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Dmytruk Olha
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

ADDITIONAL PRAGMATIC MEANINGS OF TAG QUESTIONS IN ENGLISH

Summary. The article is devoted to the analysis of additional pragmatic meanings of tag questions that were found when analysing the original English-language series *Lucifer*. The research showed that apart from the basic meanings of question (the rising intonation of the tag) or statement (the falling intonation of the tag) tag questions have additional pragmatic meanings. The author argues that additional pragmatic meanings include not only irony, neglect, sarcasm and mockery, but also demonstrate arrogant attitude towards the interlocutor. This pragmatic meaning is enhanced by non-verbal components of the message, namely, by prosodic means and by the kinetics of the speaker. It has also been demonstrated that the British accent is important when this pragmatic meaning is conveyed by means of English due to the stereotyped perception of the accent compared to other English accents.
Keywords: pragmatic meaning, discourse analysis, communicative situation, tag question, rising/falling intonation.

Дмитрук О.В.
Київський національний університет імені Тараса Шевченка

ДОДАТКОВІ ПРАГМАТИЧНІ ЗНАЧЕННЯ РОЗДІЛОВИХ ЗАПИТАНЬ В АНГЛІЙСЬКІЙ МОВІ

Анотація. Стаття присвячена розгляду додаткових прагматичних значень розділових запитань, які було виявлено в ході аналізу оригінального англомовного серіалу *Lucifer*. Дослідження показало, що окрім основних значень питання (висхідна інтонація питальної частини) чи твердження (низхідна інтонація питальної частини), розділові питання мають додаткові прагматичні значення. Автор доводить, що до додаткових прагматичних значень можна віднести не тільки іронію, зневагу, сарказм та глузування, а й продемонструвати зверхнє ставлення до співрозмовника. Дане прагматичне значення посилюється невербальним компонентами повідомлення, а саме просодичними засобами та кінесикою мовця. Також було продемонстровано що для передачі даного прагматичного значення в англійській мові важливу роль має британський акцент завдяки його стереотипному сприйняттю у порівнянні з іншими акцентами англійської мови.
Ключові слова: прагматичне значення, дискурсивний аналіз, комунікативна ситуація, розділове запитання, висхідна/низхідна інтонація.

Problem statement. The pragmatics of tag questions, which are widely used in the English language, are an interesting field of investigation due to their wide range of meanings, both main and additional. The understanding of the pragmatic meaning of tag questions helps to broaden linguistic theories in this field. The analysis of discourse situations allows to gain insight into the shades of pragmatic meaning of tag questions, giving valuable information about the functioning of tag questions in different communicative situations.

The latest research and published works analysis. Tag question is characteristic of the English language, being the object of study of linguists in terms of different aspects: structural (I. Shevchenko, Y. Berglund, P. Kay), semantic (I. Kobozyeva, V. Mikhailenko, R. Huddlestone, B. Reese); pragmatic (G. Kivivyali, L. Rochikashvili, V. Bonsignori, W. Bublitz, R. Ladd); regional (V. Morozov, S. Hoffman G. Tottie), synchronic-diachronic (Y. Kovbasko, G. Nevzorova, M. Rissanen).

Syntactically, tag questions are analysed from the point of view of their polarity, that is, as a narrative sentence, to which a shortened form of the question is added. The basic principles of forming tag questions are set forth by R. Quirk [11, p. 810] and can be summarized as follows: positive statement / negative tag, negative statement / positive tag. In addition to the standard, commonly used contractions of the tag, there are also irregular forms, such as *aren't I,* and the colloquial contraction *ain't.* The study of the pragmatic aspect of tag questions seems to be the most interesting area of research, since the variability of the pragmatic meanings of tag questions is quite extensive.

Unsolved questions under consideration. Among confrontational pragmatic and semantic functions J. Holmes singles out the challenging function, which aims to aggressively boost the force of a negative speech act [4, c. 80]. Linguists point out that tag questions of this pragmatic type demonstrate irony, sarcasm, contempt, and mockery (Y. Kovbasko, J. Holmes, R. Huddleston, R. Hudson, R. Quirk). However, D. Kimps points out that irony, sarcasm, mockery and contempt are additional attitudes that never occur alone, but always accompany one of the basic challenging attitudes of disbelief, surprise and disagreement [6, c. 285]. According to Y. Kovbasko, tag question is a complex syntactic structure, which has a double functional nature, due to the combination of suggestions and multiple modes. It functions as a cooperative or confrontational communicative tactics within the strategy of politeness / impoliteness and used for the generation and regulation of discourse [1, p. 9]. The analysis of linguistic research devoted to the study of pragmatic and semantic functions of tag

questions covers mostly cooperative tag questions, neglecting confrontational intentions of the speaker.

The aim of the article is to analyse the additional pragmatic meanings of tag questions as part of the confrontational tactics employed by the speaker. We are going to prove that irony, sarcasm, contempt and mockery are not the only additional meanings that tag questions convey in speech pragmatically. The article sets a goal to show how arrogance could be expressed via tag questions in discourse, where non-verbal and kinesic elements add to the demonstration of the speaker's general intention.

The main part. The term *tag question* itself goes back to Jespersen and has been very common ever since. However, it has been used in two ways over the years, which may cause some confusion: sometimes for just the tag [11, c. 810], but increasingly for *anchor plus tag*. The tag may also be called *question tag*, but usually the shorter term *tag* is used. The term *anchor* for the first part of the TQ is transparent in indicating that the tag is 'anchored' in a preceding clause. This term was introduced by Huddleston and Pullum in 2002 [5, c. 891]. Axelsson defines a tag question as the combination of an anchor and a tag; there may be TQs with declarative, imperative, exclamative and interrogative anchors [3, c. 30]. As for the functions, the researcher offers a functional model of tags questions with a variety of functions [3, c. 87]. Our research focuses on the rhetoric function of declarative tag questions, singled out by Axelsson. Rhetorical declarative tag questions may be either speaker-centred or addressee-oriented. In the speaker-centred category, the speaker's own convictions, assessments etc. are in focus, and the addressee is treated as an audience, although their presence is not actually necessary for the declarative tag questions to be uttered. For declarative tag questions in the addressee-oriented category, the addressee is crucial; without an addressee, such declarative tag questions would seem strange, as they directly concern the addressee in different ways [3, c. 88]. In our study, we are going to deal with addressee-oriented declarative tag questions, which are used by the speaker under the analysis.

Our study, conducted on the material of the modern English-language series Lucifer [8-10], made it possible to identify an additional function of tag questions which is a demonstration of a superior attitude to the addressee. The series is excellent material for the analysis due to the personality of the protagonist, who thinks he is superior to others in all respects. A characteristic feature of the pronunciation of the hero is his British accent, which corresponds to the generally accepted stereotype of the superiority of the British in relation to other cultures and nations. For instance, studies show that speakers who speak with a British accent (RP or Queen's English), are seen as smart, sophisticated, cosmopolitan and well educated, opinionated and those with higher social status, unlike speakers of other accents of English [7, p. 259; 12, p. 189].

As D. Allerton states, tag questions are question-like sequences tagged on to the end of an utterance, and in the case of multi-sentence utterances they are most commonly attached to and apply to the last sentence of the utterance. This is most commonly a statement, but may also be an excla-

mation, command and even (for some speakers) a question [2, p. 307]. The analysis that we have conducted demonstrated that the protagonist uses the most common type of sentence in the main part, that is a statement.

An example of a tag question of interest to our study can be found as early as the first minute of the pilot episode: *You people are funny about your laws, are not you? You break the law sometimes, don't you?* [8, 00:01:39–00:01:46]. The protagonist, who is stopped for speeding, turns to a policeman using a tag question. Both sentences function as statements in their semantic meaning, which could be observed from the intonation of the tag (falling intonation). The speaker's utterances are provocative tone in terms of semantics. The use of the second person pronoun together with the noun as the subject of the sentence has a derogatory meaning, which emphasises the general pragmatic orientation of the statement. The next utterances also seem to have the same pragmatic meaning: *It feels good to get away with something, doesn't it?* [8, 00:01:58–00:02:01]. After that, Lucifer offers a bribe to the police officer and the latter wants to take it, as evidenced by his non-verbal behaviour (hesitation, fixing his eyes on the money): *You're tempted to keep that, aren't you?* [8, 00:02:17–00:02:18]. This sentence testifies to the fact that the speaker understands the human nature (according the series it is one of his main fortes), and manifests it in his peculiar superior manner, using a tag question.

In another episode Lucifer communicates with his brother, and again uses a tag question with the falling intonation in the tag part: *You're scared, aren't you?* [9, 00:14:13–00:14:16]. In addition to the tag question, the speaker also demonstrates superiority due to the semantic content of the utterance and his non-verbal behaviour: a half-smile, slightly raised eyebrows, a head tilted to the side, a hand raised with a glass, an index finger pointing at the interlocutor. Paraverbal characteristics of speech along with kinesic signals amplify the effect of the verbal part contained in the anchor.

In interesting combination of linguistic means aimed at demonstrating the speaker's superiority could be observed in another scene from the TV show. Lucifer and Detective Decker are questioning a witness for the murder. The witness is a well-known designer, who was doesn't want to reveal his suspicions about the identity of a potential murderer. When the designer started finally explaining that he didn't want to let the gangsters into his show because he had a reputation to maintain, Lucifer implies that the designer just didn't want to lose the money the sponsors were about to offer him for his art: *Wouldn't want to risk that seven-figure endorsement deal, would we?* [10, 00:10:37–00:10:39]. Here we can see not only the tag question itself. The speaker uses elliptical declarative anchor where the subject you is omitted. However, the tag contains another subject – the first person plural pronoun. By employing the strategy of inclusion, the speaker shows empathy and understanding to the speaker, but the overall pragmatic meaning is still that of superiority. The use of the tag question and the pronoun in the first person plural produce a stronger pragmatic effect.

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Conclusions and suggestions for further research. The use of tag questions with a falling intonation of the tag has the pragmatic value of the statement, not the query, as well as one or more additional values. Demonstration of superiority, arrogance and, in some cases, disregard for the interlocutor belong to the additional pragmatic meanings that can be expressed via a tag question. British accent adds to the produced effect, since it is associated not only with high social status, but also with a higher degree of self-confidence. The additional pragmatic meanings of tag questions are a rich field for analysis, and a wider range of empirical material might allow further observations and conclusions.

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