

CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF LEXICAL UNITS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Annotation: *This article presents a contrastive analysis of lexical units in the English and Uzbek languages, focusing on how they reflect cultural and linguistic differences. The study aims to explore the unique features of lexical items in both languages, considering factors such as semantics, usage, and cultural contexts. By comparing and contrasting selected lexical units, the article seeks to highlight linguistic divergences and convergences, contributing to a deeper understanding of how language embodies cultural identity. The findings of the study are expected to provide valuable insights for linguists, translators, and language learners by offering a comparative perspective on vocabulary and semantics in English and Uzbek.*

Key Words: *Contrastive analysis, Lexical units, Semantics, Cultural context, Linguistic divergence, Linguistic convergence*

Introduction

The study of contrastive linguistics involves comparing languages to identify both differences and similarities. In this paper, we will explore the lexical units of English and Uzbek, focusing on how these two languages categorize and express meaning through vocabulary. Lexical units, or "words" in simpler terms, are key elements of communication and are influenced by culture, history, and societal needs. While English belongs to the Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family, Uzbek is a member of the Turkic language family. This fundamental difference lays the groundwork for varied lexical structures, meanings, and usage patterns.

This paper will address the following key areas: historical and cultural influences on vocabulary, the structure of lexical units, semantic fields, and idiomatic expressions. The comparative study aims to uncover how linguistic and extralinguistic factors contribute to lexical diversity.

Main Part

1. Historical and Cultural Influences on Vocabulary

- English: The vocabulary of the English language has been shaped by several historical factors, including the Norman invasion, which brought French into English, as

well as Latin and Greek influences due to the Renaissance and scientific advancements. As a result, English contains many borrowed words from various languages.

- Uzbek: Uzbek has undergone significant lexical changes over time due to its rich history. Influences from Arabic (due to Islam), Persian (through the historical rule of Persian empires), and Russian (from Soviet rule) have all shaped its vocabulary. Arabic contributed religious and philosophical terms, Persian influenced literary and poetic expressions, and Russian introduced modern technical and political terms.

2. Lexical Structure and Word Formation

- English: English exhibits a complex system of word formation through compounding, derivation (prefixes and suffixes), and borrowing. For example, words like "misunderstand" (prefix + root) and "friendship" (root + suffix) illustrate how affixes modify meaning. Additionally, English borrows freely from other languages, which adds to its vast lexicon.

- Uzbek: Word formation in Uzbek involves the use of suffixes to create new words, often through agglutination (adding suffixes in a chain). For example, "kitob" (book) becomes "kitobxon" (reader), where "xon" is a suffix meaning a person associated with something. Unlike English, which tends to borrow from many languages, Uzbek relies heavily on internal word formation through affixes and root modification.

3. Semantic Fields

Lexical units in English and Uzbek often categorize meaning differently, which can create challenges in translation and understanding.

- English: Semantic fields (or domains) are often broad. For instance, the word "love" in English covers a wide range of meanings, from romantic love to love for a family member or an object.

- Uzbek: Uzbek often uses more specific terms for what English would categorize under one broad term. For example, the word "sevgi" specifically refers to romantic love, whereas "mehr" refers to affection or kindness in a non-romantic sense.

4. Idiomatic Expressions

Idioms reflect the unique cultural contexts and collective experiences of a language community. In both languages, idiomatic expressions are often challenging for language learners because they rely on cultural knowledge.

- English: English idioms often have historical or cultural origins, such as "raining cats and dogs" (heavy rain) or "bite the bullet" (face a painful situation bravely). These expressions are not interpretable from the literal meanings of the individual words.

- Uzbek: Uzbek idioms similarly rely on cultural knowledge. For instance, "ilon izi bilan bo'lmaydi" (lit. "the snake's path won't be straight") means that something is tricky

or not straightforward. Understanding such idioms requires familiarity with Uzbek metaphors and cultural references.

Conclusion

This contrastive analysis of lexical units in English and Uzbek highlights significant differences in word formation, semantic fields, and idiomatic expressions. These differences stem from the historical, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds of both languages. English, with its wide array of borrowed words and complex compounding, contrasts with Uzbek's more systematic use of agglutination and suffixation. Similarly, the semantic fields and idiomatic expressions in both languages reflect their unique worldviews and cultural contexts. Understanding these contrasts can enhance cross-linguistic communication and translation, fostering deeper insights into both languages.

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