

EXPRESSION OF SEMANTIC COMPONENTS OF DEGREE IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK COLLOQUIALISMS

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Annotation: This article explores the semantic components within colloquialisms of both English and Uzbek languages, focusing on indicators of degree and objective evaluation. By analyzing definitions and examples, it identifies lexical units that denote the intensity of a referent's attribute and the objective assessment conveyed by speakers. The study highlights the cross-linguistic similarities and differences in how these semantic nuances are expressed in colloquial speech, contributing to a deeper understanding of lexical semantics and cultural values embedded in language.

Keywords: colloquialism, semantics, degree, objective evaluation, English, uzbek, lexical units, semantic components, cross-linguistic analysis

Colloquial language, characterized by its informal and often expressive nature, provides a rich landscape for examining the semantic nuances that shape meaning. This study delves into the semantic components present within English and Uzbek colloquialisms, with a particular focus on how these components convey the degree of an attribute and the objective evaluation assigned to a referent. By analyzing lexical units and their definitions, the research aims to uncover the linguistic mechanisms through which speaker expresses intensity and subjective assessment in informal speech.

Frequently, the lexical meaning of a word implicitly encompasses the level or degree of a particular semantic component. In the definitions of English lexical units, words such as “extremely”, “unusually”, “very” and “over” serve as indicators of degree [1]. Similarly, in Uzbek, functionally equivalent words such as “juda (very)”, “ortiq darajada/ortiqcha (excessively)”, “ancha (quite)”, “sal, biroz, andak (slightly)” and “hadeb (constantly)” function as degree indicators for the referent's attribute [2].

For instance, in English, the word “ham” defined as “an inferior performer who overacts” contains the archiseme “performer”. The semantic component “inferior” denotes an additional attribute, while the degree of this attribute is indicated by the word “overacts”.

In Uzbek, the colloquialism “tepsa-tebranmas is defined as “someone who is very difficult to get to do anything, extremely indifferent, uncaring, a slow coach”. Here, the archiseme is implicitly “person”, while the semantic component “beg'am, beparvo, og'ir karvon (indifferent, uncaring, slow coach)” further specifies this archiseme. The degree of this attribute is expressed through the phrases “juda (very)” and “ortiq darajada (extremely)”. This component of degree is also evident in the meanings of the following English words:

dilly – something unusually good or striking;
grind – a student who does nothing but study;
gushy – overdemonstrative [3].

Similar examples can be found in Uzbek:

azavozlik – excessive sadness, crying;
vadavang – at the height of its intensity (song, music, dance);
javraqi – someone who talks constantly, a chatterbox.

The semantic component that indicates the objective evaluation of a referent is provided by the addresser. This evaluation is objective because it is manifested through the qualities inherent to the object or phenomenon and all of its internal characteristics. Such objective evaluation can be:

a) positive (if the referent is evaluated positively from the perspective of the language speaker's values):

attaboy – expressing encouragement or admiration;

corking – very good;

ketvorgan – all-around perfect, very beautiful, very good;

diplomat 2 – a person skilled and adept in work, speech, and interaction;

b) negative (if the concept is classified as a negative phenomenon in the minds of the language speakers):

blowhard – a braggart;

bounder – a vulgar, ill-bred person; an upstart;

arzachi – a person who makes a profession of writing applications for people;

tixir – someone who doesn't listen to words or advice, stubborn, obstinate;

c) neutral (if the referent does not have an evaluative characteristic):

bio – biography;

doodlebug – a Geiger counter;

choch – hair, locks;

xat-pat – letters, correspondence.

The process of colloquialization in English and Uzbek languages identifies both shared and distinct functional aspects of semantic components within colloquial words and explores the similarities and differences in the formation of colloquial units in both languages. The analysis centers on the structural and semantic underpinnings of colloquial units, examining the relationship between literary and colloquial meanings of words in English and Uzbek. The research utilizes data from both literary and non-literary dictionaries, as well as contemporary online sources, to provide a comprehensive comparative overview.

Moreover, it delves into the colloquialization process in English and Uzbek, revealing the common and specific features of semantic components within colloquial words. It also highlights the similarities and differences in the formation of colloquial units across these two languages.

This section examines the semantic foundations of colloquial units in English and Uzbek, analyzing the relationships between the literary and colloquial meanings of words. The research draws upon a range of lexicographical resources, including both standard literary dictionaries and specialized dictionaries of slang and colloquialisms.

The study utilizes data from various literary and non-literary dictionaries. For English, the following literary dictionaries were consulted: Oxford English Dictionary, Cambridge Dictionary, Macmillan English Dictionary (software dictionary), Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English 6 (software dictionary), and Merriam-Webster Dictionary (software dictionary). Non-literary sources included NTC's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions (third edition) and The Routledge Dictionary of Modern American Slang and Unconventional English. Lexical units coded with "colloquial", "informal" and "spoken" labels were selected for analysis.

For Uzbek, data was gathered from various editions of the "Explanatory dictionary of the Uzbek language (O'zbek tilining izohli lug'ati)", specifically the 1981, 2006, 2020, and 2023 editions, focusing on entries marked with the "s.t. (so'zlashuv tili – spoken language)" label. Additionally, colloquial lexical units from official news websites (www.kun.uz; www.daryo.uz; www.qalampir.uz; www.aniq.uz; www.std.uz) and various social media platforms (Telegram, WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram) were analyzed.

The semantic structure of colloquial units was analyzed to identify meaning components characteristic of the colloquial register. K.Ryabova refers to these as "semantic blocks", identifying

categories such as “qualitative-attributive, intensifying, objective-logical, and emotional evaluations” in her analysis of English colloquialisms [4].

Based on the component analysis method, the most common semantic components of the colloquial lexicon in the compared languages were identified. These include semantic components in colloquial units:

1. The semantic component expressing an additional feature of the referent: This component helps define the object-related characteristic of the word within the connotation of the colloquialism. This component performs a differentiating function and is usually found within the word’s definition in dictionaries, forming an integral part of it. For example, the colloquialism “blockbuster” is defined as “forceful person or thing bringing about a sudden effect”. The archiseme of this lexical unit is represented by the lexeme “person” and “thing” [5]. Examining the definition, we can see a semantic component that adds additional meaning: “bringing about a sudden effect. This component clarifies and supplements the referent, distinguishing this word from other lexical units.

In Uzbek, the colloquial unit “katta-kichik – people of different ages”, which expresses the meaning of “people of different ages” has the archisememe “kishilar (people)” supplemented by the semantic component “turli yoshdagi (of different ages)”. The presence of such semantic components is characteristic of colloquial language, allowing for the addition of broader information to the semantics of the colloquial unit.

2. The semantic component expressing a feature of the referent in the definition of a colloquial unit: This may also be present, expressing various features and characteristics of the referent. These features are provided together with the semantic component mentioned above.

References:

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