

## AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THE LEXICAL GAP

Abduvalieva Ziyotoy Norkuzievna

Senior teacher of the Department of Uzbek Language and Methodology of Uzbek Language at  
Jizzakh State Pedagogical University

**Abstract:** This study showed the practical importance of studying gaps in the language lexicon through nomination. This research raises certain issues regarding the naming of concepts that are present in thought but not expressed in language. In fact, many concepts that are not named in the language "live" without being named, depending on the will of the language owners. Such concepts can be noticed in the analysis of certain lexical-semantic groups. As the lexicon of the language is considered as a system, each of its units must have a lexeme with a specific lexical relationship. This makes it possible to find many lexical spaces based on the search for words that are paradigmatically related to a lexeme. Identifying the "empty cells" in the lexicon of the language without comparing it to another language and filling them is necessary for the development of the language. After all, unnamed concepts tend to have their own expression in language. In this article, the emergence of lexical gaps and their inevitable presence in the language are cognitively based.

**Key words:** Denomination; lexicon; lexical gap; lexical system; identifying and filling the gap; nameless concept.

Logic and linguistics are of great importance in studying the concept and its properties. In particular, in linguistics, there have been debates, opinions, and views about concepts and words and their interaction since ancient times. However, while serious attention is paid to the study of the named type(s) of the concept(s) in linguistics, not so much attention is paid to the issues of unnamed concepts and their naming. By the way, it is possible to limit this issue by saying that unnamed concepts live only in thought and must be studied by the science of logic. However, the science of logic cannot be entrusted with the study of the processes of naming (nomination) of the concept and the laws that apply to it. In world linguistics, there are some opinions on studying unnamed concepts, recognizing (and showing) their existence, and naming them. In particular, in the views of F. Humboldt and F. de Saussure, there are serious discussions about the "empty cells" in the language lexicon (8, 300-304), the absence of the second pole in some paradigms of the lexical system (18, 133-134). M. Mirtojiev, one of the Uzbek scientists, stated that "in some cases, the meaning is not formed in the form of words because there is no need to express it as it appears in the minds of people" (15, 26). In other words, the existence of lexical units indicates the existence of a certain concept in the public mind, but the existence of a linguistic unit is not necessary for the existence of a concept. The limitless possibilities of consciousness and thinking are reflected in language rather slowly. Because of the intensive possibilities of language units, every concept and thought in the mind can be expressed. However, many concepts that are formed in the mind and often referred to tend to have a permanent and independent expression in the language. As T.A. Degtereva pointed out, "if the need to express any concept that arises in personal thinking with a separate sound complex is felt, the vocabulary of the language would consist of so many words that as a result, the language's owners would have to acquire the language. it would become extremely difficult, the language would grow so fast that an unacceptable communication difficulty would arise in the life of society" (9, 3-4). For this reason, it is one of the tasks of linguistics to analyze not all the concepts that appear in the mind, but to name the most necessary ones (if they are not named). Systematic analysis of the

language lexicon, identification and filling of lexical gaps in it is of great social importance for the performance of these tasks.

In the explanatory dictionary of the Uzbek language, the word space is defined as follows:

1. Space surrounded by certain boundaries; airy place.
2. Infinite universe, space, sky; endless space.
3. Vacant land, place.
4. Phys. Airless place, vacuum. (22, 424–425).

As the first term in this comment, the concept of "space surrounded by certain boundaries" is understandable for Uzbek speakers. The concept of lexical space formed on the basis of this concept also serves to name a space in a certain system. Lexical gap (hereinafter - LEXICAL GAP) is a non-synonymous concept that corresponds to a specific cell in the lexical system and serves to fill it. That is, an unnamed (empty) concept (place, place) in interaction with other units in the lexical system (surrounded by certain boundaries) is a lexical space. The lexical gap is clearly observed in the study of the lexicon of the language as a system. For example, in the words agree - neutral - against, which form antonymic relations in the lexical system, there are opposite concepts and words representing the logical center between them (the concept of neutral) in the lexicon of the Uzbek language, but cry - laugh the logical center between its antonyms (the concept of standing without crying or laughing) does not have a special name. There are many such lexical spaces in the lexicon of the language. These lexical spaces are filled with phrases, sentences, etc. in speech. However, the naming of such concepts, which are referred to frequently and many times, creates certain conveniences for language owners (consumers). In particular, it relieves the obligation to express (or explain) the relevant concept in a few words. This serves speech economy, accuracy and lucidity. A concept (lacuna) known to the speakers of the language, but not named by a separate lexeme, is usually evident when comparing the lexicon of two languages. In general, it is possible to identify lexical gaps even in one language (without comparing it with another language). For example, in the Uzbek language, an artificial bump that is installed across the road to slow down the movement of vehicles (to ensure the safety of pedestrians) does not have its own name. Or the part of the hand from the palm to the elbow is called the wrist, but the part from the elbow to the shoulder is not named with a separate word. Such lexical gaps can also be observed when comparing the diachronic and synchronic lexicon of the language: for example, in the old Uzbek language "pig boy" was called by the name chorpa (2, 485) (today, in some dialects, chulpak (10, 157) occurs in the form), but there is no lexeme naming this concept in the modern Uzbek literary language. Considerable work has been done in linguistics to distinguish and describe the lexical gap from its related phenomena. In particular, a separate research school has emerged in this regard in Russian linguistics. Although the study of the lexical gap in the comparison of two languages is leading in this scientific school, recently special attention has been paid to the fact that this phenomenon is one of the developmental factors in language development (1, 7). Especially in the field of lacunology developed by I.A. Sternin and his followers, there are studies devoted to the problem of the existence of gaps at the lexical level of a certain language and the problems of their filling. In this regard, the works of researchers such as G. Bikova, O. Ladisova, V. Ryabov, T. Larina are noteworthy (5; 11; 12; 17). In particular, G. Bikova, who studied lexical gaps on the basis of a systematic analysis, studied their types, detection methods, reasons for their occurrence, and ways to eliminate them in a wide aspect based on Russian language materials. According to Bikova, the lexical space is "a concept that does not have a specific sound shell and is



currently represented by a few words, which sooner or later is "standing on the springboard" for lexical realization, objectified as a new word" (5, 260). According to the scientist, any nameless concept is not a lexical gap, but a seminal lexical gap that is on the verge of lexical realization. In the process of communication, the need for lexical realization of the concept that is often referred to (if it is not named) is felt. After all, linguistic and speech needs are important in the formation of language units. In some cases, the names of irrelevant (not necessarily important) concepts, which are not actively used in speech, move to the inactive layer, which shows that this point of view is reasonable.

An important feature of the lexical space is its existence as a concept in the minds of language speakers. When this concept does not have its representative, it is expressed by phrases (or comments and explanations). Such expressions are valid only for the speech process, after the speech process ends, this expression breaks down and cannot maintain the status of a lexical unit. It should be noted that any concept can be expressed in language with a phrase (or an explanation and explanation in the form of a sentence). This intensive feature of the language is a factor limiting the increase of lexemes in the language, and it also creates certain gaps in the lexical system. Lexemization of a certain concept in the language depends on the linguistic-speech need to name this concept. Usually, the relevance (significance) of a certain concept and the need to name it can be objectively evaluated by studying whether this concept is named in other language(s). The fact that lexical spaces are widely studied today is also related to these aspects. It is also very important to understand the need for speech in the emergence of lexical spaces. In many cases, although the concept appears in people's minds, it is observed that a name is not chosen for it because there is no need to express it at a certain level. In other words, the presence of lexical units indicates the presence of a certain concept in the public mind, but the presence of a linguistic unit is not necessary for the existence of a concept (7, 22). In the Uzbek national culture, there is a concept of not taking back the words of older people (not double-talking, not raising objections). However, there is no lexeme to name it, so it has to be explained with an explanation or phrase. This situation shows that a lexeme corresponding to the concept is not always available in the language. "Natural language has a great opportunity to cover and express objects, events, their properties and relationships belonging to various fields of the objective world and knowledge. It is a semantically closed system. In other words, a natural language can build and express itself independently without referring to other languages" (19, 33). Due to these features, the language with the fewest lexemes is considered to have sufficient expressive possibilities in the eyes of its owners. Many situations can be observed when identifying and analyzing gaps in a specific lexical system. However, the comparison of two lexical systems ensures that a more correct decision is made in determining in which cases it is relevant to fill the gaps. In such processes, it is required to pay attention to the separate and common aspects of the comparable units in the two lexical systems. The appearance of gaps in the lexical system of the language is also related to the endless development of human thinking. It is known that "a concept may or may not be expressed by a word (name)" (4, 94). In the process of formation and popularization, each concept seeks to have a lexeme that is its representative. However, lexical gaps resulting from the imbalance of language and thinking are an immanent phenomenon characteristic of all languages. Concepts without pronouns will sooner or later have their representative in the language - a name. It is difficult to determine in advance how long this process will take place. Not all "empty cells" in the lexical system can be evaluated as lexical gaps. In particular, the existence of a corresponding paradigm (pair, "neighbor") to a certain element in the lexical system requires that each element in it has similar properties (16, 13). However, these features are manifested differently in different lexemes. As a result, a lexeme that exists within a certain paradigm may not have a counterpart in another lexeme. In logic, the illogical pole ("paradigm friend"), called illogicism, is not a required aspect for

any lexeme, in the alexic space. That is, a concept that is not logically necessary (and exists) does not deserve to be named (or evaluated as a lexical space). Therefore, "a word is a nominative unit of the language that appeared under the influence of the need to name, and it is a generalization of sounds and sounds that can express an object, an event, a phenomenon or a certain concept that can fit into human perception" (20, 118). The objectification of the lexical space is a very complex process, in which a concept without a noun is named based on the combination of linguistic needs and opportunities. In the process of nomination, the existing capabilities of the language are used. Therefore, the socio-linguistic popularization of this concept is also important. Through these processes, it is possible to achieve the expected results in eliminating lexical gaps. The appearance of one or another word in the language is based on the interdependence of necessity and chance (3, 134). In this process, the position of necessity is somewhat priority: a word (name) that is searched for the necessary expression in the process of communication, but not found (even "on the tip of the tongue") can have a salexic gap effect on the realization of the communicative goal. Although such a concept can be explained through explanations or comments, the existence of a linguistic unit corresponding to the same concept becomes a speech necessity for the speaker. Linguistic need, formed as a result of continuous development of thinking, arises as a result of limited possibilities of language to name all concepts. As a result of the continuous socialization of language owners, their work, and their desire to learn the secrets of nature, thinking also develops rapidly. The processes of perception and understanding, generalization of knowledge, which take place in thinking, require the naming of each concept in the mind. In the same process, as a result of striving to express the cognitive activity in the mind in language, a linguistic need is clearly felt in the process of communication, this need is formed from the lacunar relationship of language and thought units. Language development requires faster filling of these lexical gaps. Therefore, new concepts can be named faster. In the process of naming, language owners try to use the internal capabilities of the language to name a new concept. After all, the understanding and popularization of a new concept for the community depends on this aspect. Language, which is the main tool of thinking in the perception and perception of existence and its concepts, strives for perfection in being able to express all emotional and mental concepts as a "translator of consciousness" in the process of communication and communication. The development of thinking stimulates the development of language, and in turn, the development of language helps the consistent development of thinking (6, 159). But it is necessary to admit that although the language is progressing, it cannot fully reflect the infinite world of human thinking and imagination. From this point of view, the level of development of the language should be characterized by the fact that there are enough words in it that express concepts specific to thinking. However, it is clear that thinking is one step ahead of language, and that is why lexical gaps are constantly appearing in language. The filling of these lexical gaps does not stop the process: new concepts appear in thinking. The temporary existence of lexical spaces in the language and the fact that they are not quickly filled (the concept is not named) is characterized by the great informative potential of language units. Any new concept formed in the mind can be adequately explained and interpreted with the words available in the language. This gives enough opportunity for the speaker (addressee) to explain this concept to the listener (addressee). During the gradual development, this feature of the language develops further. The amount of lexical units in the language increases in proportion to the level of thinking of the society and language owners, the level of development of science and the characteristics of their reflection in the mind. Although the linguistic units formed as a result of specific speech needs of the language owners appear continuously, not all of them have a stable place in the lexical fund of the language. Based on the fair linguistic choice of the nation, the most important and necessary of them will have relatively stable and viable features as the basis of the



language lexicon. In fact, the normative and popular form of the language, which is called a literary language, is a product of the intelligent linguistic perception of the society that owns the language. It is noted in many literatures that the lexical system of the language is very active and changing compared to other levels. This change is mainly caused by linguistic and speech needs. It should be noted that in the consistent development of language and thinking, the emergence of a concept and the need to name it is an objective fact. At this point, there is a need to describe the linguistic need. A certain concept or "the process of knowing the subject is related to its nomination" (13, 107). As each object and concept that appears in existence is first of all reflected in the mind, in the alexic space, the need to find, name, interpret, describe and explain a suitable linguistic expression is formed: requires that it be expressed by new terms (names)" (21, 19). In such a situation, a person usually uses two methods to name new concepts: 1) giving a new name (word) to a new concept; 2) metaphorical naming of a new concept by the name of a concept similar to it. In most cases, the second method is actively used. Because the new word is not easily understood by members of society (14, 120). Each word in the language arises from the need to name a specific concept. Meaningful, even doublet terms have certain differences in the naming of the concept they represent. In other words, each word in the language has its own linguistic value and significance. But the owner (user) of the language, in the process of learning and using it, has the opportunity to compare and contrast words with each other and save (remember) only the most acceptable and popular ones in his linguistic base. does not seek to learn all the words available. The form of living and development of the language - the speech process - is of great importance in the identification and filling of the lexical gap in the language. After all, any language unit is formed and stabilized in the process of speech. In general, speech, as the most active and necessary communication process of language speakers, truly shows all the possibilities of the language lexicon. Also, the features of impossibility and limitations in the language lexicon are more noticeable and observed in the speech process.

Summary. As a representative of a particular dialect, a native speaker tries to eliminate the lexical gaps that arise in the speech process in various ways and to make his speech as smooth as possible. Because of this need, he is forced to fill the lexical gaps observed in the speech with words from his individual linguistic base, especially words specific to his dialect, similes and metaphors. Such cases, which occur in various forms of speech, serve to fulfill the communicative purpose of the addressee and the addressee in the current speech situation. While searching for a suitable name for a certain concept in the speech process, a word that is familiar to the people participating in the speech process is chosen as the most suitable word to name it. The fact that communication is usually carried out by people who are close to each other or live in the same region expands the possibilities of using words in the dialect of that region in current speech. In such a situation, even a person who has a good understanding of the norms of the literary language tends to use the linguistic opportunities specific to the dialect. This aspect also confirms that the speech process has great potential in filling the gaps in the language lexicon. Filling the gaps at the lexical level with words specific to a foreign language is not so justified. In fact, this situation is a serious threat to the purity of the lexicon of a particular language. Filling the lexical gaps identified in the process of translation with a word characteristic of a foreign language should be considered as a lexical gap condition for language development. In the alexic space, international words entering all languages should not be looked at with too much disdain, but it does not hurt to follow a certain standard in this regard. Any intellectual who aims to fill existing lexical gaps in the lexicon of the language, first of all, tries to eliminate the word that has the ability to fill this lexical gap, using the internal capabilities of the language. In this respect, they usually use dialect words or word formation systems. As noted by Professor N.

Mahmudov, "it will be possible to ensure the natural improvement of our language if we use the dialects of the people, and at the same time, the possibilities of the Uzbek language to be created objectively" (14, 77). Nowadays, the study of the lexical gap does not consist only of identifying the shortcomings and deficiencies in the language. In order to systematically fill and enrich the language lexicon, it is necessary to study this linguistic phenomenon in depth. By comparing their mother tongue with a foreign language, researchers try to identify gaps in the lexical level and eliminate them, as well as to objectively analyze the emergence of new concepts that are formed in the mind and their naming processes related to thinking and imagination. are trying to learn. In Uzbek linguistics, revitalization of the works in this regard, ultimately, identification and filling of lexical gaps in the lexicon of the literary language, is gaining particular relevance as it serves to ensure the development and purity of the language.

### References:

1. Akai O. M. Ontological and gnoseological osobennosti mej'yazykovykh and vnutriyazykovykh lakun // Vestnik Yujno-Uralskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta. Series: Linguistics. — 2019. — T. 16. No. 3. — S. 5–10.
2. Explanatory dictionary of the language of Alisher Navoi's works. Volume III (edited by E. Fazilov). — T.: "Fan" publishing house. 1984. — 485 p.
3. Philosophy of knowledge (compiler and translator Q. Nazarov). — T.: "Universitet" publishing house. 2005. — 134 p.
4. Jamalkhanov H.A. Modern Uzbek literary language. -T., 2004. (parts 1, 2)
5. Khojiyev A. Explanatory dictionary of linguistic terms. - T.: National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan, 2002