

Eureka Journal of Language, Culture & Social Change (EJLCSC)

ISSN 2760-4926 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 3, March 2026



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RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN LANGUAGE UNITS AND THEORY OF VALENCE

Shukhratova Yulduzkhon Shakarbek qizi
Senior Lecturer (PhD), Fergana State University
shuhratovayulduzxon@gmail.com

Abstract

"Relationships" are understood as the relationships and connections between the components of a whole - units. Such relationships can be of various kinds. Similarities and differences in form, meaning, or function are the most basic forms of relationships and connections between language units.

Keywords: Paradigmatic, hierarchical, syntagmatic relations, language units, syntactic relations, level, associative relations.

Introduction

The system of language is characterized by a complex network of interrelations among its units, which function at different structural levels. Among these, paradigmatic, hierarchical, and syntagmatic relationships constitute the fundamental principles governing the organization and functioning of linguistic elements. These relationships not only determine the internal structure of language but also regulate the processes of language use in speech. In particular, the interaction between paradigmatic selection and syntagmatic combination plays a decisive role in the formation of meaningful utterances. This study aims to examine the nature of these relationships, with special emphasis on syntagmatic relations and their role in the structural organization of language, as well as their connection to the concept of syntactic valency.

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Literature Review

The theoretical foundations of paradigmatic and syntagmatic relations were first systematically formulated in the works of Ferdinand de Saussure, who introduced the distinction between associative (paradigmatic) and combinatory (syntagmatic) relations. Subsequent developments in structural linguistics further elaborated these concepts, emphasizing the role of oppositional relations in paradigmatic organization and linear sequencing in syntagmatic structures.

Hierarchical relations, including hypernymy-hyponymy and part-whole (meronymic) relations, have also been widely discussed in linguistic theory as essential components of lexical and grammatical organization. Furthermore, the concept of syntactic valency, developed within structural linguistics and later expanded in generative and functional approaches, has provided a systematic framework for analyzing the combinatory potential of predicates and their interaction with other sentence elements. Scholars have demonstrated that valency serves as a key mechanism for understanding the syntactic and semantic structure of sentences.

Methods and Methodology

The study employs a combination of theoretical and analytical methods: **Structural analysis** – to examine the organization of language units within paradigmatic, hierarchical, and syntagmatic frameworks; **Comparative method** – to identify universal and language-specific features of linguistic relations; **Descriptive method** – to systematize the properties and functions of different types of relationships between language units; **Syntactic analysis** – to investigate the role of syntagmatic relations and syntactic valency in sentence structure.

Methodologically, the research is based on the principles of structural linguistics, supplemented by functional and cognitive approaches. This integrated framework allows for a comprehensive analysis of both the formal and semantic aspects of linguistic relations.

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The main part

There are mainly three types of relationships between language units:

1. Similarity (paradigmatic) relationships. 2. Hierarchical (hierarchical) relationships. 3. Adjacency (syntagmatic) relationships.

The essence of the similarity (paradigmatic) relationship is that language units that have mutual similarity and some differences are combined into series of similarities (these are called paradigms). F. de Saussure, taking into account the state of existence of language units in memory, their psychic aspect, named them with the term “associative relationship”. Later, great attention was paid to the mutual relationship of these language units, and they were named with the term “paradigmatic relationship” or “paradigmatics”.

According to F. de Saussure, language units that are free from speech live in a person's memory in various systemic relationships, and the connection between the components of this system of relationships is called a paradigmatic connection. A large number of language units are stored in the language memory in a discrete (divided) and system (in a certain order) state for quick and unmistakable use in the speech process. The discrete storage of a large number of language units in a person's memory is usually based on their oppositional (contrasting) relationship to each other. Two or more language units that are opposed by certain similarities and some differences are mutually opposed. Two or more oppositional language units form a paradigm series. In order for two or more language units to unite in one paradigm series, there must be a certain similarity, difference, and contradiction between them in substance and meaning (function).

The second type of relationship between language units is hierarchical (hierarchical) relationships. In language units connected by hierarchical relationships, a unit expressing a broader concept and meaning includes a unit expressing a narrower concept and meaning, with which it often enters into genus-species (hypo-hyperonymic), whole-part (paronymic) relationships.

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Elements are arranged hierarchically from simple to complex. The relationship of units of different complexity provides a hierarchy: less complex elements are included in the composition of more complex elements as part of it. Each less complex unit can potentially be used as a boundary element of a more complex unit. A hierarchical relationship is always a relationship according to the degree of complexity.

The third type of relationship between language units is adjacency (syntagmatic) relationships. Adjacency relationships are determined by the logical connection of language units with each other, their ability to be used side by side. According to the interpretation of F. de Saussure, the founder of the distinction between language and speech, syntagmatic communication is, first of all, the formation of a relationship between language units by connecting them one after another along a horizontal line. Discursive continuity does not allow two language elements to appear at the same time, which, in turn, is a factor in the pronunciation, hearing, and “recognition” of each element separately in speech. Speech associations - syntagmas - are formed from the sequential connection of language elements in the flow of speech. A syntagma consists of at least two units. Each member of a syntagma acquires a certain communicative value (meaning, function) only as a result of forming a whole with the unit that precedes or follows it. The concept of a syntagma is related not only to the interconnection of words, but also to word forms, parts of speech and sentences (a sequence of simple sentences in a compound sentence). Saussure, the founder of system-structural linguistics, called such a relationship of elements in speech a syntagmatic relationship. In this case, any linguistic unit is not combined with any other linguistic unit, it is not in a neighboring relationship.

In addition to the paradigmatic relationship between linguistic units, they also enter into syntagmatic relationships. In the process of speech, the speaker must have the ability to correctly connect the selected linguistic unit with another linguistic unit in a sequential manner, along with choosing one of the units that

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are in a paradigmatic relationship with each other. Linguistic units are connected to each other in the process of speech not according to the subjective desire of the speaker, but according to the laws of the language structure that are valid at a certain period of the language. This shows that the units of each level of the language have the opportunity to connect with another within this level. According to that opportunity, in the process of speech, one linguistic unit chooses one of the members of a certain paradigm. Therefore, the sequential connection of linguistic units is connected with the laws of the language structure. Therefore, it is impossible to study and understand the structure of the language as a whole without studying and understanding the syntagmatics of the language. Paradigmatic and syntagmatic relations are universal relations that operate at all levels of language.

In fact, in the speech process, linguistic units that occur sequentially are connected to each other based on the laws and rules of a particular language at a particular time. Each speaker has a skill about such connection rules. This skill is present in his memory. For example, every Uzbek speaker has the skill to form verb forms by adding the suffixes of ratio, invariance, tense, person and number to the verb stem. Based on this skill, he can form verb forms without making any mistakes.

In linguistics, a syntagmatic relation is understood as a sequential relationship between units belonging to the same level within a whole. For example, the book lexeme, through the sequential arrangement of the phoneme variants k, i, t, o, b in the same order, represents in our memory "a set of written papers with a certain content, arranged in a certain order, and covered, a teaching tool created for the purpose of learning and recreation".

The syntactic aspect of language features is the rules for the combination of words in a sentence. The combination of words, the order of parts in it, expresses certain meanings, for example, the combination of the words flat and road in various orders can result in features of various characters and meanings: a) flat road (a

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word combination, a sign of the subject and its attributive character); b) road is flat (a sentence, a sign of the subject and its predicative character).

Only in the first case, the segment units in the lexeme structure exist in the speaker's memory with the integrity of form and content before speech activity and are introduced into speech in a ready state, while in the second case, the connection of words is carried out in the speech process.

Any word does not exist in our consciousness, in our memory, as well as in our speech structures in an isolated way: it strives towards other words through dozens, hundreds of “threads”. Any word, one might say, requires “continuation”, “looks for its pair” – it wants to become a model of two words.

The hierarchy of syntactic relations is divided into two levels: predicative relations (possessive and predicate relations) and non-predicative relations or word combinations.

Since a syntactic unit is a high-level unit in the structure of a language system, consisting of a unity of form and content, the syntagmatic relationship between syntactic units also has a two-way nature:

a) formal syntagmatic relation; b) substantive syntagmatic relation.

The sequential relationship of a certain syntactic form (form of a sentence fragment) with another syntactic form is considered a formal syntagmatic relationship.

As one of the most complex and multi-layered units of language, the analysis of the structure of the sentence and its structural aspects is one of the most important areas of the science of syntax. The interconnection of the components of the sentence, the grammatical relations between them, and the normative expression of these relations play an important role in revealing the internal laws of the language system. In particular, the study of the grammatical relations between the central core of the sentence - the predicate - and other components located around it is closely related to the concept of syntactic valency.

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Syntactic valency is a concept that expresses the ability of a predicate to require or attach other parts of speech (mainly complements, determiners, cases), and this phenomenon was first studied in depth within the framework of structural linguistics. Although this term began to be actively used in linguistics of the 20th century, its roots can also be traced in traditional grammar. In particular, considerations about the number of actants of a predicate and their means of expression also existed within the framework of classical grammar. However, with the formation of the theory of valency, it became possible to systematically analyze the predicate and the syntactic environment surrounding it. Although this concept first appeared within the framework of structural linguistics, it was later developed in its own way in the schools of generative grammar, functional linguistics, and semantic analysis. It is precisely through the theory of valency that it is possible to form a complete picture of the syntactic structure of a verb and a sentence, the number of actants, and their syntactic role.

Conclusion

The analysis demonstrates that paradigmatic, hierarchical, and syntagmatic relationships are universal mechanisms that operate across all levels of language. Paradigmatic relations ensure the organization of linguistic units in the mental lexicon through similarity and opposition, while hierarchical relations reflect the structural layering of language units based on complexity and inclusion. Syntagmatic relations, in turn, govern the linear combination of linguistic elements in speech, playing a crucial role in the formation of coherent utterances. Furthermore, the study confirms that syntagmatic relations are closely linked to the concept of syntactic valency, which determines the combinatory potential of predicates and the structure of sentences. The ability of speakers to correctly combine linguistic units is not arbitrary but is regulated by the internal laws of the language system. Overall, the findings highlight the importance of analyzing linguistic relationships for a deeper understanding of language structure and

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functioning, and they contribute to the theoretical development of syntax, structural linguistics, and general linguistic theory.

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