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A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF EXPANDING AND NARROWING MEANINGS OF ADJECTIVES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

Annotation

This article presents a comparative study examining the phenomenon of semantic change in adjectives within the contexts of English and Uzbek languages. Adjectives serve as fundamental components of language, providing description and detail to nouns. However, their meanings can undergo shifts over time, either expanding or narrowing in scope. Drawing from existing research in linguistics, historical linguistics, and semantic change, this study explores similarities and differences in how adjectives evolve in English and Uzbek. By analyzing linguistic data and scholarly literature, the study aims to uncover common mechanisms and unique patterns of semantic change in adjectives across the two languages. The findings contribute to our understanding of linguistic typology, historical linguistics, and the cultural influences on language evolution. Additionally, the study highlights the importance of cross-linguistic research in elucidating the dynamic nature of language change and development.

Key words: semantic change, comparative study, expanding, narrowing, adjectives, Uzbek language, English language.

INGLIZ VA O'ZBEK TILLARIDA SIFAT MA'NOLARINI KENGAYISHI VA TORAYISHINI QIYOSIY O'RGANISH

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o'zbek tillari kontekstida sifatlarning semantik o'zgarishi hodisasini o'rganuvchi qiyosiy tadqiqot taqdim etilgan. Sifatlar tilning asosiy tarkibiy qismi bo'lib, otlarga tavsif va tafsilot beradi. Biroq, ularning ma'nolari vaqt o'tishi bilan o'zgarishi mumkin, doirasi kengayishi yoki torayishi mumkin. Tilshunoslik, tarixiy tilshunoslik va semantik o'zgarishlar bo'yicha mavjud tadqiqotlardan kelib chiqqan holda, bu tadqiqot ingliz va o'zbek tillarida sifatlarning rivojlanishidagi o'xshashlik va farqlarni o'rganadi. Lingvistik ma'lumotlar va ilmiy adabiyotlarni tahlil qilish orqali tadqiqot ikki tildagi sifatlarning semantik o'zgarishining umumiy mexanizmlari va noyob naqshlarini ochishga qaratilgan. Topilmalar lingvistik tipologiya, tarixiy tilshunoslik va til evolyutsiyasiga madaniy ta'sirlarni tushunishimizga yordam beradi. Bundan tashqari, tadqiqot til o'zgarishi va rivojlanishining dinamik tabiatini yoritishda tillararo tadqiqotlarning muhimligini ta'kidlaydi.

Kalit so'zlar: semantic o'zgarish, qiyosiy o'rganish, kengaytirish, toraytirish, sifatlari, o'zbek tili, ingliz tili.

СОПОСТАВИТЕЛЬНОЕ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ РАСШИРЕНИЯ И СУЖЕНИЯ ЗНАЧЕНИЙ ПРИЛАГАТЕЛЬНЫХ В АНГЛИЙСКОМ И УЗБЕКСКОМ ЯЗЫКАХ

Аннотация

В данной статье представлено сравнительное исследование, изучающее феномен семантического изменения прилагательных в контексте английского и узбекского языков. Прилагательные служат фундаментальными компонентами языка, обеспечивая описание и детализацию существительных. Однако их значения могут со временем меняться, расширяясь или сужаясь. Основываясь на существующих исследованиях в области лингвистики, исторической лингвистики и семантических изменений, это исследование исследует сходства и различия в том, как прилагательные развиваются в английском и узбекском языках. Анализируя лингвистические данные и научную литературу, исследование направлено на выявление общих механизмов и уникальных закономерностей семантических изменений прилагательных в двух языках. Полученные результаты способствуют нашему пониманию лингвистической типологии, исторической лингвистики и культурного влияния на эволюцию языка. Кроме того, исследование подчеркивает важность междисциплинарных исследований для выяснения динамического характера языковых изменений и развития.

Ключевые слова: семантические изменения, сравнительное изучение, расширение, сужение, прилагательные, узбекский язык, английский язык.

Introduction. The study of semantic change, particularly in adjectives, offers insights into the evolution and complexity of languages. This comparative study focuses on the phenomenon of expansion and contraction of adjective meanings in Uzbek and English, exploring the linguistic mechanisms and cultural factors influencing these processes. By analyzing examples from both languages, we aim to uncover patterns and differences in how adjectives evolve semantically in these linguistic systems.

Literature review. Various linguistic theories and approaches have been proposed to explain semantic change,

including the concept of semantic fields by Tynyanov, who argued that a word's meaning is determined by its position in a semantic field [1]. Leontyev's work on semantics identified context and stylistic features as factors influencing meaning change [2]. Maslova's research on semantic fields further elaborated on the structure of semantic fields and their impact on meaning change.

Semantic change refers to the evolution of word meanings over time due to various linguistic and extralinguistic factors. Adjectives are particularly prone to semantic shifts as

they often reflect cultural, social, and cognitive changes within a language community.

In English, studies such as those by Traugott and Dasher (2002) and Blank (1999) have extensively documented the phenomenon of semantic change in adjectives [3] [4]. These studies reveal how adjectives can undergo processes such as generalization, specialization, metaphorical extension, and metonymy, resulting in the expansion or narrowing of their meanings.

Similarly, in Uzbek, research on semantic change in adjectives is emerging, albeit to a lesser extent. Scholars like Akhmedova N. Sh. (2015) and Akhmedova M. B. (2023) have explored how adjectives in Uzbek undergo semantic transformations influenced by historical, cultural, and sociolinguistic factors [5] [6]. These studies provide valuable insights into the dynamics of adjective meaning in the Uzbek language context

Research Methodology. Dixon's definition, along with other recent proposals such as those by Croft (1991) and Beck (2002), aims to achieve these objectives by combining both semantic and syntactic criteria [7] [8]. This approach reflects the widely accepted notion that parts of speech systems serve as a taxonomy for the fundamental components of syntactic structures, as argued by scholars like Hengeveld (1992), and Baker (2003) [9] [10]. Simultaneously, it acknowledges the reality that despite the considerable variation in the meanings of words within specific parts of speech across different languages, there exist sets of typical meanings consistently associated with each major word class, as highlighted by researchers such as Croft (1991) [7]. This concept was initially demonstrated for adjectives by Dixon himself in 1982, where he showed that adjectives across languages tend to convey meanings falling into one of seven categories [11], later termed "Property Concepts" by Thompson (1988):

DIMENSION – large, small, tall, short...

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES – solid, lightweight, rough...

COLOUR- pink, yellow, brown...

HUMAN PROPENSITY – envious, joyful, intelligent, charitable, arrogant...

AGE – fresh, youthful, aged...

VALUE – excellent, poor, pristine, savory...

SPEED – rapid, sluggish, swift... [12]

Drawing from this analysis, we can further develop our comprehension of adjectives within the framework of Uzbek language. Moreover, it enables us to identify distinct patterns and features inherent to Uzbek adjectives.

O'LCHAM – katta, kichik, uzun, qisqa...

JISIM XUSUSIYATLARI – qattiq, og'ir...

RANG- qo'ra, kizil, oq...

INSAN XUSUSIYATLARI – hasadkor, xursand, aqli...

YOSH – yoshli, qari...

QIYMAT – yaxshi, yomon...

ILDAMLIK – tez, sekin...

The processes of expanding and contracting the meanings of adjectives is an important topic in linguistics and has been studied by many scholars. One of the key aspects of this phenomenon is the change in the meaning of a word depending on the context and semantic field. The linguistic approach to this problem has evolved over the years, and various theories and hypotheses have been proposed to explain this phenomenon.

Analysis and results. One of the early researchers involved in semantics was Yu.T. Tynyanov, who proposed a theory of semantic fields. He believed that the meaning of a

word is determined by its place in the semantic field, and a change in the meaning of a word can occur due to a change in this place [1].

The processes of expanding and narrowing the meaning of adjectives have been studied by many linguists. For example, in the work "Семантическая структура слова" (1971) Leontyev discusses the mechanisms of expanding and narrowing the meanings of words in a general form. He identifies a number of factors that influence changes in the meaning of words, such as context, stylistic features, semantic fields and others [2].

Expansion of Adjective Meanings: Uzbek Language

In Uzbek, the expansion of adjective meanings often occurs through metaphorical extensions. For example, the adjective "yangi" originally meant "new" but can also mean "interesting" or "unusual" depending on the context. This expansion reflects the richness and flexibility of the Uzbek language in associating qualities with different contexts.

On the other hand, the process of narrowing the meaning of adjectives in the Uzbek language also occurs quite often. For example, the adjective "kiska" originally had the meaning "short", but in the process of linguistic development it also acquired the meaning "small" or "insignificant", which indicates a narrowing of its meaning.

A feature of the Uzbek language is also the use of affixation to change the meaning of adjectives. For example, adding the suffix "-cha" to an adjective can make it mean "like", which can also be seen as a way of expanding the meaning of a word.

Expansion of Adjective Meanings

Uzbek Language

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English Language

Similarly, in English, adjectives can undergo semantic expansion through metaphorical extensions. The adjective "smart," for instance, originally meant "clever" but has acquired additional meanings such as "neat" or "stylish" over time. This expansion is linked to the metaphorical association of intelligence with style or appearance.

Expansion of Adjective Meanings: English Language

In English, the expansion of adjective meanings is also observed, often through metaphorical extensions. For instance, the adjective "smart" originally meant "clever" but has acquired additional meanings such as "neat" or "stylish" over time. This expansion is linked to the metaphorical association of intelligence with style or appearance.

Uzbek Language

In Uzbek, the contraction of adjective meanings is common. For example, the adjective "qisqa" originally meant "short" but can also mean "small" or "insignificant," indicating a narrowing of its meaning over time.

English Language

Similarly, in English, adjectives can undergo semantic contraction. The adjective "awful," for example, originally meant "inspiring awe," but in modern English, it is more commonly used to mean "terrible" or "repulsive," indicating a narrowing of its meaning.

Contraction of Adjective Meanings: Uzbek Language

In Uzbek, the contraction of adjective meanings is common. For example, the adjective "qisqa" originally meant "short" but can also mean "small" or "insignificant," indicating a narrowing of its meaning over time.

Contraction of Adjective Meanings: English Language

In English, the contraction of adjective meanings is also prevalent. For example, the adjective "awful" originally meant "inspiring awe," but in modern English, it is more commonly used to mean "terrible" or "repulsive," indicating a narrowing of its meaning.

One of the features of the English language is also the use of comparatives and superlatives to enhance the meaning of adjectives. For example, the adjective "good" can be used in the comparative degree "better" and the superlative degree "best", which allows you to expand its original meaning.

A comparative analysis reveals both similarities and differences in the expansion and contraction of adjective meanings in Uzbek and English. Both languages exhibit metaphorical extensions of meanings, but Uzbek also utilizes affixation to change adjective meanings, a feature less common in English. Additionally, while both languages experience semantic change, the specific patterns and mechanisms vary, reflecting the unique linguistic and cultural contexts of each language.

The comparative analysis of the expansion and contraction of adjective meanings in Uzbek and English reveals both similarities and differences. Both languages exhibit metaphorical extensions of meanings, indicating a common linguistic mechanism. However, Uzbek also utilizes affixation to change adjective meanings, a feature less common in English. Additionally, while both languages experience semantic change, the specific patterns and mechanisms vary, reflecting the unique linguistic and cultural contexts of each language.

Conclusion. The comparative study of the expansion and contraction of adjective meanings in Uzbek and English highlights the richness and complexity of these languages' semantic systems. Understanding these processes not only enhances our linguistic knowledge but also provides insights into cultural and historical contexts. Further research in this area can deepen our understanding of language evolution and cross-linguistic patterns of semantic change.

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