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HISTORICAL PROGRESS OF DICTIONARY STUDIES

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Abstract


This article discusses the significance of working with dictionaries in language learning and its evolution. It also provides a scientific analysis of the importance of historical development stages.

Keywords: Dictionary, lexicography, working with dictionaries, evolution, theoretical foundations of the language system.

Introduction

The theoretical foundations of working with dictionaries in learning a foreign language are explained by the natural development of the language system, its historical layers, the continuous enrichment of lexical units, and the necessity for scientific oversight over them. From this perspective, dictionaries are not merely sources providing word meanings, but scientific documents that reflect the evolving lexical system of a language.

In the 1920s, many new terms emerged in the lexical fund of the Uzbek language due to socio-political, economic, and cultural changes. This process intensified the need for the systematic translation of terms entering from foreign languages, particularly Russian, the determination of their exact equivalents, and their application in the educational process. Consequently, the necessity for creating bilingual, explanatory, and terminological dictionaries arose. For instance, N. Turaqulov's "Small Political and Economic Dictionary of the Russian-Uzbek Language" is one of the first linguistic sources that enabled the differentiation of contextual meanings during translation, the understanding of word usage in scientific styles, and the acquisition of new terminology for language learners. Such dictionaries establish a theoretical framework for understanding semantic shifts, the semantic scope of terms, and stylistic features in foreign language learning.

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Furthermore, educational dictionaries created during this period – including the “Russian-Uzbek Dictionary” compiled by V. Brilev for Sh. Rakhimiy’s textbook “Kattalar Yo‘ldoshi” (Companion for Adults) – served as one of the first methodological tools designed for language learners, presenting words in a structured and easily accessible format categorized by themes. Such dictionaries prepare learners to work with educational texts, assist in the correct interpretation of difficult-to-understand words, and systematize the learning process.

In general, socio-political updates in society directly influence language lexis; new words and terms emerge, while some lexical units become active and others passive. The importance of dictionaries in regulating, studying, and teaching these processes is incomparable. The theoretical foundations of working with dictionaries in foreign language learning serve precisely this point: scientifically recording the dynamics of language development, correctly interpreting word meanings in context, studying their use in various genres and styles, and perceiving the lexical system of the target language as a whole.

The most ancient stone inscriptions and writings created as a result of the intellect and creative thinking of our ancestors, along with thousands of manuscripts preserved in our libraries today, serve as the priceless spiritual and scientific heritage of our people. These manuscripts consolidate scientific knowledge across numerous fields such as history, literature, art, politics, ethics, philosophy, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, mineralogy, architecture, and agriculture. This extensive and multi-layered scientific-spiritual heritage served as an essential foundation for the formation and development of the lexicographical process.

In the 1860s, E. Zola highlighted that the major dictionary of the French language created by E. Littré had a positive impact on the history of French civilization. This notion demonstrates the importance of dictionaries not only in organizing linguistic units but also in preserving and teaching the scientific, cultural, and intellectual heritage of a nation. Indeed, dictionaries – especially in the process of learning foreign languages – are vital linguistic sources that serve

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as a theoretical basis for deeply understanding the language system, differentiating nuances of meaning, and forming speech competence.

Moreover, scientific achievements in branches such as morphology, syntax, word formation, and lexicology are widely utilized in the process of dictionary compilation. Conversely, lexicography makes a significant theoretical and practical contribution to the development of these fields. For an individual learning a foreign language, working with a dictionary is inherently linked to these scientific foundations, as the dictionary creates the opportunity to understand the contemporary state of the language, the evolution of meaning, and stylistic layers.

Uzbek lexicography is exceptionally rich in sources, and the research conducted in this field has been comprehensive and historically consistent. One of the most ancient scientific sources of the Uzbek (Turkic) language is Mahmud Kashgari's "Diwan Lughat al-Turk", which constitutes the foundation of Uzbek lexicography. This work demonstrates the theoretical significance of the dictionary in language learning not only as a means of explaining meaning but also for understanding the historical layers of the language, conducting comparative analysis, and forming linguo-cultural knowledge. In subsequent periods, Uzbek lexicography continued to flourish. In scientific literature, its development is divided into the following stages:

Lexicography of the 11th–13th centuries;



The period from the 15th century to 1862;

Lexicography of the years 1878–1917;

Modern lexicography of the period after 1926¹.

Each of these stages has shaped the scientific foundations of the bilingual, explanatory, terminological, and etymological dictionaries being created for language learners today. Particularly in foreign language acquisition, dictionaries facilitate the correct mastery of theoretical concepts such as the semantic system, the relationship between meaning and form, synonymy and homonymy, polysemy, and stylistic layers. Thus, the theoretical foundations of working with dictionaries represent a complex of scientific heritage created in

¹Ўзбек тили лексикологияси –Тошкент Фан. 1981 -Б. 294-297.

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the history of national and global lexicography, lexical sources reflecting the process of language development, and linguistic principles that enable the consistent study of a foreign language's semantic system.

Furthermore, taking into account the achievements in Uzbek lexicography during subsequent periods, as well as changes in the quantity and quality of dictionaries, the stage of lexicography during the years of independence is worthy of particular attention. In the lexicography of this period, the primary role has been occupied by translation dictionaries. Translation dictionaries provide the lexical units of one language with their corresponding semantic equivalents in another language; that is, they allow for the expression of foreign language units through translation².

Modern social processes, particularly globalization and integration movements, necessitate the continuous updating of translation dictionaries and their enrichment through new editions. Translation dictionaries can encompass various lexical units and may also include terms, idioms, proverbs, and loanwords from other languages. At the same time, an increase in the number of languages within dictionaries (for instance, the dictionary by Is'hoqxon Tura Ibrat covered seven languages) is observed, and depending on the method of entry organization, they often align with other types of dictionaries. Various phrasebooks and handbooks are also classified among translation dictionaries. Furthermore, some dictionaries include grammatical descriptions and possess significant volume as works providing a general commentary on Turkic languages. Examples of such works include dictionaries like "Muqaddimat al-Adab," "Lughat-i Chaghatai wa Turki-i Usmani," and "Sanglakh."

In the early period of Uzbek lexicography, the comparison of Arabic and Turkic words and the predominantly encyclopedic nature of dictionaries are recognized as significant characteristics. Explaining the practical significance of his dictionary, Mahmud Kashgari emphasized the necessity of learning the Turkic language, taking into account that Turkic peoples governed a large portion of

²Махмуд Қошғарий. Девони луғотит турк. 1 том Тошкент 1960. –Б. 43-45.

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Asian territory and that certain regions of the Arab Caliphate were under Turkic control³.

Mana, matnning yakuniy qismlari uchun akademik va ilmiy tildagi inglizcha tarjima:

In the dictionaries created between the 16th and 19th centuries, the influence of Alisher Navoiy’s work on the language is primarily evident. Lexicographers of this period operated in two main directions: first, compiling dictionaries based on Navoiy’s works to deeply understand and interpret his creative output; and second, creating dictionaries for the study of the Uzbek (Chaghatai) language, enriching them with quotes from Navoiy’s poetry as illustrative examples.

A noteworthy aspect is that many Uzbek (Chaghatai) translation dictionaries were created by representatives of other nations. This phenomenon is explained by several factors: firstly, the widespread interest in Navoiy’s works; secondly, the necessity of the Turkic language in political and diplomatic relations; and thirdly, the efforts of Turkic individuals to preserve their mother tongue. For instance, the work “Lughat-i Turki,” compiled by Fazlullah Khan Barlosi in India at the end of the 18th century by order of the Mughal ruler Aurangzeb, is an example of the desire to pass the mother tongue down to future generations during the Mughal era.

Furthermore, unlike the early period of lexicography, the lexicography of this era was based on the comparison of Turkic and Persian languages. While 20th-century lexicography primarily focused on translation dictionaries directed toward the Russian language, the period of independence has seen an expansion in working with English, German, Turkish, and other foreign languages. During the Soviet era, Uzbek lexicography possessed unique tendencies and principles, achieving significant milestones in various fields. In the 21st century, the development of online dictionaries in lexicography is advancing on a large scale. In our country, which developed as a center of science and culture in Central Asia, scientific works created mainly during the period of the Arab Caliphate have been preserved. In the early period of Uzbek lexicography, Turkic and Arabic dictionaries held a central place. During this time, Mahmud Kashgari’s

³Шоабдурахмонов Ш. Ва бошқалар. Ҳозирги ўзбек адабий тили 1-қисм. –Т.: Ўқитувчи. 1980. –Б. 151.

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“Diwan Lughat al-Turk” attained incomparable importance in the history of lexicography, effectively utilizing the achievements of Arabic lexicography.

These dictionaries are significant for the following reasons:

They contain the initial scientific views on Uzbek lexicography, phonetics, lexicology, and grammar;

They possess an encyclopedic character, providing valuable information regarding linguistics, history, folklore, toponymy, geography, astronomy, and other fields;

The comparative-historical method was applied for the first time, establishing a basis for comparing Turkic languages with one another;

They served as the foundation for the formation of dictionary compilation principles and traditions;

They acted as an essential source for researching the historical grammar of Turkic languages.

Thus, the lexicography of the 16th–19th centuries served as a cornerstone in the development of Uzbek lexicography, holding both scientific and practical significance in the process of studying language and culture. The third period of Uzbek lexicography covers the years 1878–1917. As a result of the political interests of Tsarist Russia, Russian-Uzbek and Uzbek-Russian dictionaries expanded during this period, with many researchers active in the field. Scholars such as A. Starchevsky, Sh. Ishaev, V. Nalivkin, M. Nalivkina, S. Lapin, N. Smolensky, M. Preobrazhensky, Z. Alekseyev, T. Kiyasbekov, and A. Yefimov performed productive work in lexicography. While some dictionaries provided only word translations, others included elementary grammatical rules and conversational samples.

The work “Lughat-i Salos,” created by Salohiddin Tashkandi in the second half of the 19th century, was identified in the middle of the last century but began to be studied more extensively during the period of independence. This dictionary is a translation dictionary based on three languages: Arabic, Persian, and Turkic⁴. The work consists of six chapters and 35 sections, featuring both prose and poetic introductions. A distinguishing feature of this dictionary is that it was

⁴Ахмедов А., Муродов С. Уч тиллик луғат. Ўзбек тили ва адабиёти. 1968. 1-сон. –Б.11-12.

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created in a poetic form. This served a pedagogical purpose, designed to help schoolchildren memorize words quickly and easily. For this reason, S. Gafurova evaluates it as one of the first educational dictionaries. Furthermore, since the dictionary is organized based on thematic groups, it also possesses ideographic characteristics. Each chapter is divided into several sections, with each section encompassing a specific thematic group⁵.

Is'hoqxon Ibrat, an enlightened poet, publicist, and progressive educator who lived and worked in the early 20th century, advocated for the study of the Russian language among his contemporaries through his articles and works⁶. Through his practical activities, he emphasized the necessity of knowing "Russian words and writings of primary need." Although the colonial policy of the Tsarist government increased the demand for the Russian language among the local population, the teaching of Russian was partially prohibited in "Usuli Jadid" (New Method) schools. At the same time, progressive educators strove to include Russian language instruction in the school curriculum.

Is'hoqxon Ibrat created the work "Lughat-i Sitta Alsina" ("The Six-Language Dictionary"), which encompassed six languages: Arabic, Persian, Hindi, Turkish, Sart (Uzbek), and Russian. The dictionary contains 1,150 Uzbek words and consists of 53 pages. The work is divided into two parts: the first part is arranged alphabetically, with small sub-chapters dedicated to each letter. In this section, the infinitive and future tense forms of verbs are translated sequentially into Persian, Arabic, Turkish, Uzbek, Hindi, and Russian. The second part consists of 37 sub-chapters and includes other verb forms, nouns, personal pronouns, names of days and months, animals and birds, food, and other household items.

The significance of this dictionary lies in the fact that it was presented in the Arabic script, which was intelligible to the local population. Is'hoqxon Ibrat targeted those interested in the Russian language as his primary audience; therefore, he provided Russian words with transcription in the Arabic script. In this translation, emphasis was placed on finding suitable equivalents rather than

⁵Ғофурова с. Салоҳиддин Тошқандий ва унинг “Луғоти салос” асари // ўзбек тили ва адабиёти, 2009. 2-сон. –Б. 86.

⁶Миллий уйғониш даври ўзбек адабиёти (маърузалар матни) Бердимуродова М.Р. Термиз 2002-йил. –Б. 68.

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providing exhaustive definitions of the words. Despite the complexity of representing Russian and European words in the Arabic script, Is'hoqxon Ibrat successfully accomplished this task. Consequently, "Lughat-i Sitta Alsina" deserves special attention not only as a translation dictionary but also as an ideographic dictionary.

Furthermore, since this dictionary primarily covers actively used words, it can be evaluated as an initial experiment aimed at determining lexical minimums and word frequencies. The fourth period of Uzbek lexicography begins in 1926, marked by the publication of Ye.D. Polivanov's Russian-Uzbek Dictionary, which opened a new stage in the history of Uzbek lexicography. Simultaneously, it is noteworthy that the Jadids and educators active in the 1920s performed significant work in various fields of the Uzbek language, particularly in lexicography.

Is'hoqxon Tura Ibrat's Lughat-i Sitta Alsina (1901) served for many years as the primary manual for studying Oriental languages and Russian in Jadid schools. Similarly, the comprehensive two-volume Russian-Uzbek Dictionary compiled by Ashurali Zohiriy, and the Complete Russian-Uzbek Wordlist (1934) co-authored by A. Qodiriy and S. Rahimiy, are important sources demonstrating the achievements in Uzbek lexicography.

Nevertheless, the major part of the history of Uzbek lexicography is inextricably linked with the 20th century and the Soviet era, where Russian linguistics, a new lifestyle, socio-political changes, the introduction of technology, and the formation of a new system influenced lexicography. During this period, K.K. Yudakhin's work titled *Uzbeksko-russkiy kratkiy slovar* (Uzbek-Russian Concise Dictionary) gained historical significance as the first Russian-Uzbek dictionary based on the Uzbek literary language. During the Soviet era, lexicography began to develop in the following directions:

Encyclopedic dictionaries

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Translation dictionaries: These primarily reflected the relationship between the Uzbek language, the Russian language, and other languages of the former USSR.

Specialized dictionaries: Reflecting vocabulary related to specific fields of science and technology, including cotton growing, engineering, atheistic doctrine, and various branches of science.

Linguistic dictionaries based on the features of Uzbek words: Orthographic dictionary (A. Alaviy, 1927), orthoepic dictionary (M. Sodikova, O. Usmonova, 1977; E. Begmatov, 1984), reverse dictionary (R. Qungurov, A. Tikhonov, 1968), dictionary of antonyms (1980), dictionary of synonyms (1974), dictionary of homonyms (1984), morpheme dictionary (A. Gulomov, 1977), phraseological dictionaries (Sh. Raxmatullaev, 1978), terminological dictionaries, dialectological dictionary (E. Fozilov, 1971), and frequency dictionaries (1972).

Thematic dictionaries (A. Tikhonov et al., 1977).

Explanatory dictionaries (1981).

Phrasebooks (Phraseological guides).

Mixed (Conditional) dictionaries: These perform several functions simultaneously, such as the "German-Russian-Uzbek Phraseological Dictionary" (M. Umarxo'jaev, N. Nazarov, 1994).

This period is significant for the extensive branching of Uzbek lexicography and the implementation of large-scale lexicographical research, which served as the scientific foundation and extensive material base for the subsequent period – the lexicography of the independence era.

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