envisioning a woman named Dildor. In reality, the appropriate way to express reprimand is through verbal communication from one person to another. However, the writer suggests that the reprimand is not only delivered in real life but also in the realm of imagination. The ultimate objective, which is to uphold societal harmony, remains the same regardless of the medium used. Nevertheless, the focus of the discussion revolves around the process of adapting to achieve this goal.

The scholars acknowledge that the understanding of silence is influenced by ethnic and cultural factors. For instance, they highlight the silence exhibited by women in the presence of men and the significance of silence in Eastern cultures.

Results and discussion

Moreover, silence can also be utilized as a means to convey disappointment and sorrow within the context of reproach. When an individual opts to remain silent rather than verbally expressing their disapproval, it can indicate a profound sense of letdown and disillusionment. This type of silence suggests that the speaker is too wounded or troubled to articulate their reproach, rendering it a poignant and emotive form of non-verbal communication. Employing silence in this manner can elicit feelings of guilt and remorse in the recipient, prompting them to acknowledge and address the impact of their actions. Additionally, silence can also generate tension and accentuate the gravity of the reproach. By refraining from verbal communication and allowing a period of silence to linger, the speaker can heighten the emotional impact of their disapproval. This form of silent reproach can unsettle the recipient and compel them to confront the severity of the situation. The tension evoked by silence can impel the recipient to recognize the weight of the reproach and treat it with greater seriousness compared to if it were conveyed solely through words. Furthermore, the strategic utilization of silence in the act of reproach can also stimulate introspection and self-reflection in the recipient. Faced with a reproachful silence, the recipient may feel compelled to contemplate their behavior and consider the implications of the reproach. Silence can create a space for self-evaluation and introspection, prompting the recipient to acknowledge their shortcomings and contemplate the impact of their actions on others. This form of non-verbal communication possesses the potential to act as a powerful catalyst for personal growth and behavioral change, as it compels the recipient to confront the consequences of their actions in a profound and introspective manner.

Furthermore, silence can also be utilized as a method of indicating the necessity for a resolution or reconciliation within the context of reproach. When a reproach is followed by a period of silence, it can indicate the speaker's desire for the recipient to acknowledge, address, and resolve the issue at hand. This type of silence can create a moment of contemplation and an opportunity for the recipient to initiate a conversation or take steps toward reconciliation. By employing silence in this manner, the speaker can express their willingness to engage in a constructive dialogue and work towards resolving the conflict or addressing the issues that led to the reproach.

Nevertheless, it is important to acknowledge that the use of silence in the act of reproach is not without its challenges and complexities. Silence can be open to interpretation and may be susceptible to miscommunication or misunderstanding. In certain cases, the recipient of the reproach may perceive silence as indifference or a lack of engagement, which can further contribute to miscommunication and resentment. Therefore, the strategic use of silence in reproach necessitates a thorough understanding of the context, the dynamics of the relationship, and the emotional dynamics at play.

Conclusion and recommendations

In conclusion, the role of silence in the act of reproach is multifaceted and significant. Silence can serve various purposes in the communication of disapproval, criticism, and

dissatisfaction, and can be employed as a powerful communicative tool to enhance the impact of reproach. When used strategically, silence can convey emotions, indicate seriousness, create tension, and prompt introspection in the recipient, thereby making it a potent and effective element in interpersonal communication. However, the use of silence in reproach requires careful consideration and sensitivity to the context and dynamics of the relationship. By understanding and harnessing the communicative power of silence, individuals can effectively express their reproach and prompt meaningful reflection and dialogue in interpersonal interactions.

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