

## A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF VARIANT FORMATION IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH

**Babajanova Iqbol Salomaddinovna**

*Researcher*

**Annotatsiya:** *The study explores the comparative analysis of variant formation in Uzbek and English languages. It examines the mechanisms, types, and linguistic patterns through which variants are formed in both languages. The research identifies similarities and differences in morphological, phonetic, and semantic processes, highlighting the influence of language structure and cultural context on variant formation. This work provides valuable insights for linguists, translators, and educators interested in comparative linguistics and cross-linguistic analysis.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *Variant formation, comparative linguistics, Uzbek language, English language, morphological processes, phonetic patterns, semantic variations, cross-linguistic analysis*

A variant is a type of something that differs only slightly in form, for example, the different spellings or pronunciations of a word. Phonetic variants of words have their limits and are realized through synonyms. That is, the form of the word changes, but its meaning remains the same. Two different pronunciations of a word give rise to two phonetic variants.

Based on the structure of synonymous idioms, idiomatic variants can be defined as idioms composed of different components that either share the same meaning and similar grammatical structure or have meanings that are close to each other.

The term synonym originates from ancient Greek, *synonymia*, meaning "same name." It indicates the relationship between two expressions whose meanings are identical but whose forms are different. By meaning, they refer to the same phenomenon, object, or content within the linguistic domain. In other words, for expression A and expression B to be synonymous, they must differ externally (in form) but share the same internal meaning (meaning A = meaning B). Synonymous units include both synonymic words and idioms, which are exceptions among synonymous expressions.

Two or more lexical synonyms that denote the same event, action, object, or attributes of an object form a specific group in the language system, called a synonymic series. For example, the English synonymic series *agitate, disturb, worry, touch, stir up, excite, shake, move, trouble, concern* refers to actions that lead a person to a state of nervousness or emotional agitation. Differences among synonyms also manifest in their combinatory potential with other words. Some synonyms can combine with a wide range of words, while others combine only with a limited set.

Russian linguists have especially noted significant achievements in the study of synonymous idioms. In modern Russian, synonymous idioms are regarded as linguistic units with identical meanings but differing in expression style and functional stylistic features.

Thus, synonymous idioms are idioms that either share the same meaning but have different structures, or have the same structure but consist of components from different semantic domains.

The function of idioms is similar to that of words, but idioms consist of multiple lexical units. Therefore, synonymous idioms are more complex than word synonyms and are related to idiomatic variants. To clearly distinguish idiomatic variants from synonymous idioms, two criteria are considered: meaning and grammatical structure. Meaning can be identical or based on different imagery, while grammatical structure can be identical or vary.

For example, to take into one's head and to take into one's mind are idiomatic variants. Their meaning and grammatical structure are identical, and their meaning is based on the same conceptual domain; that is, head and mind are semantically elements of the same field.

On the other hand, as angry as a bear and as angry as a bull are synonymous idioms because bear and bull belong to different semantic domains.

Based on the criteria of meaning and grammatical structure, the main types of idiom variants can be distinguished as follows:

Variants based on the rearrangement of components (A and B = B and A), e.g., on and off – off and on.

Variants where components are replaced with synonyms, e.g., to come apart – to come asunder.

Variants where components are replaced with words or phrases from the same lexical-semantic field, e.g., to get a share of the cake – to get a slice of the cake.

Based on meaning and form, this type of idiom variants, which include main idioms and their component-modified variants, can be considered an intermediate form between variants and synonyms. If they share the same meaning but differ in structure, they are synonyms: to have a head on one's shoulders – to have one's head screwed on the right way. If they share the same figurative meaning but are based on different images: as busy as a beaver – as busy as a bee.

The components of English idioms, particularly verbs and nouns, can often be replaced by other units belonging to the same semantic field without changing the overall meaning. For example, in the idiom to scream blue murder, the verb scream can be replaced with cry without changing the overall meaning of the idiom.

Examples of such idiomatic variants include:

to get one's blood up – to have one's blood up

to welcome with open arms – to greet with open arms

to find the length of someone's feet – to know the length of someone's feet

Idiomatic variants are forms that share the same meaning as the original idiom, with one or more components replaced by words from the same semantic field.

Synonyms, on the other hand, are words that have identical or very close meanings but differ in form. Words that are synonyms are considered synonymic, and this phenomenon is called synonymy. Two expressions with the same meaning are often synonymic, even if they carry different connotations. Synonyms can belong to any part of speech (noun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition), as long as they are of the same category.

In English, many synonyms result from the combination of Norman-French and Saxon influences. For example, folk and freedom originate from Saxon, while people and liberty come from German-French sources.

Two idioms are considered synonymous if their structures differ but their meanings are the same: not to turn a hair (verb phrase) – without turning a hair (prepositional phrase). Such synonymous idioms are relatively rare in English.

All languages in the world are fundamentally based on words. In the process of human communication, to ensure the elegance of speech and avoid repetitive use of the same words, speakers can utilize words with identical or similar meanings. In linguistics, this phenomenon is referred to as synonymy or variants. Today, as a result of globalization, the development of the digital economy, and scientific innovations, significant changes and transformations are taking place in the lexical layer of languages. The development of category syncretism, the increase of homonymous words, the proliferation of polyfunctional words, and the advancement of conversion phenomena have all contributed to these changes.

Synonymy is a type of semantic relationship between linguistic units. It involves the partial correspondence of lexical units. The process of synonymy occurs across the lexical, phraseological, grammatical, and word-formation systems of a language. It is considered one of the most important paradigmatic relationships, making the study of synonymy relevant at all times.

In the context of Uzbek linguistics, research on synonymy includes, for instance, X. Shamsuddinov's doctoral dissertation, which highlights that in our linguistics, the establishment of synonymic relationships through the original meanings of words versus their figurative meanings has not been clearly distinguished, or if it has, the two are often mixed within the same synonymic series. However, there are certain distinctions in their emergence, which are clarified by examining functional-semantic synonyms—that is, words may also have functional-semantic synonyms within their own semantic scope.

Sh. Rahmatullayev defines synonymy in Uzbek linguistics as follows: Lexemes that have equal ideographic semantics but differ in one or several aspects are considered lexical synonyms (lexosynonyms). There are various approaches to synonymy, and differences can be seen in its classification. V. Vinogradov, for example, proposed a classification of synonyms:

Ideographic synonyms – representing the same concept, though sometimes with subtle differences in meaning.

Stylistic synonyms – whose usage may differ depending on style or register.

Absolute synonyms – fully interchangeable in usage while preserving semantic integrity.

To deeply understand synonyms, many linguists emphasize the necessity of distinguishing between the concept and the word, as well as between the word and its meanings. A concept is a logical category that forms in the human mind as a representation of a person, object, event, or phenomenon. A word is a linguistic form expressing that concept through sounds or graphemes. However, a word does not always convey the full essence of a concept; it may only express one aspect of it. Other aspects of the concept are expressed by other words, enriching the language with semantically related words.

The fact that a single concept can be expressed through multiple words demonstrates the limitations of the definition of synonyms as “multiple words expressing the same concept,” since no concept can be fully expressed solely through synonyms. Despite a large number of synonyms, certain aspects of concepts may remain unexpressed, which accounts for differing interpretations and classifications of synonyms by linguists.

In this context, synonyms are words that express different nuances and aspects of a single concept. They often can substitute for one another, but each word may differ in terms of its semantic focus or the primary effect it conveys to the listener. For example, H. Jamolxonov defines lexical synonymy as “the grouping of lexemes that convey the same meaning.” Examples include: toza, ozoda, pokia, sarishta; uy, xonadon, ro‘zg‘or; ilg‘or peshqadam, yetakchi. These groups are referred to in linguistics as synonymic series.

The distinctive features of synonymic series are:

The denotative meanings of the lexemes are close or identical, but their expressive semantics—nuances, stylistic coloring, subjective evaluations, and scope of use—may differ. For example, istamoq, xoxlamoq, orzu qilmoq, ko‘ngli tusamoq, ixtiyor qilmoq all convey the notion of desire; xoxlamoq is neutral, tilamoq is poetic, and ixtiyor qilmoq is literary.

Sometimes the expressive semantics are graded. For example, yiqilmoq, qulamoq, ag‘anamoq, ag‘darilmoq all denote falling, but yiqilmoq is neutral, whereas qulamoq and ag‘anamoq convey a stronger sense of the action.

Neutral words without stylistic coloring often dominate synonymic series. For example, in yuz, bet, aft, bashara, turq, yuz is dominant and neutral, while the others carry stylistic or emotional nuances.

Synonyms must belong to the same part of speech, e.g., nouns: bahor, ko‘klam; adjectives: go‘zal, chiroyli; verbs: so‘zlamoq, gapirmoq.

Absolute synonyms in Uzbek linguistics are lexemes that are semantically identical and have no distinguishing features. They are often considered lexical doublets, e.g., savol–so‘roq, xabar–darak, tema–mavzu. According to Sh. Rahmatullayev, absolute synonyms do not last long in any language; over time, one usually falls out of use, making lexical doublets a transient phenomenon.

Sh. Rahmatullayev also classifies synonymic relationships based on structure into three types:

Root lexemes – e.g., bop–mos, yoq–tomon

Derived lexemes – e.g., pog‘ona–bosqich, tamom bo‘l–tuga

Derived lexemes further divided by formation type –

By base synonymy: sanoqli–hisobli, ga‘azblan–qahrlan

By near-meaning base: kuyla–xonish qil, yosh–yalang, yigit–yalang

Additionally, synonymy can be categorized into simple, complex, and compound synonyms. Sometimes a word with various affixes can participate in synonymic relationships, e.g., ilmoq–ilgak, where the suffixes -moq and -gak serve a synonymic function. Synonyms according to their linguistic level:

Among general language units: chop–yugur, kun–quyosh

Between general language units and dialectal units: ozg‘in–oriq

Among dialectal units: sapcha–xamak, g‘ora–dovcha

The phenomenon of polysemy also plays an important role among synonyms. It manifests in three forms:

Among the primary meanings of a word

Between primary and figurative meanings

Among figurative meanings

According to Sh. Rahmatullayev, “a synonym does not arise on the basis of lexical usage (speech meaning). Synonymic relationships emerge between linguistic units; this is referred to as usual synonymy. If the relationship arises in a speech context, it is considered contextual (speech) synonymy.”

Thus, in a synonymic series, the central position is given to the dominant word. In Uzbek linguistics, lexical synonymy has been widely studied, with significant contributions from scholars such as H. Jamolxonov, Sh. Rahmatullayev, and G. Abdurhamonov. H. Jamolxonov, in his research, classifies synonyms according to meaning, stylistic, and speech types, providing clear examples for each. In particular, the phenomenon of contextual synonymy demonstrates the dynamic potential of language.

Furthermore, Sh. Rahmatullayev’s classification of synonyms—considering their origin, structure, relationships among lexical units, affixal synonyms, dialectal synonyms, and cases related to polysemy—requires a comprehensive approach to synonymy. According to these researchers, synonymic relationships occur only among linguistic units, while speech meaning appears exclusively in contextual synonymy.

On this basis, it can be concluded that synonymy is an important linguistic tool that ensures lexical richness, expressive freedom, and stylistic diversity in a language. Its thorough study contributes to both the theoretical and practical development of lexicology. The shift of lexical doublets from active to passive status over time should be regarded as an important phenomenon associated with the natural evolution of language.

## REFERENCES

1. Webster's new world college dictionary, Wiley Publishing, Ohio, 2005.
2. Shamsuddinov X. O'zbek tilida so'zlarning funksional-semantik sinonimlari. Diss. filol. fan. dokt. – Toshkent, 1999. –B. 25.
3. Rahmatullayev Sh. Hozirgi o'zbek adabiy tili.–Toshkent: Universitet, 2006.–B.73
4. Виноградов В.С. Перевод. Общие и лексические вопросы. –М.: Университет 2006. –С. 45.
5. Rahmatullayev Sh. Hozirgi o'zbek adabiy tili.–Toshkent: Universitet, 2006.–B.74
6. Rahmatullayev Sh. Hozirgi o'zbek adabiy tili.–Toshkent: Universitet, 2006.–B.77