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Systems Of Expressing Numbers In Language And Their Cultural Significance

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Abstract: The article analyzes the role of numbers in linguistics, various numeral systems, the grammatical category of number, and the cultural-symbolic significance of numbers. It also examines the scientific and cultural role of numerology and linguistic numerology. The article highlights the role of numbers in language evolution and their socio-cultural importance in society.

Keywords: Numbers, numerals, linguistics, grammatical category of number, numeral systems, language typology, semantics, linguoculturology, numerology, linguistic numerology, cultural symbolism, classifier languages, counting system, uzbek language.

Introduction: Numbers are one of the most ancient and important concepts of human civilization, which originally arose from the need to express quantity and keep accounts. Over time, numbers have developed not only as mathematical, but also as semantic and grammatical units expressed through language. In linguistics, numbers are called numerals and they occupy a special place in the lexical and grammatical system of the language. Numerals express meanings such as quantity, order, estimate, and distribution. For example, in the Uzbek language, along with the counting numbers one, two, and three, there are also ordinal numbers such as first and second.

Numbers are closely related to the grammatical categories of the language, in particular, the number category (singular and plural). While some languages have a dual (a form denoting two objects), in Uzbek the singular and plural forms are mainly actively used. This situation is studied in linguistics within the framework of typological distinctions. The semantic and cultural aspects of numbers are also important. In many peoples, some numbers have a symbolic meaning and are widely used in mythology, folklore and religious texts. For example, numbers such as three, seven, forty appear as sacred or symbolic numbers in Uzbek folk literature. This situation is studied within the framework of linguoculturology.

In modern linguistics, numbers are also analyzed from the perspective of semantics, sociolinguistics, and typology. In particular, the connection between social factors in society, cultural values, and the language system is clearly demonstrated in the example of numbers.

The article considers the role of numbers in linguistics, the systems of number representation in different languages, the grammatical number category, the cultural and symbolic significance of numbers, and the relationship of numerology to language. The article analyzes the role of numbers in the evolution of language from a linguistic perspective.

In linguistics, the term "numeral" refers to words or phrases that represent numbers. Numerals belong to a special lexical class of language, and their semantics are located between mathematical language and natural language. For example, in English, "five" is a cardinal numeral, while "fifth" is an ordinal numeral.

Numbers play an important role in linguistic typology. According to Greenberg's universals, no language uses

a triadic number without a duel. This shows the hierarchy of the language in representing numbers.

In Uzbek, numbers are written mainly with Arabic numerals, but words such as "bir", "ikki", "o'n" are used in reading. Roman numerals are used mainly in historical contexts (for example, the 21st century).

Number representation systems in the world's languages differ depending on the base of calculation. The base of calculation is a linguistic and cognitive concept that indicates the number system based on how many units it is built on. In linguistics, the typology of number systems is studied in direct connection with human thinking, cultural experience and historical development.

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Decimal Number System The most common number system is the decimal system, which is based on the number of fingers on a human hand. Bu tizimda The basic base of calculation is 10. In Uzbek, English, Russian, Arabic and many other languages, numbers are based on the decimal system. For example, in Uzbek, the number 25 is expressed as джизни беш, which is based on the model 20 + 5. In English, there are also twenty-five, and in Russian, there are twenty-five, all of which are based on the principle of addition inherent in the decimal system.

The vigesimal number system In some languages, numbers are formed based on the vigesimal system, in which the base is 20. This system is historically interpreted as being related to the total number of fingers and toes.

Remnants of the base twenty system survive in modern French. For example, the number 80 is expressed in French as quatre-vingts ("four twenty"), i.e. 4 × 20. Also, numbers such as 70 (soixante-dix – 60 + 10) and 90 (quatre-vingt-dix – 80 + 10) are examples of hybrid systems.

The base twenty system is also observed in Basque, Celtic, and some African languages.[9].

Quinary and other systems. Some languages have a quinary number system. This system has a base of 5, which is also based on the fingers of the hand. The quinary system is often used not independently, but in combination with the decimal or decimal systems. For example, in some Australian Aboriginal languages, the number 6 is expressed as "five and one", and the number 7 as "five and two".

Subtraction-based systems. In some languages, numbers are represented by subtraction. For example, in the West African language Yoruba, the number 17 is represented by the model "twenty minus three" (20 − 3). Such systems increase the semantic complexity of numbers and are of particular interest in linguistics.

Classifier number systems. Some languages require classifiers when numbers are used with nouns. In particular, in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, the number + classifier + noun pattern is mandatory. For example, in Chinese, the form yī běn shū (“one [classifier] book”) is used. This indicates a high level of grammaticalization of numbers.

Body-part tally systems. Papua New Guinean and some Melanesian languages have body-part tally systems, that is, counting systems using body parts. In this case,

the counting process starts with the fingers of the hand, moves to the hand, elbow, shoulder, chest and other body parts. These systems clearly demonstrate the inextricable link between language, culture and physical experience.

In Uzbek, numbers are simple (one, two) and complex (eleven). There are also ordinal numbers (each, two) and multiple numbers (doubled).

In some languages, numbers require classifiers (for example, in Chinese). Papua New Guinean languages have body-part tally systems (counting with body parts).

Numerology is a set of views based on the mystical and symbolic interpretation of numbers, which is closely related to ancient religious, philosophical and cultural traditions. According to these views, numbers are considered an important symbolic tool in understanding human thinking, fate and the laws of existence. In the context of linguistics, the numerological approach is sometimes referred to as “linguistic numerology”.

In linguistic numerology, letters of the alphabet are equated with specific numbers (e.g., A=1, B=2, etc.) and conclusions are drawn based on the numerical value of words or texts. This method is found in the interpretation of ancient written sources, in particular, gematria in Hebrew, abjad arithmetic in Arabic script, and symbolic-numerical interpretations in some Turkic sources. In Uzbek classical literature, some numbers are used symbolically and have religious and philosophical meanings.

However, from the point of view of modern scientific linguistics, linguistic numerology is not accepted as a scientific method, since this approach is based not on the phonetic, morphological and semantic laws of the language system, but on subjective and random interpretations. Uzbek linguists also emphasize that empirical evidence, historical-comparative methods, and structural analysis should be the main criteria in studying the language.

At the same time, numerological views can serve as important material in the study of the relationship between language and culture, in particular, within the framework of linguistic and cultural studies, semiotics, and folklore. The symbolic use of numbers such as "uch", "yetti", and "qirq" in Uzbek folk art is a vivid example of this. . Therefore, it is appropriate to evaluate numerology not as a scientific field of linguistics, but as a cultural-semiotic phenomenon.

Numbers are an integral part of human thought and language development, and although they initially arose from the need to express quantity, over time they have formed as important lexical, grammatical and semantic units of language. In linguistics, numerals are not only a means of designating numbers, but also an important factor that illuminates the internal laws, typological differences and cultural and spiritual layers of the language system.

The manifestation of number systems in different languages in forms based on decimal, The grammatical number category of numbers, their connection with classifiers, and the typological hierarchy are of great importance in determining the universals and specific aspects of the language system. Also, the symbolic and cultural meanings of numbers clearly demonstrate the inextricable link between language and culture. The use of certain numbers in sacred or symbolic contexts in Uzbek folk oral literature and classical literature confirms the linguocultural value of numbers. Although numerology is not recognized as a method within the framework of scientific linguistics, it can serve as an important source in the study of language in a cultural context as a semiotic and cultural phenomenon. In general, the role of numbers in linguistics allows for a deeper understanding of the processes of language evolution, the development of thought, and the formation of cultural experience. Therefore, the study of numerals from a linguistic, typological, and linguocultural perspective is one of the relevant and promising areas for modern linguistics.

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