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# **Russian and English View on Lies in Conflict Dialogues—Analysis of Conflict Communication Acts in Russian and English Fiction**

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What is a lie? Why do people tell lies? What compels them to make false utterances? How do people treat lie, deception or fudge? Is the attitude to them the same in different cultures? If not, what differences are there? An answer to these and some other questions is being sought in the paper. Producing a false utterance, the sender deprives the communication partner of the right to receive full information. The article presents views of Russians and representatives of Anglo-American culture on telling lies drawing the readers' attention to very serious situations, such as family conflicts between spouses, aggravated with lies. The material for analysis is taken from the texts by Russian playwright Anton Chekhov and the American novel writer Irwin Shaw. The analysis is based on the study of verbal and non-verbal markers of false utterances generated by quarreling spouses. A complex method of researching the literary material combining linguistic, extra-linguistic, and paralinguistic analysis of conflict speech acts with false utterances of different kinds is applied.

*Keywords:* telling lies, conflict situations, false utterances, speech act

I believed in you as I believed in God"- and you fooled me with a lie (E. L. Voynich, *The Gadfly*).

## **Introduction**

What is a lie? Can people avoid telling lies? What makes them resort to false utterances? The paper studies these and some other questions of psychological and linguistic as well as extralinguistic character and offers an approach to the survey of false statements within conflict dialogues. The material for the survey is taken from literary works of Russian and Anglo-American authors with the view to comparing them within cognitive and cross-cultural approach.

The method of cognitive research presupposes that in the analysis of different psychological, linguistic, and paralinguistic facts it is possible to come to new conclusions concerning the language of conflicting people and their non-verbal behavior. The method of cross-cultural examination gives an opportunity to find common and different traits in the verbal and non-verbal behavior of representatives of different nations in analogous situations and to make some deductions about their reasons.

A complex method of researching the literary materials is applied in this paper, it combines linguistic and paralinguistic analysis of conflict speech acts comprising false utterances of different kinds. To do this, step by

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