

LEXICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE CONCEPT “WOMAN” IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Annotatsiya: *Konseptual tuzilmalar va ularning lingvistik ifodasini o‘rganish zamonaviy tilshunoslikning muhim yo‘nalishi hisoblanadi. Tushunchalar nafaqat lingvistik ma‘nolarni, balki tilga singib ketgan madaniy qadriyatlar va ijtimoiy in‘ikoslarni ham aks ettiradi. Ko‘pgina madaniyatlarda ijtimoiy ahamiyatga ega bo‘lgan tushunchalardan biri bu "ayol" tushunchasidir. Ushbu maqolada "ayol" tushunchasining ingliz va o‘zbek tillarida leksik ifodalanishi ko‘rib chiqiladi. Tadqiqot ayollar va ularning ijtimoiy rollarini bildiruvchi leksik birliklarni tahlil qilishga qaratilgan. Tadqiqotda tushunchaning har ikki tilda leksik ifodalanishidagi o‘xshashlik va farqlarni aniqlash maqsadida tavsifiy, qiyosiy va semantik tahlil usullari qo‘llaniladi.*

Kalit so‘zlar: *Tushuncha, ayol, leksik vakillik, ingliz tili, o‘zbek tili, qiyosiy tilshunoslik, madaniy semantika*

Аннотация: *Изучение концептуальных структур и их языкового выражения является важной областью современной лингвистики. Концепции отражают не только языковые значения, но и культурные ценности и социальные представления, заложенные в языке. Одной из концепций, имеющих социальное значение во многих культурах, является понятие «женщина». В данной статье рассматривается лексическое представление понятия «женщина» в английском и узбекском языках. Цель исследования — анализ лексических единиц, обозначающих женщин и их социальные роли. В исследовании используются методы описательного, сравнительного и семантического анализа для выявления сходств и различий в лексическом представлении понятия в обоих языках.*

Ключевые слова: *Понятие, женщина, лексическое представление, английский язык, узбекский язык, сравнительная лингвистика, культурная семантика*

Abstract: *The study of conceptual structures and their linguistic representation is an important area in modern linguistics. Concepts reflect not only linguistic meanings but also cultural values and social perceptions embedded in language. One of the socially significant concepts in many cultures is the concept of “woman”. This article examines the lexical representation of the concept “woman” in English and Uzbek languages. The research focuses on the analysis of lexical units that denote women and their social roles. The study*

applies descriptive, comparative, and semantic analysis methods in order to identify similarities and differences in the lexical representation of the concept in both languages.

Keywords: *Concept, woman, lexical representation, English language, Uzbek language, comparative linguistics, cultural semantics*

Introduction

In recent decades, the study of concepts and their linguistic representation has become one of the central topics in cognitive linguistics and linguocultural studies. Language serves not only as a means of communication but also as a reflection of cultural knowledge and social values accumulated within a particular linguistic community. According to George Lakoff and Mark Johnson (1980), human thought is largely metaphorical in nature, and language reflects the conceptual system underlying our perception of reality.

Therefore, the analysis of how certain concepts are represented in language allows researchers to better understand the worldview and cultural traditions of different societies. As noted by Anna Wierzbicka (1997), key cultural concepts are encoded in language through specific lexical units that carry culturally significant meanings.

One of the fundamental social concepts present in every culture is the concept of “woman”. This concept is closely connected with social structure, family relations, cultural traditions, and gender roles. The linguistic representation of this concept reveals how a particular society perceives the role and status of women.

In different languages, the concept “woman” is expressed through a variety of lexical units that reflect different aspects of female identity, including age, marital status, social role, and cultural perception. These lexical units may carry neutral, positive, or sometimes negative connotations depending on the sociocultural context. In this regard, Charles J. Fillmore (1982) emphasizes that word meanings are understood within frames of cultural knowledge, which shape how concepts are interpreted.

English and Uzbek languages belong to different linguistic families and cultural environments. English represents the Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family, while Uzbek belongs to the Turkic language group. Due to these linguistic and cultural differences, the lexical representation of the concept “woman” in these languages may demonstrate both similarities and distinctive features.

In English, the concept is represented by lexical units such as woman, lady, girl, mother, and wife. In Uzbek, similar meanings are expressed through words such as ayol, xotin, qiz, ona, and rafiqa. Each of these lexical units reflects specific semantic nuances and social roles associated with women in the respective cultures.

The aim of this study is to analyze the lexical units that represent the concept “woman” in English and Uzbek languages and to identify their semantic characteristics and cultural implications.

Methods

The research is based on several linguistic methods commonly used in conceptual and lexical studies.

First, the descriptive method was used to identify and describe lexical units related to the concept “woman” in both English and Uzbek languages.

Second, the comparative method was applied to analyze similarities and differences between lexical representations in the two languages.

Third, the semantic analysis method was used to examine the meanings and connotations of lexical units referring to women. The material for the research includes dictionaries, linguistic literature, and commonly used lexical units in English and Uzbek languages that denote women and their social roles.

Results

The analysis shows that the concept “woman” is represented by a variety of lexical units in both languages. These units differ in their semantic shades, stylistic coloring, and cultural associations. In English, the basic lexical unit representing the concept is the word “woman”, which denotes an adult female person. Other lexical units include:

Lady – often associated with politeness, respect, and social status

Girl – usually referring to a young female

Mother – emphasizing the maternal role of a woman

Wife – highlighting the marital status

Female – used more often in scientific or formal contexts

These lexical units represent different aspects of a woman’s identity in society. In Uzbek, the concept is expressed through words such as:

Ayol – a neutral word meaning “woman”

Xotin – commonly used for “wife,” but in some contexts may have informal or colloquial connotations

Qiz – referring to a young girl or unmarried female

Ona – emphasizing the role of a mother

Rafiqqa – a more formal or respectful term meaning “spouse” or “wife”

The analysis demonstrates that in both languages lexical units often reflect social roles, such as motherhood, marital status, or age. At the same time, some lexical units carry cultural connotations. For example, in Uzbek culture the word ona (mother) has a particularly strong emotional and respectful meaning, reflecting the high status of motherhood in society.

Discussion

The comparison of English and Uzbek lexical units representing the concept “woman” shows that both languages reflect similar social roles but differ in cultural emphasis. Both languages distinguish lexical items based on age, marital status, and social roles. For instance, English differentiates between girl and woman, while Uzbek distinguishes qiz and ayol. However, cultural values also influence lexical usage. In Uzbek linguistic culture, family roles such as mother and wife are strongly emphasized and are associated with respect and moral values.

In English, lexical distinctions may reflect social etiquette and politeness. For example, the word lady is often used to express respect and good manners. Thus, the lexical representation of the concept “woman” in both languages reflects not only linguistic structures but also cultural traditions and social attitudes toward women.

Conclusion

The study of lexical representation of the concept “woman” in English and Uzbek languages demonstrates that this concept is expressed through a wide range of lexical units that reflect social roles, cultural values, and linguistic traditions. The analysis shows that both languages share some common features in representing the concept, such as the distinction between age groups and social roles. At the same time, cultural differences influence the semantic and stylistic characteristics of lexical units.

Understanding the lexical representation of the concept “woman” contributes to the study of conceptual linguistics, intercultural communication, and comparative linguistics. Further research may focus on the analysis of phraseological units, proverbs, and metaphors related to the concept “woman” in different languages.

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