

**THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE LEXICAL-SEMANTIC FIELD OF “MILK”
IN MODERN LINGUISTICS****Zaynobiddinova Gulbahor Bahtiyorovna**

Lecturer, Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages

Annotation:

This article examines the theoretical foundations of the field concept in linguistics and the stages of its development. It highlights the evolution of linguistic field theory in both world and Uzbek linguistics and analyzes the structural, semantic, and functional features of lexical-semantic and functional-semantic fields. The necessity of a comparative analysis of linguistic units expressing the semantics of “milk” in English and Uzbek is substantiated. The structure of the field, including its core, dominant, and periphery, as well as its vertical and horizontal organization, is described from a scientific perspective.

Keywords

field concept, lexical-semantic field, functional-semantic field, semantic system, core and periphery, dominant, microfield, comparative linguistics, milk semantics.

The development of world linguistics has consistently been associated with the systematic and in-depth investigation of the evolutionary processes of natural languages. These processes have intensified the need for research aimed at enhancing intercultural communication and have led to the understanding of language not merely as a tool of communication, but as a complex social, cultural, and cognitive phenomenon. In contemporary scholarship, language is viewed as a medium through which national worldview, cultural identity, and mental structures are manifested and conceptualized.

Modern linguistic studies emphasize the comprehensive analysis of language units as a priority direction in ensuring theoretical advancement. In particular, the investigation of both direct and indirect relationships among linguistic units, as well as the identification of new paradigmatic models emerging from such analyses, constitutes one of the key driving forces of global linguistic development. Therefore, the study of the laws governing the evolution of natural languages must be conducted in close connection with general linguistic theory and comparative research. At present, research within the framework of lexical-semantic field theory occupies a significant place in leading academic institutions and research centers worldwide. These studies focus on the semantic, structural, functional, paradigmatic, and syntagmatic characteristics of linguistic units, often employing comparative approaches. Consequently, the integration of advanced foreign methodologies into comparative linguistics, general linguistic theory, and field theory has become increasingly relevant. Simultaneously, the development of modern didactic materials based on these theoretical foundations represents an important scholarly task.

In the new stage of national development in Uzbekistan, increased attention to language policy and linguistic research has highlighted the importance of comparative studies between Uzbek and non-related languages. The creation of digital platforms that systematize scientific achievements, expand research databases, and strengthen cooperation between local and foreign universities contributes to the advancement of linguistic science and foreign language education. Within this context, the comparative analysis of English and Uzbek at grammatical, lexical, phraseological, and linguocultural levels becomes particularly significant. Despite the extensive development of field theory, the lexical-semantic field of “milk” in both English and Uzbek has not yet been thoroughly systematized in terms of its scope, structure, and constituent units. Therefore, there exists a need for a comprehensive comparative analysis of the linguistic means

expressing the semantics of “milk,” including their semantic, structural, functional, paradigmatic, and syntagmatic features. The theoretical conclusions derived from such research may contribute to refining existing issues in general linguistics, comparative linguistics, and linguistic field theory. The notion of “field” has proven to be an effective theoretical and methodological tool for investigating the lexical layer of language. Originally introduced in the first half of the nineteenth century in physics—particularly in the works of Michael Faraday, André-Marie Ampère, and Charles-Augustin de Coulomb—the concept was later adopted in biology, mathematics, and social sciences. In linguistics, field theory began to take shape in the early twentieth century, influenced by Wilhelm von Humboldt’s concept of the “inner form of language.” Subsequent scholars interpreted the field as a system of lexemes united by shared semantic properties. Ferdinand de Saussure regarded linguistic structure as a complex relational system, while later researchers expanded the concept to include morphosemantic and functional dimensions.

Within Uzbek linguistics, field theory has also been actively developed. Scholars have emphasized that a semantic field may include not only units belonging to a single linguistic level but also elements distributed across various strata of language. Research has demonstrated that lexical systems consist of interconnected semantic fields that function as structured subsystems within the broader linguistic system. At the current stage of linguistic theory, particular attention is given to the manifestation of linguistic units in human activity. When the lexical system is examined through the field model specifically through the “lexical-semantic field expressing the taste characteristics of milk”, it becomes evident that the lexical subsystem reveals its internal organization through this model. In contemporary terminology, the expressions “semantic field,” “lexical field,” and “lexical-semantic field” are often used interchangeably, although subtle theoretical distinctions remain. A functional-semantic field represents an integrated system composed of morphological, lexical, syntactic, and word-formation means. Within this system, both denotative and significative meanings are expressed. The denotative component refers to the objective conceptual content for example, taste characteristics such as sweet, salty, bland, bitter, or sour, while the connotative component reflects subjective evaluation, emotional coloring, and stylistic affiliation.

Several essential features characterize the lexical-semantic field. These include semantic interconnectedness of lexical units, hierarchical relations between hyperonyms and hyponyms, recurring word-formation patterns, motivational structures, and etymological clusters. The field is typically organized around a core (nucleus), a dominant element, and peripheral zones. The dominant unit most clearly represents the central semantic feature of the field. The structure of the field may be described as both vertical—reflecting the internal organization of microfields—and horizontal—indicating relationships among them. Importantly, the boundaries between the nucleus and peripheral zones are not rigid; lexical units may shift depending on contextual and communicative factors. While the nucleus tends to express the central semantic feature in a relatively monosemantic form, peripheral elements often demonstrate polysemy and semantic overlap. Furthermore, constituents of one semantic field may simultaneously interact with other semantic fields, highlighting the dynamic and interconnected nature of lexical organization. Thus, the lexical-semantic field of “milk” represents a structured and multidimensional subsystem within the language system, reflecting not only objective properties but also cultural, cognitive, and evaluative dimensions. Its comparative study in English and Uzbek may contribute to the refinement of theoretical models in modern linguistics and deepen our understanding of semantic organization in natural languages.

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