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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE USE OF SYNONYMOUS UNITS IN UZBEK

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Abstract. This article examines the linguistic nature, classification, and characteristics of the use of synonymous units in Uzbek in speech and texts on the basis of linguistic theory. It considers absolute and relative synonyms, the criteria for their semantic and stylistic differentiation, the principles for identifying the dominant member of a synonym set, and the functional role of synonyms in text construction. The study uses descriptive, comparative-typological, and componential analysis methods.

Keywords: synonymy, synonym set, dominant member, gradation relations, stylistic differentiation, semantic nuance, speech culture, text linguistics.

One important indicator of language development is its lexical and semantic richness, particularly the breadth of its resources for synonymy. The Uzbek lexical system contains multiple words and expressions that convey a single concept. In speech, these units help express ideas precisely, effectively, and in a stylistically appropriate manner. Synonymy has been studied in Uzbek linguistics for many years, and the scholarly works of R. Jumaniyozov, A. Hojiyev, Sh. Rahmatullayev, Sh. Orifjonova, and G'. Rahmonov are particularly significant in this regard.

One of the earliest specialized studies devoted to the theoretical interpretation of synonyms defines them as lexical units that are similar in meaning but differ in form.

In modern linguistics, synonymy is examined not only as a lexical phenomenon but also from the perspectives of speech activity, text linguistics, and stylistics. This further increases the relevance of the topic, since the appropriate use of synonyms is an important indicator of speech culture. The purpose of this article is to explain the linguistic nature of synonymous units in Uzbek, the criteria for their classification, and the patterns governing their use in actual speech and textual contexts.

Academician A. Hojiyev's explanatory dictionary can be regarded as one of the most comprehensive practical resources on synonyms in Uzbek linguistics. It systematically classifies synonyms according to their meanings and spheres of use.

Synonyms are words that differ in pronunciation and morphological composition but have similar or corresponding lexical meanings. At least two conditions are necessary for a synonym set to form: first, the words must belong to the same grammatical category, or part of speech; second, their denotative meanings must share a common semantic core. Studying synonyms through componential analysis, that is, identifying the shared and distinctive semantic features in their meanings, clearly reveals the subtle differences between words within a synonym set. This demonstrates the need to understand synonyms as a complex semantic system with both shared and distinctive features, rather than simply as 'words with the same meaning.' Each word in a synonym set has its own additional semantic nuance, stylistic coloring, or emotional and expressive quality. Consequently, these words exist in the language system as complementary units that are not entirely identical.

In Uzbek linguistics, synonyms are generally divided into the following main types:

a) Absolute synonyms are words that differ very little in meaning and stylistic coloring and can freely replace one another, for example, vatan and yurt ('homeland'), and, in some cases, orzu and armon ('dream' or 'aspiration'). Such synonyms are relatively rare because the language system generally does not retain redundant units that have no functional distinctions.

b) Ideographic or semantic synonyms are words that differ in the degree, intensity, or scope of their meanings, for example, yurmoq ('to walk'), sayr qilmoq ('to take a stroll'), kezmoq ('to roam'), and adashib yurmoq ('to wander while lost'). Each member of this set expresses a particular aspect of the action. This kind of graded differentiation within a synonym set is also referred to in linguistics as graduonymy. It is interpreted as a distinct phenomenon that is closely related to synonymy but differs from it in certain respects.

c) Stylistic synonyms are words that express the same or similar meanings but differ in register, such as colloquial, literary, formal, or artistic usage. Examples include aytmoq ('to say'), bildirmoq ('to convey'), ma'lum qilmoq ('to inform'), and bayon etmoq ('to set forth'). The choice of such synonyms depends directly on the genre of the text and the communicative situation.

d) Contextual synonyms are words that are not considered synonymous in the general language system but temporarily enter into a synonymous relationship in a particular context. This type of synonymy operates only within a specific text and, unlike lexical synonymy, is not stable.

Studies specifically examining the gradational properties of synonyms emphasize that differences between members of a synonym set often concern a qualitative rather than a quantitative feature, namely, the intensity with which an attribute or action is expressed.

The selection and use of synonymous units in speech are determined by several linguistic and extralinguistic factors:

1) Stylistic affiliation. Each synonym set usually contains one dominant word that is stylistically neutral and can be used freely in any textual genre. The other members have literary, formal, or colloquial coloring relative to it. The author selects the appropriate stylistic variant according to the genre of the text.

2) Semantic nuance. Many synonyms differ in the degree or intensity of an action or state, or in the subjective evaluation they convey. Freely substituting synonyms without considering these differences may disrupt the logic or emotional tone of a text.

3) Collocational restrictions. Synonyms cannot freely replace one another in every context: they form established combinations, or collocations, with particular words. Replacing one member of a synonym set with another may result in a combination that departs from accepted usage or sounds unnatural.

4) Emotional and expressive coloring. Some members of a synonym set are neutral, while others express a positive or negative attitude, irony, or heightened emphasis. This property is particularly important in literary and journalistic texts.

5) The communicative situation and the addressee. Synonyms of a literary or terminological character are preferred in official business communication and academic texts, whereas colloquial synonyms predominate in everyday communication.

As textbooks on modern standard Uzbek emphasize, one of the main functions of synonyms in speech is to present an idea from different perspectives rather than from a single angle, thereby increasing the expressive power of the text.

Synonymous units perform the following main functions in a text:

Avoiding repetition: avoiding the repeated use of the same word prevents stylistic monotony and makes the text easier to read.

Clarifying and intensifying an idea: a sequence of synonyms enables the author to give particular emphasis to an idea and heighten the portrayal of a state or attribute.

As sources on practical grammar note, using synonyms enables speakers to express the most subtle aspects of their thoughts and feelings precisely. This is an important component of speech culture.

Individualizing style: through a distinctive choice of synonyms, authors develop their personal style and their means of artistic expression.

Clarifying terminology: in academic and official business texts, synonyms are used to express a concept from different perspectives while increasing precision.

As Uzbek phraseological dictionaries indicate, synonymy occurs not only at the lexical level but also at the phraseological level. Fixed expressions with different components that convey the same or similar meanings form sets of synonymous idioms. Compared with lexical synonyms, phraseological synonyms often have more vivid emotional and expressive coloring and are actively used as descriptive devices in literary texts. As with lexical synonyms, the selection of such units depends on the genre and style of the text and the author's intention.

Synonymy also exists among phraseological expressions. Within a phraseological synonym paradigm, units differ in the degree of their expressive semantic features: yaxshi ko'rmoq and ko'ngil bermoq ('to love' and 'to give one's heart to'); yer bilan yakson qilmoq and kulini ko'kka sovurmoq ('to raze to the ground' and 'to scatter someone's ashes to the sky'); ipidan ignasigacha and miridan sirigacha ('down to the last detail'), and so on [4, p. 133]. According to the Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language, each meaning of a polysemous word may belong to a separate synonym set. This demonstrates the close relationship between synonymy and polysemy.

In conclusion, the analysis shows that the use of synonymous units in Uzbek is a matter not only of vocabulary resources but also of communicative strategy and stylistic choice. The presence of a dominant member within a synonym set, together with the semantic, stylistic, and collocational restrictions on the use of its other members, demonstrates the internal systematic organization of language and the principle of economy. Correct and appropriate use of synonyms requires speech culture, stylistic sensitivity, and the ability to make full use of the expressive resources of language. Future research of particular scholarly importance includes frequency and collocational analysis of Uzbek synonymous units using corpus linguistics methods, as well as questions of their equivalence in translation.

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