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**Olena BALATSKA,**

*orcid.org/0000-0001-8909-2324*

PhD, Associate Professor,

Associate Professor at the Department of General Linguistics and Foreign Languages  
National University «Yuri Kondratyuk Poltava Polytechnic»  
(Poltava, Ukraine) [balatska2014@gmail.com](mailto:balatska2014@gmail.com)

**Victor CHERNYSHOV,**

*orcid.org/0000-0002-0960-8464*

PhD in Philosophy,

Associate Professor at the General Linguistics and Foreign Languages Department  
National University «Yuri Kondratyuk Poltava Polytechnic»  
(Poltava, Ukraine) [chernyshov.v@nupp.edu.ua](mailto:chernyshov.v@nupp.edu.ua)

## MEANS OF NEGATIVE EVALUATION IN CRITICISM IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE RESEARCH ARTICLES IN ECONOMICS

*The article examines means of negative evaluation that can be used in critical remarks in English-language research articles in economics, which are believed to represent one of the types of the prominent genre of English-language scientific discourse, that is the research article. The study analyzed 124 critical remarks from 50 English-language research articles in economics which were published in UK and USA scientific electronic journals between 2009 and 2011. The study has revealed that negative evaluation in critical remarks in English-language research articles in economics can be expressed explicitly and implicitly. The explicit way of conveying negative evaluation uses markers, which include lexical and lexico-grammatical means of negative evaluation. Lexical means of conveying negative evaluation include linguistic units with a semantics of negative evaluation, such as nouns, adjectives, and verbs, with nouns and adjectives being more prevalent than verbs in criticism in English-language research articles in economics. Explicit lexico-grammatical means of conveying negative evaluation in criticism include several types such as negation of the predicate, object, subject and adverbial modifier carried out by using various negators. Our research demonstrates that negation of the predicate and negation of the object have higher percentage of usage, while negation of the object and negation of the adverbial modifier have considerably lower percentage of usage in critical remarks in the English-language research articles in economics. The implicit way of negative evaluation is achieved through the use of indicators of implicit meaning, that is linguistic units with positive or neutral semantics which together in the context impart negative semantics to an utterance. Implicit means of negative evaluation commonly have future meaning and denote the necessity of carrying out further research. The study has demonstrated that explicit means of expressing negative evaluation are more prevalent in critical remarks in English-language research articles in economics than implicit means. Furthermore, we should mention that as far as the types of explicit means of conveying negative evaluation in criticism in English-language research articles in economics are concerned, explicit lexical means of expressing negative evaluation are more numerous than lexico-grammatical ones.*

**Key words:** English-language scientific discourse; genre; research article in economics; criticism; critical remark; means of negative evaluation.

**Олена БАЛАЦЬКА,**

*orcid.org/0000-0001-8909-2324*

кандидат філологічних наук, доцент,

доцент кафедри загального мовознавства та іноземних мов  
Національного університету «Полтавська політехніка імені Юрія Кондратюка»  
(Полтава, Україна) [balatska2014@gmail.com](mailto:balatska2014@gmail.com)

**Віктор ЧЕРНИШОВ,**

*orcid.org/0000-0002-0960-8464*

кандидат філософських наук, доцент,

доцент кафедри загального мовознавства та іноземних мов  
Національного університету «Полтавська політехніка імені Юрія Кондратюка»  
(Полтава, Україна) [chernyshov.v@nupp.edu.ua](mailto:chernyshov.v@nupp.edu.ua)

## ЗАСОБИ ВИРАЖЕННЯ НЕГАТИВНОЇ ОЦІНКИ У КРИТИЧНИХ ЗАУВАЖЕННЯХ В АНГЛОМОВНИХ НАУКОВИХ СТАТТЯХ З ЕКОНОМІКИ

*У статті досліджуються засоби актуалізації негативної оцінки у критичних зауваженнях в англійськомовних наукових статтях з економіки, які вважають одним з видів головного жанру англійськомовного наукового дискурсу – статті. У якості матеріалу дослідження було використано 124 критичних зауваження, отриманих з 50 статей*

з економіки, котрі було опубліковано в електронних наукових журналах Великої Британії та США протягом 2009–2011 рр. Виявлено, що негативна оцінка у критичних зауваженнях в англійських наукових статтях з економіки може бути виражена як у експліцитний спосіб, так і імпліцитний. У разі використання експліцитного способу актуалізації негативної оцінки застосовують маркери, які включають лексичні та лексико-граматичні засоби вербалізації негативної оцінки. Лексичні засоби вираження негативної оцінки включають лексичні одиниці із негативним оцінним значенням, такі як іменники, прикметники та дієслова, серед яких іменники і прикметники у критиці в англійських наукових статтях з економіки застосовують частіше ніж дієслова. Експліцитні лексико-граматичні засоби вербалізації негативної оцінки у критиці нараховують декілька типів, серед яких заперечення присудка, додатка, підмета та обставини, що здійснюється за допомогою використання негативних маркерів. Результати проведеного дослідження показали, що заперечення присудка та заперечення додатка у критичних зауваженнях в англійських наукових статтях з економіки використовується частіше, ніж заперечення підмета або обставини. Імпліцитний спосіб вираження негативної оцінки реалізується завдяки використанню індикаторів імпліцитного смислу, які мають позитивну або нейтральну семантику та які разом у контексті надають відповідному висловленню негативне оцінне значення. Імпліцитні засоби вираження негативної оцінки зазвичай включають мовні одиниці, які мають футуральну семантику у поєднанні з мовними одиницями, котрі вказують на потребу у проведеному подальшому дослідженні. Дослідження показало, що експліцитний спосіб актуалізації негативної оцінки у критичних зауваженнях в англійських наукових статтях з економіки застосовується частіше, ніж імпліцитний спосіб. Крім того, слід звернути увагу на те, що у рамках експліцитного способу вираження негативної оцінки у критичних зауваженнях в англійських наукових статтях з економіки, експліцитні лексичні засоби мають більшу питому вагу, ніж лексико-граматичні.

**Ключові слова:** англійський науковий дискурс; жанр; наукова стаття з економіки; критика; критичне зауваження; засоби вираження негативної оцінки.

**Introducing the problem.** Currently, linguists are primarily focused on examining various aspects of English-language scientific discourse (Ільченко, 2002; Hyland 2004; Hyland 2009). This can be attributed to the global status of the English language and its importance as the lingua franca, particularly in science, as science holds paramount importance for the development of modern society. Therefore, scholars study various aspects of the English-language scientific discourse, its genres (Яхонтова 2009; Swales 1990), with the English-language research article being the leading genre of the English-language scientific discourse (Яхонтова 2009; Swales 1990). In general, an English-language research article has such an important component of scientific advancement as criticism which is expressed in it through critical remark(s).

**Analysis of the previous literature.** Criticism in scientific discourse has already been investigated by contemporary linguistic researchers (Crossed words, 2011; Salager-Meyer, 2000; Fagan, Martin Martin, 2004; Giannoni, 2005, Moreno, Suarez, 2008; Salager-Meyer, 2001; Salager-Meyer, 1998; Mur-Dueñas, 2012). However, in spite of its significance for the development of science and the number of existing studies that focus on how negative evaluation is expressed in criticism in general (Балацька, 2013; Балацька 2012; Балацька, 2014а; Балацька 2014b) or in some academic disciplines (Balatska, Kuznetsova, 2021; Агейчева, Балацька, 2018), the means of expressing negative evaluation in critical remarks in English-language research articles across academic disciplines should be studied further.

The purpose of the research. Given the increasing necessity for Ukrainian economists to publish their research articles in English-language scientific journals, this study aims to investigate the means

that help to convey negative evaluation in English-language research articles in economics.

**Materials and methods.** The study examines a corpus of 124 critical remarks containing 264 critical utterances obtained from 50 research articles in economics, published in UK and USA electronic journals between 2009 and 2011.

The methodology employed for the research includes component analysis, definitive analysis, interpretive-textual analysis, quantitative analysis, and the method of cognitive-discursive interpretation.

**The main body.** The conducted analysis of the material has shown that negative evaluation, that is the axiological content of criticisms, can be expressed explicitly or implicitly in contemporary English-language research articles in economics.

When negative evaluation is expressed explicitly (59.03 % of all the means of negative evaluation in critical remarks in English-language research articles in economics), it typically involves the use of lexical or lexico-grammatical means of negative evaluation, thus constituting two distinct types of critical remarks with negative evaluation being conveyed explicitly.

The first type of critical remarks using explicit way of negative evaluation includes critical remarks with negative evaluation verbalized through the use of explicit lexical means of negative evaluation, accounting for 48.55 % of all critical remarks in English-language research articles in economics.

The word class analysis of explicit lexical means of negative evaluation in critical remarks in English-language research articles in economics distinctly demonstrated that they include:

– nouns (36.4 % of the wholly body of all the explicit lexical means of negative evaluation (gap, lack, limitation, problem, shortcoming, weakness, etc.), e.g.:

(1) Due to a lack of scientific basis for marketing the sector has a serious marketing problem.

(2) Despite the plethora of research on franchising, some important gaps exist in our understanding of this important organizational form.

– adjectives (37.2 % of entirety of explicit lexical means of negative evaluation) (bad, insufficient, contradictory, negative, poor, limited, difficult, unclear, unknown, etc.), e.g.:

(3) Self report studies produced results showing that men and women support the existence of gender differences in information processing; however some of the results are actually contradictory.

(4) Given the size of the database and the insufficient computing power to delete/filter records or columns of the entire database, I sorted all remaining records according to the outcome of the bank loan operation (default/no default).

– verbs (26.4 % of the total number of explicit lexical means of negative evaluation) (fail, limit, outlook, ignore, skew, lack, neglect, etc.), e.g.:

(5) What this view, however, fails to distinguish is that a consumer in a developing country's desires may be for a new automobile, but the prices and his income prevent such a purchase.

(6) Cappon's request to administer his research instrument was turned down by many intuition-sensitive companies but companies in the manufacturing industry were quite receptive to his request. This might have skewed his findings.

Furthermore, negative evaluation in critical remarks in English-language research articles in economics can be conveyed by means of using explicit lexico-grammatical means. This constitutes the second type of expressing negative evaluation in critical remarks in such articles, where negative operators-negators are used alongside lexical units bearing negative or neutral semantics (Балацька, 2013; Балацька, 2014a), accounting for 10.48 % of all the means of expressing negative evaluation in critical remarks in the English-language research articles in economics.

Our analysis demonstrated that the predominant approach to expressing negative evaluation in critical remarks is through the use of negation of the predicate (46.15 % of all the lexico-grammatical means employed for expressing negative evaluation in critical remarks in the English-language research articles in economics), which is achieved through the use of a negator represented by the negative particle not (n't).

In critical remarks, negation of the predicate can be accomplished through the use of two models.

The first model is represented by the negation of the compound verbal predicate (50.5 % of the total

critical remarks in the English-language research articles in economics, which utilize negation of the predicate for conveying negative evaluation). This model is typically manifested in the following variation – auxiliary verb do for Present Simple or Past Simple + not + notional verb, e.g.:

(7) Studies conducted to investigate the validity of this stereotyping did not produce consistent results.

The second model involves critical remarks featuring negation of a compound nominal predicate constituting 49.5 % of all the critical remarks employing negation of the predicate. This structure entails the verb be either in the form of Present Simple or Past Simple + not + the nominal part represented by an adjective or a past participle, e.g.:

(8) The data was collected and tested for the small and medium size organization of the industry so, this model is not applicable for the large organization in the sector.

Critical remarks in English-language research articles in economics can also employ negation of the object for conveying negative evaluation, that account for 30.77 % of all lexico-grammatical means used for negative evaluation in critical remarks. That is achieved through the use of the negative pronoun no, according to the following model: (formal) subject + be, etc. + no + object, e.g.:

(9) There is no one single definition for organizational culture.

Critical remarks in the English-language research articles in economics may also use negation of the subject (8.8% of the total number of all critical remarks with lexico-grammatical means of negative evaluation), which is accomplished through the following model: negator (no, not) + subject, e.g.:

(10) Several researches were done in regard to Ethiopian consumers, but to date, no formal and informal research had been done to assess the level of the ethnocentric tendencies of the Ethiopian consumers.

We should also mention that we have observed instances of critical remarks with negation of the adverbial modifier constituting 7.7 % of all instances of critical remarks with negative evaluation conveyed through the usage of lexico-grammatical means. This is done with the help of a negative particle not or a negative adverb (never), e.g.:

(11) Never before have we seen attention to the actual steps; procedures and control of monetary transactions.

As previously stated, negative evaluation in critical remarks in English-language research articles in economics can also be conveyed implicitly, constituting 40.97 % of all means used to express

negative evaluation in criticism in such articles. Authors of the English-language research articles in economics achieve this by using:

– linguistic units with future meaning coupled with verbs (see example 12) / modal verbs (example 13) indicating necessity for additional research, e.g.:

(12) Future research needs to investigate this issue further, perhaps focusing on specific ethical values and the extent to which students consider them important, and how they relate to unethical behaviors.

(13) These variables should be explored further in future research.

– nouns (example 14) and verbs (example 15) indicating the need for further investigation:

(14) There is a need to look at the utilization of the work-force in the less developed nations to see if merely being “employed” is equal to being in a better economic situation, and an upwardly mobile opportunity which would include improvements in

living standards, education, adequate housing and a social life <...>.

(15) Additional research is also required to shed light on the behavioral effects of the remaining Brand metrics may also be examined and their impact on the creation of Brand attachment and Brand attitude strength also be checked.

**Conclusions.** Therefore, based on the conducted analysis, it can be inferred that there is a variety of means that can be used for expressing negative evaluation in critical remarks in English-language research articles in economics. The explicit way of expressing negative evaluation is more prevalent than the implicit way of conveying negative evaluation. Besides, explicit lexical means of expressing negative evaluation significantly outnumber explicit lexico-grammatical means.

Further research could explore means of negative evaluation in critical remarks in English-language research articles across other academic disciplines.

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