

EUPHEMISMS ABOUT “ GETTING FIRED” IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

Baymatov Abduaziz Abdujabborovich,

Bakhriddinova Dildora Oktamovna,

Teachers of Jizzakh State Pedagogical Institute,

Jizzakh, Uzbekistan

Annotation: In this article the authors discuss and compare the usage of some euphemisms about firing in English and Uzbek.

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Language has played an important role as a means of communication since the creation of mankind. With the development of society, there are direct and indirect changes in language. Some words and phrases are left out of the conversation; some new words and phrases enter the public discourse. Examples of such changes are euphemisms.

So what is a euphemism? - In response to this question, we cite the following definitions of linguists:

A. Khodzhiev's "Explanatory Dictionary of Linguistic Terms", republished in 2002, explains euphemism as follows: the use of a rude, obscene word, phrase, or taboo instead of a rude, obscene word, phrase. ¹For example, use the words heavy-legged instead of pregnant”

Euphemistic expressions have been of interest to scholars since ancient times. The book " Ancient theories of linguistics and style ", edited by O.M Freudenberg, states that the concept of "euphemism" was also mentioned by Democritus, Plato

¹ Хожиев А. Тилшунослик терминларининг изоҳли луғати. – Т.:Ўзбекистон миллий энциклопедияси, 2002. – 168 б. (Hojiev A. Annotated Dictionary of Linguistic Terms. - T.: National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan, 2002. - 168 p.)

and Aristotle. So, this language unit was known, used and still used in ancient times. “Euphemisms first appeared in English in the twelfth and fifteenth centuries. In the fourteenth century, French culture became a tradition, which was reflected in the language.”²

According to Rawson, euphemisms are powerful linguistic words that “are embedded so deeply in our language that few of us, even those who pride themselves on being plainspoken, ever get through a day without using them” (Linfoot-Ham, 2005, 228). The wanting for euphemism is both social and emotional, as it permits discussion of prohibited subjects (such as sex, personal appearances or religion) and acts as a pressure valve whilst maintaining the appearance of civility (Linfoot-Ham, 2005). A euphemism is a substitution of an agreeable or less offensive expression in place of one that may offend or suggest something unpleasant to the receiver, or to make it less troublesome for the speaker. The deployment of euphemisms is a central aspect within the public application of political correctness. It may also substitute a description of something or someone to avoid revealing secret, holy, or sacred names to the uninitiated, or to obscure the identity of the subject of a conversation from potential eavesdroppers. Some euphemisms are intended to amuse (www.wikipedia.org).

The practical use of language in a social context euphemisms have great scientific interest. Each nation has their own type of euphemistic period development, but in all the nations euphemisms played a pivotal role to mask or soften the true meaning of what is being expressed. In the below we would like to give some examples from Uzbek and English euphemisms: There are several semantic groups of euphemisms in both languages taken as the subject of our article:

- Profession euphemisms
- Euphemisms about the disease
- Euphemisms for death
- Euphemisms used for crime

² X.B.Kadirova “ Euphemisms and dysphemisms in the Uzbek language”.Study guide.Tashkent-2013, page 3

- Euphemisms about jobs and employment
- Euphemisms used for politics and so on

From these groups for comparing euphemisms in two languages we chose “Euphemisms about jobs and employment”.

In this life having a job make a great sense while living on this Earth; and it will be very awful if a person lose his/her job. There are some euphemistic phrases for describing this position. Some of them are given as examples:

In English:

1. **to get fired:** to get laid off, to be dismissed, to be let go
 - “John was laid off last year and is looking for work.”
 - “His resume looks great, but it turns out he was dismissed from several of his previous positions.”
 - “Some people were recently let go, so a lot of our employees are on edge.”
2. **to fire people:** to let (someone) go, to lay (someone) off, to downsize
 - “I heard a rumor that management is going to let some people go at the end of the year.”
 - “We’ve been fortunate enough to not have to lay anybody off this year.”
 - “I’d help you try to get a position at my firm, but we’re not hiring. In fact, we’ve downsized in the last few months.”
3. **to remove from duty:** to put on administrative leave
 - “The police officer was put on administrative leave for using excessive force.”
4. **to quit:** to resign, to leave the company
 - “I’m thinking of resigning at the end of the year.”
 - “Kevin left the company to pursue another opportunity.”

In **Uzbek** language for telling about the unemployment the following euphemistic phrases are used:

1. **Бўшатмоқ.**
 - У яна ўз ишига тикланди, кейин бўшатилды, яна....

(He was reinstated, then fired, again)

2. Озод қилмоқ.

- Ўз ишига лоқайдлик қилувчиларни озод қилишга тўғри келади.

(We have to release those who are indifferent to their work.)

3. Вазифадан кетмоқ.

- Вазифадан кетган раҳбарнинг “ аҳволи ” ни тушунса бўлади.

(The "condition" of the leader who has been removed from duty is understandable.)

4. Хайрлашмоқ.

- Баъзи ходимларнинг масаласини жиддий кўриб чиқишга тўғри келди, айримлари билан хайрлашдик ҳам. ³

(We had to seriously consider the issue of some employees, and we said goodbye to some of them.)

– (These translations belong to authors.)

From these sentences we can see that in both languages, these chosen words try to help soften the atmosphere and not to hurt others or we can feel the ironic sense in the usage of the words № 4 in both languages. Euphemisms can be used in different purposes and they can vary also from styles. In the speech the styles can be comprehended by the speakers and listeners. Euphemism is the language reflection of social culture; therefore lots of changes can be observed in nations social life.

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