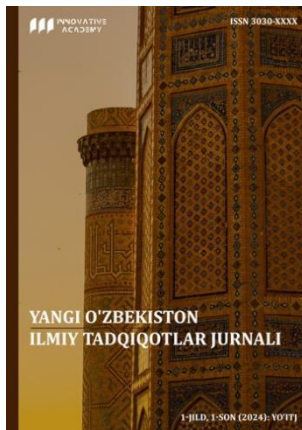




LEXICAL AND SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF DIALECTISMS IN THE KASHKADARYA DIALECT

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ABSTRACT

This article presents a lexical-semantic analysis of dialectisms actively used in the Kashkadarya dialect of the Uzbek language. The study examines the semantic structure of dialect-specific lexical units, their semantic development, their relationship with the standard Uzbek literary language, and their functional role in regional speech. The dialectisms are classified into thematic groups, including everyday life, agriculture, animal husbandry, kinship, traditional occupations and crafts, nature, and social life. Furthermore, a comparative analysis is conducted to identify the semantic similarities and differences between dialectal units and their equivalents in the standard language. The findings demonstrate that dialectisms in the Kashkadarya dialect not only enrich the lexical system of the Uzbek language but also preserve valuable information about the historical development, ethnocultural heritage, customs, traditions, and worldview of the local population. The research employs descriptive, comparative, and lexical-semantic methods to determine the scope of usage and linguistic functions of dialectal units within the language system. The results contribute to a better understanding of the lexical characteristics of the Kashkadarya dialect, enrich research in Uzbek dialectology, and provide a valuable resource for documenting and preserving regional vocabulary.

Introduction

The dialects of the Uzbek language constitute an essential component of the national language and reflect the historical development, ethnic composition, lifestyle, and cultural heritage of the Uzbek people. Each regional dialect possesses distinctive phonetic, grammatical, and

lexical features, among which dialectisms occupy a significant place. Dialectisms are linguistic units that are actively used by speakers of a particular region and differ from the standard literary language either in form or meaning. Their investigation is of considerable importance for understanding the historical evolution of the Uzbek language, its lexical richness, and regional linguistic diversity.

The Kashkadarya region is distinguished by its geographical location, historical background, and ethnocultural composition. The dialects spoken in the districts of Qarshi, Shahrisabz, Kitab, Yakkabagh, Chiroqchi, Koson, G'uzor, Dehqonobod, Kasbi, Mirishkor, Nishon, and Muborak are particularly notable for their rich and diverse vocabulary. Numerous dialectal lexical units found in these dialects denote concepts associated with agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, handicrafts, household activities, kinship relations, and local customs and traditions.

Investigating the lexical-semantic characteristics of dialectisms in the Kashkadarya dialects makes it possible to reveal their semantic development, their relationship with the standard Uzbek language, their range of usage, and their stylistic functions. While some dialectal words correspond directly to their literary equivalents, others have undergone semantic narrowing, semantic broadening, or semantic shifts, resulting in meanings that differ from those of the standard language. These features illustrate the unique patterns of lexical development within regional dialects.

In recent decades, the widespread influence of the standard Uzbek language through mass media, digital communication, and the education system has gradually reduced the active use of many regional dialectal units. Consequently, the documentation, lexical-semantic analysis, and scientific description of dialectisms found in the Kashkadarya dialects have become increasingly important tasks for contemporary Uzbek linguistics.

The aim of this study is to analyze the lexical-semantic characteristics of dialectisms used in the dialects of the Kashkadarya region, classify them into thematic groups, compare them with their equivalents in the standard Uzbek language, and determine the contribution of regional vocabulary to the enrichment of the national language. The research applies descriptive, comparative, and lexical-semantic methods. The findings are expected to contribute to the study of the lexical composition of the Kashkadarya dialects, support the preservation of regional linguistic heritage, and further advance research in Uzbek dialectology.

The dialects of the Kashkadarya region represent one of the major dialect groups within the Karluk branch of the Uzbek language and are characterized by distinctive lexical, phonetic, and grammatical features. The dialectisms used in the districts of Qarshi, Shahrisabz, Kitab, Yakkabagh, Chiroqchi, Koson, G'uzor, Dehqonobod, Kasbi, Mirishkor, Nishon, and Muborak reflect the lifestyle, traditional occupations, customs, and historical development of the local population. These lexical units serve as an important source for enriching the vocabulary of the standard Uzbek language.

From a lexical-semantic perspective, the dialectisms of the Kashkadarya dialects can be classified into several thematic groups.

The first group consists of dialectisms related to everyday life. These lexical units denote household utensils, clothing, food, and other concepts associated with daily life. Some of these words have different equivalents in the standard Uzbek language, whereas others occur

exclusively in regional speech. Such lexical units provide valuable insights into the lifestyle and cultural characteristics of the local population.

The second group comprises dialectisms associated with agriculture and animal husbandry. Since the Kashkadarya region has historically been an area where irrigated farming and livestock breeding have played a central role, vocabulary related to these activities is widely represented in local dialects. In particular, terms referring to crop varieties, irrigation facilities, agricultural tools, livestock management, and harvesting constitute a significant part of the regional vocabulary. For example, *mola* refers to a traditional agricultural implement used for leveling plowed land, while *egat* denotes a long furrow prepared for sowing crops.

The third group includes dialectisms expressing kinship relations and social interactions. These lexical units designate family members, relatives, neighbors, and various forms of interpersonal relationships. In many cases, they differ from their counterparts in the standard language by possessing stronger emotional and expressive connotations, thereby enriching the communicative and stylistic potential of regional speech.

The fourth group encompasses dialectisms related to the natural environment and geographical landscape. In the mountainous and foothill districts of the region, numerous local names referring to landforms, water resources, flora, and fauna have been preserved. These lexical units constitute an important layer of regional vocabulary reflecting the natural and geographical characteristics of the Kashkadarya region.

From a semantic perspective, the dialectisms exhibit such linguistic phenomena as semantic narrowing, semantic broadening, metaphorical extension, and polysemy. Some lexical items are used in more restricted meanings than their counterparts in the standard language, whereas others have developed broader semantic scopes. These processes represent natural outcomes of the historical evolution of regional speech.

Dialectisms of the Kashkadarya dialects are actively employed in folklore, proverbs, sayings, epic narratives, and everyday communication. They enhance the expressiveness and imagery of speech while simultaneously indicating the speaker's regional identity. Consequently, dialectal vocabulary is frequently used in literary works to create authentic representations of characters originating from the Kashkadarya oasis.

Overall, the dialectisms of the Kashkadarya dialects constitute an important linguistic resource for investigating the historical development, lexical richness, and regional diversity of the Uzbek language. Their lexical-semantic analysis is significant not only for Uzbek dialectology but also for ethnolinguistics, folklore studies, cultural studies, and related fields of linguistic research.

Lexical-Semantic Analysis of Selected Dialectisms in the Kashkadarya Dialects

The dialectisms found in the Kashkadarya dialects have developed in close connection with the everyday life, economic activities, and historical and cultural experience of the local population. According to their semantic characteristics, these lexical units can be classified into different groups. The lexical-semantic features of several representative dialectisms are presented below.

Dialectism	Equivalent in Standard Uzbek	Lexical-Semantic Description
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Aya, Ena	Mother	These forms convey a stronger sense of respect and affection than the standard equivalent and are widely used in local speech.
Momo, Katta	Grandmother	A dialectal kinship term referring to a grandmother or an elderly woman. It is also used as a respectful form of address in local speech
Bobo	Grandfather	A kinship term referring to the father of one's mother or father (grandfather). It may also be used respectfully to address an elderly man.
To'n	Chapan (traditional robe)	The name of a traditional outer garment worn by men.
Qalpoq, Kallapo'sh	Doppi (traditional skullcap)	A type of traditional headwear commonly worn in the region.
Inak	Cow	A dialectal word related to animal husbandry meaning <i>cow</i> . It is preserved in several Uzbek dialects and originates from the ancient Turkic lexical layer used for naming domestic animals.
Ignabog'ich	Safety pin	The name of a small fastening device used to fasten clothing or pieces of fabric.

Conclusion

The dialectisms used in the dialects of the Kashkadarya region constitute an important layer of regional vocabulary reflecting the territorial diversity of the Uzbek language. These lexical units have developed in close connection with the historical development, lifestyle, occupations, customs, and cultural values of the local population.

The findings of this study demonstrate that the dialectisms of the Kashkadarya dialects are semantically diverse and may be classified into thematic groups related to everyday life, agriculture, animal husbandry, kinship relations, handicrafts, and social life. While some dialectal units express meanings identical to those of their counterparts in the standard Uzbek

language, others differ in terms of regional usage or semantic characteristics.

The lexical-semantic analysis reveals that the Kashkadarya dialects exhibit such semantic processes as semantic broadening, semantic narrowing, and metaphorical extension. These linguistic units serve not only as a means of communication but also as important markers of the people's national identity, historical memory, and ethnocultural heritage.

In the present period, when the influence of the standard Uzbek language continues to increase, collecting, scientifically documenting, and preserving regional dialectisms has become an important scholarly task. The study of the lexical richness of the Kashkadarya dialects contributes to the advancement of Uzbek dialectology by providing new scientific evidence and promoting a deeper understanding of the historical and contemporary development of the Uzbek language.

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