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THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE PARTONYMIC (HOLO-MERONYMIC) PHENOMENON IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract

This article presents theoretical perspectives on when the concept of the partonymic (holo-meronymic) phenomenon first emerged in English and Uzbek linguistics, the stages of its development, and its introduction into the field of linguistics.

Keywords: Meronym, partonym, holonym, part-whole relationship, partonymic lexical meaning, system lexicology

Introduction

Meronym (from Ancient Greek meros – "part" and onoma – "name") refers to a concept that is an inseparable part of something else. In another sense, a meronym is also called a partonym (from Latin pars, genitive partis – "part"). Holonym (from Ancient Greek – as a structural whole of the former). The term meronymy (or partonymy) is considered a new direction in both Uzbek and European linguistics, appearing for the first time in academic literature in the theses on System Lexicology [1; 35–40]. In Uzbek linguistics, the term partonymy was introduced in the 1990s by representatives of the Bukhara school of linguistics [2; 138].

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Every object, event, or process in existence is perceived as a complete whole before our eyes. These are composed of certain parts, pieces, or components. These elements are interconnected and form a single system. The whole is a unified entity made up of interrelated parts, components, and elements. A part is a segment or component that constitutes the whole [3; 35–40]. The reflection of the part-whole relationship in lexical terms has long attracted the attention of linguists. Specifically, Russian scholar M.V. Nikitin proposed calling the whole concept a holonym and the part concept a meronym or partonym [4; 142].

Indeed, each language contains a group of lexemes used to express part-whole relationships. Difference Between Holo-Meronymy and Hyper-Hyponymy. The distinction between holo-meronymy or partonymy and hyper-hyponymy lies in the nature of their relationships. In hyponymy, one member of the field is contrasted with others to determine semantic relations. In partonymy, the issue is the internal relationship between the parts that constitute a particular whole [5; 171–173]. For example, the suit (as a whole) includes parts such as sleeves, collar, buttons, side pocket, breast pocket, thief's pocket, hem, lining. Now imagine a suit without a sleeve—can it still be considered whole? Certainly not. This phenomenon in language drew the attention of scholars such as E. Begmatov, H. Ne'matov, and R. Rasulov in the late 1980s [6; 138], and was later deeply studied by B. Qilichev. Professor A. Sobirov, in his research, illuminated the semantic field aspects of the partonymic phenomenon [7; 161].

Defining the Partonym: A partonym is a word that represents a part of an object. In other words, it denotes a segment or fragment of a whole. The relationship between a partonym and its root word reflects the "part-whole" relationship in linguistics.

Firstly, the term partonym refers only to parts. Therefore, it is appropriate to use Nikitin's terms holonym and meronym to denote the whole and the part. Secondly, holo-meronymy primarily refers to material objects' part-whole relationships. As noted by B. Qilichev, they are not limited to nouns but can also be found in verbs, numerals, adverbs, and adjectives. Each holo-meronymic paradigm is considered a specific field, which may be narrow or broad in scope.

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Examples of Meronymic Relationships:

If we consider a "billion" as a whole, it contains parts like million, hundred thousand, thousand, hundred, fifty, ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one. Similarly, "one" can be broken down into halves, quarters, eighths. A day (24 hours) can be divided into dawn, morning, noon, afternoon, evening, sunset, night, and midnight.

Some meronyms in comparison:

• "Paqqos tushirdi" (ate all at once) vs. "chimladi" (nibbled)

• "Shimirdi" (slurped) vs. "ho'pladi" (sipped)

• "To'kib soldi" (poured) vs. "luqma tashladi" (tossed a bite) [8; 187]

All units of measurement are built on part-whole relationships:

• Millimeter, centimeter, decimeter, meter, kilometer

• Second, minute, hour, day, week, month, year, century, era

The first set represents measurement units, the second denotes time units, where the latter serve as holonyms.

Semantic Relationships and Functional Contexts

To a certain degree, every object or event rests upon a part-whole relationship. The approach depends on the analytical perspective. The completeness of meronyms ensures the integrity of holonyms, facilitating effective communication. A particular meronym can shift to become a holonym for another semantic field.

For example:

• The holonyms hand, leg, and head comprise the following meronyms:

• Hand: nail, finger, palm, wrist, elbow, shoulder

• Leg: nail, sole, heel, ankle, bone, knee, calf, thigh

• Head: hair, eyebrow, eyelid, eyelash, eye, ear, nose, mouth, forehead, nape, chin.

Each of these can act as meronyms of the holonym body [9; 142].

Two types of part-whole relations can be distinguished:

• a) Natural relationships: sky – sun, moon, stars; mountain – cliff, cave, peak, path, stream; one – half, quarter

• b) Artificially constructed relationships: any man-made object

Example: A car as a holonym includes hundreds of meronyms like radiator, wheel, steering wheel, battery, motor, spark plug, pump, door, cabin, light, license plate [10; 193]

According to experts, a modern airplane contains about 10,000 parts, meaning the holonym airplane encompasses 10,000 meronyms.

Lexical Groups of Partonymic Meaning

Words in the partonymic lexical group fall into two types: holonyms and meronyms. For example:

• Tree – holonym

• Root, trunk, branch, leaf – meronyms

• Human – holonym

• Head, body, hand, leg – meronyms, which form a relative whole according to a specific system and order

Studying these lexical units comparatively aids in exploring their meanings more deeply [11; 201].

Contextual Use of Partonyms

Body Parts and Organisms:

• Hand – partonym of body

• Leaf – partonym of tree

• Wing – partonym of bird

Geographic Locations:

• Asia – partonym of Earth

• California – partonym of United States

• Nile – partonym of river system

Objects and Components:

• Wheel – partonym of car

• Keyboard – partonym of computer

• Chapter – partonym of book

Professor A. Sobirov explains the phenomenon of meronymy as follows: the holonym house consists of parts such as foundation, wall, floor, roof, door, window. If we isolate "roof" and generate a new field from its parts, like beam, slate, ceiling, gutter, attic – then "roof" becomes a holonym in its own right [12; 154].

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Conclusion

Partonyms are widely used in language to describe the relationship between objects and their components. They help structure our understanding of how things are built and make it easier to convey detailed information.

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