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THE POLYSEMY OF VERBS DENOTING PSYCHOLOGICAL STATES IN "DEVONU LUGOTIT TURK"

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Abstract

This article analyzes the lexical-semantic features of state verbs used in Mahmud Kashgari's "*Devonu lugotit turk"*, with particular attention to the polysemy and semantic development of psychological state verbs. Based on the classification developed by Ravshanxo'ja Rasulov, state verbs found in the work are divided into nine semantic groups. The meanings of selected verbs in the 11th century are compared with their usage in modern Uzbek literary language, highlighting processes of semantic narrowing, semantic broadening, and the development of figurative meanings. The findings contribute to understanding the historical development of Old Turkic vocabulary and the distinctive features of semantic change.

Keywords

state verbs, psychological state verbs, lexical-semantic features, polysemy, semantic narrowing, semantic broadening, figurative meaning.

In our country, extensive efforts are being undertaken to objectively study the nation's rich historical heritage and profound spiritual legacy, as well as to gain a deeper understanding of its invaluable national values. The history of Uzbek, a member of the large Turkic language family, is closely intertwined with centuries of historical development, reflecting the aspirations, hardships, hopes, achievements, and victories of its people. Throughout history, our ancestors have conveyed their ideas and perspectives to the world through their mother tongue. It was in this language that they created remarkable cultural works, significant scientific discoveries, and outstanding literary masterpieces. In this regard, studying the lexicon of "Devonu lugotit turk," a remarkable masterpiece of the nation's spiritual heritage written by Mahmud Kashgari, is of

particular importance. Such research contributes to revealing the extensive expressive potential of Turkic languages, particularly Uzbek; determining the relationship between native and borrowed lexical layers; identifying patterns of lexical usage in contemporary Uzbek; analyzing semantic processes; and examining the great thinker's intellectual perspectives and mastery of word usage.

Considerable research has been conducted in Uzbek linguistics, addressing various aspects of the work. The lexical-semantic groups of verbs presented in the "Devonu lugotit turk" reflect not only the linguistic characteristics of the period in which Mahmud Kashgari lived but also the lifestyles, cultures, customs, and values of Turkic tribes and peoples. The "Devonu lugotit turk" also provides valuable information about the etymology of words used in contemporary Uzbek and their original sources. Naturally, a comprehensive study of the Old Turkic language requires drawing on contemporary Uzbek literary language and scholarly works produced during the relevant period. In our study of state verbs in the Devonu lug'otit turk, we also consulted Ravshanxoja Rasulov's book "Uzbek tilida holat fe'llari va ularning obligator valentliklari". In this work, the author classifies state verbs found in contemporary Uzbek literary language into nine semantic groups and provides explanations for each group. Drawing on this classification, we have likewise divided the state verbs used in the Devonu lug'otit turk into nine semantic groups, as follows: 1. Verbs denoting continuous states. 2. Verbs denoting states resulting from an action. 3. Verbs denoting states of performance. 4. Verbs denoting states resulting from an action. 5. Verbs denoting states of proficiency. 6. Verbs denoting figurative states. 7. Verbs denoting biological states. 8. Verbs denoting physiological states. 9. Verbs denoting psychological states. Among the semantic groups listed above, verbs denoting psychological states constitute the largest group.

The phenomenon of polysemy in language has attracted the attention of scholars since ancient times. According to the literature, polysemy was studied from philosophical and stylistic perspectives as early as the pre-Christian era. Chinese and Indian scholars addressed this issue, and the Greeks also began to investigate it around the beginning of the Common Era. The great lexicographer Mahmud Kashgari also

devoted attention to this phenomenon[1]. In the “Devonu lugotit turk”, the psychological state verbs урулді-, қудурді-, қутурді-, қутрушді-, and сағіндї- were used to express more than one meaning. For example, the verb урулді- is used in the work in a figurative sense, meaning “to swell with anger.” This usage is illustrated by the example ӧр өпкäсіндä урулді – “the man swelled with anger” (DLT, I, 203).

In contemporary Uzbek literary language, the literal and figurative meanings of the verb shishmoq (“to swell”) have also been preserved and further developed. In its literal sense, the verb “shishmoq” is defined in the Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language as follows: 1. To become swollen in the body or in a part of it as a result of external influence or illness. *Uning oyog‘i shishib ketibdi (“His leg has become swollen”).* 2. To enlarge by bulging; to become protruded. *U har tosh ko‘targanda bilagidagi, bo‘yinlaridagi tomirlari barmoqdek-barmoqdek bo‘lib shishib chiqadi (“Whenever he lifts a stone, the veins in his arms and neck bulge out, becoming as thick as fingers”).* 3. To expand by filling with air, gas, or similar substances; to inflate. *Bola qancha puflasa ham, pufak shishmadi (“No matter how much the child blew, the balloon did not inflate”).*

In its figurative sense, the semantic component found in the “Devonu lugotit turk” has not been preserved in contemporary Uzbek; however, the lexeme shishmoq continues to be used figuratively, albeit with a change in meaning compared with its usage in the “Devonu lugotit turk”. It should be emphasized that lexical semantic change is a long-term process that unfolds in accordance with the internal laws governing each language. Two types of semantic change can be observed in the vocabulary of the “Devonu lugotit turk”:

1. Words that have undergone semantic narrowing.
2. Lexemes that have undergone semantic broadening.

The phenomenon of semantic narrowing observed in the vocabulary of the “Devonu lugotit turk” is a product of social development. It has occurred primarily as a result of polysemous words shifting towards monosemy and the meanings they once expressed being conveyed by other lexemes belonging to both native and borrowed

[1] Миртожиев М. Ўзбек тили семасиологияси. - Тошкент: Мумтоз сўз, 2010. – Б. 158.

lexical layers. In contrast, semantic broadening has emerged through the expansion of the semantic structures of both monosemous and polysemous words, the formation of new semantic components, and the development of figurative meanings. Furthermore, the use of certain lexemes found in early sources of Old Turkic and Early Turkic in entirely different senses in the Devonu lug‘otit turk indicates the distinctive features of the author’s style. Furthermore, Mahmud Kashgari’s work provides valuable information on several important issues in lexicology, including homonyms, synonyms, and antonyms. This unique written monument, which dates back more than a millennium, has retained its significance to the present day. A more comprehensive investigation of its linguistic features by linguists worldwide remains an important task in contemporary linguistics. It can be argued that conducting research on the more than seven thousand lexical units contained in the “Devonu lugotit turk”, examining the methods employed in the work, and investigating aspects of the text that have not yet been sufficiently studied constitute important and responsible, yet honourable, tasks for young linguists and researchers today.

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