

# Semantic Features of The Dictionary Entry in Russian-Uzbek Dictionaries

Jo'rayeva Nigora Baxtiyor qizi

Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Doctoral Candidate, Institute of Uzbek Language, Literature and Folklore, Uzbekistan

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the formation and development of Russian-Uzbek translation dictionaries throughout the 20th century from a philological perspective. The main objective of this study is to comparatively analyze the changes in the semantic structure of a dictionary entry during the development of Russian-Uzbek dictionaries. The study examines the semantic structure of the dictionary entry, the system of translation equivalents, and the methods of expressing polysemy, based on the comparative-philological method. Utilizing materials from general Russian-Uzbek dictionaries published from the second quarter of the 20th century to the present, an attempt is made to identify the evolution of the semantic structure of the dictionary entry and determine its regularities.

**Keywords:** Lexicography, translation dictionary, dictionary entry, semantic structure, microstructure, polysemy, equivalence, Russian-Uzbek dictionaries.

**Introduction:** As a distinct field of linguistics, lexicography deals with the systematic description of linguistic units, the interpretation of their semantic properties, and their presentation in dictionary form. Translation dictionaries, in turn, are an important scholarly source that expresses the semantic correspondence between two languages. Russian-Uzbek translation dictionaries hold a special place in the history of Uzbek lexicography. Throughout the 20th century, these dictionaries developed through several stages, each reflecting significant changes in the semantic structure of the dictionary entry, the system of translation equivalents, and microstructural organization. The development of Russian-Uzbek dictionaries is a vital component of Uzbek lexicography and serves as valuable material for studying the theoretical and practical aspects of compiling bilingual dictionaries [Mirtojiev M.M. 2000: 72.]. The semantic structure of the dictionary entry in Russian-Uzbek dictionaries published since the second half of the 20th century has undergone considerable changes. These

changes are directly linked not only to the inherent dynamics of the language but also to socio-cultural shifts, educational policy, and the evolution of lexicographical traditions. From this perspective, studying the historical evolution of the semantic structure of dictionary entries emerges as a pertinent scientific problem. The semantic structure is not merely a means of conveying meaning but a complex system that reflects the conceptual model of language structure during a specific period. Although a number of studies on the development of Russian-Uzbek dictionaries have been conducted to date, they are largely limited to a general description of dictionaries or an analysis of specific ones. A systematic study, on a comparative-historical basis, of the regularities of change in the continuous developmental process of the dictionary entry's semantic structure has not been sufficiently pursued.

## LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODS

The theoretical foundation of this research is based on an analysis of fundamental works in the fields of

lexicography and semantics. The issue of the dictionary entry's structure and its evolution has been studied by many scholars. They viewed the dictionary entry as a systematic description of a linguistic unit and laid the groundwork for analyzing its constituent parts and their functional connections. In the theory of bilingual dictionaries, the works of authors who have illuminated the problems of meaning differentiation and equivalence in translation dictionaries are considered significant [Normamatov S.]. In Uzbek lexicography, the development of Russian-Uzbek dictionaries is reflected in the research of various authors. However, existing literature is often confined to describing specific dictionaries or providing a general historical overview, and a comparative study of the patterns of change in the semantic structure of the dictionary entry during its continuous development, based on statistical analysis, has not been adequately explored. To address this gap, the following methodological approach is proposed: 1) identifying the microstructure of dictionary entries; 2) determining the number of meanings and the boundaries between them; 3) observing how the phenomenon of polysemy is reflected in dictionary entries; 4) examining how grammatical forms are presented; 5) studying the provision of examples and set phrases, and based on a comparison of their historical development, evolution, changes, and differences, selecting the optimal method for forming dictionary entries in such dictionaries. The primary material for the study consists of several key general Russian-Uzbek dictionaries published from the 1960s to 2020. The following set of methods was employed in the analysis: first, the comparative-historical method, which allowed for a comparison of the structure of entries in dictionaries published in different periods along a timeline. Second, statistical analysis, which is necessary to quantify the dynamics of changes and assess their significance.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

One of the first major examples of Russian-Uzbek translation dictionaries is the "Complete Russian-Uzbek Dictionary," published in 1927–1928. This dictionary reflects the formative stage of Uzbek translation lexicography. The main feature of dictionaries from this period is that the entries are often compiled based on the principle of explanatory translation. The meaning of the headword was frequently explained through

phrases or descriptions rather than a single-word equivalent. For example, the Russian word "абсолютный" (absolyutnyy) is explained through the following phrases:

1. абсолютная истина (absolyutnaya istina) — mutlaq haqiqat (absolute truth)
2. абсолютное направление (absolyutnoye napravleniye) — mutlaq yo'nalish (absolute direction) [Qori Niyoziy, 1928: 5.]

This method served to more broadly reveal the semantic structure of a dictionary entry. We encountered approximately 200 dictionary entries in this dictionary that were presented in this manner. Although this is a non-explanatory translation dictionary, such explanatory instances were used to help the reader understand the meaning of the word more clearly. We consider such an approach appropriate for a period when the structure of Russian-Uzbek dictionaries had not yet been systematized.

Following the aforementioned dictionary, the "Full Russian-Uzbek Dictionary," published in 1934, represents an important turning point in the history of Russian-Uzbek lexicography. This dictionary pays special attention to showing the semantic structure of polysemous words in the Russian language. For example, the entry for "палата" (palata) includes the following meanings:

1. national assembly
2. palace
3. large house
4. court
5. hospital room [Qodiriy A, 1934: 6.]

This represents one of the first scientific methods of indicating polysemy in a dictionary entry. The meanings are separated by two parallel lines in the dictionary entry, not by individual numbers. This is a simple structural organization for a dictionary entry. In dictionaries published later, this phenomenon of polysemy is clearly indicated with numbers.

The Russian-Uzbek dictionary published in 1942 was structured more systematically than previous dictionaries. This dictionary included a section on Russian grammar, a list of abbreviations, and rules for using the dictionary. We have defined this as the dictionary's general structure. The primary goal of this

dictionary was to create a practical guide for Uzbek users learning Russian. The preface to the 1942 dictionary clearly defines the scholarly objective of the publication. It emphasizes that the dictionary was compiled based on the principle of selecting active vocabulary widely used in the Russian language. This led to the dictionary entries having a selective nature. In the 1942 "Russian-Uzbek Dictionary," the simpler dictionary entries are primarily structured in the format of headword–translation–brief explanation. The more complex entries consist of the following elements: 1. headword; 2. grammatical marker; 3. translation equivalent; 4. semantic explanation; 5. stylistic marker. This dictionary was compiled based on the classic model of Soviet-era translation lexicography. Because the dictionary was practically adapted for the user, meaning it was compiled based on the principle of reader-orientation, there are instances where its dictionary entries are somewhat abbreviated.

The Russian-Uzbek dictionary published in 1950 is considered lexicographically more advanced. In this dictionary: 1. grammatical markers 2. terminological explanations 3. synonymous equivalents were presented more systematically. As a result, the microstructure of the dictionary entry was significantly improved. It can be seen that the entries in this dictionary were enhanced in various aspects: semantically, stylistically, grammatically, and terminologically. For example: AVRORA f 1. In ancient Roman mythology, Aurora is the goddess of the dawn; 2. in poetry — dawn, daybreak; 3. Aurora is the name of the cruiser (warship) that played a major role in the capture of the Tsar's Winter Palace on November 7, 1917 [Abdurahmonov R, 1950: 12]. This dictionary entry fully provides information on polysemy, a stylistic marker, grammatical description, and terminological and historical explanations.

The two-volume Russian-Uzbek dictionary published in 1983 is one of the most comprehensive examples of Russian-Uzbek translation lexicography. In this dictionary, an entry consists of the following elements: 1. lemma (headword) 2. grammatical markers 3. hierarchy of meanings 4. translation equivalents 5. phraseological units As a result, the semantic structure of the dictionary entry took on a more precise and systematic form. For example, the entry for "памятник" (pamyatnik) is given with the following

meanings: 1. monument 2. statue 3. historical monument [Qo'shjonov M, 1984: 22.] This indicates that the hierarchy of meanings is clearly shown. In the development process of Russian-Uzbek dictionaries, several important changes can be observed in the semantic structure of the dictionary entries. First, in the early dictionaries, the translations were often explanatory in nature. Later, translation equivalents began to be provided systematically. Second, the methods for expressing polysemy were improved. While the early dictionaries did not sufficiently develop the representation of the semantic structure of polysemous words, later dictionaries presented meanings in a hierarchical order. Third, the microstructure of dictionary entries gradually became more complex. Grammatical markers, terminological explanations, and phraseological units played an important role in this process.

2. Terminological explanations

3. synonymous equivalents

more systematically given. As a result, the microstructure of the dictionary article has been improved. It can be seen that the dictionary articles of this dictionary have been improved in various ways: semantically, stylistically, grammatically and terminologically. For example: AVRORA j 1. In ancient Roman mythology, Aurora was the goddess of the dawn. 2. In poetry II — at dawn; 3. Aurora is the name of the cruiser (warship) that played a major role in the capture of the Tsar's Winter Palace on November 7, 1917 [Abdurakhmanov R., 1950: 12]. In this dictionary article, polysemy, stylistic feature, grammatical description, terminological and historical explanation are fully given.

The two-volume Russian-Uzbek dictionary, published in 1983, is one of the most complete examples of Russian-Uzbek translation lexicography. In this dictionary, the dictionary entry consists of the following elements:

1. lemma

2. grammatical signs

3. semantic hierarchy

4. translation equivalents

5. phraseological units

As a result, the semantic structure of the dictionary article has a more precise and systematic form. For

example, the article "monument" is given the following meanings:

monument

2. statue

3. historical monument [Kushjanov M, 1984: 22.]

This means that the hierarchy of meanings is clearly indicated. In the process of development of Russian-Uzbek dictionaries, several important changes are observed in the semantic structure of dictionary articles. Firstly, in the early dictionaries, the translation was often of an explanatory nature. Subsequently, translation equivalents began to be provided systematically. Secondly, the methods of expressing polysemy have been improved. While the semantic structure of polysemous words was not sufficiently developed in the early dictionaries, the meanings are given in a hierarchical order in later dictionaries. Thirdly, the microstructure of dictionary articles has gradually become more complex. Grammatical signs, terminological explanations, and phraseological units played an important role in this process.

In Russian-Uzbek dictionaries of the independence period, a dictionary entry began to consist of the following elements: the headword (lemma), grammatical and stylistic labels, translation equivalents, a hierarchy of meanings, phraseological units, and contextual examples. This further perfected the scholarly description of a dictionary entry. Statistical analyses have clearly shown that significant changes have occurred in the semantic structure of the dictionary entry over time. Linear regression analysis revealed a reliable upward trend in the average number of meanings and the number of differential features with each passing publication year. This indicates that dictionary entries are becoming increasingly complex and detailed from a semantic standpoint. These changes, on one hand, reflect the increasing complexity of the lexical-semantic system of the Russian language, and on the other, demonstrate the advancement of Uzbek lexicography and the growing need to apply deeper semantic analyses in dictionary compilation. The obtained results practically confirm the theoretical position that a dictionary entry serves as a systematic model of a language unit. The growth in the number of meanings signifies a wider coverage, particularly of figurative and context-

dependent meanings, which serves to enhance the communicative function of the dictionary. However, our research has made it clear that in Soviet-era dictionaries, the semantic structure was relatively brief and standardized, often limited to a few primary meanings. In the post-independence period, however, entries began to be developed not only more broadly but also more deeply, incorporating phraseological units, speech examples, and cultural connotations. This shift is linked to the development of national lexicographical traditions.

## CONCLUSION

The semantic structure of dictionary entries in Russian-Uzbek dictionaries has undergone consistent and statistically significant changes over time. This change manifested as the structural elaboration of dictionary entries, an increase in the number of meanings, a more precise expression of differential features, and the expansion of contextual examples. The development of the semantic structure follows a two-stage model: whereas the initial stage was dominated by a relatively concise, standard, and core-meaning-focused structure, in the post-independence period, the entry evolved into a complex model that performs a broader, deeper, and more communicative function. These changes are linked not only to shifts in the lexico-semantic system of the Russian language but also to the development of Uzbek lexicographical traditions, a growing need for deeper semantic analysis, and changes in the socio-cultural context. Additionally, the development of Russian-Uzbek translation dictionaries comprises four main stages.

**1. Formation Stage (1927–1934).** In the dictionaries of this period, the explanatory translation method was predominant, and the semantic structure of dictionary entries was not yet fully formed.

**2. Normalization Stage (1942–1950).** During this period, grammatical and semantic systematization in the structure of dictionary entries was strengthened.

**3. Development Stage (1983).** In the dictionaries of this period, the microstructure of dictionary entries takes on a complete form, clearly indicating the hierarchy of meanings and equivalence.

**4. Modernization and Nationalization Stage (2013).** In general translation dictionaries compiled after independence, attention is paid not only to the Russian

words but also to adapting the Uzbek translation equivalents to the Uzbek language. New, modern approaches are reflected in both word selection and the presentation of meaning. Furthermore, the popularization of electronic dictionaries due to the development of technology is one of the main characteristics of this period.

Russian-Uzbek dictionaries have developed in tandem with the progress of the era, undergoing changes and becoming more refined. Consequently, it is determined that the evolution of Russian-Uzbek translation dictionaries is inextricably linked with the general development process of Uzbek lexicography.

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