

Onomatopoeic Words in English and Uzbek Languages: Phonosemantic Characteristics

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the phonosemantic analysis of onomatopoeic words in English and Uzbek languages, examining their roles in conveying meaning through sound. Onomatopoeia, defined as the formation of words that imitate natural sounds, serves as a vital linguistic tool that enhances the vividness and expressiveness of communication in both cultures. By employing a mixed-methods approach, the research analyzes a collection of onomatopoeic words gathered from various linguistic resources, highlighting similarities and differences in their usage, phonetic characteristics, and syntactic roles. The findings reveal that while English incorporates onomatopoeic words into diverse grammatical forms, Uzbek primarily employs them as straightforward imitations of sound. Ultimately, the study underscores the significance of sound symbolism in linguistic expressions and the artistic qualities these words contribute to both English and Uzbek literature.

Keywords: Phonosemantics, onomatopoeic words, English language, Uzbek language, sound symbolism, linguistic analysis, emotional response, language comparison.

INTRODUCTION

Linguistics is a discipline with many internal branches, and from year to year various new areas are analyzed in it.

Onomatopoeia is type of words that are defined as the formation of a word from a sound which is associated with the

name of the object. Onomatopoeia has Greek origins and in the 16th century, many languages like English, French and Uzbek began to utilize this concept in linguistics. It literally means “making word” as it makes the words from the sounds. According to Merriam Webster dictionary, onomatopoeia is:

- the naming of an object or an action by a vocally imitating of the sound which is associated with it, for example: buzz, tap, hiss etc.
- the usage of words whose sounds suggest the sense.

The word onomatopoeia is used by English people since 1500s. however people have created words being inspired by the sounds heard around for much longer. It is not surprising that some lexemes like “pop,” “fizz,” “jingle,” “toot,” “bounce,” “tinker” are onomatopoeic words. These words are imitative lexemes that gives the sound of the action or object to make concept.

Onomatopoeic words in Uzbek language are the words which gives the meaning of the words that show the sound of action, activity and some of them imitate to the voice while others imitate to the image of the cognition. *Taraq-turuq, shitir-shitir, qars-qurs, taq, miyovand* many others are considered as onomatopoeic words in Uzbek.

The purpose of the analysis is to compare some onomatopoeic words in English and Uzbek which are common in literal discourse.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research utilizes a mixed-methods approach that integrates both qualitative and quantitative analyses. A collection of onomatopoeic words was gathered from multiple English and Uzbek dictionaries and linguistic resources. Also, it illustrates some similarities and differences between these two languages.

Actually, phonosemantics which studies the meaning of sound, is an essential sphere of linguistics as it illustrates the real meaning of the cognition. Moreover, phonosemantics is a field of study that investigates the relationship between a word’s sound

and the emotional responses it elicits in the minds of native speakers. This discipline focuses less on the word's lexical meaning and more on its phonetic components. By analyzing the connection between sounds and meanings, phonosemantics provides a distinctive perspective for examining onomatopoeic words. These words represent a specific segment of sound symbolism, where phonetic features closely align with sensory or emotional experiences. Additionally, phonosemantics looks into how sound patterns—such as consonant clusters, vowel harmony, and tonal variations—help distinguish meanings in different languages. These patterns may influence how words are semantically categorized within a given language or language family.

Phonosemantics is a branch of linguistics that demonstrates how vocal sounds and phonemes can possess meaning independently. It draws upon phonetics (related to sound expression), semantics (pertaining to content), lexicology (the relationship between these aspects), and psychology (the theory of perception) to establish its validity. Phonosemantics helps to discern and differentiate meaning based on the sound of a word. Every word carries two meanings: the first relates to an object or process as a denotative sign, while the second elicits a reaction in a person as a sequence of sounds. An adult's mind primarily focuses on the first meaning, as it is engaged with the second, which triggers an unconscious reaction experienced as a particular emotional response. This second layer of meaning is referred to as phonosemantic meaning.

Phonosemantics explores the sound-visual system of language, asserting that all sounds within a language, whether standalone or part of a word, carry their own meanings. There are sporadic instances in all languages of what is traditionally referred to as onomatopoeia: the non-arbitrary connection between the form and the meaning of an onomatopoeic word. More accurately, it is possible to predict the meaning and given the meaning of a word just by analyzing the form such as "meow" or "bang." It is possible to predict the meaning as they denote things related to the sounds they make. These phonological patterns suggest that certain sounds inherently carry

specific semantic qualities, facilitating immediate and intuitive understanding. More specifically, it is much simpler to comprehend the meaning of the word to the listener through phonetic system of that word. Onomatopoeic words have been For instance, according to this theory, the sound [r] conveys impressions of power, strength, bravery, and roughness. Combination of the consonant sounds /sp/ at the beginning of the word refers to sounds of water or liquid(splash, spray) while Existence of plosive sound /b/ at the beginning of the word carries the meaning of sudden, unexpected action with very loud noise(boom, bang, beep). Beginning of the word with two consonant sounds represent /cl/ sharp ringing sounds made by hard or solid things: cling, click, clank.

One of the following hypotheses about the origin of language is related to imitative words, according to it: Hypothesis of sound imitation. According to this, the word was created in the process of primitive people imitating various sounds, sounds of animals and birds, and natural phenomena. Of course, this assumption is absolutely wrong. Because imitative words express the imitation of sound and mean this concept, the creation of language does not depend on it.

RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION

There are several differences as well as similarities in onomatopoeic words. The following table illustrates some of them:

Onomatopoeic words in English	Onomatopoeic words in Uzbek
onomatopoeic words in English might take on grammatical roles as verbs: "to buzz"	may primarily function as nouns or adjectives, reflecting different syntactic behaviors.
Onomatopoeic words may be more prevalent or stylistically significant in language	Onomatopoeic words may be more prevalent or stylistically significant in literature and they are used in a lot of literal discourse and colloquial speech
English often forms onomatopoeic	Uzbek may have more

words through blending or alterations (e.g., “sizzle” for frying)	straightforward, direct imitations of sounds: “shovqin”
in English, onomatopoeic words are taken as lexemes by the very name of imitation.	In the Uzbek language, onomatopoeic words are used in the name of imitative words, not a separate word group. In both languages, such words increase the naturalness and effectiveness of the speech, and give it an artistic color.
in English, such words are called onomatopoeic words	In Uzbek, these types of words are called “taqlidso’zlar”
the phonetic characteristics of onomatopoeic words differ between the two languages due to their distinct phonological systems. For example, English may use combinations of consonants and vowels	the phonetic characteristics of onomatopoeic words differ between the two languages due to their distinct phonological systems. For example, English may use combinations of consonants and vowels that are not present in Uzbek.

Onomatopoeic words are important in both languages, they increase the clarity, impressiveness and color of the speech. In poetry and literature, the onomatopoeic effect is something writers can harness to create vivid imagery without verbosity. As onomatopoeic words are descriptive and conducive to rhymes, they help readers to provide a sensory effect and vivid imagery of the written work. These sounds create a sensory impression in the minds of the readers which they understand. The readers also understand the impacts of the sounds, their likely meanings, and their roles in creating those meanings. In the following example by William Shakespeare a subtle imagery of the nature is depicted with the help of onomatopoeia denoting animal sounds:

Hark, hark! Bow-wow.
 The watch-dogs bark! Bow-wow.
 Hark, hark! I hear
 The strain of strutting chanticleer
 Cry, ‘cock-a-diddle-dow!’

It is widely studied in Uzbek and English literature, linguistics and stylistics. Below are the similarities of such words in Uzbek and English: onomatopoeic words are used as a literary device that can be used by writers and poets to create heightened experience for the reader in both languages in both languages, onomatopoeic words are divided into types such as imitation of sound and imitation of action; in English and Uzbek, imitation of sound takes the form of imitation of animal sounds and imitation of object sounds. By way of example: in Uzbek: *taraq-taraq*, *g'iyq-g'iyq*, *tap*, *chip-chip*, *ququuuq*; in English: "bang," "siff," "cock-a-doodle-dooo," "meaow" etc; in both languages, onomatopoeic words are one of the main parts of such fields as linguistics, literary studies, stylistics.

CONCLUSION

In summary, the phonosemantic analysis of onomatopoeic words in English and Uzbek highlights both the similarities and differences in how these languages utilize sound to convey meaning. Onomatopoeic words serve as an essential linguistic tool that enhances the vividness and expressiveness of communication in both cultures. Despite their distinct phonetic structures and syntactic roles, these words enrich language by mimicking sounds from the natural world, thereby eliciting emotional responses and creating strong imagery.

The research illustrates that while English tends to incorporate onomatopoeic words into various grammatical forms, Uzbek primarily employs them as straightforward imitations of sound. Both languages demonstrate a deep connection between phonetics and semantics, emphasizing the importance of sound symbolism in understanding linguistic expressions. As a result, onomatopoeic words not only facilitate clearer communication but also contribute to the artistic and aesthetic qualities of both English and Uzbek literature.

The exploration of these linguistic features paves the way for further studies in phonosemantics, encouraging a more profound appreciation of how languages reflect the complexities of human experience through sound.

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