

THE IMPORTANCE OF METAPHORICAL CHAINS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK SYNONYMY

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Relevance of the topic

Language is not only a means of communication but also a reflection of human cognition, culture, and worldview. The way people perceive and interpret the world around them is encoded in linguistic forms, among which metaphors play a fundamental role. Metaphor is one of the most productive mechanisms in the development of meaning, enabling speakers to transfer features of one conceptual domain to another. Through this process, languages constantly renew and enrich their vocabularies.

In both English and Uzbek, metaphorical expressions have become an integral part of the lexical and semantic system. They give rise to new synonyms that differ not only in meaning but also in emotional, cultural, and stylistic coloring. This phenomenon can be observed in the formation of what linguists term metaphorical chains — sequences of related expressions that share a common conceptual basis yet develop divergent figurative meanings.

The study of metaphorical synonymy is significant because it reveals how speakers of different linguistic communities conceptualize similar realities through distinct metaphorical images. In English, metaphors are often grounded in physical experience, motion, and practicality, while in Uzbek they are more closely connected with emotional states, nature, and spirituality. Such differences highlight the close link between language and national mentality.

Moreover, metaphorical synonymy contributes to the richness and flexibility of expression. By forming semantic parallels, metaphors allow speakers to choose among several synonymous forms according to context, tone, and communicative

intent. Consequently, understanding metaphorical chains provides insight into the cognitive and cultural dimensions of synonymy and the mechanisms of meaning formation in language.

The present study aims to analyze the role and significance of metaphorical chains in English and Uzbek synonymy, to identify similarities and differences in their semantic structures, and to determine how metaphor serves as a bridge between thought, language, and culture.

Conclusion

Metaphorical chains play a crucial role in the formation and evolution of synonymy in English and Uzbek languages. They not only enrich the vocabulary but also mirror the cognitive and cultural specificities of each linguistic community. Understanding metaphorical synonymy contributes to a deeper comprehension of language development, translation studies, and intercultural communication.

References

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