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EXPRESSION OF HOMONYMIC WORDS IN UZBEK AND ARABIC LANGUAGES

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Abstract

This study examines the expression and usage of homonyms in Uzbek and Arabic languages, highlighting the linguistic phenomenon where words share the same form but carry different meanings. In both languages, homonyms play a significant role in enriching vocabulary, creating humor, and facilitating poetic expression. The types of homonyms are classified as lexical (including lexical and phraseological) and grammatical. Uzbek homonyms emerge through linguistic evolution, borrowing, and dialectical variations, while Arabic homonyms, known as compound words, are debated for their literal versus metaphorical meanings. Notable examples from each language illustrate the depth and variety of homonyms, emphasizing their function in literature, art, and communication. The study also distinguishes homonyms from polysemantic words, highlighting their structural and semantic independence.

Keywords: Homonyms, lexical homonyms, grammatical homonyms, Uzbek language, Arabic language, compound words, polysemantic words, linguistic phenomenon, wordplay, metaphor.

INTRODUCTION

Language is a dynamic system that continuously develops through semantic change, lexical expansion, and cultural interaction. One of the most significant lexical phenomena that reflects this complexity is homonymy, where two or more

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words share the same phonetic or graphic form while expressing different meanings. Homonyms enrich the expressive potential of a language, contribute to stylistic diversity, and play an important role in literature, rhetoric, humor, and everyday communication.

The study of homonymy has attracted considerable attention in modern linguistics because it reveals the intricate relationship between form and meaning. Although homonyms may appear identical in pronunciation or spelling, their semantic independence creates unique challenges for language learners, translators, lexicographers, and computational linguistic systems. Therefore, investigating homonymous structures contributes not only to theoretical linguistics but also to practical language teaching and translation studies.

Uzbek and Arabic, despite belonging to different language families, demonstrate rich systems of homonymy that have evolved through historical development, semantic shifts, borrowing, and dialectal influences. In Uzbek, homonyms emerge through lexical evolution and language contact, whereas in Arabic, the phenomenon of *al-mushtarak al-lafzī* (lexical commonality) has been extensively discussed by classical linguists and remains an important subject in Arabic semantics and rhetoric. Comparative analysis of these two languages provides valuable insights into both universal and language-specific characteristics of homonymous expressions.

This study aims to examine the formation, classification, and functions of homonymous words in Uzbek and Arabic languages by comparing their lexical and grammatical features. Furthermore, it highlights the similarities and differences between homonyms and polysemantic words, emphasizing their significance in linguistic theory and artistic expression. The findings are expected to contribute to comparative linguistics and enhance understanding of semantic phenomena in Turkic and Semitic languages.

The words existing in the language are divided into 3 types according to the relationship between form and meaning:

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1. Homonym
2. Synonym
3. Antonym.

Words that have the same form but different meanings are called homonyms. The word homonym in translation from Greek means "the same". For example: the word chang indicates the following meanings:

- dust, guard, dust; very fine powder of earth. For example, chang rose.
- Chang is a musical instrument in the form of a rectangular flat box, which is played with a double stick with stretched strings. Dutar, chang... chess wall clock appeared in a teahouse. (A. Kahkhor)

Homonyms are divided into 2 types: lexical homonyms and grammatical homonyms.

Lexical homonyms:

- 1) within words;
- 2) inside phrases.

If the phenomenon of homonymy occurs inside a word, it is called a lexical homonym. For example: the word ash:

ash (noun) – a dark powder that forms as a result of burning something. He ordered to take a bucket of ash that stood in front of the kitchen. (P. Tursun).

ash (verb) – to make sounds of pleasure, sounds expressing joy: Why is Aziz so happy: His face is smiling, his eyes are shining? (H. Gulom).

If the phenomenon of homonymy occurs within a phrase, then it is called a phraseological homonym. For example:

raise your head — raise your head from the bottom up.

raise your head — rise up,

raise your head — come to your senses, start to come to your senses.

So, there are 2 types of lexical homonyms: lexical and phraseological homonyms.

In linguistics, grammatical homonyms are also distinguished. Grammatical homonyms are formal equivalences within suffixes. Suffixes that have the same

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form but different meanings are called grammatical homonyms. For example: the suffix -им indicates the following: bilim – ot yasovchi qo‘shimcha, fe‘ldan ot yasaydi.

my book – 1st person singular suffix.

Homonyms arise in different ways:

As a result of the same form of words in a language. For example:

blue (adjective) – the air is colored, light blue, blue.

blue (noun) – the sky, the firmament: The stars are shining in the sky.

blue (noun) – a plant such as coriander, dill, onion. There is no blue color on the market now, either in winter or in summer.

As a result of the loss of internal connections between words with several meanings:

young (noun) – calculating life by years: How old are you?

young (adjective) – calculating life by time: He is much younger than me.

young (noun) – the liquid that comes out of the eyes: If he cries sincerely, even a blind man will shed tears. (Proverb)

Borrowed words become homonyms of Uzbek words or words borrowed from other languages:

tur (Uzbek) – type, kind, variety: Gazlama turyu.

tur (Russian) – sports term: games of the second round of the World Chess Championship.

zhora (Tajik) – participant in a conversation: If zhora are not the same age, the conversation will not be heated.

zhora (Tajik) – two pieces of fabric that weavers weave in the same way: Atlas zhora.

Words from different dialects remain similar in form:

dim – silence, silence, not making a sound: Dim oynamok.

dim – an idea of warm and hot weather: It’s very dim inside the house.

dim – completely, utterly: dim, don’t look at them.

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Homonyms are widely used in folk art, when creating rhymes. For example: They say that a sunflower

They look at the sun all their lives.

In Arabic, homonyms are called compound words. Compound words are words that express several different meanings in one word. Compound words are divided into the following types:

- Compound words in nouns. For example:

The word نكاح indicates both marriage and sexual intercourse.

The word صلاة indicates both prayer and supplication.

- Compound words in verbs. For example:

The verb تلا indicates the meaning of reading or following.

- Compound words in letters. For example:

The letter ب indicates various meanings. Jurjani listed more than 10 of its meanings in his book “Mi’atu amil”.

There is a difference of opinion among scholars regarding common words. One group of scholars say that there are no common words (amomin) in Arabic. They say that expressing several meanings with one word is metaphorical. That is, the first original meaning is the truth, and the rest of the meanings are metaphorical. This group of scholars is headed by Imam Darsawayh. Other scholars believe that common words exist, and they believe that all of these meanings are true and not metaphorical. There are many scholars who believe this, including Asma’i, Khalil ibn Ahmad, Sibwayhi, Ibn Faris, Saalibi, Mubarrad, Suyuti, and others. Examples of common words:

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مولى

- slave emancipator;
- freed slave

وراء

- behind
- in front

بحر

- sea;
- city;
- village

بطن

- belly;
- community;
- long feather of a bird

ثعلب

- fox;
- tip of a spear;
- outlet of a pond

ثور

- ox;
- sayyid;
- a large piece of cheese;
- fool;
- dust rising;
- the redness of dawn

جحد

- denial;
- lack of goodness;
- a small horse

جدّ

- grandfather;
- seriousness;
- provision, fate;
- the earth;
- the shore of the sea or river;
- a sign, a omen;
- a black stripe on the back of a

donkey;

- a well with little water (also used for a well with a lot of water).

جار

- neighbor;
- helper in trouble;
- female genitalia;
- hypocrite

حرث

- sowing;
- worldly wealth;
- reward;
- blazing fire;
- searching for something;
- woman

حرف

- letters of the alphabet;
- side, direction;
- doubt, doubt;
- crossing;
- large camel

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Homonyms are similar to polysemantic words in that they are similar in form. However, the difference between homonyms and polysemantic words is that a polysemantic word is one word with several meanings, and the meanings it expresses are internally interconnected, based on the original and secondary meanings of the same word. Homonyms are several words expressing different meanings. Homonyms. Words that have the same pronunciation and spelling (shape), but different meanings are called homonyms. For example, apple (fruit), apple (not to take something); horse (animal), horse (to throw); water (food), water (in water). Homonyms are mainly formed from words of the same family. For example, swam (in water), swam (eat food) - verb category. Sometimes homonyms are formed from words of different categories: noun (noun), noun (animal) - noun category, noun (to throw) - verb category.

When adding suffixes to homonyms, some of them (words of the same category) retain the property of homonymy. However, in some (words of another category), the property of homonymy is lost. For example, atim (name), atim (animal) retain the property of homonymy, atim (action) does not accept this suffix and the property of homonymy is lost.

Homonyms are also formed on the basis of homonymous words: suz (in water), suz (food) - suzma (yogurt), suzma (action); ol (red), ol (apple) - alma (fruit), alma (action).

Homonyms and polysemantic words are similar to each other. Because they have the same form in appearance. However, while homonyms form one word for each meaning, polysemantic words form one word for all their meanings. For example, the headword is one word, no matter how many meanings it has. Fire itself is one word according to each meaning. Accordingly, homonyms are mainly distinguished from polysemantic words as follows. The meanings of polysemantic words are related to each other. For example, the combination of meanings such as mountain top, human head, road head in the headword is an expression of the head part (one point). In homonymy, the meanings are not

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related to each other. For example, "fire", "grass", "pass" in the word "fire" have different meanings. Accordingly, the word "grass" is a separate word for each of these meanings.

Homonyms create a genre of humor in fiction.

A candle burns in my head

From my tears, the fire burns on the earth

From my tears, the blood made your path a tulip field

I have so much to say, the fire from my blood

(A. Navoi)

Homonyms are used as a play on words in fiction, especially in askiya. In fiction, the art of metaphor is created with the help of homonyms.

Conclusion

Homonyms, as explored in Uzbek and Arabic, reflect the intricate relationships between form and meaning within languages. Their development through linguistic processes such as semantic divergence, borrowing, and metaphorical extension illustrates their dynamic nature. While homonyms in Uzbek often originate from dialects and cultural interplay, Arabic homonyms provoke scholarly discourse on their interpretation and usage. Both languages leverage homonyms for creative and rhetorical purposes, significantly impacting literature and oral traditions. Understanding the nuances of homonyms not only deepens linguistic knowledge but also underscores the cultural and expressive capabilities of language.

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