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**Plesionymy in Uzbek and English: Lexico-semantic differentiation
and functional realization.**

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Annotation. This article investigates plesionymy as a lexico-semantic relationship characterized by substantial semantic proximity accompanied by differentiating semantic or functional features. The study focuses on Uzbek and English and aims to identify the criteria that distinguish plesionymy from synonymy and graduonymy. Particular attention is paid to contextual realization, stylistic differentiation, figurative representation. The research employs componential, contextual, functional and contrastive methods. Selected Uzbek and English lexical and phraseological units are analyzed to establish their shared semantic components and differentiating features.

Key words. Plesionymy, near-synonymy, lexical semantics, semantic differentiation, functional semantics, Uzbek, English, synonymy, graduonymy, contextual meaning.

Аннотация. В данной статье исследуется плесионимия как лексико-семантическое отношение, характеризующееся значительной семантической близостью, сопровождающейся дифференцирующими семантическими или функциональными признаками. Исследование сосредоточено на узбекском и английском языках и направлено на выявление критериев, позволяющих разграничить плесионимию, синонимию и градуонию. Особое внимание уделяется контекстуальной реализации, стилистической дифференциации и образному представлению. В исследовании применяются компонентный, контекстуальный, функциональный и сопоставительный методы. Отдельные лексические и фразеологические единицы узбекского и английского языков анализируются с целью выявления их общих семантических компонентов и дифференцирующих признаков.

Ключевые слова: плесионимия, квазисинонимия, лексическая семантика, семантическая дифференциация, функциональная семантика, узбекский язык, английский язык, синонимия, градуонимия, контекстуальное значение.

Annotatsiya. Mazkur maqolada plesionimiya leksik-semantik munosabatning alohida turi sifatida tadqiq etiladi. Plesionimiya semantik jihatdan sezilarli darajadagi yaqinlikka ega bo'lgan, biroq muayyan farqlovchi semantik yoki funksional xususiyatlar bilan ajralib turuvchi leksik birliklar o'rtasidagi munosabat sifatida talqin qilinadi. Tadqiqot o'zbek va ingliz tillari materiallari asosida olib borilib,

plesionimiyani sinonimiya va graduonimiyadan farqlash imkonini beruvchi asosiy mezonlarni aniqlashga qaratilgan. Unda plesionimik munosabatlarning kontekstual voqelanishi, uslubiy differensiallashuvi hamda obrazli ifodalanish xususiyatlariga alohida e'tibor qaratiladi. Tadqiqot jarayonida komponent tahlili, kontekstual, funksional va qiyosiy-tarixiy bo'lmagan kontrastiv metodlardan foydalaniladi. O'zbek va ingliz tillaridan tanlab olingan leksik hamda frazeologik birliklar ularning umumiy semantik komponentlari va farqlovchi belgilari asosida tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot natijalari plesionimiyaning sinonimiya va graduonimiyaga yaqin jihatlari bilan bir qatorda, uni alohida leksik-semantik munosabat sifatida belgilovchi xususiyatlarni aniqlashga xizmat qiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: plesionimiya, yaqin ma'nodoshlik, leksik semantika, semantik differensiallashuv, funksional semantika, o'zbek tili, ingliz tili, sinonimiya, graduonimiya, kontekstual ma'no.

Introduction. The lexical system of a language is characterized by a complex network of semantic relations. Synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, and other relations have traditionally provided the principal categories for describing the organization of vocabulary. Nevertheless, many lexical units demonstrate a degree of semantic proximity that cannot be adequately described either as a complete synonymy or as clearly contrasting lexical relations. The aim of the study is to identify and compare the principal lexico-semantic and functional characteristics of potential plesionymic relations in Uzbek and English. The study pursues the following objectives:

- To clarify the semantic characteristics of plesionymy;
- To distinguish plesionymy from synonymy and graduonymy
- To identify shared and differentiating semantic features in selected Uzbek and English lexical relations
- To examine the role of context in the realization of differentiation.

Methodology. *Componential analysis* identifies the semantic components shared by the members of a lexical pair and components responsible for differentiation. For example, die: (cessation of life + direct designation), pass away: (cessation of life + indirect designation).

Contextual analysis. Contextual analysis examines how lexical meanings are realized in actual discourse. This is necessary because differentiating features may be weakly expressed in isolation but become prominent in particular contexts.

Contrastive analysis compares the semantic and functional behavior of potential plesionyms in Uzbek and English. The analysis does not assume that the two languages

possess direct lexical equivalents. Instead, it investigates comparable semantic-functional mechanisms.

Discussion and results. Plesionymy may be understood as a relationship between lexical units that are close in meaning but not completely identical. Its basic structure can be represented as: semantic proximity+semantic/functional differentiation. The first component establishes the relationship between the units; the second prevents their meaning from being considered completely equivalent. The differentiating feature may occur at several levels: semantic, conceptual, stylistic, pragmatic, evaluative, phraseological, collocational. Thus plesionymy should be considered a multidimensional phenomenon rather than a uniform category. Storjohann's research is particularly significant in this respect. Her corpus-based analysis demonstrates that plesionymic relations of synonymy.

Plesionymy and synonymy. The relationship between synonymy and plesionymy is particularly complex. Synonymy emphasizes semantic similarity or equivalence, whereas plesionymy emphasizes similarity together with differentiation. A simplified representation is:

Synonymy- similarity/equivalence

Plesionymy- similarity+differentiation.

Near –synonymous lexical units may therefore overlap considerably while remaining sensitive to contextual, stylistic, or functional restrictions.

Plesionymy and graduonymy. Graduonymy is based primarily on scalar relations between lexical units. For example: lexical units may represent different points on a scale: small-medium-large. Plesionymy, however, does not necessarily involve scalar progression. Closely related units can differ in register, manner, conceptualization, or pragmatic effect without forming a scale.

Feature	Cessation of life	Direct designation	Formality	Respectful connotation
<i>O`lmoq</i>	+	+	Relatively neutral	-/+
<i>Vafot etmoq</i>	+	—	+	+

The distinction illustrates a central property of plesionymy: two units can share a substantial denotational component while differing in their communicative realization. *O`lmoq- ko`z yummoq* the phraseological expression *ko`z yummoq* can denote death in an appropriate context. The differentiating feature is the mode of conceptualization. The event is expressed indirectly through a figurative image. This example demonstrates that plesionymy may involve not only lexical items but also

phraseological expressions. The Uzbek lexical- semantic field of death includes other expressions such as *dunyodan ketmoq*, *dunyodan o'tmoq*, *jon bermoq*, *joni uzilmoq*, *halok bo'lmoq* and *nobud bo'lmoq*. However, these expressions should not automatically be categorized as plesionyms. For example, *halok bo'lmoq* and *nobud bo'lmoq* may contain additional semantic information concerning manner, circumstance, destruction, or loss. Their classification therefore requires contextual evidence.

The English pair *die-pass away* provides a particularly useful comparison with Uzbek *o'lmoq-vafot etmoq*. Both expressions denote the cessation of life, but they differ in communicative presentation. *Die*-direct designation, *pass away*-indirect/euphemistic designation. The two expressions therefore demonstrate: shared semantic core + functional differentiation. The comparison is particularly valuable because it shows that similar communicative distinctions can be expressed through different lexical forms in the two languages. Foggy-misty is a well-known example in the literature on plesionymy. Storjohann identifies foggy- misty among examples traditionally used to illustrate close semantic relationships involving shared and differentiating properties. The two adjectives belong to the same conceptual domain of atmospheric conditions, but they are not completely interchangeable. A simplified representation is:

foggy: atmospheric obscurity + fog-like condition

misty: atmospheric obscurity + fine/light suspended moisture

The shared component establishes semantic proximity, while the differentiating component provides semantic specification. The findings support a broader understanding of plesionymy as a relationship based on semantic proximity and meaningful differentiation. The analysis leads to five principal observations. First, semantic similarity alone cannot establish plesionymy. Second, the differentiating feature may be semantic, functional, stylistic, conceptual, figurative, cultural, or pragmatic. Third, context may strengthen or weaken the perception of differentiation. Fourth, closely related lexical units are not necessarily freely interchangeable. Fifth, cross-linguistic comparison should focus on functional-semantic correspondence rather than only formal translation equivalents. These observations are consistent with the corpus-based perspective developed by Storjohann, who argues for greater attention to the contextual realization of plesionymic relations. They also complement Djumabaeva's comparative treatment of plesionymy and graduonymy in English and Uzbek.

Conclusion. The study has examined selected potential plesionymic relations in Uzbek and English from lexico-semantic, contextual, functional, and contrastive perspectives.

The findings indicate that plesionymy cannot be adequately defined as simple synonymy or as an intermediate stage between synonymy and antonymy. Rather, it represents a multidimensional relationship in which substantial semantic proximity coexists with meaningful differentiation. The differentiating feature may concern semantic specification, stylistic register, euphemism, figurative representation, cultural association, or conceptual profiling. The Uzbek examples *o`lmoq-vafot etmoq*, *o`lmoq-ko`z yummoq* demonstrate different forms of functional and semantic differentiation. The English examples *die-pass away*, *foggy-misty* demonstrate euphemistic, semantic, and conceptual differentiation respectively. Further research should expand the empirical database and use larger balanced corpora to test the proposed criteria quantitatively. Such research may contribute to establishing more precise boundaries between plesionymy, synonymy, graduonymy, and other lexical-semantic relations.

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