

NAGY ANGELIKA

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DISCUSSING THE UNDISUSSABLE: TABOOS AND EUPHEMISMS IN LINGUISTIC DISCOURSE

Kulcsszavak: tabu; eufemizmus; kérdőív; szociolingvisztika; nyelvhasználat

The paper investigates the role of taboos and euphemisms in communication, focusing on how power dynamics, social, geographical, and linguistic factors shape their use. It addresses two questions: How do power dynamics influence the use of taboos and euphemisms? And how does social media shape these linguistic practices? Through a questionnaire I found that 69.5% of respondents considered sex, private body parts, and sexuality as taboo topics, with comfort levels varying by context. Participants reported higher comfort discussing taboo topics with friends and lower comfort with strangers. Social media was found to influence the use of euphemisms, with 52% of participants reporting that online discussions differ from in-person conversations, often due to anonymity and platform censorship.