



Some thoughts on the semantic-contextual composition of polysemous words in English and Uzbek languages

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the semantic and contextual composition of polysemous words in English and Uzbek. Drawing on linguistic theory, it examines the polysemantic properties of words, the formation of contextual meanings in various language units, and the challenges they present in the translation process. A comparative analysis of polysemous words in English and Uzbek is conducted, and practical recommendations are offered based on modern approaches in linguistics.

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Ingliz va o'zbek tillarida ko'p ma'noli so'zlarning semantik-kontekstual tarkibiga oid ayrim mulohazalar

ANNOTATSIYA

Kalit so'zlar:

polisemiya,
semantik tarkib,
kontekst,
ingliz tili,
o'zbek tili,
qiyosiy tilshunoslik,
tarjima nazariyasi.

Mazkur maqolada ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi ko'p ma'noli so'zlarning semantik-kontekstual tarkibi tahlil qilinadi. Lingvistik nazariya asosida so'zning polisemantik xususiyatlari, turli til birliklarining kontekstual ma'no hosil qilishi va ularning tarjima jarayonida yuzaga keladigan muammolari ko'rib chiqiladi. Ingliz va o'zbek tillarining ko'p ma'nolilik jihatlari qiyosiy tahlil qilinib, tilshunoslikdagi zamonaviy yondashuvlar asosida amaliy tavsiyalar beriladi.

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Некоторые мысли о семантико-контекстуальном составе многозначных слов в английском и узбекском языках

АННОТАЦИЯ

Ключевые слова:

полисемия,
семантический состав,
контекст,
английский язык,
узбекский язык,
сопоставительное
языкознание,
теория перевода.

В данной статье анализируется семантико-контекстуальный состав многозначных слов в английском и узбекском языках. На основе лингвистической теории рассматриваются полисемантические свойства слов, формирование контекстного значения различных языковых единиц и их проблемы в процессе перевода. Проводится сопоставительный анализ аспектов многозначных слов в английском и узбекском языках, а также даются практические рекомендации на основе современных подходов в языкознании.

INTRODUCTION

Polysemy, a linguistic phenomenon where a single word has multiple related meanings, plays a significant role in shaping language systems. A polysemy is typically defined as a word with multiple meanings or lexico-semantic variants (LSV), which are frequently linked by meaning continuity within a semantic area (Davlatov, 2019). Polysemy is a central concept in lexical semantics, reflecting the richness and flexibility of language. Polysemy is the association of one word with two or more distinct meanings, and polysemy is a word or phrase with multiple meanings (Karimov, 2015). The word "polysemy" comes from the Greek for "many signs." The adjective forms of the word include polysemous or polysemic (James, 1983). Beretta (2005) defines polysemy as the capacity for a word or phrase to have multiple related meanings. Both English and Uzbek languages possess numerous polysemous words, making their study crucial for understanding linguistic diversity and translation practices. In English, polysemy is marked by lexical flexibility influenced by syntax and idiomatic expressions, while in Uzbek, morphology and syntactic structure play significant roles. Hurford (2007) describes polysemy as a word with numerous very closely related senses. In other words, a native speaker of the language has clear intuitions about how different concepts are related to one another. For example: the "mouth" mouth of a person and the mouth of the river, here they both mean "an opening of from the interior of some solid mass to the outside". If one considers the varieties of polysemy, it is known that polysemous senses have motivated relationships with each other.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Polysemy refers to the coexistence of multiple meanings within a single word form. According to Lyons (1995), polysemy reflects the evolution of language as meanings branch out from a core sense. The polysemantic nature of language and the multiplicity of words is one of the important directions of linguistic analysis. Each language forms the meanings of words through its semantic system and contextual content. The word "good" has many meanings. For example, if a man were to shoot his grandmother at a range of five hundred yards, I would call him a good shot, but not necessarily a good man. "Now, the kitchen was the room in which we were sitting, the room where Mama did hair and

washed clothes, and where each of us bathed in a galvanized tub. But the word has another meaning, and the 'kitchen' I'm speaking of now is the very kinky bit of hair at the back of the head, where the neck meets the shirt collar. If there ever was one part of our African past that resisted assimilation, it was the kitchen" (Beretta, 2005).

Although polysemantic words in English and Uzbek are phonetically and morphologically similar, their semantic content and use in context have different characteristics. For example, the English word "head" can mean: a) A body part (e.g. *She shook her head*); b) A leader (e.g. *He is the head of the department*); c) A top position (e.g. *The ship was heading north*);

In Uzbek, the word "oyoq" displays similar versatility: a) A body part (e.g. *Uning oyog'i og'riyapti*); b) A furniture leg (e.g. *Stulning oyog'i sinibdi*); c) A metaphorical endpoint (e.g. *Masalaning oxirgi oyog'i shu*); These examples demonstrate that polysemy arises from metaphorical extensions and contextual meanings.

In English, the interpretation of polysemous words often relies heavily on syntactic structures and collocations. Let's analyse the word "light" means: a) physical illumination (e.g. *The room was filled with light*); b) weightlessness (e.g. *This bag is light*). c) easy or mild (e.g. *She made a light joke*). The context provided by surrounding words disambiguates the intended meaning. Idiomatic expressions, such as "make light of something", further complicate the semantic landscape by introducing culturally specific interpretations.

In Uzbek, morphology and affixation play a larger role in modifying meanings. For example, the word in Uzbek "qalin" is used in different contexts: a) thickness (e.g. *Qalin devor* – A thick wall); b) Strength of relationship (e.g. *Qalin do'st* – A close friend); c) Density (e.g. *Qalin tuman* – A dense fog);

Unlike English, the Uzbek language employs suffixes to clarify or extend meanings. Additionally, contextual markers such as verb forms and object agreements provide cues for interpretation. Both languages demonstrate that context is the primary determinant of meaning in polysemous words. Cultural and metaphorical extensions influence the semantic range of words in both languages. However, English polysemy often relies on idiomatic usage, requiring a deeper understanding of collocations and phrasal contexts. Uzbek polysemy tends to exhibit clearer morphological markers. Translating polysemous words between English and Uzbek often requires finding equivalent expressions rather than direct word-for-word correspondence. For instance, the English word "bank" denotes as a financial institution (e.g. *I went to the bank to deposit money*) and a river edge (e.g. *The boat was tied to the river bank*). In contrast, the Uzbek word "sohil" means a river edge but the word "bank" means a financial institution. In such cases, the translator must rely on contextual cues to select the appropriate equivalent.

Now, we might analyze the features of polysemantic words by comparing examples of Uzbek and English polysemantic words with the examples taken from the stories by O'Henry. e.g. "golden hair" – "Besides Della has beautiful golden hair".

The word "golden" means: a) having a bright yellow color like gold; b) a golden opportunity – a good chance to get something valuable or to be very successful; c) golden boy/girl – someone who is popular and successful; d) a golden period is one of great happiness or success: golden years, golden days.

As we can see that there are many meanings of "golden" whereas an author used the word to describe a woman's hair. In the Uzbek language, the word "oltin" (tilla) has various meanings like "oltin soch", "oltin kalit", "tilla bola", "tilla fikr" and we can also use

the word “oltin” to describe like this, and translate the sentence into Uzbek with an equivalent: “Shuningdek, Dellaning tillarang sochlari bor”. The structure of this word is formed by a derivative word “tilla+rang”.

“Shone brilliantly” – “Her eyes shone brilliantly”. Brilliantly adv (of brilliant):
a) bright – brilliant light or color is very bright and strong; b) clever – extremely clever and skillful.

In Uzbek the word “olmos” is interpreted in various contexts and has different meanings: a) olmos (qimmatbaho tosh: diamond); b) yorug’, yorqin (shine); c) aqli (clever); d) mukammal (perfect). The word “olmos” (diamond) can be translated in the sentences in Uzbek to give the correct meaning of the sentence such as “Uning ko’zlari charaqlab ketdi” or “Uning ko’zlari olmosdek chaqnab ketdi”.

Hence, polysemous words present unique challenges for translators due to their multiple meanings and semantic features, which vary between languages. In English, polysemous words tend to have broader meanings that can be derived from context, while in Uzbek, they tend to have more specific meanings. Translating polysemous words requires careful consideration of the context of use, cultural and linguistic differences between languages, and effective translation methods. To achieve accurate translations of polysemous words, translators must rely on a combination of methods, including using context clues, consulting specialized dictionaries, and relying on their own linguistic and cultural knowledge. Paraphrasing and rewording are also effective methods to convey the intended meaning of the verb accurately.

CONCLUSION

Studying polysemous words in English and Uzbek highlights the interplay between semantics and context. While the phenomenon is universal, the mechanisms and markers differ across languages. Understanding these nuances is essential for effective translation, language teaching, and cross-cultural communication. Future research can expand on this foundation by exploring how digital tools and AI technologies address polysemy in multilingual settings.

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