

ABSTRACTS

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DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN IRONY AND SARCASM IN CONTEMPORARY LINGUISTIC STUDIES

The paper is a review of contemporary studies of the problem of irony and sarcasm differentiation within the bounds and in the traditions of psycholinguistics, sociology, discourse analysis, speech act and politeness theories, corpus-based and computational linguistics, sentiment analysis. The majority of researchers consider that sarcasm is a culturally salient, conventionalized type of irony, though there is no consensus as to essential features they both possess. The paper includes the description and evaluation of the scope of the terms «irony» and «sarcasm» by researchers, belonging to different analytical standpoints, and information about the people's intuitive understanding of the terms. Virtually all the researchers agree that sarcasm may be evaluated as means to criticize and mock the victim. The most typical prosodic, phonological and paralinguistic markers of the ironical and sarcastic intention, which may be used by the author of the utterance, are also described. However, there are no absolute markers of irony and sarcasm, all of them have relational and comparative nature, which is demonstrated by constructing a situation with the reader of a literary dialogue, who is not simply allowed, but supposed and empowered to perceive ironical and sarcastic meanings without optional cues, grounding his understanding on the ability to see the binary, contextual cues and clues and the knowledge of constitutive rules which have a predominantly pragmatic character. The further research of the issue of studying the nature of irony and sarcasm and their differentiating is connected with discovering new criteria that might combine experimental and theoretical potential of various branches of linguistics and other sciences, whose representatives have traditionally endeavored to understand and describe this provocative and enlightening problem.