



Semantic similarities and differences of socio-political lexemes in English and Uzbek official documents

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Abstract: Although Uzbek and English are not genetically related, there exist differences and similarities in their vocabularies. Latin and Greek borrowings play a significant role in developing both languages. In this regard, various linguists' scientific perspectives are compared and examined, and an analysis has been conducted on how these features have been semantically explored thus far.

The research aimed to investigate polysemy in loanwords of socio-political lexemes. Furthermore, the following objectives were established for analysis: (1) to examine the etymology of loanwords and distinguish Latin and Greek loanwords; (2) to identify intermediary languages and their effects on meanings in recipient languages; (3) to conduct research on a specific semantic domain; (4) to analyze the similarities and differences of lexemes based on the context of official texts.

In this study, official state documents, specifically the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and in English, the laws, orders, and decisions issued by the highest authorities of countries such as Great Britain and the United States of America, are designated as the object of investigation. Contrastive analysis is employed as a method to compare the features of monosemy and polysemy of the borrowings in both languages.

The findings indicated that the English language is geographically and genealogically closer to the Latin and Greek languages, and the proportion of lexical units borrowed from these languages is substantially higher than in the Uzbek language. The research revealed differences between the current meanings of Latin and Greek borrowings in Uzbek and English languages, aspects related to the fields in which the borrowed lexemes were initially used, and the influence of

intermediary languages on semantic differentiation. Additionally, it was observed that words actively used in one language are infrequently employed in the other, with their synonymous equivalents being utilized in most instances.

Keywords: Borrowings, donor language, recipient language, semantic fields, polysemy, monosemy, etymology, intermediary language, official genre.

Introduction: The development of any language's vocabulary is significantly influenced by other languages. The growth of a language's lexicon often stems from the political, economic, and cultural interactions between its speakers and speakers of other languages. Similarly, the Uzbek lexicon has evolved over centuries through consistent contact with both related and unrelated linguistic cultures [Rahmatullayev, 2006]. In linguistics, lexical units borrowed from one language into another are termed as loanwords or simply borrowings. Specifically, the language from which the lexeme is borrowed is called the donor language, while the language that adopts the lexeme is referred to as the recipient language. Furthermore, borrowed words may enter a recipient language either directly or through intermediary languages, which are known as intermediary languages.

For instance, English, like Uzbek, has expanded its vocabulary over centuries by borrowing words from Latin, French, Scandinavian, and other languages due to historical interactions [Hogg & Denison, 2006]. In linguistics, borrowings are studied as a distinct subject in lexicology alongside terminology, lexicography, and neologisms. This is because a significant portion of the neologisms and terms found in contemporary literary Uzbek are composed of borrowed lexemes from foreign languages.

In English linguistics, borrowings and their theoretical aspects have been extensively studied by scholars such as U. Weinreich, E. Haugen, M.S. Serjeantson, and P. Durkin. Similarly, in Russian linguistics, scholars like D.S. Lotte, Yu.S. Sorokin, L.P. Krysin, and R.A. Budagov have made notable contributions. In the context of Uzbek language development, research on borrowings has been conducted by linguists such as O. Usmonov, R. Daniyurov, F. Abdullayev, Sh. Rahmatullayev, and H. Dadaboyev. For example, F. Abdullayev highlighted that the growth of international vocabulary in Uzbek, particularly from Russian and European languages, began in the 1930s, influenced by scientific and technological advancements [Abdullayev, 1972].

Sh. Rahmatullayev's theoretical perspectives on native and borrowed layers in Uzbek emphasized the process through which borrowings from Latin, Greek, French, and other European languages entered Uzbek via Russian, often highlighting the structural influence of the mediating language [Rahmatullayev, 2006]. H. Dadaboyev noted in his work on terminology that the prevalence of scientific and technical terms in modern Uzbek literary language was accelerated by the granting of state language status to Uzbek, the nation's independence, and the subsequent sociopolitical, scientific, and cultural developments [Dadaboyev, 2020].

Research indicates that Latin and Greek lexemes in Uzbek have not entered directly but predominantly through Russian as an intermediary. As a result, the form and pronunciation of these borrowed words often reflect the phonetic and morphological rules of Russian. For instance, Uzbek words like kontsepsiya (concept) and tsivilizatsiya (civilization) are influenced by the Cyrillic script's representation of the "ц" sound as "ts" in the Latin alphabet. Such processes are examples of the influence of a dominant language on a subordinate one within a bilingual society, where the dominant language's features are transferred to the subordinate language [Bloomfield, 1933].

F. Durkin has argued that if borrowed words maintain their external and internal forms without change as they pass through an intermediary language, the extent of influence of the mediating language can be questioned [Durkin, 2009].

The semantics of borrowings may remain consistent between the donor and recipient languages or may evolve to acquire new connotations over time [Lotte, 1982]. D.S. Lotte explained the semantic evolution of borrowings with semantic shifts depends on the context and its functional features.

METHODS

The comparative analysis of borrowings in English and Uzbek, focusing on their semantic characteristics, was conducted using contrastive linguistics methodologies. The study employed a comparative analysis method, widely used in linguistics, to examine the similarities and differences in the semantic meanings of borrowings in the two languages. According to V. Gast, comparative analysis is effective when there is sufficient data available in both languages to draw broad and reliable conclusions [Gast, 2012].

M. Haspelmath emphasized that comparative linguistics not only reveals distinctive features within individual languages but also identifies similarities and functional parallels across different languages. He suggested that linguists should develop context-specific comparative

frameworks to ensure accurate analysis [Haspelmath, 2010].

Based on the described methodology, the study focused on official documents as its research material. These included over 80 Uzbek documents from the independence period (e.g., the Constitution of Uzbekistan, laws, and government resolutions) and 28 English documents (e.g., the U.S. Constitution, congressional acts, and executive orders). The analysis aimed to identify linguistic features in both languages, particularly in terms of borrowed lexemes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this article, reliable sources in both Uzbek and English were used to ensure a high degree of accuracy in identifying Latin and Greek borrowings, particularly focusing on the etymology of lexical units and terms. Among the sources consulted were the Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language and the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), currently the largest dictionary in the world. These sources were utilized to examine borrowed lexicon within the selected texts.

Based on the objectives of the study, a list of over 200 Latin and Greek borrowings was compiled, specifically focusing on words that denote social and political vocabulary based on context of the official documents.

Given that the research focused on analyzing the similarities and differences in the meanings of these etymologically identical lexemes in modern Uzbek and English, the historical process of their incorporation into Uzbek and their characteristics as influenced by intermediary languages were not extensively addressed due to a lack of sufficiently reliable sources. As a result, hypotheses based solely on external forms of the lexemes (phonetic and morphological) were avoided in many instances.

Tendency – a concept denoting an inclination or predisposition toward a specific characteristic or behavior.

In Uzbek normative-legal documents, the term tendency conveys a public inclination or drive toward a certain trend or innovation in a specific field. For example, in the sentence: "...taking into account the latest tendencies in the fields of economy, finance, and taxation, financial technologies, advanced foreign experience, and the demands of the real economy, to train, retrain, and enhance the qualifications of highly educated personnel," [RUPD, 2024] the word refers to the application of innovative economic and financial ideas promoted among the masses in recent years.

The root of tendency derives from the Latin verb *tendere*, meaning "to stretch" or "to incline," and evolved into the noun *tendentia*, which denotes an

"approach" or "inclination" [OED, 2024]. Today, this term is widely used in English, German, Russian, and even Uzbek in the aforementioned sense. However, the Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language provides a second meaning: "the main idea or theme of a thought, depiction, or work." Interestingly, this secondary meaning was not found in English explanatory dictionaries.

Contingent – 1) A lexical unit denoting a category or group of people within a specific circle; 2) In economic contexts, it refers to set limits or norms, such as in transit, import, or export activities.

The second meaning of contingent is absent in the 1973 Explanatory Dictionary of Russian International Words [Usmonov&Doniyorov, 1972]. However, post-independence Uzbek explanatory dictionaries reveal a semantic expansion of this term in Uzbek. For instance, in the Collection of International Agreements of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2004), in an agreement regulating international passenger and cargo transportation by road between Uzbekistan and Italy, the term is used as follows: "Authorized bodies exchange annual contingents of permit forms specified in Article 26 of this agreement" [IARU, 2004]. In this context, contingent corresponds to the second meaning described above.

In English, contingent as a noun aligns with its Uzbek meanings. Furthermore, the term also functions as an adjective in English. In official English documents, however, the noun form contingent rarely appears. The term originates from the Latin verb *contingere* and later evolved into the nouns *contingens* and *contingents*. The root components are *con-* (together) and *tangere* (to touch or happen), and the term initially denoted the likelihood of an event occurring based on random circumstances [OED, 2024]. Over time, contingent expanded semantically in English, Russian, and Uzbek to reflect the concepts described above.

Norm refers to established rules or generally accepted standards. In Uzbek literary language, norm is used in its original form and is observed in official documents to express a single concept. For example: "...operators of transport vehicles must adhere to the relevant road traffic and transport norms applicable to the area in which they are located" [IARU, 2004]. The term norm retains its Latin form and historically referred to strict measurements followed by carpenters in their craft. Over time, the term expanded to encompass broader notions of standardization [OED, 2024].

Normative – "A set of economic, technical, or other standards for implementing a specific task or program." In Uzbek official documents, phrases such as normative documents and normative-legal documents frequently

appear [PDRU, 2023]. In standalone cases, terms like normative instructions and normative guidelines are also found. In both cases, normative functions as an adjective in Uzbek and modifies nouns such as documents, instructions, and guidelines. The word normative originates from the Latin *normatio*, meaning "standardized" or "regulated." While the term exists in Russian, it does not appear as a lexical unit in English and was not observed in English-language usage.

Principle – 1) A fundamental rule or main idea upon which something is based; 2) A notion reflecting adherence to a specific rule or standard by an individual. The term principle originates from the Latin word *principium* and was later adopted into French as *principe*. From French, it entered English, Russian, and potentially Uzbek through Russian influence. For example, in the text of the Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 13, 2017 (PD-3272): "...to approve the proposal to adopt the principles and mechanisms for achieving monetary policy objectives and transitioning to an inflation-targeting regime as practiced by foreign central banks" [PDRU, 2017]. Principle conveys the idea of essential rules or guidelines that must be adhered to. In English official documents, the term appears as both principle and principal. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, principle is a noun and aligns semantically with the Uzbek term *prinsip*. The word principal, however, can function as both a noun and an adjective, making it a homonym with distinct semantic properties [Merriam-Webster, 2024]. In the text of Resolution No. 99-12 issued by the President of U.S on February 3, 1999, the term "principle" in the statement "...to reconfirm that the central, guiding principle of my Vietnam policy is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of our prisoners of war and missing in action" [USPD, 1999] conveys the concept of a "significant foundational idea."

Sanction – in normative-legal documents and political discourse, the term sanction denotes the validation of a resolution or decree as legally binding and, in international politics, refers to restrictions imposed by one organization, society, or state on another. Additionally, the Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language provides four meanings for the term. In English, the term sanction functions as a noun and is defined with five semantic meanings. The word originates from the Latin verb *sancire* (to confirm), which evolved into the noun *sanctio* [Merriam-Webster, 2024]. Initially, it denoted the implementation of laws and their enforcement. Over time, the term acquired additional meanings, including political and economic applications. In Uzbek official

documents, sanction is predominantly used in the sense of "the part of a legal norm or statute that specifies the consequences of its violation." For example, in the text of the Resolution of the Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 23, 2024 (CBRU-3492): "...to determine the procedures and sanctions applicable to the supervisory board and management, as well as key personnel of the bank" [CBRU, 2024]. No other meanings were observed. In English official documents, the term is used in the context of economic penalties imposed on individuals, organizations, or states. For example, in the U.S. President's memorandum dated November 28, 2022:

"It is the policy of the United States to fully exercise existing authorities to impose economic sanctions and implement visa restrictions in order to promote justice and accountability for acts of CRSV" [USPD, 2022].

Strategy – 1) The art of warfare; 2) Guidelines or science related to military tactics; 3) Systematic planning and management in political activities. The term strategy originates from the Greek word *στρατηγία* (*strategia*), initially denoting the management of an army or territory. Over time, the term expanded to refer to systematic planning in political governance. In Uzbek decrees and legal documents, the term is exclusively used in its third sense. For instance, in the Presidential Decree of Uzbekistan dated January 31, 2024 (PD-49): "... in accordance with PD-300, on the measures for the timely and qualitative implementation of the 'Uzbekistan – 2030 Strategy' in 2023" [PDRU, 2024] – the term reflects systematic plans devised for national governance.

In English, the adjective *strategic* and the noun *strategy* preserve similar meanings. For example, in the U.S. President's memorandum dated December 18, 2018: "I assign to United States Space Command: (1) all the general responsibilities of a Unified Combatant Command; (2) the space-related responsibilities previously assigned to the Commander, United States Strategic Command;" [USPM, 2018]. Here, *strategic* conveys the first sense of the term. Both languages retain the Greek borrowing in its noun and adjective forms, preserving its polysemic nature.

Demographic – a term referring to the statistical indicators of population size and ethnic characteristics. It is derived from the Greek word "*δημογραφικός*" (*dēmos* – people, *graphia* – writing). In Uzbek, it appears in the forms *demografiya* and *demografik*, while in English, it is found as *demographic*, *demographically*, *demography*, and *demographics*. No polysemantic characteristics of this word were found in either language. In both English and Uzbek, the term is primarily used to denote the statistical representation

of population size. For example, in one Uzbek official document, the term is used as follows: "By March 1, together with the Ministry of Preschool and School Education, to establish new non-state general secondary education institutions in the coming years, taking into account demographic growth, population distribution, and density" [PDRU, 2024].

Regime – this lexeme exists in both Uzbek and English, where in both languages its core meaning refers to a system of governance, often implying an authoritarian rule. Over time, the meaning has shifted to also denote an organized system or procedure for carrying out activities or a way of living. An analysis of Uzbek texts revealed an instance of semantic broadening for the term *rejim*. For example, in the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 23, 2022 (PD-452): "When placing precious metals and raw materials containing precious metals under the customs regime for processing within the customs territory..." [PDRU, 2022]. The phrase "bojxona rejimi" (customs regime) implies a system of activities in accordance with procedures established by customs authorities. However, the Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language does not include a definition of "rejim" relating to the organization or operational procedures of institutions.

The term "rejim" originates from the Latin *regimen* (to govern) and was adopted into French as *régime*. The French-adapted pronunciation subsequently spread into other languages [OED, 2024]. In English, the term is spelled as *regime*, and its borrowing into Uzbek is likely influenced by Russian usage.

CONCLUSION

The general conclusions derived from the semantic characteristics of the borrowings identified in our objects of study in Uzbek and English are as follows:

1. Number of Borrowings:

English contains a significantly greater number of Latin and Greek borrowings compared to Uzbek. For instance, it is reported that contemporary English includes approximately 25,000 Latin borrowings. However, statistical data on the number of Latin and Greek borrowings in Uzbek could not be found in the available sources.

2. Polysemy:

Due to English being an official language in multiple countries worldwide, certain Latin and Greek borrowings (e.g., *resident*) exhibit polysemic characteristics in English. In contrast, these borrowings in Uzbek do not typically demonstrate polysemy.

3. Semantic Differences:

The semantic applications of words like norms,

normative, regime, contingent differ significantly between English and Uzbek.

4. Influence of Time and Context:

Variations in the meanings of certain lexical units in the two languages were observed, influenced by the historical and spatial context of borrowing. For example, many Latin and Greek words borrowed into English during the Middle English period (via French) were related to Christian religious terminology, contributing to their polysemic nature. In contrast, Latin borrowings in Uzbek predominantly entered the language in the late 19th and early 20th centuries through German, English, and Russian. As a result, such borrowings in Uzbek typically convey a single concept, with monosemy being more common than polysemy.

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