



COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ANTONYMY EXPRESSION IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract

This article studies the expression of antonymy in English and Uzbek from a comparative linguistic perspective. Antonyms as a semantic phenomenon express the opposition of meaning and are important in enriching speech and ensuring the clarity of communication. The study analyzes the gradable, complementary and conversion types of antonyms, highlighting their structural and functional features in both languages. Particular attention is paid to lexical, morphological and syntactic means of expressing opposition. The results of the study show similarities such as the generality of semantic opposition, as well as differences in word formation, affixation and contextual use. While Uzbek uses more affixes and contextual oppositions, English relies mainly on ready-made lexical pairs.

Keywords: antonymy, opposition, semantics, English, Uzbek, comparative analysis, lexical units, affixation.

Introduction

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o'zbek tillarida antonimiyaning ifodalanishini qiyosiy lingvistik nuqtai nazardan o'rganilgan. Antonimiya semantik hodisa sifatida ma'no qarama-qarshiligini ifodalaydi va nutqni boyitish hamda muloqotning aniqligini ta'minlashda muhim ahamiyatga ega. Tadqiqotda antonimlarning darajalanadigan, komplementar va konversiv turlari tahlil qilinib, ularning har ikki tildagi tuzilish va funksional xususiyatlari yoritiladi. Qarama-qarshilikni ifodalashning leksik, morfologik va sintaktik vositalariga alohida e'tibor qaratiladi. Tadqiqot natijalari semantik qarama-qarshilikning umumiyliigi kabi o'xshashliklar bilan birga, so'z



yasalishi, affiksatsiya va kontekstual qo‘llanishga oid farqlarni ham ko‘rsatadi. O‘zbek tilida ko‘proq affikslar va kontekstual qarama-qarshiliklardan foydalanilsa, ingliz tilida esa asosan tayyor leksik juftliklarga tayaniladi.

Kalit so‘zlar: antonimiya, qarama-qarshilik, semantika, ingliz tili, o‘zbek tili, qiyosiy tahlil, leksik birliklar, affiksatsiya.

Аннотация

В данной статье рассматривается выражение антонимии в английском и узбекском языках с точки зрения сравнительной лингвистики. Антонимы как семантическое явление выражают оппозицию значений и играют важную роль в обогащении речи и обеспечении ясности коммуникации. В исследовании анализируются градуальные, комплементарные и конверсионные типы антонимов, выделяя их структурные и функциональные особенности в обоих языках. Особое внимание уделяется лексическим, морфологическим и синтаксическим средствам выражения оппозиции. Результаты исследования показывают сходства, такие как общность семантической оппозиции, а также различия в словообразовании, аффиксации и контекстном использовании. В то время как в узбекском языке используется больше аффиксов и контекстных оппозиций, английский язык в основном опирается на готовые лексические пары.

Ключевые слова: антонимия, оппозиция, семантика, английский, узбекский, сравнительный анализ, лексические единицы, аффиксация.

Antonym is one of the important semantic phenomena of the language system, which expresses the contradiction between meanings. In the lexical layer of the language, antonyms increase the expressiveness of speech and serve to clearly convey the idea. Antonyms are closely related not only to semantic, but also to morphological and word-formation systems¹. The ways of expressing antonyms in English and Uzbek languages, especially in the process of word formation, have significant differences.

¹ Lyons J. Semantics. Cambridge University Press, 1977.



Literature Review

In Uzbek linguistics, scholars such as G‘. Abdurahmonov², M. Jo‘rayev³, and S. Karimov⁴ have made significant contributions to the study of antonymy. In English linguistics, the works of J. Lyons⁵, F. Palmer⁶, and D. Crystal⁷ are considered foundational. The aim of this paper is to analyze theoretical approaches to antonymy in English and Uzbek and to compare their structural, semantic, and functional features. However, the ideas of antonymic word formation in English and Uzbek have not been studied in sufficient depth in a comparative way.

Methodology

The study used comparative-analytical, semantic and morphological analysis methods. Antonyms in English and Uzbek were selected based on lexical sources. Their word formation structure, affixal features and semantic connections were analyzed⁸. Also, the observation and comparison method was used based on examples.

Results

According to the results of the analysis, antonyms in English are mainly formed through prefixes. For example: happy - unhappy, possible - impossible, legal - illegal, correct - incorrect, appear - disappear. The morphological system of this language allows for a wide and systematic expression of antonymic relationships. Also, some antonyms in English are expressed at the lexical level: good - bad, big - small, high - low, early - late.

In the Uzbek language, antonyms are more often formed through the affixes “siz”, “no”, “aksil”.

For example, rasmiy – norasmiy, foydali – foydasiz, adolatli – adolatsiz, ma’lum – noma’lum, teng – noteng, xavfli – xavfsiz.

² Abdurahmonov G‘. O‘zbek tili grammatikasi. Toshkent, 2008.

³ Jo‘rayev M. O‘zbek tilshunosligi masalalari. Toshkent, 2012.

⁴ Karimov S. Hozirgi o‘zbek tili leksikologiyasi. Toshkent, 2015.

⁵ Lyons J. Semantics. Cambridge University Press, 1977.

⁶ Palmer F. R. Semantics: A New Outline. Cambridge University Press, 1981.

⁷ Crystal D. The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language. Cambridge University Press, 2003.

⁸ Раҳматуллаев III. Hozirgi o‘zbek adabiy tili. Toshkent, 2010.



Pure lexical antonyms are also common in the Uzbek language: katta – kichik, yaxshi – yomon, issiq – sovuq, oq – qora, uzoq – yaqin. There are also antonyms of this type in English, which express opposition without affixation: hot – cold, rich – poor, fast – slow, strong – weak.

Discussion and Analysis

The formation of antonymic words in both English and Uzbek differs significantly not only in the number of morphological devices but also in their level of systematization, productivity, and semantic motivation.

In English, antonymy is highly structured and is mainly realized through a system of derivational prefixes. Prefixes such as un-, in-/im-/ir-, dis-, and non- can be attached to a wide range of adjectives and verbs to systematically form antonymic pairs, for example: possible – impossible, legal – illegal, agree – disagree. A key feature of this system is that antonymic opposition is largely grammatically encoded; word-formation patterns are predictable and can easily be extended to new lexical items. As a result, the antonymic system in English represents an “open paradigm” that continuously expands alongside the development of new vocabulary. In Uzbek, antonymy is typically realized on two levels:

1. lexical (root antonyms) – katta – kichik (big – small), oq – qora (white – black);
2. morphological (limited affixation) – -siz, no-, and partially aksil-.

This system is less productive compared to English, since antonymic opposition in Uzbek is primarily based on the lexical-semantic level. Affixes function as secondary devices that extend, rather than structure, antonym formation.

The increasing use of the prefixes no- and aksil- in recent years is particularly noteworthy. This development is less a result of internal morphological evolution and more closely related to terminological and socio-political discourse expansion. For instance, forms such as noqonuniy (illegal), noaniq (unclear), aksilkorrupsion (anti-corruption), and aksilterror (counter-terrorism) reflect the growing influence of public, legal, and political communication. Here, no- generally expresses simple negation, whereas aksil- conveys a stronger sense of opposition or counteraction. Thus, they are semantically distinct: one indicates neutral negation, while the other implies active resistance or opposition.

Another important difference lies in the degree of morphological transparency. In English, prefixes are clearly segmentable and semantically stable: un- almost



consistently denotes “lack of” or “reversal.” In Uzbek, however, the usage of no- and -siz is more context-dependent and may be restricted by stylistic or terminological factors.

As for root antonyms, in both languages they are formed without derivation, based on direct semantic opposition. Such pairs belong to the oldest lexical layer and reflect cognitive universals: human cognition tends to categorize reality through contrasts. Therefore, pairs like hot – cold / issiq – sovuq are not morphologically derived but represent conceptual oppositions grounded in perception and cognition.

Conclusion

Although the ideas of antonymic word formation in English and Uzbek have a common semantic basis, there are significant differences in morphological expression. While the antonymic system in English is complex and multi-affixed, in Uzbek it is relatively simple. Nevertheless, both languages effectively express antonymy, and this phenomenon plays an important role in the development of the language.

In English and Uzbek, antonymy is based on the principle of universal cognitive opposition, but its linguistic expression is manifested differently in both languages. In English, the affixation system is more complex and productive and widely used in the formation of antonyms, while in Uzbek, lexical opposition and limited affixation predominate. Despite these differences, both languages effectively use antonymy to form the structure of meaning, enhance expressiveness, and reflect human thought processes.

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