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SEMANTIC-PARADIGMATIC RELATIONS OF LEXEMES

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Abstract: This article analyzes the semantic-paradigmatic relations of lexemes, the semantic connections between lexical units, and their role in the language system. The specific characteristics of semantic relations such as antonymy, synonymy, homonymy, and hyponymy are highlighted, and examples are provided based on the materials of the Uzbek language.

Keywords: paradigm, lexeme, lexical system, semantics, synonymy, antonymy, homonymy, hyponymy.

Language is a complex and integrated system that develops in close connection with the progress of society. One of the fundamental units of this system is the lexeme, which constitutes the lexical richness of a language. Lexemes serve as an important means of expressing human thought and perceptions of reality.

In linguistics, not only the individual meanings of lexemes but also the relationships they establish with other lexemes are extensively studied. This is because language units do not exist in isolation; rather, they function as an interconnected system.

Relations among language units are interpreted in modern linguistics as syntagmatic and paradigmatic relations. While syntagmatic relations are associated with the sequential arrangement of units in the speech process, paradigmatic relations express the connections between units that are similar or opposite in meaning and function withi n the language system. It is precisely paradigmatic relations that make it possible to gain a deeper understanding of the semantic characteristics of lexemes.

Semantic-paradigmatic relations occupy an important place at the lexical level of language. As a result of such relations, synonymic, antonymic, homonymic, hyponymic, and other lexical-semantic groups are formed. Each lexeme has its own place within the language system and appears as a component of a particular paradigm. For example, the lexemes *beautiful*, *attractive*, *lovely*, and *graceful* form a synonymic set expressing a common meaning, whereas lexemes such as *big* and *small*, *white* and *black* enter into antonymic relations. This demonstrates the systematic and organized nature of language.

The issue of lexical-semantic relations has been extensively studied in Uzbek linguistics by many scholars. In particular, linguists such as Abduvahob Hojiyev, Anvar Nurmonov, Baxtiyor Mengliyev, and Ra'no Sayfullayeva have put forward important scientific views on the semantic characteristics of lexemes and their paradigmatic relations. These studies serve as a significant theoretical foundation for identifying the internal regularities of the lexical system of the Uzbek language.

At present, the study of semantic-paradigmatic relations is relevant not only for theoretical linguistics but also for various applied fields. Identifying semantic relations among lexemes is of great importance in such areas as lexicography, translation studies, computational linguistics, text analysis, and language teaching methodology. The consideration of semantic connections between words is also essential in the development of artificial intelligence and machine translation systems.

The lexeme is regarded as the primary unit constituting the lexical level of language. It functions as a linguistic unit that expresses concepts related to objects, qualities, actions, and phenomena in objective reality. Each lexeme possesses a specific semantic structure and enters into various semantic relations with other lexemes within the language system. As a result of these relations, the lexical-semantic system of the language is formed.

In linguistics, semantic-paradigmatic relations among lexemes are of particular importance. Paradigmatic relations are based on the common and distinctive semantic features of lexemes. Such relations make it possible to group lexemes according to specific semantic characteristics. As a result, the internal interconnectedness and systematic nature of language units become evident.

Semantic-paradigmatic relations are among the key factors that organize and structure the lexical richness of a language. Through these relations, semantic similarities, oppositions, and general-specific relationships among words can be identified.

Synonymy is one of the most important types of semantic-paradigmatic relations. Synonyms are words that differ in form but are identical or similar in meaning. They perform the following functions:

-preventing unnecessary repetition in speech and writing;
-contributing to the precise and expressive communication of ideas;
-providing stylistic diversity;
-enhancing the aesthetic and artistic value of a text.

The Uzbek language possesses a rich system of synonymic sets that reflect the national worldview and cultural identity expressed through language. Therefore, the study of synonyms constitutes one of the major areas in the investigation of semantic-paradigmatic relations.

Antonymy refers to the semantic relationship of opposition between lexemes. Antonyms serve to express contrasts and contradictions that exist in reality. Since opposing concepts are closely interconnected in human cognition, antonyms occupy an important place within the language system.

Examples of antonymic pairs include:
big – small
long – short
white – black
good – bad
young – old

Antonymic relations make it possible to create contrast in a text and to emphasize particular ideas more effectively. Antonyms are especially widely used in literary works. Since opposite meanings are semantically interconnected and one often implies the existence of the other, antonyms are regarded as components of the same paradigm.

Another important type of semantic-paradigmatic relation is homonymy. Homonyms are lexemes that have identical forms but completely different meanings. They emerge from various sources during the historical development of a language. For example:

ot – a horse;
ot – a name;
ot – the imperative form of the verb *to throw*.

The intended meaning of a homonym is determined by the speech situation and the linguistic context in which it occurs.

The relations of generality and specificity among lexemes are manifested through hyponymic relations. In such relations, one lexeme denotes a general concept, while other lexemes represent its more specific subcategories.

For example:
Tree – a hyperonym (superordinate term)
poplar
plane tree
mulberry
apricot tree
apple tree
Bird – a hyperonym (superordinate term)
eagle
pigeon
swallow
stork

Hyponymic relations play an important role in lexicography and in the development of terminological systems, as they help organize lexical units according to hierarchical semantic structures.

Each lexeme maintains specific semantic relations with other lexemes and thus becomes an integral component of the overall lexical system. These relations make it possible to achieve a deeper understanding of word meanings, classify lexical units, and determine the connections among them.

Furthermore, the study of semantic-paradigmatic relations has significant theoretical and practical value for the development of such fields as lexicography, text linguistics, translation studies, and computational linguistics. In particular, semantic relationships among lexemes are widely utilized in the creation of electronic dictionaries, the improvement of machine translation systems, and the development of language models based on artificial intelligence.

The study revealed that semantic-paradigmatic relations of lexemes constitute an inseparable part of the language system.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the semantic-paradigmatic relations of lexemes represent one of the essential components of the lexical system of the Uzbek language. Relations such as synonymy, antonymy, homonymy, hyponymy, and hypernymy demonstrate the internal systematicity, richness, and functional potential of the language. A thorough investigation of these relations contributes to identifying the patterns of lexical-semantic development, understanding the interconnections among word meanings, and making a valuable contribution to the advancement of Uzbek linguistics.

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