

# A Linguistic And Pragmatic Analysis Of Birthday Greetings In Uzbek Women's Speech

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**Abstract:** This study provides a comprehensive linguistic and pragmatic analysis of birthday congratulatory discourse in Uzbek women's speech within the framework of gender linguistics, discourse theory, and sociopragmatic inquiry. Utilizing qualitative discourse analysis and supplementary survey data, the research examines the structural and functional features of congratulatory texts addressed to mothers, husbands, and sons. The analysis foregrounds emotional-expressive lexis, evaluative vocabulary, metaphorical imagery, and the use of collective and affective forms as key discursive devices.

The findings indicate that Uzbek women's birthday greetings are systematically oriented toward solidarity, emotional support, moral guidance, and the reinforcement of family values. These communicative strategies function not merely as conventional ritual rhetoric but as performative speech acts that construct gendered identities and negotiate culturally embedded social norms. The study contributes to the fields of gender linguistics and pragmatic discourse studies by highlighting how ceremonial language reflects and reproduces socio-cultural value systems within a national context. Implications for cross-cultural discourse analysis and gendered communicative behavior are discussed.

**Keywords:** Gender linguistics, pragmatic discourse, celebratory speech, speech act, cultural values, women's communication.

**Introduction:** At the present stage of scientific development, the concept of gender is recognized as a fundamental scholarly category possessing significant methodological and theoretical importance within the system of humanities. Gender issues are examined through systematic and comprehensive approaches in such disciplines as linguistics, sociology, cultural studies, and discourse analysis, and are increasingly becoming a multidimensional and interdisciplinary object of research. From a general perspective, gender is often associated with the biological distinction between sexes. The term "gender" was introduced into academic discourse in 1968 by the Californian scholar Robert Stoller [To'lanboyeva & Roziqova].

In sociolinguistics and gender studies, the systematic study of language and gender is commonly traced back to Robin Lakoff's 1975 publication *Language and Woman's Place*, as well as her earlier works. Since the 1970s, research on language and gender has developed

significantly. Prominent international scholars in this field include Deborah Tannen, Penelope Eckert, Janet Holmes, Mary Bucholtz, Kira Hall, Deborah Cameron, and Judith Sunderland.

Gender research focuses on stereotypical perceptions of masculinity and femininity, speech behavior characteristic of representatives of different genders, linguistic representation of sex categories, and the presence of gender asymmetry in language.

According to Janet Holmes, differences between men's and women's speech may be summarized as follows:

- men and women demonstrate different patterns of language use;
- women tend to focus more on influence and relational aspects in communication;
- women more frequently employ linguistic forms expressing solidarity;
- women use communication to establish and

maintain cohesion, whereas men (especially in formal contexts) may use it to assert power and status;

- in identical social situations, women tend to use more standard forms than men [Gritsenko, 2007].

Deborah Tannen argues that women often share personal problems in communication, do not hesitate to seek help, and value empathy and support. Men, by contrast, prefer solving problems rather than discussing them and often feel more comfortable in the role of expert or lecturer. For many women, communication serves to establish friendship and solidarity, whereas for many men it may involve competition and the assertion of competence [Gritsenko, 2007].

Within this theoretical framework, the present study explores the linguistic, stylistic, and gender-specific features of birthday congratulations expressed in Uzbek women's speech.

### **Birthday Congratulations Addressed to Mothers in Uzbek Women's Speech**

Congratulations addressed to mothers demonstrate a gratitude-based and blessing-oriented speech model. Femininity is expressed through motherhood and self-sacrifice.

“Biz uchun eng qadrli, aziz onajonimiz! Tug'ilgan kuningiz bilan chin qalbimizdan tabriklab, sizga metinday sog'lik, uzoq umr, farovon turmush kechirish baxtini tilab qolamiz! Bizga bergan tarbiyangiz, mehringiz, bizni o'stirib voyaga yetkazish yo'lida chekkan zahmatlaringizdan bir umr minnatdor ekanligimizni bildirib, hayotdagi barcha baxtli lahzalar sohibasi bo'lib qolishingizda tilakdoshimiz! Ayyomingiz qutlug' bo'lsin, aziz onajonim!”

**English translation:** “Our dearest and most precious mother! We sincerely congratulate you on your birthday and wish you strong health, long life, and the happiness of a prosperous life! We express our lifelong gratitude for your upbringing, your love, and the sacrifices you made in raising us, and we wish you to remain the owner of all joyful moments in life! Happy birthday, our dear mother!” The frequent use of the pronoun “biz” (“we”) reinforces the collective character of the speech, emphasizing shared respect and responsibility. From a gender perspective, the mother's image is constructed not through individual achievements but through nurturing, sacrifice, and moral authority.

### **Congratulations Addressed to a Husband**

This congratulatory text is stylistically expressive and metaphorical, reflecting a supportive and unifying communicative role of the woman.

“Sizni tug'ilgan kuningiz bilan chin qalbimdan

tabriklayman... Hayotda uchraydigan har qanday baland cho'qqilarni birin-ketin zabt etib, oldingizga qo'yilgan barcha maqsadlarni muvaffaqiyat bilan ado etishingizga tilakdoshman! Albatta, eng asosiysi, baxtli oilaviy hayot, yaqinlaringiz mehr-muhabbati va umid-ishonchi Sizga hamisha yo'ldosh bo'lsin!”

**English translation:** “I sincerely congratulate you on your birthday... May you conquer every high peak you encounter in life and successfully accomplish all the goals you set before yourself! And most importantly, may a happy family life and the love and trust of your loved ones always accompany you!”

Metaphorical expressions such as “golden rays of the sun,” “conquering high peaks” enrich the emotional and stylistic dimension of the text. Masculinity is represented through courage and determination, yet closely linked with family responsibility.

### **Congratulations Addressed to a Son**

The mother's speech to her son combines emotional closeness with moral guidance.

“Aziz bolajonim! Seni tug'ilgan kuning bilan barchamiz nomidan chin qalbimdan muborakbod etaman! Xushchaqchalik seni aslo tark etmasin! ... Biz qatori qolgan barcha oila a'zolarimiz bilan bir umrga oqibatli bo'lib qolishingda tilakdoshman!” English translation: “My dear child! On behalf of all of us, I sincerely congratulate you on your birthday! May cheerfulness never leave you! ... I wish you to remain kind and devoted to all our family members throughout your life!”

Expressions such as “aziz bolajonim” (“my dear child”) and the repeated use of “biz” emphasize intimacy and collective family identity. The speech functions not only as congratulation but also as moral instruction, reinforcing social and ethical norms.

### **Survey Findings**

Survey results indicate that Uzbek women prefer to express birthday congratulations both directly and through digital communication (social networks and phone calls). Most respondents compose their congratulations independently using simple and complex sentences, while some rely on ready-made templates available online. This demonstrates a tendency toward personal creativity alongside adaptive communicative flexibility. Frequently used formulaic expressions include:

- “uzoq umr, baxt-saodat tilayman” (I wish you long life and happiness)
- “sihat-salomatlik tilayman” (I wish you good health)
- “ikki dunyo saodati” (happiness in both worlds)

- “tinchlik-hotirjamlik” (peace and tranquility)
- “umringiz ziyoda bo’lsin” (may your life be long)

These stable expressions confirm that prosperity, well-being, and stability constitute central values in women’s congratulatory discourse.

### **CONCLUSION**

In general, birthday congratulations in Uzbek women’s speech represent a communicative model characterized:

- linguistically — by emotional-expressive and blessing-oriented units;
- stylistically — by metaphorical richness and structural coherence;
- pragmatically — by intimacy, support, and moral guidance;
- from a gender perspective — by roles of motherhood, unity-building, and spiritual support.

Thus, birthday greetings in Uzbek women’s linguistic culture function not merely as a ritual genre but as a significant pragmatic domain for expressing gender identity, social values, and family relationships.

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