National variations in media discourse
(on the material of British and Belarusian radio discussions)

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As a result of the analysis of 100 British and Belarusian radio discussions (about 30 hours of playing time) the semantic structure of radio discussions and the peculiar features of the language representation of its components (greeting, guest’s portrait, statement of the problem, discussion of the problem, summarizing) have been established. The general and specific features of the communicative style of the participants were disclosed. The communicative style of Belarusian participants, in contrast to their British counterparts (having a high degree of emotive character, individualistic approach, intolerance to provide direct communicative impact on the interlocutor), can be described as straightforward, reserved, rejecting uncertainty, with a prevailing collective basis, preference of accurate and detailed information. These patterns of communicative behavior of Belarusian participants find linguistic expression in a frequent use of peremptory statements detailing the issues, speech patterns, contributing to clarify information. For the participants of the Belarusian radio discussions it is typical to have more interaction with the audience, as indicated by the questions addressed to the audience or on behalf of the studio's guest throughout the program, extensive use of tactics involving the audience in a dialogue through the use of direct and indirect references, generalizing pronouns and nouns (Shevtsova 2013). The study of time-fillers and interjections in this sort of talking discourse shows national peculiarities on the basis of typologically different languages.

References: