A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF LEXICAL AND GRAMMATICAL POLYSEMY IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK: LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL INSIGHTS

Amonova Saodat
Master's student at Navoi State University
amonova.saodat@mail.ru
909003412
https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.23361346

Annotation:

This article explores lexical and grammatical polysemy in Uzbek and English, comparing the possessive case suffix **(…ning)** in Uzbek with the **"the … of"** construction in English. It highlights their polysemantic properties, emphasizing both similarities and differences. The study also examines **euphemisms** to illustrate the cultural and contextual aspects of polysemy. The research contributes to the theoretical understanding of polysemantic cases and phrases, aids translation practices, supports language learning, and promotes the international recognition of Uzbek.

Keywords: polysemy, case suffixes, "the of" construction, semantic features, lexical polysemy, grammatical polysemy, Uzbek language, English language, euphemisms, cross-linguistic analysis.

Ingliz va uzbek tillaridagi leksik va grammatik polisemiyaning qiyosiy o‘rganilishi: lingvistik va madaniy jihatlar.

Ushbu maqola uzbek va ingliz tillaridagi leksik va grammatika polisemiyasini, uzbek tilidagi egalik qo‘shimchasi (…ning)ni ingliz tilidagi "the … of" konstruktsiyasi bilan taqqoslab o‘rganadi. Polisemantik xususiyatlar ajratilib, ularning o‘xshashliklari va farqlari ta’kidlanadi. Shuningdek, maqolada polisemiyaning madaniy va kontekstual jihatlarini ko‘rsatish uchun evfemizmlar tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot polisemantik holatlar va iboralarning nazariy tushunilishini rivojlantiradi, tarjima amaliyotlariga yordam beradi, til o‘rganishni qo‘llab-quvvatlaydi va uzbek tilining xalqaro tan olinishi uchun hissa qo‘shadi.

Kalit so'zlar: polisemiya, qo‘shimchalar, "the of" konstruktsiyasi, semantik xususiyatlar, leksik polisemiya, grammatik polisemiya, uzbek tili, ingliz tili, yengil ifodalar, tilaro tahlil.

Сравнительное исследование лексической и грамматической полисемии в английском и узбекском языках: лингвистические и культурные аспекты.

Эта статья исследует лексическую и грамматическую полисемию в узбекском и английском языках, проводя сравнительный анализ притяжательного суффикса (…ning) в узбекском и конструкции "the … of" в английском. В статье выделяются полисемантические свойства, подчеркиваются сходства и различия. Также анализируются эвфемизмы, чтобы показать культурные и контекстуальные аспекты полисемии. Исследование способствует теоретическому пониманию полисемантических случаев и фраз, помогает в практике перевода, поддерживает изучение языков и способствует международному признанию узбекского языка.

Ключевые слова: полисемия, суффиксы падежей, конструкция "the of", семантические особенности, лексическая полисемия, грамматическая полисемия, узбекский язык, английский язык, эвфемизмы, кросс-лингвистический анализ.

INTRODUCTION

Language is a dynamic system that mirrors human cognition, culture, and creativity. One of its fundamental features, polysemy, plays a vital role in enriching linguistic expression and facilitating communication. Polysemy reflects the way humans associate ideas and concepts, enabling the creation of cognitive links that aid learning and understanding. It highlights the importance of context in determining meaning and supports creativity by allowing for double meanings in humor and artistic expression.

The significance of a rich language lies in its ability to broaden thought and foster intellectual freedom. A language enriched with polysemous and connotative elements empowers individuals to articulate emotions, ideas, and experiences with greater depth, thereby fostering creativity, cultural development, and intellectual exploration.

The scientific importance of this research lies in expanding the theoretical framework for studying polysemantic case suffixes and idiomatic expressions, with a focus on their semantic properties in Uzbek and English. By analyzing euphemisms, the study also contributes to identifying cultural similarities across languages.

The practical significance is evident in its applications for translation, curriculum development, and foreign language learning. Furthermore, the findings aim to elevate the global status of the Uzbek language by highlighting its richness and adaptability in cross-linguistic contexts.

This study sets out to examine the polysemic properties of the possessive case suffix in Uzbek and the "the …of" construction in English, hypothesizing that these elements reveal shared linguistic principles as well as distinct cultural influences. Through this, the research contributes to linguistic theory, practical communication strategies, and intercultural understanding.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Polysemy, a key concept in lexicology and semantics, refers to the phenomenon where a single word or grammatical unit carries multiple meanings. This phenomenon is essential for understanding the flexibility and evolution of language over time. Polysemy can be broadly categorized into two types: lexical polysemy and grammatical polysemy, each playing a significant role in the development of linguistic meaning.

Lexical Polysemy refers to the situation where a single lexical item, or word, has multiple meanings that are related in some way. A typical example of this is the word [1]"head," which can mean the upper part of the human body or a metaphorical reference to the leader of an organization or group. The meanings of such words may differ based on their context in a sentence or discourse. For instance, the word "head" can indicate the physical part of the body ("He was hit on the head") or refer to the mind or intellect ("His head works well"). This type

[1] Samanova, D.B. (2022). O‘zbek va ingliz tillarida polisemiya. Synergy: Journals of Ethics and Governance, 87.

of polysemy is widely discussed in lexicological studies, as it demonstrates the complexity of word meanings in language use .

Grammatical Polysemy, on the other hand, occurs when a grammatical unit, such as a preposition or an affix, conveys more than one meaning depending on its syntactic and semantic context. A notable example is the use of the suffix[2] "-ga" in Uzbek, which can indicate different relationships between actions and objects. For instance, "-ga" can signal the direction of an action (e.g., "I looked at my brother" – "Ukamga tikildim") or indicate the purpose or goal of an action (e.g., "I bought a gift for my brother" – "Ukamga oldim"). The dual meaning of such grammatical units plays a significant role in conveying nuanced meanings in sentences, highlighting the dynamic nature of grammar in communication .

The study of polysemy, including both lexical and grammatical forms, highlights how languages handle multiple meanings within words and structures. Comparative analysis of possessive constructions, such as the English 's and of forms, reveals semantic similarities and differences in expressing possession and relationships. Similarly, euphemisms illustrate how languages evolve by adopting softer terms with varied meanings across contexts. [3]According to Obbosova, polysemy emerges as languages adapt to convey broader meanings using limited linguistic units, particularly in morphologically rich languages like Uzbek. Understanding polysemy provides insights into language evolution, cognition, and the structuring of meaning, enriching the communication process.

METHODOLOGY

This research combined qualitative and comparative linguistic methods to analyze polysemy in two areas: lexical polysemy through euphemisms and grammatical polysemy via the genitive case and "the of" construction.

1. Data Collection:

Euphemisms were sourced from dictionaries, corpora, and literature, categorized by semantic fields (e.g., death, respect). For grammatical polysemy, examples of the genitive case and "the of" were drawn from texts and databases, focusing on meanings and functions.

2. Comparative Analysis:

English and Uzbek were compared for similarities and differences in lexical and grammatical polysemy. Euphemisms were analyzed for semantic equivalence and cultural connotations, while genitive constructions were examined for syntactic and functional parallels.

3. Semantic Analysis:

Euphemisms were studied for shared and distinct meanings, highlighting figurative language's role in softening expressions. The genitive case and "the of" were analyzed for various functions, such as possession, origin, and relationships.

4. Visual Representation:

---

[2]Shavkatjonova, M. (2024). Polisemantik so‘zlarning xususiyatlari. O‘zbek va tojik adabiyotida zullisonaynlik an’anasi, 403–404.

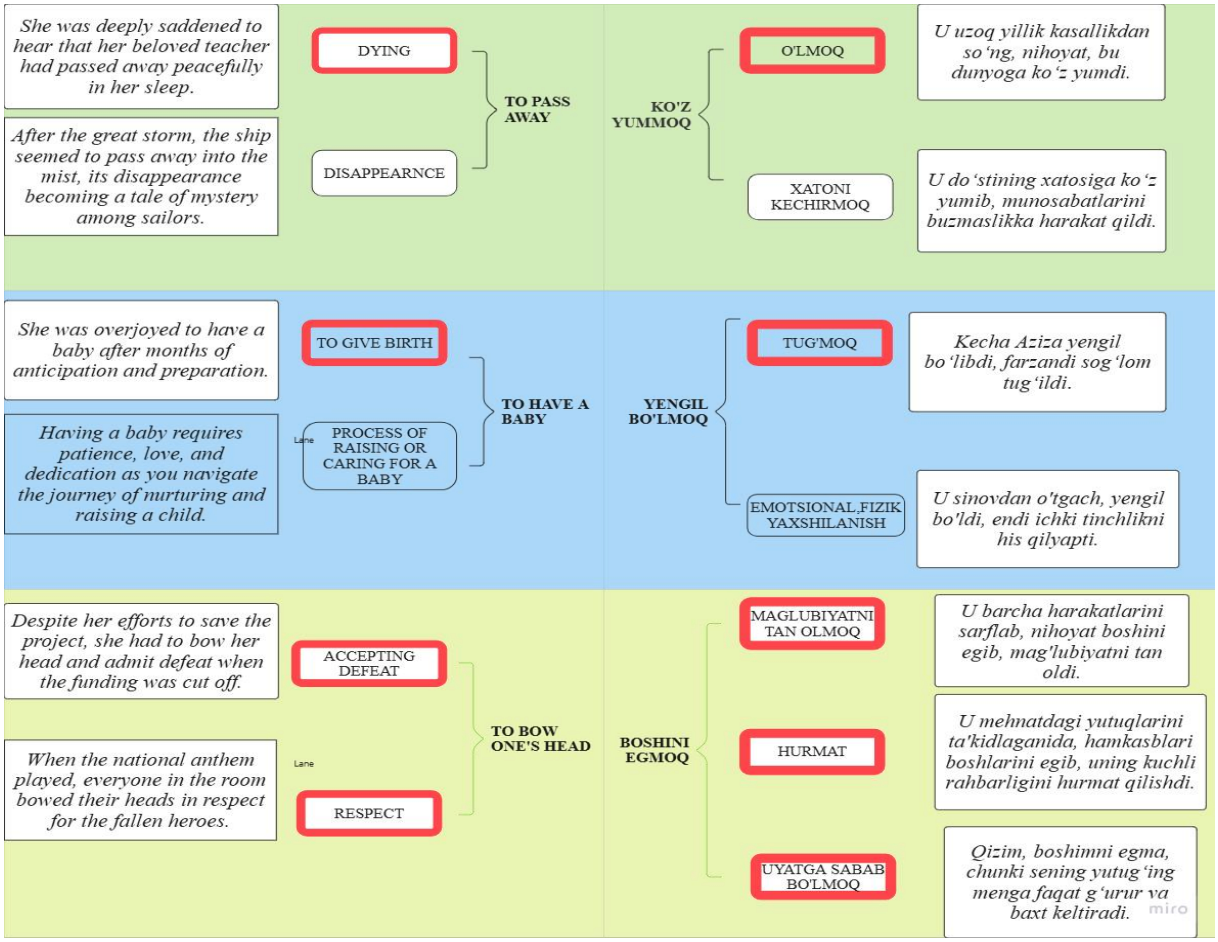
[3]Obbosova, M.B. (2023). Polisemiyaning umumiy tavsifi. Международный научный журнал, № 5(100), сентябрь, часть «Научный Фокус».

Mind maps and tables summarized findings, using red/white squares for similarities/differences and broken/unbroken branches for genitive constructions.

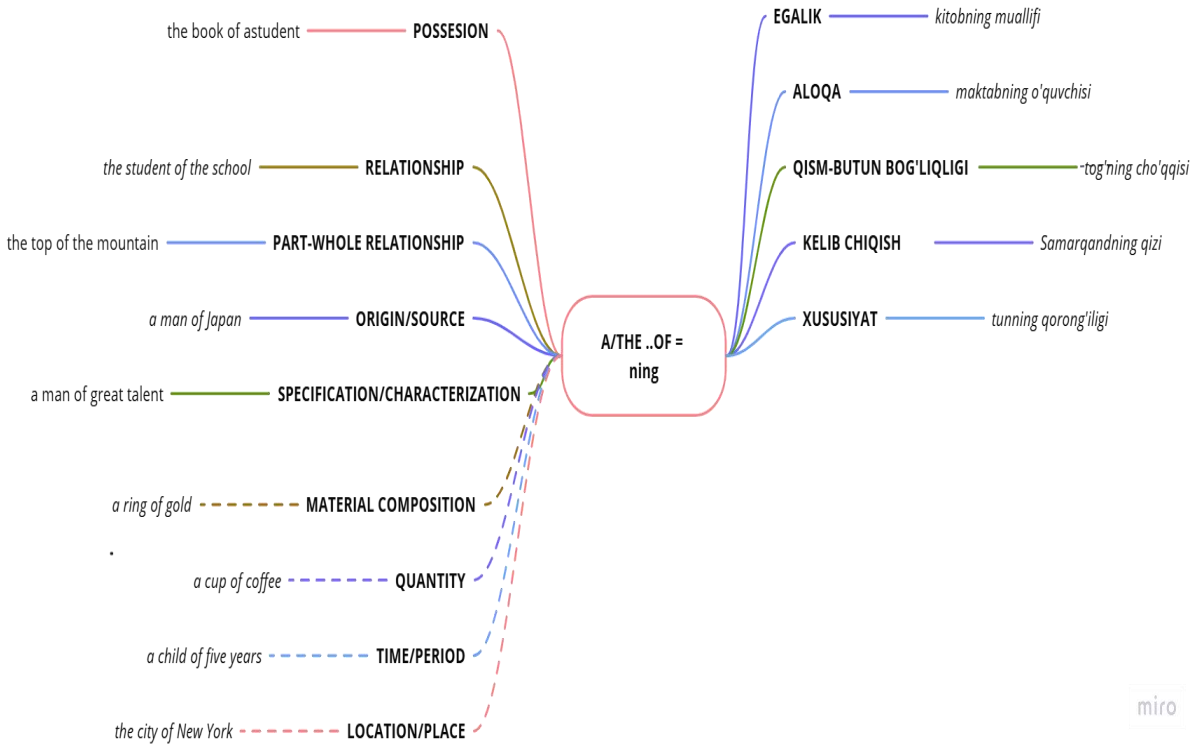
5. Cultural Context:

Cultural analysis highlighted how social norms influence polysemy, particularly in euphemisms.

Graph 1.1



Graph 1.2



RESULTS

The analysis of euphemisms in English and their equivalents in Uzbek reveals both similarities and differences in the ways these linguistic tools are used to convey sensitive or indirect meanings. The findings are summarized below:

1. Common Semantic Fields

Euphemisms related to death (e.g., "to pass away") and giving birth (e.g., "to give birth") show a strong overlap in meaning between English and Uzbek. These terms reflect cultural sensitivities in addressing significant life events.

For instance, "to pass away" corresponds to the Uzbek term ko‘z yumoq, both offering a softened expression for dying.

2. Shared Functions

Both languages utilize euphemisms to mitigate the emotional impact of concepts like death, respect, and acceptance of failure.

For example, "respect" in the context of bowing one’s head is mirrored in Uzbek as hurmat ko‘rsatmoq, emphasizing similar cultural values of reverence.

3. Differences in Cultural Context

Some euphemisms in English do not have direct equivalents in Uzbek, leading to slight semantic divergence. For example, phrases like "disappearance" used figuratively to describe a mysterious vanishing may be interpreted more literally in Uzbek (xatoni kechirmoq).

Similarly, while "accepting defeat" translates to mag‘lubiyatni tan olmoq, the emotional undertones or implications of such expressions may vary across cultures.

4. Linguistic Nuances

Uzbek euphemisms tend to rely on metaphorical expressions rooted in local cultural and linguistic traditions.

In contrast, English euphemisms are more versatile, often serving broader audiences in varied contexts.

Visual Summary

Euphemisms enclosed in red squares denote similar meanings between the two languages.

Euphemisms in white squares represent concepts that diverge or lack equivalent meanings.

The comparison of the Uzbek genitive case suffix -ning with the English preposition of revealed both similarities and differences in their usage and meanings. The findings are categorized as follows:

Meanings of the Genitive Case Suffix -ning in Uzbek

1. Possession

Example: Kitobning muallifi → The book of a student

2. Relationship

Example: Maktabning o‘quvchisi → The student of the school

3. Part-Whole Relationship

Example: Tog‘ning cho‘qqisi → The top of the mountain

4. Origin/Source

Example: Samarqandning qizi → A girl of Samarkand

5. Specification/Characterization

Example: Yutug‘ning qiroati → The talent of success

Meanings of in English

The English preposition of was found to have nine distinct meanings, which correspond to the following contexts:

1. Possession

Example: The book of a student

2. Relationship

Example: The student of the school

3. Part-Whole Relationship

Example: The top of the mountain

4. Origin/Source

Example: A man of Japan

5. Specification/Characterization

Example: A man of great talent

6. Material Composition

Example: A ring of gold

7. Quantity

Example: A cup of coffee

8. Time/Period

Example: A child of five years

9. Location/Place

Example: The city of New York

Overlap and Differences

Both Uzbek and English share common meanings, including possession, relationship, part-whole relationship, origin/source, and specification/characterization.

However, English of encompasses additional meanings not directly represented by -ning in Uzbek, such as material composition, quantity, time/period, and location/place.

It is also noteworthy that English employs 's to express possession in some cases, whereas -ning is the sole indicator of possession in Uzbek.

These results highlight the functional overlap and diversity in expressing the genitive case in Uzbek and English, emphasizing the contextual adaptability of the preposition of in English.

DISCUSSION

The comparison of euphemisms (graph-1.1) in English and Uzbek reveals valuable insights into their linguistic and cultural functions. Euphemisms serve as tools to soften harsh realities, reflecting shared human sensitivities. However, their usage and interpretation are shaped by distinct cultural and linguistic factors, leading to both overlaps and divergences.

1. Universal Use of Euphemisms

The similarities between the two languages in areas such as death (to pass away/ko‘z yumoq) and respect (to bow one’s head/hurmat ko‘rsatmoq) underscore the universal need to address delicate topics with sensitivity. These parallels suggest that euphemisms are not only linguistic constructs but also cultural strategies for navigating social norms.

2. Cultural Influences on Divergences

The differences observed, such as the nuanced use of "disappearance" in English versus its Uzbek counterpart (xatoni kechirmoq), highlight how cultural context influences euphemistic expressions. This divergence suggests that while euphemisms serve similar functions, their forms and meanings are often rooted in culturally specific metaphors and idioms.

3. Emotional and Social Functions

In English, euphemisms often have broader applicability and may be used in formal, emotional, or professional contexts. In contrast, Uzbek euphemisms tend to be more localized, reflecting community-centered values and traditional expressions. This difference reflects varying societal priorities, with Uzbek euphemisms often emphasizing collectivism and respect for tradition.

4. Pedagogical Implications

Understanding the overlap and divergence in euphemisms is crucial for language learners. English learners of Uzbek may need to grasp the cultural subtleties that inform metaphorical expressions, while Uzbek learners of English may need to adapt to the versatility and breadth of English euphemisms.

5. Euphemisms as a Lens for Cultural Study

This study highlights the potential for euphemisms to serve as a lens for cross-cultural analysis. The similarities reflect shared human experiences, while the differences provide insight into unique cultural worldviews and values.

The findings (graph-1.2) illustrate a significant overlap between the Uzbek genitive case suffix -ning and the English preposition of, both of which serve as key tools for expressing

relationships between nouns. However, several key points warrant further discussion regarding their differences and implications for linguistic analysis.

1. Shared Functions and Universality

The shared meanings, such as possession, relationship, and part-whole connection, demonstrate a universal linguistic need to convey these relationships. This suggests that the genitive function is a core grammatical feature across languages, albeit expressed through different structures.

2. Additional Meanings in English

English of exhibits broader functional versatility, encompassing meanings like material composition, quantity, time, and location. These additional meanings reflect the flexibility of of as a preposition, which may be tied to the structural characteristics of English. In contrast, Uzbek relies on other linguistic constructions, such as additional suffixes or descriptive phrases, to convey these ideas. This indicates that while -ning is precise, of serves a broader range of purposes in English.

3. Possession and the Use of 's

A notable distinction is the use of 's in English to denote possession, which provides a more compact and stylistically varied alternative to of. Uzbek, on the other hand, exclusively uses -ning, resulting in less syntactic variation for expressing possession. This highlights the simplicity of Uzbek grammar compared to the dual system in English.

4. Contextual Dependency

The meaning of -ning in Uzbek depends heavily on the context, as one suffix can represent multiple relationships. In contrast, English of is supplemented by other prepositions and possessive forms, allowing for more precise distinctions. This reflects a linguistic trade-off: while Uzbek is concise, English prioritizes explicitness.

5. Pedagogical Implications

For Uzbek learners of English, mastering the nuances of of and distinguishing it from 's may pose challenges. Conversely, English speakers learning Uzbek may struggle with the contextual reliance of -ning and its multi-functionality. These insights could inform targeted teaching strategies to improve comprehension and usage in both language groups.

6. Cross-Linguistic Influence and Polysemy

The study contributes to understanding polysemy in linguistic structures, as both –„ning'' and of encapsulate multiple meanings. This highlights the need for further research into how languages encode relationships between nouns and whether the observed patterns extend to other genitive forms globally.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study has provided a systematic exploration of lexical and grammatical polysemy in English and Uzbek, offering a detailed comparison of their linguistic structures and cultural implications. The methodological framework employed allowed for a comprehensive analysis of the nuances in both languages, shedding light on how polysemy operates within the cultural and linguistic contexts of each. While the study highlights the universal role of polysemy in language, it also underscores the distinct ways in which it manifests across cultures, reflecting the unique cognitive and social frameworks of English and Uzbek speakers.

However, there are several challenges and avenues for further research. One issue to address is the potential difficulty in identifying and comparing polysemous terms that may not have direct equivalents across languages, especially when examining cultural nuances. Another challenge lies in the dynamic nature of language, where new polysemous meanings continually emerge in both languages due to technological and social changes. Additionally, future studies could explore how polysemy impacts language acquisition and translation processes, particularly in bilingual or multicultural settings where understanding subtle differences in meaning is crucial. Further research could also investigate the cognitive mechanisms behind polysemy and how speakers of different languages process these multiple meanings.

REFERENCES

1. Samanova, D. B. (2022). O'zbek va ingliz tillarida polisemiya. Synergy: Journals of Ethics and Governance, 87.
2. Obbosova, M. B. Q. (2023). Polisemya hodisasining umumiy tavsifi. Международный научный журнал, часть «Научный Фокус», № 5(100).
3. Shavkatjonova, M. (2024). Polisemantik so'zlarning xususiyatlari. O'zbek va tojik adabiyotida zullisonaynlik an'anasi, 403–404.
4. Алехина, А. И. (1982). Идиоматика современного английсково языка. Москва.
5. Амосова, Н. Н. (1963). Основы английской фразеологии. Ленинград.
6. Арнольд, И. В. (1969). Лексикология современного английского языка. Москва.
7. Buranov, D. (1990). A practical course in English lexicology. Toshkent.
8. Tursunov, U., Muxtorov, N., & Rahmatullaev, Sh. (1992). Hozirgi o'zbek adabiy tili.
9. Shoabdurahmonov, Sh., Asqarova, M., & Hojiev, A. (1980). Hozirgi o'zbek adabiy tili (I va II qism). Toshkent: O'qituvchi nashriyoti.
10. G'ulomov, A., & Asqarova, M. (1987). Hozirgi o'zbek tili: Sintaksis. Toshkent: O'qituvchi nashriyoti.
11. O'zbek tilining imlo lug'ati. (1995). Toshkent: O'qituvchi.
12. http://www.dissertation.com
13. https://uz.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ko%CA%BBp_ma%CA%BCnolilik
14. https://elib.buxdu.uz/index.php/pages/referatlar-mustaqil-ish-kurs-ishi/item/
15. http://www.arxiv.uz