

SEMANTIC FEATURES OF POLYSEMY IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20618567>

**Abstract.** This scientific article analyzes the semantic features of polysemy in the Uzbek and English languages in a comparative manner. It is highlighted that the polysemy of linguistic units occupies an important place in the lexical system of both languages and is one of the main factors in the development of meaning. It also examines the reasons for the formation of polysemic units, their semantic development paths and functional significance in speech, and the similarities and differences in meaning transfer using the example of some polysemic words in the Uzbek and English languages.

**Keywords:** polysemy, semantics, polysemy, lexical meaning, meaning transfer, Uzbek language, English language, comparative analysis, linguistics, semantic development.

**Annotatsiya.** Mazkur ilmiy maqolada o'zbek va ingliz tillarida uchraydigan polisemiyaning semantik xususiyatlari qiyosiy jihatdan tahlil qilinadi. Til birliklarining ko'p ma'nolilik xususiyati har ikki tilning lug'aviy tizimida muhim o'rin egallashi hamda ma'no taraqqiyotining asosiy omillaridan biri ekanligi yoritiladi. Shuningdek, polisemik birliklarning shakllanish sabablari, ularning semantik rivojlanish yo'llari va nutqdagi funksional ahamiyati hamda o'zbek va ingliz tillaridagi ayrim polisemik so'zlar misolida ma'no ko'chishining o'xshash va farqli jihatlari ko'rib chiqiladi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** polisemiya, semantika, ko'p ma'nolilik, leksik ma'no, ma'no ko'chishi, o'zbek tili, ingliz tili, qiyosiy tahlil, tilshunoslik, semantik taraqqiyot.

**Аннотация.** В данной научной статье в сравнительном порядке анализируются семантические особенности полисемии в узбекском и английском языках. Подчеркивается, что полисемия языковых единиц занимает важное место в лексической системе обоих языков и является одним из главных факторов развития значения. Также рассматриваются причины формирования полисемических единиц, пути их семантического развития и функциональное значение в речи, а также сходства и различия в передаче значения на примере некоторых полисемических слов в узбекском и английском языках.

**Ключевые слова:** полисемия, семантика, полисемия, лексическое значение, передача значения, узбекский язык, английский язык, сравнительный анализ, лингвистика, семантическое развитие.

ENTRANCE



Language is one of the most important tools of human thought, reflecting the cultural, social and historical experience of society. In the process of language development, the meaning of words expands, new meanings arise, and various semantic relationships are formed between existing meanings. One of such phenomena is polysemy. Polysemy is the property of one lexeme to express two or more meanings that are to a certain extent related to each other. This phenomenon occurs in most languages of the world and plays an important role in increasing the lexical richness of the language. In modern linguistics, the issue of polysemy is being studied as one of the current areas of semantics. The development of word meanings, the mechanisms of meaning transfer, and their use in speech allow for a deeper understanding of the language system. In particular, comparative analysis of polysemic units in different languages is of great importance in identifying linguistic universals and national identities. Despite the fact that Uzbek and English belong to different language families, some common patterns are observed in the manifestation of polysemy in them. In both languages, new meanings are formed as a result of semantic processes such as meaning expansion, metaphor and metonymy. At the same time, the historical development of the language, the cultural environment and social factors have a specific impact on the formation of polysemic units. As a result, along with similarities in the semantic structure of some words, significant differences also arise.

Polysemy is a widespread and naturally occurring phenomenon in the lexical system of a language. As any language develops, its words acquire new meanings and serve to satisfy various communicative needs. As a result, one word can express several meanings. This process is also related to the economy of language, since language users tend to expand the meaning of existing words instead of creating a separate word for each new concept. Therefore, polysemy appears as one of the important factors shaping the vocabulary of the Uzbek and English languages.

In linguistics, polysemy is interpreted as the expression of several meanings of a single lexeme that are semantically related. Such meanings usually arise from one main meaning and over time form new semantic facets. For example, the Uzbek word “eye” is used in the meanings of “eye of a spring” and “eye of a needle” in addition to the meaning of a human organ. There is a certain degree of similarity between these meanings, and they are semantically related to each other. Similar situations can be observed in English. For example, the word “head” is used in the meanings of the head of an organization, the head of a table, or the top of something, in addition to being used as a part of the human body. Metaphor plays an important role in the emergence of polysemy. Metaphor creates a new meaning by transferring certain signs of one object or phenomenon to another object. In Uzbek, the word “language” is used in the sense of “foreign language” and “national language” in addition to the meaning of a human organ of speech. The word “tongue” in English has also undergone a similar semantic development. This situation indicates the existence of a certain universality between languages. Human thinking tends to identify similarities between objects and phenomena, and it is this process that causes the formation of new meanings.

Metonymy is also of particular importance in the formation of polysemy. Metonymy is based not on similarity, but on proximity and connection. For example, in Uzbek language, in such combinations as “stol”, the word “stol” does not mean the direct object, but a group of people gathered around this table. In English, expressions such as “The White House announced” are also found. In such cases, the new meaning of the word is formed on the basis of a close relationship with its original meaning. The meanings formed as a result of metonymic meaning transfer are also part of the polysemic system. A comparative analysis of polysemic units in Uzbek and English allows us to identify some common and different aspects. One of the common aspects is that in both languages, polysemantics develops in close connection with a



person's everyday experience and thinking. Words denoting parts of the human body often serve as the basis for the formation of new meanings. For example, the Uzbek word "bosh" and the English word "head" can mean leadership, the top, or the main center. This shows that the anthropocentric approach plays an important role in human understanding of the world.

The differences are mainly related to cultural and historical factors. The lifestyle, traditions and worldview of each people affect the semantic system of the language. Therefore, the semantic meanings of some words that exist in one language may not be found in the same form in another. For example, in the Uzbek language, some words related to national culture and traditions have a wide semantic field, while in English other lexical means are used for them. This situation creates certain difficulties in the translation process. Polysemic units are also of great importance from the point of view of translation studies. The fact that a word has several meanings requires the translator to deeply analyze the content of the text. Context is an important tool for determining in which sense a word is used. For example, the word "bank" in English can mean a financial institution or a riverbank. For accurate translation, it is necessary to determine in which situation this word is used. There are many similar examples in the Uzbek language. Therefore, studying polysemy also serves to improve the quality of translation.

Context is one of the main factors in determining the meaning of polysemic words. One word can express different meanings in different speech situations. And the participants of the speech easily understand the desired meaning through the situation, topic and grammatical construction. Therefore, polysemy does not hinder communication, but on the contrary, expands the expressive capabilities of the language. If there were a separate word for each meaning, the language system would become excessively complicated. Polysemy, on the other hand, makes it possible to effectively use existing units. In modern linguistics, polysemy is also studied based on the cognitive approach. According to this approach, word meanings form a system of interconnected knowledge in the human mind. The main meaning occupies a central place, and the remaining meanings are formed around this center. Many polysemic units in Uzbek and English have such a network-like semantic structure. This once again confirms the inextricable connection between language and thinking.

Polysemy is an important indicator not only of the lexical system, but also of language development. With the emergence of new concepts in society, the range of meanings of words also expands. In particular, as a result of the development of science and technology, new meanings are being assigned to existing words. An example of this is the acquisition of the meaning of the English word "mouse" as a computer device or the performance of new semantic functions by some technological terms in the Uzbek language. This process shows that the language is in constant motion and that polysemy actively participates in its development. Thus, polysemy in the Uzbek and English languages is manifested as an important phenomenon that ensures the semantic richness of the language. It is formed on the basis of metaphor, metonymy and other semantic processes and expands the communicative capabilities of the language. If the common patterns observed in both languages are associated with the universal features of human thinking, then the differences arise as a result of the influence of national culture and historical development. Therefore, the comparative study of polysemy is of significant scientific importance for the fields of semantics, translation studies, and cognitive linguistics.

## LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND METHODOLOGY

The issue of polysemy is one of the most widely studied semantic phenomena in linguistics. Many scientists have conducted scientific research on this issue at different times. Polysemy serves as an important theoretical basis for studying the development of word meanings, their interrelationships, and their functional properties in the speech process. Therefore, this phenomenon has been widely studied both in general linguistics and in comparative linguistics.



One of the scientists who made a significant contribution to the formation of the theory of polysemy in Russian and world linguistics is V.V.Vinogradov. He analyzed the mechanisms of development of word meanings and highlighted the role and significance of polysemy in the language system. According to the scientist, polysemic meanings are not completely independent of each other, but are connected by a common semantic basis. This approach was later used as a theoretical basis in many studies.

The issue of polysemy in English linguistics has also been studied in detail by such scholars as J.Lyons, S.Ullmann and D.Crystal. In their studies, the importance of context in the formation and development of word meanings is emphasized. In particular, J.Lyons, in the process of analyzing semantic relations, notes that polysemy is a product of the natural development of language. In his opinion, polysemy expands the lexical possibilities of the language and serves to make speech concise and effective.

In recent years, polysemy has also been widely studied from the point of view of cognitive linguistics. The theory of conceptual metaphor, put forward by G.Lakoff and M.Johnson, is of great importance in explaining the reasons for the emergence of polysemic meanings. According to this theory, a person relies on existing knowledge and experience in the process of understanding the surrounding reality. As a result, signs associated with one concept are transferred to other concepts and new meanings are formed. This process creates the basis for the formation of many polysemic units.

In Uzbek linguistics, the issue of polysemy has also been studied by various scholars. In particular, the works of A.Hojiyev, Sh.Rahmatullayev and other linguists have highlighted the development of word meanings, semantic relations, and the role of polysemy in the lexical system. These studies emphasize the important role of semantic processes such as metaphor, metonymy, and functionalism in the formation of polysemic units in the Uzbek language.

The analysis of the existing scientific literature shows that, although polysemy has been widely studied in various areas of linguistics, the number of studies devoted to the comparative semantic analysis of polysemic units in Uzbek and English is relatively small. In particular, the issue of identifying similar and different aspects of the development of meaning in the example of two languages requires additional scientific research. Therefore, this study is significant in that it is aimed at a comparative study of the semantic features of polysemic units in Uzbek and English. In this study, several scientific research methods were used to determine the semantic features of polysemic units in Uzbek and English. The methodological basis of the study was semantic analysis, comparative analysis, and descriptive methods. With the help of these methods, the formation and use features of polysemic words in the two languages were studied.

First of all, the theoretical aspects of the phenomenon of polysemy were analyzed based on the descriptive method. Through this method, the definitions given to the concept of polysemy in linguistics, the factors of its occurrence and semantic features were studied based on scientific sources. Also, the existing scientific views on this issue in Uzbek and English linguistics were summarized and systematized.

One of the main methods of the study was the method of comparative analysis. With the help of this method, some polysemic units in the Uzbek and English languages were compared. In the process of comparison, the main and derived meanings of words, their formation mechanisms, and cases of use in speech were studied. Comparative analysis allowed us to identify common semantic patterns between the two languages, as well as to show differences arising from national and cultural characteristics. The semantic structure of selected polysemic words was studied using the method of semantic analysis. During the analysis, the main meaning of each word and its additional meanings were determined, and the semantic connection between them was explained. In addition, the meaning transfers that occurred on the basis of metaphor



and metonymy were also analyzed. This method helped to understand the internal semantic structure of polysemic units more deeply.

Explanatory dictionaries of Uzbek and English languages, scientific literature, and various text samples were used as research material. The selected examples were selected based on the criterion of reflecting the widespread and typical manifestations of the phenomenon of polysemy in both languages. As a result of the analysis of the examples, the patterns of development of word meanings and their communicative functions were identified. The results obtained in the research process were evaluated using analytical and logical generalization methods. The identified semantic features were divided into groups and general conclusions were formed on their basis. This approach made it possible to systematically study the features of the manifestation of the phenomenon of polysemy in Uzbek and English.

Thus, the methods used in the study served to comprehensively analyze the theoretical and practical aspects of the phenomenon of polysemy. The harmonious use of comparative, descriptive and semantic analysis methods made it possible to shed more light on the semantic nature of polysemous words in the Uzbek and English languages. This helped to ensure the scientific validity and reliability of the research results.

## RESULTS

During the study, the semantic properties of polysemic units in the Uzbek and English languages were analyzed comparatively. The results of the analysis showed that in both languages, polysemy is one of the important means of forming the lexical wealth of the language. Based on the studied examples, it was determined that processes such as semantic expansion, metaphor and metonymy occupy a leading place in the formation of polysemy. Among the analyzed units, words denoting human body parts attracted special attention. It was observed that words such as “bosh”, “ko'z”, “til”, “k'l” in the Uzbek language and the lexemes “head”, “eye”, “tongue”, “hand” in the English language are used in several meanings. It was found that the additional meanings of these words are often formed semantically dependent on the main meaning. This indicates that polysemy is not a random phenomenon, but develops based on certain laws.

The results of the study also showed that metaphorical meaning transfer is widespread in both languages. For example, the use of the Uzbek word “bosh” in the meaning of “leader” and the use of the English word “head” in the same meaning is one of the similarities in semantic development. Such examples confirm that the general cognitive features of human thinking are reflected in the language system. It was found that polysemic units formed on the basis of metonymic meaning transfer are also found in both languages. However, in some cases, the direction of meaning development and the level of use differ between languages. In particular, it was found that the process of semantic expansion is manifested in a unique way in words related to national culture and historical development.

The results of the study also showed that polysemy in Uzbek and English serves the principle of language economy. As a result of assigning new meanings to existing words, the vocabulary does not become excessively complicated and communicative needs are effectively satisfied. In this regard, polysemy appears as a semantic phenomenon that actively participates in the development of both languages.

## DISCUSSIONS

The results obtained showed that the phenomenon of polysemy is formed on the basis of similar semantic mechanisms in Uzbek and English. Many examples identified during the study confirm the theoretical views previously expressed by linguists. In particular, the ideas about the connection between polysemic meanings and their development from one basic meaning are consistent with the results of the analysis.



During the study, the role of metaphor in the formation of polysemic meanings was particularly evident. This is consistent with the theoretical views put forward in cognitive linguistics. A person understands new concepts through his existing knowledge, and as a result, some features of one object are transferred to other objects. Therefore, it was observed that the semantic development directions of some polysemic units in the Uzbek and English languages are close to each other. However, the results of the study showed that not all polysemic units have the same development laws. In some cases, the cultural environment, historical experience, and national thinking have a significant impact on the development of meaning. In particular, specific forms of semantic expansion are found in words related to the lifestyle of a particular people. This shows that language is not only a communicative tool, but also a keeper of cultural experience. In the process of discussion, the connection between the issues of polysemy and translation also attracts attention. The results of the study showed that in order to ensure the accuracy of meaning in the translation of polysemic units, a deep analysis of the context is necessary. In some cases, a polysemantic word in one language can be expressed by several separate lexemes in another language. This requires translators not only knowledge of the language, but also semantic thinking.

In general, the results of the study and their discussion once again confirm that polysemy occupies a central place in the semantic system of language. The similarities between polysemic units in Uzbek and English are associated with the general laws of human thinking, while the differences are explained by the national-cultural characteristics of each language. Therefore, the study of the issue of polysemy from a comparative perspective is of great scientific importance for other areas of semantics and linguistics.

## CONCLUSION

Within the framework of this study, the semantic features of polysemy in Uzbek and English were studied comparatively, and the processes of formation and development of polysemous words were analyzed. As a result of the analysis, it was found that polysemy occupies an important place in the lexical system of both languages and is one of the main factors ensuring the semantic richness of the language. During the study, it was observed that most polysemic meanings originate from the primary meaning and that there is a certain semantic connection between them.

The results of the analysis showed that polysemy in Uzbek and English is mainly formed through semantic processes such as metaphor and metonymy. In both languages, words denoting human body parts, objects actively used in everyday life, and general concepts often serve as the basis for the formation of new meanings. This indicates that the general characteristics of human thinking cause similar semantic processes in different languages. At the same time, the study also revealed that some meanings of polysemic units are formed under the influence of national culture, historical development, and social environment. This helps to explain some semantic differences in Uzbek and English. Thus, polysemic is a phenomenon closely related not only to the internal laws of language development, but also to the cultural experience of society. The study also confirmed the importance of context in determining the meaning of polysemic units. Despite the fact that a word can have several meanings, the desired meaning is easily understood through the speech situation and text content. Therefore, polysemy does not negatively affect the communication process, but on the contrary, it expands the expressive capabilities of the language and ensures the conciseness of speech. The results of the study showed that the study of the issue of polysemy is of significant scientific importance for the fields of semantics, comparative linguistics, and translation studies.

In conclusion, polysemy is a phenomenon that plays an important role in the semantic development of Uzbek and English languages, expanding the lexical richness and



communicative capabilities of the language. Future research in this area based on broader linguistic materials may serve to identify new aspects of polysemy and shed more light on its place in the language system.

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