

Gerontological Discourse: Theoretical And Practical

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Abstract

Gerontological discourse enables healthcare professionals to make collaborative decisions in complex situations, fully understand the patient's needs, and organize appropriate care. At the same time, this discourse ensures an individual approach to each patient, taking into account culture, language, and ethical principles.

Keywords: inclusiveness, gerontological discourse, medical personnel, psychological orientation, effective communication forms, social environment, psychological factors

Linguists interpret discourse differently. According to Kubryakova, "In the current development of linguistics, there is no generally accepted definition of discourse." The term discourse has been widely used in world linguistics in the last decade and is interpreted in several senses. Initially, this term expressed the concept of a connected text, but later it began to be applied to the concepts of conversation and dialogue. Saussurean supporters pay more attention to the concept of speech. For example, E. Benveniste almost never uses the term "speech", preferring "communication". E. Brunschwig Saussurean language includes a third component in the dichotomy of speech - speech, placing it between language and speech and giving it the role of an intermediary. At the same time, language acts as a system of abstract signs; speech includes certain combinations that the speaker uses; Speech is the mechanism and process of speech activity itself¹. AAKibrik and his co-authors also expressed their thoughts: "Discourse is a broader concept than text. It is simultaneously a process of linguistic activity and its result - and as a result of it a text appears²." The reason for humanity's

entry into social, communicative communication is due to spiritual and material needs. Needs, however, change depending on time and space. Based on this, we can say that discourse is a phenomenon that changes over time. Linguist scientist T.M. Nikolaeva in her work "A Brief Dictionary of Text Linguistics" defines the concept of discourse as follows: "Discourse is a multivalued term in text linguistics, used by a number of authors in almost homonymous meanings. The most common forms of them are a coherent text, an oral-colloquial form of the text, dialogues, monologues, a group of sentences related in meaning³." Looking for the boundary between the concepts of "discourse" and "text," we come across definitions such as V. Karasik's "Discourse is a connected text that has entered a communicative situation"⁴ and N. Arutyunova's "text" is a form of communication that is not directly related to human lifestyle⁵. The study of speech as a process can be studied only in the context of mutual discourse (exchange of ideas) between the speaker and the listener, and the appropriate response to a question. The Dutch linguist Theun van Dijk defines

¹ Mamazhonov, M. (2020). Anthroponyms as discourse relevance. –Fergana.

² Kibrick, A.A. (2008). Language is an object of mass media interdisciplinary research. - M. 117

³ Nikolaeva, T. M. (1978). Kratkiy slovar terminov lingvistiki. - M.: Progress.

⁴ Karasik, VI (2004). Jazykovoj krug: Ličnost', koncepty, discours. Gnozis. 117

⁵ Arutyunova, N.D. (1990). Discourse. Linguistic Encyclopedic Dictionary. – M.: Soviet Encyclopedia. 13

discourse as follows: “Discourse is a stream of speech, language in its constant movement, a natural social form of speech that has absorbed all the diversity of historical periods, individual and social characteristics. Through this, the scientist reflected on the formation of discourse by the addressee and the addressees in a communicative situation ⁶.

Discourse is a set of thoughts, ideas, discussions, and forms of communication related to a particular field. It represents the process of discussing a topic, forming concepts, and establishing rules in a social or scientific field. Discourse is a system of thoughts, communication methods, and concepts formed around a specific topic. [1] Gerontological discourse is the main tool for discussing issues related to the health of elderly patients among medical professionals, exchanging knowledge and experiences, and integrating professional approaches. This discourse forms a dialogue between doctors, nurses, psychologists, and social workers, in which each has its own specific tasks, knowledge, and experiences. Effective communication relationships between medical professionals are built on this gerontological discourse. Supporting elderly patients and providing them with quality medical care requires not only clinical knowledge, but also mutual understanding, empathy, and clear communication. Any misunderstanding in the communication process can negatively affect the patient's safety and treatment outcomes. Gerontological discourse allows medical personnel to make collaborative decisions in complex situations, fully understand the patient's needs and organize appropriate care for him. At the same time, this discourse provides an individual approach to each patient, taking into account culture, language, ethical principles, gerontological

discourse forms effective communication relationships between medical personnel based on mutual trust and support, which serves to improve the quality of life of elderly patients. Gerontological discourse is not only a discourse about aging, but also a set of systematic communicative practices that shape the meaning of aging in a broader social, cultural and political context. Through this discourse, society determines not only how to understand and interpret aging, but also how to treat older people. The complex nature of gerontological discourse is manifested in its multifaceted and sometimes contradictory features. One of the most common forms of discourse about aging is medical discourse. Within this discourse, aging is primarily described as a process of biological decline, disease, and functional decline. Through medical terminology and clinical concepts, aging is viewed as a “condition to be treated” or a “disease.” The positive side of this approach includes practical measures aimed at improving the health of older people, but the negative side is the excessive pathologizing of aging and the marginalization of its cultural, social, and psychological aspects.

In cultural and media discourse, gerontological discourse is represented through polarizing stereotypes. On the one hand, older people are portrayed as wise, experienced, and patient mentors, and on the other, as conservative, unadaptable people. These images simplify the real-life experiences of older people and fail to reflect the complexity of their personal, professional, and social lives.

Contemporary gerontological discourses are undergoing significant changes. Global migration, technological progress, and cultural change are shaping new discursive practices. For example, the issue of the digital divide has given rise to debates

⁶ Deykk, T. A. van. (1998). Ideology: A multidisciplinary approach. Sage Publications.

about the ability of older people to adapt to digital technologies. The possibilities for professional development and change in old age are also being emphasized through the concepts of “re-employment” and “lifelong learning.” The practical importance of studying gerontological discourse is that it determines not only how we understand aging, but also how we develop policies and programs for older people. By changing the discourse, we can see aging not as a social problem, but as a natural and valuable stage of human life. This will serve to improve the quality of life not only of older people, but also of society as a whole. Analyzing and changing gerontological discourse is not only an academic exercise, but also an important tool for shaping a just and respectful attitude of society towards older members. A discourse built on the recognition and respect for the dignity of each person will help to build a society that is worth living for people of all ages in the future. Gerontological discourse is an important aspect of effective communication between medical professionals. Take, for example, the process of treating an elderly patient with chronic diseases. This process requires regular and clear communication between a doctor, a nurse, and a social worker. For example, if a doctor prescribes medication for a patient with diabetes, the nurse monitors the patient's medication regimen and promptly reports any changes. At the same time, the social worker communicates with the patient's family, providing them with information about the patient's condition and needs, and organizing the necessary social support. As a result of such cooperation, the patient's health improves, a competent and individual approach is provided[2]. Another example is the practical work of a multidisciplinary team. In a hospital gerontology center, doctors, nurses, psychologists, physiotherapists and social workers work together to assess the

condition of an elderly patient, each providing recommendations in their field. They communicate openly and clearly with each other and develop a treatment plan and care plan for the patient. This process helps to take into account the physical, psychological and social needs of the patient and significantly improves the patient's quality of life[3].

Gerontological discourse is how we think about, talk about, and treat older people in society. Sometimes we see negative discourses about older people:

1. Negative speech

"Old people can't adapt to new things."

"You can't work after 60."

"Seniors are unaware of innovative teaching methods."

2. Positive self-talk

"Old people have great experience and wisdom"

"You can learn new things at any age"

"The elderly are an important part of society"

Because words have power: It is appropriate to use the following speech etiquette when talking about the elderly:

"Senior" instead of "old"

"Experienced professional" instead of "pensioner"

If we change the way we talk about aging, our attitude towards them and their self-confidence will change. Old age is not the end, but a new stage of life!

Therefore, gerontological discourse is a key tool for organizing effective, clear, and empathetic communication between healthcare professionals, and is of great importance in providing quality care to the patient and his or her family.

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