

LINGUISTIC SPECIFICATION OF MERONYMY IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

Ramazonov Jasur Jalil o'g'li

The University of Exact and Social Sciences
Foreign Languages and Literature Department

jasurbekramazonov3802@gmail.com

Abstract

The present research is devoted to the comparative linguistic analysis of meronymy in English and Uzbek languages. Meronymy, which expresses the semantic relation between a whole and its constituent parts, occupies a significant place in lexical semantics, cognitive linguistics, and structural linguistics. The study investigates the structural, semantic, functional, and cognitive peculiarities of meronymic relations in two genetically unrelated languages belonging to different language families. English, as an Indo-European language, and Uzbek, as a Turkic language, demonstrate both universal and language-specific features in the realization of part-whole relationships. The thesis explores the theoretical foundations of meronymy and examines its place among lexical-semantic relations such as synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, and polysemy. Special attention is paid to the classification of meronymic relations, including component-object, member-collection, portion-mass, phase-process, and place-area relations. The study further analyzes how meronymic units function in literary texts, everyday discourse, phraseological expressions, and terminological systems in both languages.

Keywords: Meronymy, lexical semantics, part-whole relation, English language, Uzbek language, semantic relations, cognitive linguistics, lexical field, hyponymy, comparative linguistics, semantic structure, conceptualization, lexical units, phraseology, linguistic analysis.

Language serves not only as a means of communication but also as a system through which people conceptualize and categorize the surrounding world. Every language reflects reality through lexical and semantic structures that demonstrate relationships among

objects, events, and phenomena. One of the most important semantic relations in language is meronymy, which expresses the relationship between a whole and its constituent parts. This relation plays a central role in lexical organization because human cognition naturally perceives objects through their structural composition.

In linguistic studies, meronymy has attracted increasing scholarly attention due to its connection with cognitive processes, semantic categorization, and lexical hierarchy. The term “meronymy” originates from the Greek word *meros*, meaning “part.” Meronymic relations occur when one lexical item denotes a part of another lexical item. For example, in English, words such as *hand*, *leg*, and *head* are meronyms of the word *body*. Similarly, in Uzbek, *qo'l*, *oyoq*, and *bosh* are parts of *tana*. These examples illustrate universal human perception of objects through componential structures. However, despite universal cognitive tendencies, languages differ in the way they classify and linguistically represent part-whole relationships. English, as an analytical language, and Uzbek, as an agglutinative language, employ different grammatical and lexical means to express meronymic relations. Such differences make comparative investigation particularly important.

The study of meronymy contributes to several branches of linguistics, including lexical semantics, cognitive linguistics, psycholinguistics, lexicography, and translation studies. Understanding part-whole relations improves semantic interpretation, dictionary compilation, machine translation, and language teaching methodologies. Moreover, meronymic relations are closely connected with metaphorical thinking and cultural conceptualization.

Cognitive linguistics views language as a reflection of mental processes. According to cognitive theories, people understand objects by identifying their internal structure. Therefore, meronymic relations emerge from conceptual organization of knowledge. For instance, when people think about a “house,” they automatically associate it with components such as doors, windows, roof, and walls. Similarly, conceptualization of the human body involves recognition of individual organs and body parts.

English and Uzbek speakers share many universal conceptual models due to common human experience. Nevertheless, cultural differences influence semantic categorization.

Certain objects may possess culturally specific parts or symbolic meanings. In Uzbek culture, for example, traditional household items and kinship terminology often demonstrate culturally embedded meronymic relations. English may employ more technologically oriented meronymic structures reflecting industrial and scientific development. Cognitive linguistics emphasizes that meronymy is not simply a lexical phenomenon but also a mental strategy for organizing knowledge about the world.

Translation of meronymic structures may create difficulties because languages conceptualize parts differently. Certain lexical units possess no direct equivalents. For instance, culturally specific Uzbek household terminology may require descriptive translation into English. Likewise, English technological terminology sometimes lacks exact Uzbek counterparts. Successful translation requires understanding not only lexical meaning but also conceptual structure and cultural associations.

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