

THE STUDY OF SOMATIC LEXICOLOGY IN UZBEK

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Abstract: This study explores the role of somatisms in the Uzbek language, focusing on the lexical and semantic characteristics of expressions related to human body parts. Somatisms are lexical units that serve as the names of body parts, functioning within a specific linguistic system. They are typically studied as nouns but are also explored through verbs that express the actions related to these body parts. The research examines how somatisms form a coherent system across languages, contributing to both macro and micro semantic fields. The study highlights the significance of somatisms in linguistic systems, especially in the context of phraseological units and proverbs, as they provide a unique window into the cultural and emotional expressions of a society. By investigating somatisms and their pragmatic, cognitive, and cultural roles, the research contributes to the broader understanding of how body-related expressions reflect human experiences and worldview across different linguistic and cultural contexts.

Keywords: somatisms, lexical-semantic group, semantic field, lexical unit, somatic expression.

Introduction: The somatic lexicon refers to a specific subset of vocabulary that encompasses terms derived from parts of the human body and, in some cases, parts of animal bodies. These units form a critical component of language, reflecting both literal and metaphorical applications. For instance, words like "hand," "heart," and "eye" serve as direct references to human anatomy, while phrases like "lend a hand" or "turn a blind eye" demonstrate their metaphorical and idiomatic extensions.

In addition to its linguistic significance, the term "somatic" is widely used in disciplines like biology and medicine, where it describes phenomena specifically related to the human body. Examples include "somatic cells" (body cells distinct from germ cells) and "somatic therapy" (therapeutic practices involving the body). In the late 20th and early 21st centuries, linguistic research began to focus more intensively on the somatic lexicon. This interest arose from its potential to address challenges in intercultural communication. Since somatic vocabulary is deeply rooted in cultural norms and beliefs, misunderstandings can occur when such terms are interpreted without cultural context. For example, idioms and metaphors involving body parts often carry meanings unique to a particular culture, making their proper understanding essential for effective cross-cultural dialogue.

Furthermore, exploring the somatic lexicon has proven beneficial in enhancing the study of a language's lexical structure. By examining how body-related terms are used across

different languages, linguists can uncover patterns of metaphorical thinking, semantic development, and cultural influence on language evolution.

The concept of “somatism,” introduced by F.O. Vakk, provided a foundation for this area of study. The term encompasses the use of body-related words and their figurative meanings in language. This pioneering contribution has paved the way for more in-depth investigations into how somatic vocabulary reflects human thought, culture, and communication.

Literature review: The study of somatic expressions holds significant importance in understanding the Uzbek language and its cultural context. U. Rashidova highlights the critical nature of this research, stating: “Understanding the semantic and grammatical nature of somatic expressions in the Uzbek language, deeply analyzing their scope and characteristics, and unveiling their new meanings based on materials developed during the subsequent century and the years of independence are among the essential objectives of Uzbek phraseology, lexicography, and phraseography. These findings will contribute to creating more comprehensive phraseological dictionaries and enhancing the understanding of somatic expressions within the broader framework of Uzbek linguistics”.

In U. Rashidova's monographic study titled “Semantic-Pragmatic Analysis of Somatic Expressions in Uzbek (Based on Expressions Containing the Components ‘Eye,’ ‘Hand,’ and ‘Heart’),” the pragmatic, linguocultural, cognitive, paradigmatic, and syntagmatic characteristics of frequently used Uzbek somatic expressions containing the components ko‘z (eye), qo‘l (hand), and yurak (heart) are thoroughly examined. The study uncovers the national and cultural essence of somatic expressions with eye, hand, and heart components, emphasizing their unique roles in conversational and literary-journalistic texts. Somatic phrases connected to human body parts, such as eye, hand, and heart, are found to possess broad semantic fields and significant emotional-expressive diversity. These features distinguish them from other expressions in the same lexical layer.

M. Saidxonov's observation offers a profound insight into the interplay between cultural practices and language among Uzbeks. He emphasizes that customs and formal practices rooted in interaction and communication are intrinsic to Uzbek national identity. These cultural phenomena are not merely traditional rituals; they are dynamic elements that actively participate in and shape processes of communication. Their functionality is dual: they maintain cultural significance while serving practical purposes in everyday interactions.

M. Gadoyeva's insightful explanation emphasizes the significance of somatisms within the broader structure of a language. These linguistic units, connected to the human body and expressed through metaphors, idioms, and phrases, form an integral part of the language's lexicon. Her observation reveals that somatisms do not merely exist in isolation but play a central role in constructing meaningful expressions and in reflecting the worldview of a particular culture. Somatisms are linguistic units that hold distinct positions within the language system.

Discussion: In linguistic studies, somatic words—terms associated with human body parts—are universally known as “somonymic words.” The field of linguistics that examines these words is referred to as “somonymy.” This branch primarily focuses on analyzing somatic vocabulary in comparative linguistics, exploring the similarities and differences in how body-related terms are named and conceptualized across various languages and cultures.

Somonymy delves into the classification of somatic terms based on the specific locations and functions of human body parts. These terms serve not only as descriptors of anatomy but also as a foundation for numerous idiomatic expressions, metaphors, and cultural symbols that enrich a language. The primary categories of somonymic words include:

Head and Its Parts: This category comprises words that refer to the head (bosh) and its components, such as eyes (ko'zlar), ears (quloqlar), nose (burun), and mouth (og'iz). Beyond their literal meanings, these terms often carry metaphorical implications. For example, in many cultures, the "head" symbolizes intellect, leadership, or responsibility, while the "eyes" represent perception and awareness.

Neck and Throat Regions: Words for the neck (bo'yin) and throat (tomoq) describe essential parts of the body, but they also feature prominently in idioms and metaphors. The neck can symbolize vulnerability, connection, or submission, while the throat may represent voice, communication, or life force.

Osteonymic Words: These are terms related to bones (suyak) and joints (bo'g'in). Such words are significant in both anatomical descriptions and cultural expressions. For instance, bones are often associated with strength, structure, or legacy, as seen in phrases like "bone of contention" or "deep in my bones."

Upper Arm Region: This group includes terms for the upper arm (yuqori qo'l), which is frequently associated with strength, power, or action. Expressions involving the arm often convey ideas of effort, support, or capability, such as "strong-arm tactics" or "extend an arm."

Lower Arm Region: Words describing the lower arm (pastki qo'l), including the forearm and wrist, are closely tied to notions of dexterity, craftsmanship, and assistance. The hand, a part of this region, is particularly significant in metaphorical language, representing actions, cooperation, or influence (e.g., "lend a hand" or "in the hands of fate").

Chest Region: Terms for the chest (ko'krak) are often linked to emotions, such as pride, courage, or vulnerability. For example, the chest is a symbol of bravery in many cultures, as reflected in expressions like "chest out, chin up."

Waist Region: Words referring to the waist (bel) often symbolize balance, strength, or core stability. In some cultural contexts, the waist represents physical vitality or the center of the body's energy.

Area Below the Waist: This includes terms associated with the hips, pelvis, and related regions. These words may carry connotations of stability, grounding, or movement, as the area plays a central role in locomotion and support.

Leg Region: Names for the legs (oyoq), including the thigh, knee, and foot, are commonly associated with movement, progress, and support. Idiomatic expressions involving legs often symbolize independence or resilience, such as "stand on your own two feet" or "find your feet."

Conclusion: All of these elements exist as a cohesive system across the language structures of every culture and people. This allows for a clear understanding and visualization of the macro and micro fields of somatisms. These fields help to organize and categorize the various somatic expressions and their meanings within a language. By considering these macro and micro domains, it becomes possible to examine the semantic group of lexemes that represent actions associated with body movements, as conveyed through somatisms. These

lexemes serve to express physical actions and states that are intrinsic to the human experience and are often deeply rooted in cultural norms and practices.

It is important to note that somatisms vary across different cultures and languages, as people express their emotions and experiences in diverse ways. This cultural and linguistic variation means that individuals from different backgrounds may not always use the same gestures, facial expressions, or symbolic representations to convey meaning. In addition, the use of metaphor in language can differ widely, as people often struggle to agree on the figurative meanings of words. For example, while one culture might use a particular body part as a metaphor for courage or strength, another culture may assign a completely different meaning to the same body part, or may use another body part altogether to represent similar concepts.

Therefore, the study of somatisms across cultures provides valuable insights into how language reflects not just physical realities but also psychological, emotional, and social dimensions of human life. By examining how different societies use body-related expressions, we can gain a deeper understanding of the cultural and cognitive frameworks that shape the way people interact with the world around them.

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