

## THE LINGUISTIC ASPECTS OF LACUNAE AND THEIR COMPENSATION STRATEGIES

Ubaydullayeva Muattar O'rinbekovna

Bukhara state university

Teacher of English linguistics department

[m.u.ubaydullaeva@buxdu.uz](mailto:m.u.ubaydullaeva@buxdu.uz)

[muattarubaydullayeva39@gmail.com](mailto:muattarubaydullayeva39@gmail.com)

**Annotation:** The article discusses the concept of lacuna, its classification, and the manifestation of lacunae in communication.

**Keywords:** lacuna, non-equivalent vocabulary, communication, conceptual representation.

As a scientific field, lacunology, in a general sense (within the scope of cognitive linguistics), operates with the prototypical unit known as the term "lacuna." This unit possesses systemic reconstructive, transformative, and occasional (context-dependent) characteristics. In global linguistics, the concept has been expressed through words signifying "blank spots," "gaps," "voids," "empty spaces," "non-equivalence," "anti-word," or "absence" within the lexical system of a language. A concept that is expressed and named in a language acquires the status of a sememe, i.e., "meaning." Lacunae, however, are viewed as deficiencies within the language system and are considered phenomena that hold the status of "empty lexemes." It is worth noting here that the reflection of thought is manifested not only in a person's worldview but also in their language. Therefore, the occurrence of concepts—encountered in the speech of representatives of cultures with their own national worldview—that have no lexical equivalents in other languages, or that differ significantly when compared across languages, constitutes the phenomenon of "lacunarity." Regarding this phenomenon, K. Popper noted: "...we all live in a peculiar intellectual prison, the walls of which are built from the grammatical rules of our language. This is a very strange prison, as we are usually unaware of being imprisoned. We only begin to understand this when cultures collide." [1, p. 42]. In Russian linguistics, the term lacuna was introduced into scientific discourse by the linguist Yu. S. Stepanov. In particular, scholars such as Yu. S. Stepanov and V. L. Muravyov define lacuna as "the absence of an equivalent (word, set expression, or paraphrase) in one language for a concept expressed in another language" [2, p. 96]. In short, a lacuna refers to words or expressions that are specific to the everyday, cultural, social, or historical life of a particular people and are foreign to another, lacking direct equivalents in other languages.

Lacunae are typically identified when comparing languages, as they represent concepts that exist in one linguistic-cultural context but are absent in another. Thus, all synchronous lacunae can be broadly divided into two main types: **interlingual** (between languages) and **intra-lingual** (within a single language). It should be noted that **intra-linguistic lacunae** are identified within a single language (monolingually). These represent potential lexical gaps where a word for a particular concept is expected in the language's system, yet no such word exists. For example, in Uzbek, the word pul ('money') has both singular (pul) and plural (pullar) forms, while in Russian, the word деньги ('money') only exists in the plural, and no singular form is used in this context.

Similarly, in Uzbek, the term egizak refers broadly to twins—regardless of whether they are monozygotic or dizygotic. In Russian, however, distinctions are made: близнецы (monozygotic twins) and двойняшки (dizygotic twins). Another example: in Uzbek, a newly married couple is often referred to as yosh oila ('young family'), but there is no corresponding term for a couple that has been married for a long time.



Likewise, we have terms such as *sinfdosh* ('classmate') or *kursdosh* ('course mate') in Uzbek, but no single lexical item for someone who has not shared those experiences. The same applies to words like *mahalladosh* ('neighborhood mate') or *qo'shni* ('neighbor'), where the reverse concept lacks direct expression. Antonymous lexical gaps can also be observed in pairs such as *yurtdosh* ('compatriot'), *darddosh* ('fellow sufferer'), *xonadosh* ('housemate'), *suhbatdosh* ('interlocutor'), *hamkasb* ('colleague'), etc.

It becomes evident that when a relevant lexical item is missing in a language, speakers may compensate syntactically by using explanatory phrases or sentences, especially in communication where the expression of the concept becomes necessary. The emergence of lacunae affects not only the "design" of a language's lexical and grammatical systems but also creates semantic discrepancies between languages.

Scholars such as G. A. Antipov, O. A. Donskikh, I. Yu. Markovina, and Yu. A. Sorokin have noted that lacunae can be addressed through two primary methods: **filling** and **compensation** (or substitution). However, researchers disagree on the interpretation and differentiation of these terms. For instance, I. Yu. Markovina treats compensation and filling as two distinct linguistic phenomena [3, p. 145], while I. A. Sternin, referring to A. Duda, offers his own explanation of compensation and compensatory terms. Conversely, L. A. Leonova interprets compensation as filling through substitution, which, in our view, is an inaccurate interpretation.

Overall, the issue of eliminating (compensating for or filling) lacunae remains underexplored in global linguistics and continues to be a subject of scholarly debate across different linguistic traditions.

## References:

1. Поппер К.. Круглый стол: что такое лингвокультурология. // Мир русского слова. 2000. - №2. – С.42.
2. Муравев В.Л. Лексические лакуны (на материале лексики французского и русского языков). –Владимир, 1975. – 96 с.; Стернин И.А. Структурная семасиология и лингводидактика // Русское слово в лингвострановедческом аспекте: Межвузовский сб. научн. трудов. – Воронеж: Изд-во Воронежского ун-та, 1987. – С. 104 – 121.
3. Марковина И.Ю. Влияние лингвистических и экстралингвистических факторов на понимание текста: Дисс... канд. филол. наук. - М., 1982. –С.145
4. Леонова Л.А. Семантические и структурные аспекты антилакун в двуязычной ситуации //Структурные аспекты слова и словосочетания. - Калинин, 1980. - С. 35 - 42.

