



LEXICAL MEANS OF EXPRESSING SPATIAL RELATIONS IN THE UZBEK LANGUAGE

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Abstract

This article examines the lexical means of expressing spatial relations in the Uzbek and Russian languages from the perspective of their structural-grammatical, semantic, and functional features. The analysis is based on a comparative study of the main categories of spatial vocabulary, including prepositions and postpositions, adverbs of place, as well as derivational and formal-grammatical elements involved in expressing locative and directive meanings. Special attention is paid to typological differences in the ways spatial relations are expressed, which are determined by the analytical and agglutinative nature of the Uzbek language and the inflectional system of the Russian language.

Keywords: Adlocation, delocation, translocation, semantics, absolutive, lexeme, relative, postpositions, affixes.

Introduction

The concept of space is universal in human cognition and plays a fundamental role in the linguistic worldview. It is reflected in different languages through a complex system of lexical, morphological, and syntactic means.

The Russian language, belonging to the inflectional type, actively employs prepositions supported by the case system to express spatial relations. The Uzbek language, as a representative of agglutinative Turkic languages, uses postpositions and affixes that form stable structural patterns.

The relevance of this study is determined by the need to identify and systematize the linguistic means that express spatial semantics, as well as to reveal their similarities and differences in the Uzbek and Russian languages.

The category of space, as refracted in human consciousness, finds broad expression in a set of linguistic means represented at various levels of language: lexical, word-formation, morphological, and syntactic. Through these means, the integration of the semantic and formal aspects of language is achieved.

Based on the data available in the scholarly literature on the study of spatial relations in different language systems, the construction of the field of spatiality relies on three interrelated parameters: situationality, topology, and orientation.

From a situational perspective, which reflects the type of process, spatial relations are divided into purely static and dynamic ones.

The former indicate location (locativity - where?), that is, already "established" relations.

The latter are associated with the movement of objects. Within dynamic relations, the following types are distinguished: 1. adlocation - the establishment of new relations (where to?), 2. delocation - the breaking of previous relations (where from?), 3. translocation - movement within an object or space (where?). In these relations, the localizer functions respectively as the "final / initial point" of movement ("finish / start") and as a "route" or "trajectory" within its space. Properly dynamic relations include adlocation and delocation, the result of which is a change in location. O. A. Stavtseva notes that relations of translocation (the continuation of a process within a constant space) are close to static relations (e.g., to walk along the fence - to grow along the fence) (Stavtseva O.A., 2002: 16); therefore, in Russian, translocation is often treated as location. Nevertheless, they differ from each other, since statics implies immobility, whereas dynamics implies movement, a "dynamic presence" of the localized object in space. In the Uzbek language, unlike Russian, these relations receive different formal expressions. In our article, we examine the semantic field of space in the Uzbek and Russian languages.

The semantic field of space consists of a nuclear zone and a peripheral zone. The nuclear zone includes words that directly contain the meaning of space in their semantics.

- 1) Words with absolute meaning, such as Uzbek o‘rin-joy “place” and some lexemes borrowed from Russian, including territory, plot, etc.; and Russian space, place, territory, belt, zone, strip, plot, etc.;
- 2) Words with relative meaning (words denoting spatial reference points): Uzbek o‘rtasida “middle”, tepasida “top/above”, pastda “below”, ortida “behind”, etc.; and Russian top, bottom, upper, lower, up, down, sideways, in front of, side, etc.
- 3) Parametric nouns denoting spatial dimensions include: Uzbek uzunlik “length”, uzun “long”, qalinlik “thickness”, yo‘g‘on “thick”, kalta “short”, etc.; and Russian width, height, wide, high, etc.

The semantic field of space is represented by grammatically diverse lexical units. Nouns with absolute meaning in the Uzbek and Russian languages express the most general notion of space. In the Uzbek language, this group is represented by the polysemantic word o‘rin-joy, which has several spatial meanings, as well as lexemes borrowed from Russian, such as hudud “territory/area”, poyas (ken glik) “belt/zone”, oblast (viloyat, voha) “region”, and rayon (tuman) “district”.

In Russian, this group includes the following words: space, territory, place, plot, locality, sphere, belt, zone, strip, area (specialized), range (specialized), geography (specialized), district, and region.

This group also includes the following words: Uzbek uzoqlik “distance, faraway”, uzoqliklar “distant places”, kenglik “expanse”; and Russian expanse, freedom, breadth, open space, distance.

In Uzbek language, the word o‘rin-joy “place” belongs to nouns with absolute meaning. The Uzbek–Russian Dictionary records the following meanings of this word:

1. place (space where something is located or where something occurs): biror narsa (predmet) turgan o‘rin-joy — “to move from place to place”;
2. place, locality: joylashish o‘rin-joyi — “holiday places”; go‘zal joylar — “beautiful places”; tog‘li hudud — “mountainous area”;
3. place (position, job): egallab turgan o‘rni - “the position of a research worker”; yangi joyga (amalga) ega bo‘lmoq - “to obtain a new position”;
4. place (a part or excerpt of a literary or musical work): romanning (asarning) eng qiziqarli joyi — “the most interesting parts of the novel”;
5. bed;
6. distance;

7. place (rank in a competition): musobaqada egallagan o‘rni — “to take first place in a competition”.

Among these meanings, three are spatial in nature.

However, it should be noted that this word has a more complex, multidimensional structure of meanings and a broader range of collocational possibilities than those presented in the dictionary.

The direct meaning of the lexeme o‘rin-joy is “a definite space or point where something is located, occurs, or may be located or occur,” for example:

Hamma bir joyga yig‘ildi (A. Doronin) - “Everyone gathered in one place”;

Shuning uchun ham bu yerga bayram kunlari shamni o‘chirishga ham kira olmaysan (A. Kutorkin) - “Therefore, on holidays, one cannot even squeeze into this place to extinguish a candle.”

In the plural, the word joylar “places” corresponds closely to the Russian lexemes mesta, mestnost’, kray (“places, locality, region”). For example:

O‘zingiz bilasiz, bu yerlar qanday joylar ekanini: tog‘lar, jarliklar, mana daryo ham (E. Pyataev) - “You know yourself what kind of places these are here: mountains, ravines, and here is also a river”;

Keyin piyoda o‘rmon chetidan ketdi: bu joylar unga tanish (A. Martynov) - “Then the pedestrian walked along the edge of the forest: these places were familiar to him.”

The substantive component of meaning comes to the forefront when the lexeme o‘rin-joy combines with adjectives indicating the degree of distance from an object: yaqin “near”, uzoqlik bo‘lmagan “not far”, uzo‘q “far”. For example:

Qayiqdan uzoq bo‘lmagan joyda baliq sakradi (V. Kolomasov) - “At a short distance from the boat, a fish jumped.”

By comparing the Uzbek lexeme o‘rin-joy “place” with the Russian lexeme mesto, we can draw the following conclusion: the Russian lexeme has three spatial meanings:

1. Surface space of the earth - a definite space or point where something is located, occurs, or may be located or occur;
2. Usually in plural - region, district, locality;
3. A definite space where one can settle or fit in - a space designated or allocated for someone.

The Uzbek lexeme o‘rin-joy “place” has six spatial meanings. The lexicosemantic structure of this word includes three spatial meanings shared with the



Russian lexeme, and five spatial meanings unique to the Uzbek lexeme: 1.“distance”; 2.“location”; 3.“point”; 4.“surface of an object or human body exposed to external influence.”

Thus, the Uzbek lexeme is semantically richer: it can denote both abstract spatial concepts and concrete objects (e.g., bed). The lexico-semantic structure of the Uzbek lexeme also includes a quantitative component, which is entirely absent in the Russian lexeme *место*.

For speakers of Uzbek, the perception of boundless spaces is not typical in the naïve worldview; therefore, the language does not have a lexeme analogous to the Russian *пространство* “unlimited extension in all directions; three-dimensional extension above the earth.”

In Russian, nouns with absolutive meaning are far more numerous than in Uzbek, which results in a wider range of paradigmatic connections.

Conclusion

The Russian and Uzbek languages employ different mechanisms for expressing spatial relations, determined by typological affiliation, structural characteristics, and cultural-historical factors.

The Russian language relies on prepositions, cases, and an extensive system of adverbs, providing a high degree of morphological detail. In contrast, the Uzbek language is characterized by the dominance of postpositions and affixes, creating regular and transparent models for expressing space.

Despite these differences, both languages demonstrate the universality of spatial categories and similar cognitive principles for orientation in the world.

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