



## THE EMERGENCE OF HOMONYMY IN COMPOUND WORDS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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### ABSTRACT

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*This article discusses the emergence of homonymy in compound words in English and Uzbek languages. The research mainly focuses on the reasons for the appearance of homonymous compounds, their structural and semantic features, and the role of lexicalization in this process. The study explains how semantic change, phonetic development, borrowing, and language evolution influence the formation of homonymic relations in compound words. In addition, similarities and differences between English and Uzbek compounds are analyzed from semantic, morphological, and syntactic perspectives. The results of the research show that homonymy in compound words reflects both universal linguistic tendencies and the specific typological characteristics of each language.*

### I. INTRODUCTION

Language continuously develops together with society, and one of the main indicators of this development is the expansion of vocabulary. New words appear through different word-formation processes, among which compounding is regarded as one of the most productive in both English and Uzbek languages. Compound words are formed when two or more lexical units combine and create a new lexical meaning. Alongside this process, languages also experience semantic and phonetic changes that may lead to homonymy, where words have identical forms but different meanings.

Homonymy is an important linguistic phenomenon because it demonstrates the relationship between form and meaning in language development. In compound words, homonymic relations usually appear as a result of semantic shifts, lexicalization, borrowing, metaphorical usage, or historical phonetic changes. As compounds gradually become independent lexical units, their meanings may differ from the literal meanings of their components.

Both English and Uzbek contain many examples of homonymous compounds. In English, compounds such as greenhouse, blackboard, and gentleman may express meanings that are not fully connected with the direct meanings of their components. Uzbek compounds like oqsoqol, ko'kyo'tal, and otboqar also show how semantic development can create idiomatic or partially opaque meanings. Such examples indicate that homonymy in compound words is closely related to lexical and semantic evolution.

The emergence of homonymy is also influenced by cultural and social factors. Scientific progress, globalization, and technological innovation constantly introduce new lexical units into languages. As a result, compound words may develop new meanings and establish homonymic relations with other lexical items.

Therefore, studying homonymy in English and Uzbek compound words is important for understanding lexical semantics, morphology, and typological differences between languages. Comparative analysis helps explain how languages organize meaning and adapt vocabulary to communicative needs.

## II. BODY

Homonymy is commonly defined as the existence of words that have the same pronunciation or spelling but different and unrelated meanings (Lyons, 1977[1]). In compound words, homonymy appears when compounds undergo semantic change, lexicalization, or phonetic development that separates their meanings from the original meanings of their components. Consequently, compounds become independent lexical units with their own semantic identity. One of the main reasons for the emergence of homonymy in compound words is semantic change. Over time, compounds may acquire figurative, metaphorical, or specialized meanings. For example, the English compound greenhouse originally referred to a building for growing plants, but later the word greenhouse became associated with environmental terminology, as in greenhouse effect. Similarly, the Uzbek compound oqsoqol literally means "white beard," but in real usage it refers to an elderly and respected person in society. Such semantic transformations contribute to the formation of homonymic relations.

Historical and phonetic changes also play an important role in the development of homonymy. During language evolution, pronunciation patterns may change and create similarities between originally unrelated lexical forms. In English, sound simplification and stress changes have caused the appearance of homonymous structures. Uzbek also demonstrates cases where phonetic assimilation and sound changes influence the formation of compounds. These examples show that homonymy may naturally emerge through phonological development (Crystal, 2008[2]).

Borrowing from other languages is another important factor. English vocabulary contains many borrowed words from French, Latin, and Germanic languages, while Uzbek has been influenced by Arabic, Persian, Russian, and English. Borrowed compounds sometimes coincide with native lexical forms and create semantic ambiguity. This process enriches vocabulary but also increases the number of homonymous compounds in the language.

Lexicalization is considered one of the central mechanisms in the emergence of homonymy. When a compound becomes fixed in usage and recognized as an independent lexical item, its semantic transparency gradually decreases (Bauer, 1983[3]). As a result, the meaning of the compound may no longer directly relate to the meanings of its parts. English compounds such as butterfly and blackmail are examples of semantically opaque compounds. Similarly, Uzbek compounds like ituzum and qirqbo'g'im cannot be fully understood through the meanings of their separate components.

Structurally, homonymous compounds in English and Uzbek can appear in different patterns. English frequently demonstrates N+N compounds (football, greenhouse), A+N compounds (blackbird), and V+N compounds (pickpocket). Uzbek also contains N+N compounds (temiryo'l, qo'lqop), adjective-based compounds (oqqush, qizilgul), and verb-based compounds (olib chiqmoq, yozib qo'ymoq). In many situations, compounds with identical structures may develop completely different meanings because of semantic change and contextual usage.

From the semantic point of view, homonymous compounds may be complete or partial. Complete homonyms share identical forms but have unrelated meanings, whereas partial homonyms preserve some semantic connection. For instance, butterfly has almost no direct semantic relation with butter or fly, while compounds such as blackboard still maintain a

partial semantic connection with their components. Uzbek compounds demonstrate similar tendencies. For example, ko'kyo'tal refers to a disease and not directly to the literal meanings of "blue" and "cough."

Context is very important in understanding homonymous compounds. In communication, people depend on grammar, discourse, and cultural background to interpret the intended meaning correctly. Therefore, homonymy is not only a lexical phenomenon but also a cognitive and pragmatic one.

The emergence of homonymy in compounds also reflects the relationship between language and human cognition. Speakers often reinterpret compounds metaphorically and apply them to new concepts. Technological and social changes continuously influence vocabulary development. English compounds such as web page and mousepad demonstrate how ordinary lexical items can gain specialized meanings in modern technology. Uzbek compounds also adapt to modern communicative spheres such as media, education, and technology.

Comparative analysis shows that English and Uzbek share several similarities in the formation of homonymic compounds. In both languages, semantic shift, lexicalization, and metaphorical extension are major mechanisms behind homonymy. However, English demonstrates greater orthographic variation and semantic opacity because of its mixed linguistic history. Uzbek, as an agglutinative language, generally preserves stronger morphological cohesion and clearer semantic relations, although idiomatic compounds are also common.

Furthermore, English compounds often rely on stress and spelling differences to distinguish meanings, while Uzbek compounds depend more on morphological structure and contextual interpretation. These distinctions reveal how each language organizes lexical meaning according to its grammatical and historical characteristics.

Overall, homonymy in compound words illustrates the dynamic nature of language development. Compound words constantly evolve through semantic innovation and lexical change, enriching the vocabulary of both English and Uzbek languages.

### III. CONCLUSION

The study of homonymy in compound words in English and Uzbek languages shows that homonymic relations emerge through complex semantic, historical, phonetic, and cognitive processes. Semantic shift, lexicalization, borrowing, and metaphorical development are among the main factors contributing to the appearance of homonymous compounds in both languages.

English and Uzbek demonstrate several common tendencies in the development of compound homonymy. In both languages, compounds gradually become semantically independent lexical units and lose part of their original transparency. At the same time, important typological differences can also be observed. English compounds often display greater semantic opacity, orthographic diversity, and idiomatic usage, whereas Uzbek compounds usually preserve clearer structural and semantic relations because of the agglutinative nature of the language.

The research also proves that context plays a significant role in interpreting homonymous compounds. Speakers use grammatical structure, discourse, and cultural knowledge to identify the intended meaning. Thus, homonymy in compound words should be regarded not only as a lexical phenomenon but also as a communicative and cognitive process.

In conclusion, the emergence of homonymy in compound words reflects the continuous development of language and the interaction between form and meaning. Comparative analysis of English and Uzbek compounds provides valuable insights into lexical semantics, morphology, and language typology. Further research may contribute to a deeper understanding of how languages create new meanings and adapt vocabulary to social and communicative changes.

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