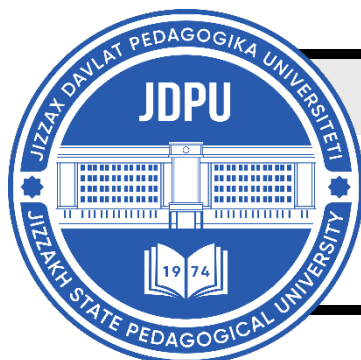


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METHODOLOGICAL JOURNAL<http://mentaljournal-jspu.uz/index.php/mesmj/index>DEEPER THAN BEAUTY: UNVEILING THE ROSE'S
SYMBOLISM IN ENGLISH LITERATURE THROUGH PRAGMATICS**Sayyora Bekmanova**

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ABOUT ARTICLE

Key words: Pragmatics, literary analysis, flower meaning, pragmatic mechanisms, linguistic comparison**Received:** 17.08.24**Accepted:** 19.08.24**Published:** 21.08.24**Abstract:** This study explores how roses function in English literature in works by Shakespeare, Blake, and Faulkner using pragmatics (language in context). Analyzing excerpts through six mechanisms (proposition, reference, etc.), the research reveals how roses represent love, beauty, and more. Historical context is also important, as seen in Shakespeare's «Henry VI» where rose colors hold different meanings than today. This analysis suggests a wider range of historical symbolism for the rose. Future research could investigate roses in Uzbek literature for a cross-linguistic comparison.

INTRODUCTION

Pragmalinguistics, the study of the relationship between language and its context of use, has long been a focal point of linguistic inquiry, captivating researchers with its intricate interplay of linguistic structure and social interaction. Over the years, scholars have endeavored to unravel the complexities of pragmatics, shedding light on its nuanced mechanisms through empirical investigation and theoretical analysis. Our previous study «Development of Pragmalinguistics in the World and in Uzbekistan» [9] builds upon prior research examining the historical development of pragmatics both globally and within

Uzbekistan. Here, we conduct a comprehensive analysis of recent scholarship in the field of pragmalinguistics.

A cornerstone of research in pragmalinguistics is the examination of speech acts, a concept introduced by J.L. Austin in his seminal work «How to Do Things with Words» [1]. Austin's pioneering insights laid the groundwork for subsequent studies exploring the performative nature of language, prompting a flurry of research into the ways in which utterances function as actions within communicative contexts. Drawing on Austin's framework, linguistic scholars have delved into diverse areas such as politeness strategies, conversational implicature, and speech act theory, contributing to a rich tapestry of knowledge on language use.

One notable contribution to the field comes from the work of Penelope Brown and Stephen Levinson, whose influential theory of politeness [5] revolutionized our understanding of linguistic politeness phenomena. Their seminal paper, «Universals in Language Usage: Politeness Phenomena» [5], presented a cross-cultural analysis of politeness strategies, highlighting the universal principles underlying polite behavior across diverse linguistic communities. Brown and Levinson's framework, grounded in the notion of face-saving acts and politeness strategies, continues to serve as a cornerstone for research on politeness and interpersonal communication.

In addition to politeness theory, scholars have explored the intricacies of conversational implicature, a concept introduced by H.P. Grice in his seminal work «Logic and Conversation» [7]. Grice's cooperative principle and maxims of conversation provided a framework for understanding the implicit meaning conveyed through linguistic interaction. Building upon Grice's foundation, researchers have investigated the pragmatic mechanisms governing implicature generation, exploring factors such as relevance, context, and speaker intentions.

Furthermore, speech act theory has been a focal point of pragmalinguistic research, with contributions from theorists such as John Searle [10] and Judith Butler [6]. Searle's taxonomy of illocutionary acts and perlocutionary effects laid the groundwork for a systematic analysis of speech acts, while Butler's exploration of performative utterances extended the boundaries of speech act theory to encompass the realm of social and political discourse.

In summary, research in pragmalinguistics has been characterized by a rich tapestry of theoretical insights and empirical investigations, drawing upon a diverse array of linguistic frameworks and methodologies. From the seminal works of Austin and Grice to the contemporary contributions of Brown, Levinson, Searle, and Butler, scholars continue to

unravel the complexities of language use, shedding light on the intricate interplay of linguistic structure and social interaction.

In researching the works conducted on pragmalinguistics, scholars have delved into various aspects of this interdisciplinary field. However, an intriguing question emerges: What insights might we uncover by analyzing different cultural concepts through the lens of different pragmatic mechanisms? This question prompts an exploration into the intersection of culture and language, considering how diverse cultural backgrounds influence communicative behaviors and interpretations. By applying pragmatic mechanisms such as implicature, presupposition, and others to culturally specific concepts, we may gain a deeper understanding of how language reflects and shapes cultural norms, values, and worldviews. This analysis could shed light on the nuanced ways in which language is used to convey meaning, negotiate social relationships, and navigate cultural differences.

In 2021, Madaminova, Q., & Bekmanova, S. [8] explored the term concept and its structure in their thesis. In this article, we explore the intersection of language, culture, and pragmatics using the flower concept found in English literature. By analyzing how different pragmatic mechanisms shape the portrayal of flowers in these literary traditions, we aim to reveal insights into how language reflects and influences cultural values and emotions. Through this monolingual study, we highlight the diverse communicative power of flowers across different cultural contexts.

Methods: Pragmatic Analysis of Flower Names in Literature

This section outlines the methodology used to analyze the pragmatic aspects of flower names in literary excerpts. The analysis focuses on how flower names function within a text to convey meaning beyond their literal definition.

Data Collection

A selection of literary excerpts featuring flower names is chosen based on information on <https://promova.com/> website which are the most common flowers often recognized worldwide. These excerpts are relevant to the research question and encompass a variety of literary works and genres. Each excerpt is closely read to identify the flower name and its surrounding context. The flower names are analyzed based on the six pragmalinguistic mechanisms (proposition, reference, relevance, inference, implicature, presupposition). Our previous research has yielded one article «The Cause of Pragmatic Concept Formation (Relevance, Inference and Implicature Phenomena)» [4] and two theses «Proposition in Pragmalinguistics» [3] and «Pragmatic Reference» [2] on pragmatic mechanisms. Those publications comprehensively explore and exemplify six specific pragmatic mechanisms. Notes

and interpretations from present research are documented for each excerpt and provided Data Analysis section of this article.

Data Analysis

1. *William Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet: Act II, Scene ii*

'Tis but thy name that is my enemy.

Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.

What's Montague? It is nor hand, nor foot,

Nor arm, nor face. O, be some other name

Belonging to a man.

What's in a name? That which we call a rose

By any other word would smell as sweet.

So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called,

Retain that dear perfection which he owes

Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name,

And, for thy name, which is no part of thee,

Take all myself.

Pragmatic Analysis of «Rose» in the quote:

Proposition: The literal proposition refers to the flower commonly known as a rose.

Reference: The word «rose» functions on two levels:

- *Concept:* It refers to the concept of the flower itself, emphasizing its inherent sweetness.
- *Metaphor:* It acts as a metaphor for Romeo, suggesting his good qualities are

independent of his family name (Montague).

Relevance: Juliet uses the rose metaphor to argue that Romeo's essence (like the sweetness of the rose) wouldn't change if his name were different. This connects directly to the theme of the play - love transcending societal labels and family feuds.

Inference: We can infer several things:

- Juliet believes names are arbitrary and don't define a person's true nature.
- She values Romeo for his good qualities, not his family name.

Implicature: The speaker suggests that even enemies could have positive qualities (like the sweetness of the rose despite its thorns). This adds a layer of complexity, hinting that the Montague-Capulet feud might be based on superficial reasons.

Presupposition: The quote presupposes that roses have a pleasant smell, a fact commonly known by the audience. This shared knowledge creates a strong metaphor.

Additional Notes:

- The pragmatic effect of the rose metaphor is to make Juliet's argument about love more persuasive and relatable.

- Shakespeare emphasizes the sensory detail of the rose's smell («sweet») to create a vivid image and strengthen the connection between the metaphor and Romeo's positive qualities.

By analyzing the rose metaphor pragmatically, we gain a deeper understanding of Juliet's perspective on love, family loyalty, and the power of names.

2. *William Shakespeare, Henry VI, Part 1: Act II, Scene IV*

And here I prophesy: this brawl today,
Grown to this faction in the Temple garden,
Shall send, between the red rose and the white,
A thousand souls to death and deadly night.

Pragmatic Analysis of «Rose» in the quote:

Proposition: The literal proposition refers to the flower commonly known as a rose.

Reference: In this context, the word «rose» has a *symbolic* reference, not a literal one.

- *Symbol of Houses:* The «red rose» represents the House of Lancaster and the «white rose» represents the House of York.

Relevance: The speaker, presumably a prophet, uses the red and white roses to symbolize the opposing factions in the conflict. This directly connects to the historical context of the Wars of the Roses, a civil war fought between the two houses.

Inference: We can infer that the seemingly minor brawl will escalate into a major conflict with deadly consequences.

Implicature: There is no clear additional meaning beyond the established symbolism. However, the use of contrasting colors (red and white) might suggest the stark opposition and potential bloodshed between the two sides.

Presupposition: The quote presupposes the audience has some knowledge of the symbolism associated with the red and white roses in English history. This shared knowledge allows the playwright to efficiently convey the significance of the brawl.

Additional Notes:

- The pragmatic effect of using roses symbolically is to foreshadow the coming war and highlight its potential impact.

- By using a familiar flower with established historical meaning, Shakespeare creates a powerful image that resonates with the audience.

This analysis shows how the name of a flower can be used pragmatically to convey complex historical and political themes within the play.

3. William Blake, «The Sick Rose» (poem) O Rose, thou art sick!

The invisible worm
That flies in the night,
In the howling storm,
Has found out thy bed
Of crimson joy:
And his dark secret love
Does thy life destroy.

Pragmatic Analysis of «Rose» in the quote:

Proposition: The literal proposition refers to the flower commonly known as a rose.

Reference: The word «rose» functions on two levels in this poem:

1. *Literal:* It evokes the image of a beautiful rose.
2. *Metaphor:* It acts as a metaphor for something beautiful that is being corrupted or destroyed.

Relevance: The speaker, presumably lamenting something precious being lost, uses the rose to represent a fragile beauty under attack. This connects thematically to the poem's exploration of decay, loss, and the destructive nature of hidden forces.

Inference: We can infer several things:

- The speaker is saddened by the destruction of something beautiful.
- The «invisible worm» represents a hidden threat or negative force.

Implicature: The speaker suggests that even the most beautiful things are vulnerable to destruction. There's a sense of mystery surrounding the «dark secret love» of the worm, hinting at the complexities of desire and its potential to be destructive.

Presupposition: The quote presupposes that roses are beautiful and delicate, and that worms are destructive creatures. This shared knowledge creates a strong metaphor.

Additional Notes:

- The pragmatic effect of the rose metaphor is to evoke a sense of melancholy and loss.
- The specific details about the worm («invisible,»dark secret love») add a layer of mystery and complexity to the destructive force at play.

This analysis demonstrates how the rose metaphor in Blake's poem functions not just as a symbol of beauty but also as a reminder of the impermanence and vulnerability of all things beautiful.

4. William Faulkner, «A Rose for Emily» (short story)

The violence of breaking down the door seemed to fill this room with pervading dust. A thin, acrid pall as of the tomb seemed to lie everywhere upon this room decked and furnished as for a bridal: upon the valance curtains of faded rose color, upon the rose-shaded lights, upon the dressing table, upon the delicate array of crystal and the man's toilet things backed with tarnished silver, silver so tarnished that the monogram was obscured. Among them lay a collar and tie, as if they had just been removed, which, lifted, left upon the surface a pale crescent in the dust. Upon a chair hung the suit, carefully folded; beneath it the two mute shoes and the discarded socks.

Pragmatic Analysis of «Rose» in the quote:

Proposition: The literal proposition refers to the color rose.

Reference: The color «rose» has a symbolic reference in this context.

- *Symbol of Love and Marriage:* Traditionally, rose is associated with love, romance, and weddings.

Relevance: The faded rose color on the valance curtains creates a stark contrast with the scene of violence and death. This emphasizes the lost hope and shattered dreams associated with the room's original purpose (presumably as a bridal chamber).

Inference: We can infer several things:

- The room was likely intended for a wedding or a happy couple.
- The faded color suggests the passage of time and the decay of those dreams.

Implicature: The speaker suggests that violence and death have invaded a space meant for love and new beginnings. There's a sense of tragic irony and the fragility of happiness.

Presupposition: The quote presupposes that the color rose is commonly associated with love and weddings. This shared knowledge allows the author to convey a sense of loss and betrayal.

Additional Notes:

- The pragmatic effect of the faded rose color is to create a sense of mystery and a melancholic atmosphere.
- By using a color traditionally linked to love, the author highlights the absence of love and the presence of death in the room.

This analysis shows how the seemingly simple detail of a color can be used pragmatically to add depth and symbolism to the narrative.

Results

In Table 1, we compare the meanings of «rose» in four selected literary works with the meanings listed for roses on the flowermeaning.com website. By analyzing the pragmatic

mechanisms used in the excerpts from the literary works, we identified six different pragmatic mechanisms and the corresponding meanings of the rose flower. Our analysis reveals that roses in literary works are most commonly used to represent love, faith, beauty, and passion.

Table 1

Comparison of “rose” meanings in 4 selected literary works with rose flower meanings on the website <https://www.flowermeaning.com/>

Rose Flower Meanings (https://www.flowermeaning.com/)	William Shakespeare “Romeo and Juliet”	William Shakespeare “Henry VI”	William Blake “The Sick Rose”	William Faulkner “A Rose for Emily”
Love	+			+
Honor				
Faith	+			
Beauty			+	
Balance				
Passion		+		
Wisdom				
Intrigue				
Devotion				
Sensuality				
Timelessness				

Interestingly, our analysis revealed that the concept of the rose extends beyond the meanings listed on flowermeaning.com. As shown in Table 2, the rose takes on additional meanings specific to each literary work, expanding its symbolic repertoire. These literary interpretations can be both positive (+) and negative (-), highlighting the authors’ ability to leverage the rose’s symbolism to convey a wider range of emotions and ideas.

Table 2

William Shakespeare “Romeo and Juliet”	Inherent sweetness +	Good qualities +						
William Shakespeare “Henry VI”	Purity +	Peace +	Royalty +	Innocence +	War -			
William Blake “The Sick Rose”	Delicate +	Melancholy -	Loss -	Impermanence -	Vulnerability -			
William Faulkner “A Rose for Emily”	Romance +	Wedding or happy couple +	New beginning +	Passage of time -	Decay of the dreams -	Fragility of happiness -	Loss -	Betrayal -

Meanings of rose not listed on the website <https://www.flowermeaning.com/> but found in selected works

William Shakespeare’s Henry VI presented a unique opportunity to analyze color-specific rose symbolism. We compared the meanings of red and white roses in the play with those listed on flowermeaning.com. Interestingly, the analysis revealed both similarities and divergences between the website’s interpretations and Shakespeare’s use of the flower. This finding

underscores the author's ability to imbue the rose with specific meanings relevant to the play's context.

Table 3

Comparison of red and white rose meanings from <https://www.flowermeaning.com> and meanings from William Shakespeare's Henry VI

Red Rose Meaning (https://www.flowermeaning.com/)	Red Rose Meaning (William Shakespeare, Henry VI)
Passionate affection	Passion
-	War
-	Royalty
White Rose Meaning (https://www.flowermeaning.com/)	White Rose Meaning (William Shakespeare, Henry VI)
New beginning	-
Farewell	-
Innocence	Innocence
Purity	Purity
-	Peace

Discussion

Our previous research, «The Cause of Pragmatic Concept Formation in the English and Uzbek Languages (Proposition and Reference Phenomena in the Example of Flowers Concept)» (2022), explored the use of the rose across various Uzbek and English sources, including song lyrics, music videos, and ceremonial contexts. This established foundation allows us to analyze the literary interpretations of the rose with a richer understanding of its broader cultural significance. As it can be seen above analysis this study delves deeper into the multifaceted symbolism of the rose. This analysis suggests a potential discrepancy between modern-day rose symbolism and its use in 16th, 18th, and 20th-century literary works. It's possible that the contemporary understanding of the rose emphasizes positive connotations to a greater extent.

Our analysis reveals the rose flower's symbolic range extends beyond positive connotations. Literary works depict the rose in both positive and negative contexts, encompassing themes of war and weakness alongside more traditional notions of beauty and love.

Examining the symbolic usage of red and white roses in Shakespeare's Henry VI (16th century) reveals meanings distinct from modern interpretations. This finding underscores the potential for historical context to influence the perception of floral symbolism.

Conclusion

This paper explores the multifaceted symbolism of the rose flower in English literary works. We adopted a pragmalinguistic approach, employing six pragmatic mechanisms (proposition, reference, relevance, inference, implicature, presupposition) to analyze the flower's meaning across various texts. Our analysis revealed that the rose can be interpreted

through a diverse range of these mechanisms, resulting in a rich tapestry of symbolic representations.

While contemporary interpretations often emphasize positive connotations associated with the rose's beauty and love, our findings suggest a more nuanced historical context. Literary works from different eras depict the rose in both positive and negative contexts. For instance, the «Wars of the Roses» in the 15th century likely influenced the association of the rose with royalty and war in subsequent literary works. This underscores the influence of historical events on the evolution of floral symbolism.

This study opens doors for further exploration. One promising avenue involves investigating the symbolism of the rose flower in Uzbek literary works. By employing the same pragmalinguistic framework and analyzing the results, we can undertake a comparative analysis across the two languages. This cross-linguistic approach would provide valuable insights into potential similarities and divergences in the cultural understanding of the rose.

Building on this work, a compelling next step would be to expand our analysis to encompass other frequently used flowers in both Uzbek and English cultures. By applying the same pragmalinguistic approach, we could conduct a comparative investigation, revealing potential similarities and divergences in their symbolic representations across the two languages. This cross-linguistic exploration would not only contribute to a richer understanding of floral symbolism but also lay the groundwork for a comprehensive scholarly publication. Such a book could showcase the comparative usage of flowers and their meanings as revealed through pragmatic analysis, offering valuable insights to researchers and the general public.

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