



NARROWING AND WIDENING OF MEANING IN MODERN UZBEK ARABIC ACQUISITIONS

Kholboev Munis Davron ugli
Master Student of Shakhrisabz State Pedagogical Institute

Bobojonova Shokhsanam
Doctor of Philosophy in Philology
(PhD) associate professor

Abstract

This article analyzes the phenomena of semantic narrowing and semantic broadening observed in Arabic loanwords in the modern Uzbek language. It examines the role of Arabic borrowings in the lexical system of Uzbek, their historical formation, and the processes of semantic development on a scientific basis. The study also explains the linguistic and extralinguistic factors influencing changes in word meaning, including social, cultural, historical, and stylistic aspects. The findings contribute to identifying the semantic features of Arabic loanwords and to a deeper understanding of the lexical richness of the Uzbek language.

Keywords: Arabic loanwords, semantic change, semantic narrowing, semantic broadening, lexical system, Uzbek language, language development, semantics, linguistic factors, extralinguistic factors, culture, spirituality, knowledge, literature.

Introduction

The current vocabulary of the Uzbek language has been enriched on the basis of various sources in the process of historical development, and the acquired layer occupies an important place in it. In particular, words borrowed from the Arabic language are formed as a separate layer in the lexical system of the Uzbek language. These words were introduced mainly in connection with Islamic



culture, science, literature and social life and have been actively used for centuries.

Literature review

The importance of Arabic loanwords in the Uzbek language is manifested not only in their large number, but also in their semantic richness and versatility. In the course of the development of the language, the meaning of these words has undergone various changes, some of them have narrowed their meaning, while others have experienced a widening of their meaning. These semantic processes are closely related to the internal laws of the language, socio-cultural factors and speech practice.

As a result of the narrowing of the meaning, the initial broad meaning of the word becomes limited within a certain field or concept. On the contrary, in the process of expanding the meaning, the range of use of the word expands and is enriched with new meanings. These phenomena are especially evident in Arabic adaptations, and their scientific analysis is one of the urgent issues. The purpose of this article is to identify the phenomena of narrowing and expanding the meaning observed in some Arabic acquisitions used in the Uzbek language and to analyze them on the basis of examples. At the same time, the causes of these semantic changes and their place in the lexical system of the Uzbek language are also highlighted.

Analysis and Results

Borrowed words, which make up an important part of the vocabulary of the Uzbek language, were formed as a result of contacts with other languages in the process of language development. In linguistics, borrowed words are lexical units that entered one language through another language and adapted to the laws of this language. The words adopted from Arabic into the Uzbek language are historically one of the oldest and most stable layers [2; 21].

The introduction of Arabic words into the Uzbek language is mainly related to the spread of Islam in Central Asia since the 8th century. As a result of this process, many Arabic units expressing religious, scientific, philosophical and educational concepts entered our language. Later, they began to be actively used



***Modern American Journal of Linguistics,
Education, and Pedagogy***

ISSN (E): 3067-7874

Volume 2, Issue 5, May, 2026

Website: usajournals.org

***This work is Licensed under CC BY 4.0 a Creative Commons Attribution
4.0 International License.***

not only in the religious sphere, but also in everyday speech [8; 84]. Arabism's in the Uzbek language belongs to different lexical-semantic layers, among which words related to science, education, morality, culture and state administration occupy a special place. For example, words such as *science*, *culture*, *enlightenment*, and *government* are still actively used today. These words have adapted to the internal laws of the Uzbek language and have changed phonetically and morphologically. Semantic change is one of the important signs of language development, which means that the meaning of a word changes over time. In linguistics, narrowing of meaning and widening of meaning are distinguished as the main manifestations of this process. In the narrowing of the meaning, the initial broad meaning of the word becomes specific to a certain field, while in the widening of the meaning, on the contrary, the word includes new meanings [3; 148]. Semantic changes are especially active in Arabic acquisitions. The reason for this is that these words enter a different language environment and are reinterpreted in a new socio-cultural environment. As a result, the meaning of some words narrows, while others expand and acquire new semantic aspects. In this sense, the semantic study of Arabic acquisitions allows a deeper understanding of the lexical richness of the Uzbek language.

The phenomenon of meaning narrowing in words borrowed from the Arabic language often occurs in connection with their specialization for a certain function in the new language environment. This process can be seen through several concrete examples.

For example, the word "adab" in Arabic originally meant general concepts such as "manners", "education", "good manners", "cultural behavior in a broad sense". In the current Uzbek language, this word is used more in a narrow sense related to "literature", i.e., products of written creativity. So, the general moral content of the word is narrowed and limited to a specific field - literature.

Another example is the word "science". In Arabic, it has a wide range of meanings, such as "knowledge", "science", "understanding". In the Uzbek language, "science" means a system of formal and theoretical knowledge, that is, a concept related to scientific activity. For everyday simple knowledge, the word "knowledge" is used more often. In this case, the meaning of the lexeme "science" has narrowed and became characteristic of a certain methodological



*Modern American Journal of Linguistics,
Education, and Pedagogy*

ISSN (E): 3067-7874

Volume 2, Issue 5, May, 2026

Website: usajournals.org

*This work is Licensed under CC BY 4.0 a Creative Commons Attribution
4.0 International License.*

and functional framework. Also, the word “fatwa” in Arabic generally means “judgment”, “decision”, “answer”. In the current Uzbek language, it is mainly used in the sense of a judgment given on religious and legal issues. Here, too, the original broad meaning of the word has narrowed and is limited only to the religious sphere. The word “book” is also one of the semantic narrowing units. In Arabic, this word has broad meanings such as “written thing”, “script”, “any form of writing”. In the Uzbek language, it mainly means a work published in a certain form, that is, a publication in the form of a book. Therefore, the general meaning of “written source” was narrowed and applied to a specific subject.

In the process of language development, the change of word meaning is a natural and legal phenomenon, and one of its important manifestations is the expansion of meaning. Expansion of meaning means that the meaning of a word, which initially expresses a narrow or specific concept, expands over time and acquires a more general, comprehensive meaning. As a result of this phenomenon, the word acquires new semantic aspects and its scope of use increases.

The process of meaning expansion is particularly active in words borrowed from the Arabic language. The main reason for this is that these words were originally specific to a certain religious, scientific or social environment, but later they were absorbed into the national language and began to be used in various speech styles. As a result, their original meaning expanded and new semantic layers were created. For example, the word “culture” in Arabic mainly means “urban way of life”, “progress”, but in the modern Uzbek language, it has become a broad concept that covers the set of material and spiritual achievements of society and various areas of human activity. Here it can be seen that the scope of the word has been significantly expanded. Also, the lexeme “spirituality” initially had a more religious and moral meaning, but today it has become a comprehensive concept that expresses the inner world of a person, moral values, spiritual world, and the spiritual state of society. This shows that this word is semantically generalized. Another example is the word “lesson”. In Arabic, it is mainly used in the sense of “lesson”, “knowledge to be learned”, while in modern Uzbek, this word is also used in a figurative sense, meaning “life experience”, “lesson”. Therefore, the meaning of the word has not only expanded, but also the possibilities of figurative use have increased.



A number of factors affect the development of meaning in Arabic acquisitions. First of all, changes in social life and the emergence of new concepts impose new meanings on existing words. Secondly, speech practice and artistic thinking strengthen the figurative use of words. Thirdly, as a result of the laws of internal development of the language, words expand semantically.

Conclusion/Recommendations

In the process of language development, the change of the meaning of a word is not a random event, but occurs under the influence of certain laws and factors. In particular, the narrowing and widening of meaning observed in words borrowed from the Arabic language is closely related to a number of linguistic and extralinguistic factors. First of all, social factors play an important role. The development of society, the emergence of new social relations and needs affect the meaning of language units. For example, some Arabic words were initially specific to the religious or scientific environment, but later spread to the general public and acquired new meanings, or, on the contrary, were limited to a specific field. This process is determined by functional needs in society. The second important factor is cultural and religious influence. Since most of the Arabic words were introduced in connection with Islamic culture, their original meaning was closely related to religious concepts. Over time, these words became secular and acquired new meanings or, on the contrary, remained only in the religious sphere. As a result, the meaning of some words has expanded, while others have narrowed. As a third factor, the laws of internal development of the language can be indicated. Each language develops on the basis of its own internal system, and in this process the distribution of meaning between words occurs. Some words in the synonymous line have a general meaning, while others are specialized in a narrow sense. For example, although the words “science” and “knowledge” are close to each other, their scope of use is formed differently. This is the result of semantic differentiation. Also, speech practice and stylistic factors are important. The use of words in different speech styles affects their meaning. The figurative use of words in fiction, journalism or scientific method leads to their semantic expansion. On the contrary, its use in official or special fields creates a narrowing of the meaning. In addition, the historical factor deserves attention. The



difference between the original meaning of a word and its current meaning often arises as a result of historical development. In different periods of the language, the scope of use of the word changes, and this process affects its semantic structure.

References:

1. Абдуллаева М. Ўзбек тилида ўзлашмаларнинг семантик ўзгариши. – Тошкент: Фан, 2014.
2. Н. Jamolxonov. Hozirgi o‘zbek adabiy tili “O‘zbekiston milliy ensiklopediyasi” Davlat ilmiy nashriyoti. Toshkent-2013. 403 B
3. R. Rasulov “Umumiy tilshunoslik” Toshkent. “Fan va texnologiya” 2007. 256 B
4. Rahmatullayev Sh., Hojiyev A. O‘zbek tilining imlo lug‘ati. –Toshkent, O‘qituvchi. 1995. – 289 b.
5. XOLBOYEV M. O‘ZBEK TILIDA O‘ZLASHMA SO‘ZLAR TAVSIFI //«ACTA NUUZ». – 2025. – T. 1. – №. 1.4. 1. – С. 329-331.
6. O‘zbek tilining izohli lug‘ati. 6 jildli. 1-jild – Toshkent: G‘afur G‘ulom nomidagi nashriyot-matbaa ijodiy uyi, 2023. – 964 bet.
7. Ўзбек тили лексикологияси. – Тошкент: Ўзбекистон, 1981. – Б.84.