Distancing Language

"Distancing language" refers to linguistic choices that create a sense of emotional or interpersonal distance between the speaker and the topic being discussed. This type of language is characterized by the use of more formal, objective, and neutral terms and expressions, as opposed to more personal, subjective, and informal ones.

Some common features of distancing language include:

- **Nouns and passive voice instead of personal pronouns and active voice**: For example, "The data was analyzed" instead of "I analyzed the data".

- **Formal vocabulary and syntax**: For example, "It is imperative that measures be taken to address the issue" instead of "We need to do something about this".

- **Avoidance of emotive language and expressions**: For example, "The situation is unfortunate" instead of "This sucks".

- **Use of abstract or technical terms**: For example, "The patient presented with dyspnea" instead of "The patient was short of breath".

Distancing language is often used in professional or academic settings where a level of impartiality and objectivity is expected. However, it can also be used to avoid taking responsibility, express criticism or disapproval, or simply to convey a sense of detachment or disinterest.

Examples of contexts where distancing language is commonly used include scientific writing, legal documents, news reporting, and medical documentation.

References:

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