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THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF HYPONYMIC TAXONOMY IN THE ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract: This article investigates the hyponymic taxonomy within the English and Uzbek languages, focusing on the semantic organization of flora and fauna terms. Through a qualitative analysis, this study examines the hierarchical structuring of lexical items in both languages, highlighting the influence of cultural and environmental factors on linguistic categorization. By comparing plant and animal naming customs in English and Uzbek, the study reveals the subtle ways in which various language communities interact with the natural world. The findings provide substantial insights into the cognitive

processes that govern language use, as well as the tremendous impact of culture on the semantic environment. This study adds to our understanding of hyponymy as a major feature of linguistic theory and provides a comparative perspective on the language representation of biodiversity.

Key words: Hyponymic taxonomy, hypernym, hyponym, linguistic categorization, semantic organization, flora and fauna.

INTRODUCTION

Taxonomy (classification) is a method of semantic analysis that uses a set of principles and rules to classify linguistic items.[1] Hyponymic taxonomy, the hierarchical organization of lexical items where the meaning of one term (the hyponym) is included within another (the hypernym), is a fundamental aspect of semantic organization in human languages. Hyponymic taxonomy plays a crucial role in the cognitive processing of information, serving as a key mechanism for word categorization and a fundamental aspect of human cognitive activity. The relationship between hyponyms and hypernyms is essential for establishing logical coherence in speech, as it conveys the meanings of words through their interconnectedness. This study explores the comparative dimensions of hyponymic relationships in English, a Germanic language, and Uzbek, a Turkic language, to illuminate how different linguistic communities categorize the world. The research focuses on uncovering the influence of cultural and environmental factors on these taxonomies, using specific examples from both languages to illustrate key points.

LITERARY REVIEW

Hyponymy hasn't always been at the forefront of linguistic research, yet it has attracted the attention of numerous scholars in the field. This area, which explores the

[1] Krongauz, M.A. (2001). Semantics. A textbook for universities. Moscow. p. 98.

relationship between words with specific meanings and their more general counterparts, has become a fertile ground for linguistic investigation worldwide. Researchers have thoroughly explored the nuances of hyponymy, delving into its significance and role within languages, and uncovering a wealth of insightful observations and theories. Among those who have contributed to the study of hyponymy are Yule, G. in "The Study of Language", Lyons, J. in "Semantics", Murphy, M. L. & Koskela, A. in "Key terms in semantics", Djumabaeva, J. Sh., and Sabirova, N.K. in "The Study Of Hyponymic Taxonomy In English Linguistics And The Lexical And Semantic Relations Of Hyponymy", Safarova R. in "O'zbek tilida giponomiya", among others.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study conducts a qualitative investigation of hyponymic relationships in the English and Uzbek languages, concentrating on two semantic domains: *flora (plants) and fauna (animals)*. These categories were chosen because of their universal prevalence across cultures and the ability to show deeply ingrained cultural values. Data were gathered from existing language resources, such as dictionaries and academic writings, and evaluated to find patterns of hyponymic classification.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Hyponymy is the cognitive processing of information, an important means of categorizing words and one of the most important processes in human cognitive activity. The main function of a hypernym (gender) is recognized as a word with a common meaning, a generalizing function. Hyponym (type), on the other hand, performs the metalinguistic and stylistic functions of rendering clear, specific additional information by substituting a word with a common meaning in the expression of the context. In the lexical field, hyponymy can also be manifested on several levels; if hyperonyms are hyponyms, the hypernym itself can be considered its hyponymous under the term superordinate, which is

another step above. For example, *creatures* - *birds, insects*, and *animals.* These hyponyms themselves also have hyperonyms as hyperonyms. For example, *insects* - *worms, ants, flies, mosquitoes* and so on.[2]

In this study, we discuss the hyponymic relationships in the English and Uzbek languages in terms of two superordinate terms: *flora (plants) and fauna (animals).*

Flora (plants)

The hyponymic taxonomy of flora terminology in English reflects the language's hierarchical classification of plants based on biological and common traits. This taxonomy is essential for comprehending the diversity of the plant kingdom as it is represented verbally.

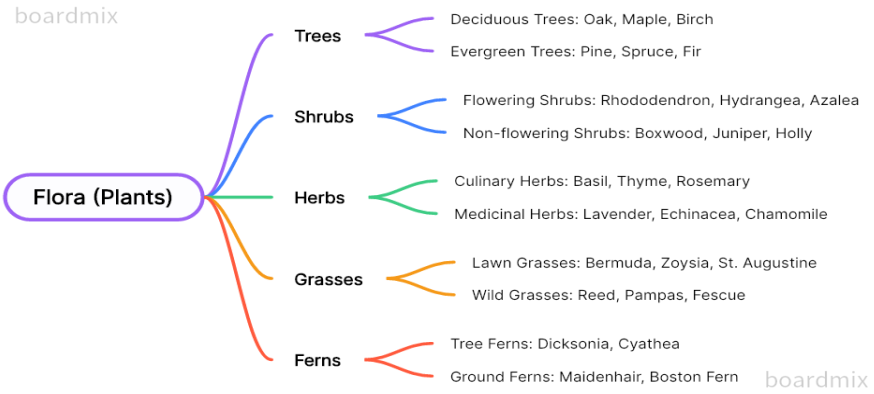

Figure 1. The taxonomic configuration of the hypernym "Flora" in English.

In this taxonomy, *"Flora"* serves as the hypernym or broad category encompassing all plant life. Subcategories (hyponyms) such as *"Trees," "Shrubs," "Herbs," "Grasses,"* and *"Ferns"* provide more detailed classifications. Further down the hierarchy, these categories are broken into even more precise groups or co-hyponyms, such as different types of trees (deciduous and evergreen) and herbs (culinary and medicinal). These kinds of hyponymic

[2] Djumabaeva, J. Sh., Sabirova, N.K. (2020).The Study Of Hyponymic Taxonomy In English Linguistics And The Lexical And Semantic Relations Of Hyponymy -T: 2020.

relationships enable semantic precision. By navigating the hierarchy, speakers can accurately identify or describe a plant without ambiguity. For example, distinguishing between *"deciduous trees"* and *"evergreen trees"* offers obvious, specific information on the trees' leaf retention feature, which would be lost with a more broad term such as *"trees."*

Similar to English, Uzbek utilizes lexical hierarchies to structure knowledge about flora. At the top of the hierarchy are broad categories (hypernyms) such as *"o'simlik" (plant)* which encompass more specific instances (hyponyms) like *"gul" (flower), "daraxt" (tree) or "o't" (grass)*. Below these categories, one might find more specific terms for types of flowers, trees, and grasses indigenous to or commonly found in the Uzbek environment. Furthermore, the Uzbek language may also distinguish between cultivated plants *("madaniy o'simliklar")* and wild plants *("yovvoyi o'simliklar")*, with further classification within each group.

Fauna (animals)

The hyponymic taxonomy of fauna terms in English demonstrates the language's systematic approach to classifying and naming creatures, which reflects a combination of scientific understanding and common usage. This taxonomy not only helps to organize and communicate biological knowledge, but it also shows linguistic characteristics that highlight the connection between language, culture, and the natural world. The hyponymic taxonomy of fauna is based on a hierarchical organization of animals from the most general (hypernyms) to the most specialized (hyponyms). For example, *"animal"* is a hypernym for all living fauna, which is then classified into more specific groupings like *"mammals," "birds," "fish,"* and so on, as well as individual species like *"tiger," "eagle," and "salmon".*

Moreover, English uses compounding extensively to name animals, combining elements to form a single word. This process is evident in names like *"butterfly"* or

"dragonfly," where two words are combined to describe a characteristic of the animal.[3] English is also notable for its inventive and often unique collective nouns for groups of animals, adding another layer to its hyponymic taxonomy. Terms like *"a pride of lions"*, *"a murder of crows"*, or *"a school of fish"* provide distinct, sometimes poetic, ways of referring to animal groups, demonstrating the language's creative categorization abilities.

The hyponymic taxonomy of fauna terms in Uzbek demonstrates the language's sophisticated approach to categorizing animal life, reflecting both Central Asia's great biodiversity and Turkic linguistic traditions. The categorization of animal names in the Uzbek language can be approached by organizing them into three broad categories:

1. The scientific or formal terminology used for animals;
2. The traditional names for animals commonly found in literature;
3. The local or regional terms for animals, known as dialects or colloquialisms.[4]

When naming animals in the Uzbek language, factors such as their habitat, diet, behavior, and their role in local culture and economy are considered. For instance, a species of cat found in Uzbekistan's desert and mountain regions is referred to as a wild cat *"yovvoyi mushuk"*, highlighting its adaptation to life far from human settlements and its survival in natural conditions. In the regions of Uzbekistan, there are species of animals like eagles, snakes, sheep, and goats that are found in desert, mountain, and foothill zones, as well as species that lead a domestic life. Their habitats are considered when categorizing them, leading to names like desert eagle *"cho'l burguti"*, water snake *"suv iloni"*, desert snake *"cho'l iloni"*, mountain goat *"tog' echkisi"*, and mountain sheep *"tog' qo'yi"*.

CONCLUSION

[3] Bauer, L. (2003). Introducing linguistic morphology. Edinburgh University Press.

[4] Enazarov, T, Xusanova, M, Esemuratov, A. (2015) O'zbek nomshunosligi. Toshkent.

The study of hyponymic taxonomy in English and Uzbek offers an intriguing view into the semantic organization of plant and animal vocabulary, demonstrating the subtle ways in which languages build information about the natural world. This study underlines the importance of hyponymy in linguistic categorization, emphasizing its significance in both cognitive processes and communication. The study uncovers the deep-rooted cultural and environmental impacts on language by investigating the hierarchical links between terms, illustrating how these elements shape our knowledge and categorization of flora and fauna. Through comparative analysis, it becomes evident that while English and Uzbek share fundamental linguistic mechanisms, their distinct hyponymic taxonomies reflect diverse cultural values, ecological environments, and historical backgrounds.

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