STRUCTURE OF IDIOGRAPHIC DICTIONARIES

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Abstract: *This article explores the essence of ideographic dictionaries, their place in lexicography, and the structural features that define them. It analyzes the classification of lexical items based on thematic and semantic principles. The study also examines the linguistic foundations of conceptual approaches within ideographic dictionaries. In addition, the historical development and stages of evolution of these dictionaries are discussed. The article considers hybrid dictionary models and prospects in contemporary lexicography. Promising directions for the development of ideographic dictionaries in Uzbek linguistics are highlighted. The pedagogical, translational, and cognitive roles of such dictionaries are revealed. As a result, ideographic dictionaries are evaluated as effective tools for in-depth semantic analysis of language.*

Keywords: *ideographic dictionary, semantics, classification, concept, lexicography, thematic groups*

In modern lexicography, dictionaries are commonly classified according to various criteria, with ideographic dictionaries occupying a unique and important niche. Unlike traditional (alphabetically arranged) dictionaries, ideographic dictionaries organize words and expressions into thematic groups based on semantic proximity. This approach primarily serves to uncover semantic relationships between words, foster contextual understanding of lexical units, and promote a deeper grasp of semantic structuring. The term *ideographic* derives from

the Greek *idios* (individual, specific) and *grapho* (to write, to describe), and generally refers to classification based on inherent or conceptual characteristics. From a lexicographic perspective, an ideographic dictionary is one that groups words not alphabetically but according to thematic domains or conceptual categories. For example, broad semantic fields such as "nature," "human," "action," "emotion," "place," and "time" are subdivided into more specific lexical groups.

Ideographic dictionaries bridge the theoretical and practical aspects of lexicography and serve several key functions:

- **Classificatory function**: Lexical units are logically grouped based on thematic and semantic fields, facilitating easier access for users searching for conceptually related words.
- **Pedagogical function**: These dictionaries are valuable tools for developing learners' lexical competence, particularly in foreign language education.
- **Cognitive function**: By illuminating the conceptual interrelations and semantic logic of words, they help structure lexical knowledge in human cognition.
- **Translational and stylistic function**: Ideographic dictionaries are especially useful for translators in identifying synonyms, nuances, and alternative expressions, and they contribute significantly to stylistic richness in written language.

Formation of Ideographic Dictionaries

Ideographic dictionaries are structurally complex and multi-layered systems, generally formed through the following stages:

📖 **Stage 1:** Lexical units are categorized according to broad semantic fields (macro-topics).

📖 **Stage 2:** Each semantic field is subdivided into narrower lexical groups (micro-topics).

📖 **Stage 3:** Words within each micro-group are arranged based on their semantic categories, stylistic nuances, and functional usage.

For instance, within the semantic field *"human"*, micro-groups might include: appearance, psychological states, social status, family members, character traits, and so on. According to the cognitive approach in linguistics, ideographic dictionaries reflect the conceptual structures and semantic networks present in human cognition. Thus, they become tools that illustrate the intrinsic connection between language and thought. These dictionaries organize lexical items not only phonologically or grammatically, but also based on their semantic and conceptual relationships. Through this method, abstract and logical connections among words are brought to the fore. Ideographic dictionaries serve as vital instruments for exploring both horizontal (paradigmatic) and vertical (syntagmatic) relations within the language system.

Historical Development and Evolutionary Stages of Ideographic Dictionaries

Throughout the history of lexicography, dictionary structures have evolved in tandem with shifts in linguistic approaches, societal needs, and methodological principles. Ideographic dictionaries, with their classification systems rooted in semantics, emerged as a distinct direction within this broader development. The conceptual idea of semantic classification typical of ideographic dictionaries can be traced back to ancient Greek and Roman linguistic traditions. In the works of Aristotle and Plato, we find early attempts to group words logically and analyze their meanings. For instance, Aristotle's theory of "Categories" is considered a precursor to conceptual classification. Similarly, ancient grammarians began categorizing words by their semantic properties—such as *action*, *state*, or *quality*—

which echoes the structure of today's ideographic dictionaries. While not yet in dictionary form, these early efforts reflect the principle of thematic semantic organization. During the Middle Ages, religious and philosophical texts often grouped vocabulary thematically. In theological discourse, for example, terms related to *sin*, *virtue*, *judgment*, and *salvation* were commonly categorized by concept.

Schematic Representation of Ideographic Dictionaries

IDEOGRAPHIC DICTIONARIES

Thematic Basis (by domains)	Semantic Basis (by meanings)	Conceptual Basis (by concepts)
- Medical vocabulary - Agricultural terms - Legal terminology	- Synonym groups - Antonyms - Hypernyms/hyponyms	- Concept of "freedom" - Concepts like "family," "patriotism" - Culturally bound notions

The Renaissance marked a resurgence in the study of language and science, leading to practical efforts to group vocabulary thematically. Early lexical projects emerged in several languages, seeking to represent vocabulary in a systematic, subject-based manner. By the 18th and 19th centuries, lexicography became more scientific and classification principles gained consistency. Thematic word groupings became especially prominent in German and French lexicographic traditions. These dictionaries aimed to group words related to natural sciences, philosophy, art, and technology into structured sets.

Key Historical Examples and Modern Developments

✓ **Peter Mark Roget (England, 1852):** *Roget's Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases* was structured not alphabetically but thematically, based on semantic groupings. This work laid the foundation for modern ideographic dictionaries.

✓ **German lexicographers such as Becker and the Brothers Grimm** sought to classify lexical units according to conceptual principles, anticipating later ideographic methods.

In the 20th century, lexicography formally recognized ideographic dictionaries as a distinct type. This period saw the rise of theoretical frameworks such as semantic field theory, cognitive linguistics, and conceptual analysis. As a result, thematic classification based on semantic relationships became the dominant method in dictionary compilation. Specialized dictionaries—such as synonym, antonym, phraseological, and semantic dictionaries—were increasingly developed using ideographic principles. Their structure reflected thematic groupings, hypernym-hyponym hierarchies, and cause-effect relationships between concepts. Moreover, pedagogical needs—particularly in the fields of foreign language acquisition, translation, and academic writing—drove the expanded use of ideographic dictionaries in practical education.

With the rapid advancement of information technologies, modern ideographic dictionaries have transitioned into digital formats. Electronic thesauri, online semantic platforms, and interactive thematic dictionaries now offer users intuitive access to lexical meanings and conceptual networks.

Examples include:

1. **WordNet** (for English): a semantic network where words are interlinked through conceptual relations.

2.**EuroWordNet, RuThes, UzWordNet:** semantic databases developed for different languages, based on national linguistic systems.

3.In **Uzbek lexicography**, efforts have recently been made to develop electronic ideographic dictionaries. Thematic glossaries for educational purposes, particularly textbooks, are being compiled.

Ideographic dictionaries have evolved from philosophical classifications to systematic lexical analysis and modern semantic technologies. Today, they play an essential role not only in linguistics but also in education, translation, artificial intelligence, and content development.

Ideographic dictionaries are lexicographic resources that group words not in alphabetical order, but according to their semantic proximity, thematic connections, or shared conceptual foundations. Their structure is based on principles of semantic classification—that is, the grouping of words by meaning. Such dictionaries reveal the internal semantic relationships within a language system by showing how lexical units are interconnected on a conceptual and functional level.

An ideographic dictionary typically includes the following core components:

- **Thematic blocks:** Groups of words united by a common conceptual domain (e.g., *human body*, *nature*, *social life*);
- **Semantic fields:** Words that share paradigmatic or syntagmatic relationships (e.g., within the domain of "movement": *run*, *walk*, *jump*);
- **Cognitive structures:** Mental representations of concepts and the networks of relations between them, such as hypernymy, hyponymy, antonymy, etc.

The general structure of such dictionaries progresses from large semantic clusters (macro-themes) to smaller thematic subdivisions (micro-themes), followed

by the arrangement of words within each micro-theme based on their paradigmatic relations.

Thematic Classification

Thematic classification involves grouping lexical items based on their association with a specific domain or sphere of human knowledge and experience. This includes themes such as human activities, natural phenomena, social interactions, emotions, and materials.

Examples:

- In the theme of *nutrition*: *eat*, *drink*, *food*, *meal*, *hunger*;
- In the theme of *nature*: *tree*, *leaf*, *rain*, *wind*, *sun*.

This approach facilitates learners' semantic acquisition of vocabulary and enhances their understanding of how words function contextually.

Semantic Classification

Semantic classification organizes words according to their intrinsic semantic relationships. Key types of semantic relationships used in ideographic dictionaries include:

- ☑ **Synonymy:** words with similar meanings (e.g., *beautiful – pretty – graceful*);
- ☑ **Antonymy:** words with opposite meanings (e.g., *hot – cold*, *light – dark*);
- ☑ **Hypernymy-Hyponymy:** hierarchical relations between general and specific terms (e.g., *animal → bird → crow*);
- ☑ **State-action relationships:** dynamic conceptual links (e.g., *sleep – wake up*, *stand – sit*).

Semantic classification often intersects with cognitive linguistic approaches by reflecting the mental structuring of language and conceptual knowledge in the human mind.

Table: Criteria for Thematic and Semantic Classification

Type of Classification	**Description**	**Examples**
Thematic	Words grouped by domain or subject area	*Medicine*: blood, heart, medicine
Semantic	Words classified by meaning relations	Synonyms: walk, stroll, take a walk
Hyponymy	General-to-specific conceptual relations	*Transport* → *bus, car, bicycle*
Antonomasia	Naming via defining attribute (a type of metonymy)	*Shifo* (hospital), *Do'stlik* (street name)
Conceptual approach	Organization based on abstract concepts	Concept: *Labor* → work, strength, movement, sweat

Contemporary ideographic dictionaries are increasingly structured as **semantic networks**, in which each concept serves as a central node interconnected with other related concepts through hypernymy, hyponymy, antonymy, and auxiliary semantic relations. This network-based model underpins many modern lexical-semantic databases such as **WordNet**, **RuThes**, **EuroWordNet**, and **UzWordNet**.

Example: Semantic Network for the Concept "Movement"

Movement

├── to run

├── to walk

├── to jump

└── to gallop

This structural approach provides an intuitive and visual representation of semantic proximity among lexical units, thereby facilitating the learner's ability to explore a wide array of words within a coherent semantic context.

Pedagogical and Practical Relevance

Such a structural organization plays a vital role in language teaching and acquisition. It enables learners to:

- ➔ Memorize lexical units by grouping them semantically;
- ➔ Identify paradigmatic relationships among words;
- ➔ Develop lexical competence in a systematic and conceptually meaningful way.

In addition to its pedagogical value, this model is crucial in fields such as **translation studies**, **natural language processing**, and **artificial intelligence**. It provides a structured basis for understanding and generating language using computational models. The structural composition of ideographic dictionaries is grounded in **thematic** and **semantic** classification principles. These dictionaries aim to reflect the **conceptual** and **functional nature** of language by presenting lexical items as interconnected units within a semantic framework. Through modern technological tools, these networks are increasingly interactive and visual, enhancing their practical utility. Words in ideographic systems are not viewed as isolated entities but as elements within a **web of semantic relationships**. The core content and structure of ideographic dictionaries emerge from this network of **semantic proximity**, **conceptual associations**, and **paradigmatic linkages**. Such a model allows users to uncover the semantic connections between lexical units across various conceptual domains.

Semantic Networks and Their Components

A **semantic network** is a system in which lexical units are interconnected based on meaning. Each word may occupy a central or peripheral position—hypernyms represent broader categories, while hyponyms indicate narrower, more specific concepts.

Example: "Transport" Concept

Central concept: *Transport*
Hyponyms: *bus*, *train*, *airplane*, *bicycle*

These hyponyms can be further grouped into subcategories, forming thematic sub-networks that reflect layers of meaning extending from the core concept. This stratified structure enables hierarchical differentiation of lexical items.

An **ideographic unit** can thus be defined as a system of semantically interrelated lexical items within a specific conceptual field. Such units are shaped by the following semantic relationships:

- **Synonymy:** Different expressions for the same or similar concept;
- **Antonymy:** Contrasting meanings;
- **State-action relations:** Lexical items describing phases of an action (e.g., beginning, continuation, end);
- **Hypernymy-Hyponymy:** Hierarchical relations of generality and specificity.

Systematic arrangement of these units allows users to form a comprehensive understanding of a given semantic domain.

Examples of Semantic Fields and Gradation

- ✓ **Emotions:** *joy*, *sorrow*, *anger*, *anxiety*, *calm*

- ✓ **Movement:** *run, walk, jump, slow down, stop*
- ✓ **Physical appearance:** *tall, short, straight, curved, flat*
- ✓ **Temperature gradation:** *hot → warm → cold → freezing*

Such gradational organization supports both linguistic analysis and vocabulary acquisition by mapping the continuum of meanings.

Paradigmatic Relations in Ideographic Systems

Paradigmatic relations refer to the possibility of replacing one word with another in a given context based on shared semantic properties. Within ideographic systems, these relations:

- ➢ Reveal semantic similarity among lexical units;
- ➢ Reinforce learning through synonymic and antonymic pairings;
- ➢ Provide options for lexical choice during speech production.

Semantic networks organized according to paradigmatic principles enable learners and users to comprehend lexical richness contextually and functionally.

Stages in Constructing Semantic Networks for Ideographic Dictionaries

1. **Identify the conceptual domain** – Define the general concept (e.g., *transport*);
2. **Collect semantic units** – Gather words associated with the concept;
3. **Establish semantic relations** – Identify synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, cause-effect links;
4. **Design network structure** – Present the system graphically or in structured text.

This approach ensures the internal coherence of ideographic dictionaries and provides a cognitive model of language structure.

The semantic structuring of words and the ideographic units built upon them offer a **systematic approach to lexicography**. This method reveals the **internal semantic architecture** of language, supports **conceptual understanding**, and enhances the **applicability of lexicographic resources** in both pedagogical and technological domains. One of the primary functions of **ideographic dictionaries** is to systematize linguistic units not only in terms of their formal characteristics but also based on their **semantic properties**. In this process, **semantic fields** and the **conceptual structures** formed upon them play a central role. A semantic field can be defined as an internal domain of meaning within a language, encompassing a group of words organized around a shared concept. A **semantic field** is thus a collection of lexemes that are meaningfully interrelated. Each field is based on a specific **conceptual foundation**, serving as a semantic organizer of the language. For instance, the concept of *movement* gives rise to a field that includes lexemes such as *to walk*, *to run*, *to jump*, *to slide*, *to gallop*. Within such fields, words are interconnected through both **paradigmatic relations** (substitutability within similar contexts) and **syntagmatic relations** (co-occurrence within actual language use).

Types of Semantic Fields in Ideographic Dictionaries

Ideographic dictionaries typically classify words into various semantic fields, including but not limited to:

- **Object-related fields**: e.g., *fruits*: apple, grape, pomegranate;
- **Process-related fields**: e.g., *thinking*: to think, to reflect, to hypothesize;
- **State-related fields**: e.g., *mood*: happy, sad, anxious;
- **Action-related fields**: e.g., *assistance*: to help, to advise, to support.

This categorization enables the grouping of dictionary entries into logically coherent units, thereby simplifying the processes of understanding and internalizing lexical material.

Importantly, semantic fields in ideographic dictionaries are not treated as isolated clusters but as components of **interrelated conceptual systems**. Each semantic field resides within a broader **conceptual domain**. For example, the conceptual domain of *social activity* might include the following fields:

- **Professions**: teacher, engineer, doctor;
- **Social roles**: leader, assistant, citizen;
- **Actions**: to manage, to serve, to share.

In this way, the **conceptual structure** operates as a higher-order organizer of semantic fields. Central concepts occupy focal positions in the structure, while related lexical units form surrounding semantic layers.

Cognitive Models and Conceptual Mapping in Modern Lexicography

In modern linguistics, ideographic dictionaries are viewed not merely as repositories of lexical items, but as representations of **cognitive structures** embedded in language. Each semantic field corresponds to a **conceptual model** rooted in human experience and perception. For example, the concept of *temperature* may be represented by a gradational model:

Freezing → Cold → Warm → Hot → Boiling

This model reflects not only nominal categorization but also conveys **experiential**, **emotional**, and **physiological** responses associated with temperature. As such, ideographic dictionaries serve as important tools for expressing **conceptual and cognitive interlinguistic correspondences**. Ideographic

dictionaries based on conceptual structures and semantic fields have proven to be highly effective in various domains:

- ☑ **Education** – for thematically organized vocabulary instruction;
- ☑ **Translation** – for selecting contextually appropriate synonyms;
- ☑ **Artificial intelligence** – for developing semantic network models;
- ☑ **Computational linguistics** – for analyzing lexical interrelations.

By providing insight into the **deep semantic layers** of language, ideographic dictionaries offer a reliable foundation for the **systematic analysis and practical application** of linguistic data.

In ideographic dictionaries, **semantic fields** and **conceptual structures** function as an integrated system. Through this system, the **internal semantic relationships** between linguistic units are revealed, enabling the **reconstruction of the conceptual space** of a language. Consequently, such dictionaries serve not only as repositories of lexical data, but also as **models of the cognitive structure** of language. With the advancement of technology, **lexicographic practices** have undergone significant transformations. Ideographic dictionaries have transitioned from traditional printed formats to **digital and interactive platforms**. Modern electronic dictionaries offer users not only rapid and convenient information retrieval but also tools for **contextual analysis**, **visual representation of semantic networks**, and **interactive language learning** through various functional features.

Distinctive Features of Digital Ideographic Dictionaries

Compared to traditional dictionaries, electronic ideographic dictionaries stand out due to the following innovative features:

- ❖ **Interactive Interface**: Users can refine searches using filters, categories, and advanced selection tools.

- **Visual Maps**: Semantic fields are presented graphically in the form of **semantic networks** or **conceptual maps**, aiding visual learning.
- **Hypertext System**: Each lexical item is linked to related terms, enabling **dynamic semantic exploration**.
- **Multimedia Support**: Words are illustrated with **audio, images, or video examples** to show their usage in context.
- **Personalization and Adaptability**: Users receive tailored recommendations based on their search history and preferences.

These features **enhance user experience** and contribute to **deep, intuitive mastery** of vocabulary and conceptual relations in language. In digital environments, every word in an ideographic dictionary holds a specific position within a **semantic network**. This allows users to explore not only the primary meaning but also **synonyms, antonyms, related concepts**, and **taxonomic relationships** (e.g., hypernyms and hyponyms). For example, a user searching for the word *movement* might encounter the following semantic map:

- **Core Concept**: *Movement*
- ✓ **Synonyms**: walking, shifting, leaning
- ✓ **Hyponyms**: running, walking, jumping
- ✓ **Antonyms**: standing still, stopping

Such **visual representations** significantly improve comprehension by allowing users to **intuitively grasp** the lexical and conceptual structure of a language.

Ideographic dictionaries represent a crucial direction in both **linguistics** and **lexicography**. These dictionaries systematize the vocabulary of a language based on **semantic groupings**, thereby unveiling the **internal conceptual structure** of the language. In contemporary practice, ideographic dictionaries are applied not

only in lexical research but also in diverse domains such as **language learning, translation, artificial intelligence, computational linguistics**, and **cognitive sciences**.

In modern lexicography, ideographic dictionaries serve the following key functions:

- They define not only the **lexical meaning** of words, but also their position within the **structure of thought**;
- They reveal the **paradigmatic organization** of language through **thematic and synonymous groupings**;
- In **cognitive linguistics**, they are employed as foundational resources to explain the relationship between **language and thought**;
- They facilitate the identification of **socio-cultural concepts** and provide tools for analyzing the features of **national cognition**.

Such dictionaries offer **unparalleled opportunities** for conducting in-depth semantic analyses and for identifying **typologies of concepts** in scientific research.

Despite their importance, comprehensive ideographic dictionaries in the **Uzbek language** remain limited in number. However, ongoing research and engagement with **international best practices** have outlined the following development prospects:

- Creation of a **national ideographic dictionary** based on thematic lexicons;
- Development of **conceptual dictionaries** grounded in **national cultural concepts**;
- Design of **interactive ideographic platforms** tailored for educational use;

✍ Compilation of **specialized ideographic dictionaries** for professional fields such as **medicine, law, and technology**.

These initiatives are expected to elevate **Uzbek lexicography** to a new stage of development.In the near future, ideographic dictionaries will likely evolve into **hybrid dictionary systems**, integrated with other dictionary types such as **definitional, translation, and encyclopedic dictionaries**. Such hybrid models will:

📖 Provide **definitions, translations, illustrations, usage examples**, and **conceptual contexts** in a unified interface;

📖 Support **multilingualism**, offering insights into **semantic similarities and differences** across languages;

📖 Enrich **machine translation systems** with deeper **semantic layers**.

As a result, the **future of lexicography** will largely be shaped by **ideographic approaches** embedded within **hybrid digital models**.

Ideographic dictionaries are essential linguistic tools that classify language units based on **semantic, thematic**, and **conceptual relationships**. These dictionaries:

✓ Reveal the **internal semantic structure** of words;

✓ Enable the analysis of language as a **conceptual space**;

✓ Offer users a **logically structured and meaning-based lexical database**;

✓ Leverage **modern technologies** to provide **interactive and functional user experiences**.

The formation, structure, and practical significance of ideographic dictionaries render them integral not only to **theoretical linguistics**, but also to

applied lexicography. In the context of **Uzbek linguistics**, current scholarly efforts in this direction pave the way for the creation of comprehensive dictionaries that will elucidate the **semantic landscape** of the language in greater depth. In conclusion, **ideographic dictionaries** remain one of the most effective tools for **systematizing linguistic knowledge**, fostering its **continuous development**, and ensuring its **practical application** across various domains of linguistic research and education.

CONCLUSION

Idiographic dictionaries hold significant scientific and practical importance in linguistics. They not only systematize lexical units semantically, thematically, and conceptually, revealing the internal structure of the language, but also offer opportunities for in-depth analysis of its cognitive and social characteristics. Idiographic dictionaries are especially effective in fields such as linguistics, translation, education, and computational linguistics. With the development of modern technologies, idiographic dictionaries have transitioned to electronic formats and have been enriched with interactive and multimedia features. This expansion of functionality enhances the user experience, enabling users to quickly and conveniently find words based on semantic networks. Electronic dictionaries, aided by artificial intelligence, continue to evolve and play a vital role in semantic analysis and translation processes. The future of idiographic dictionaries in Uzbek linguistics, particularly in the study of national and social concepts, will significantly contribute to the advancement of education and scientific research. Furthermore, hybrid dictionary models that integrate all aspects of the language are expected to be developed.

In general, idiographic dictionaries are ushering in a new phase in linguistics, offering a clear and comprehensive presentation of the semantic structure of the language. These dictionaries are not only crucial for scientific research but also

essential for language learning, translation, and practical application. Therefore, idiographic dictionaries will occupy a crucial role in the future development of linguistics and lexicography. Below is a general format and some examples for constructing the References list. Based on the sources cited in your article, you can prepare a references list. If you would like to include specific sources, please provide their details.

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