

## THE STUDY OF SEMANTIC RELATIONS AND PART-WHOLE RELATIONSHIPS IN LINGUISTICS

Safarova Mahfuza Rajabovna

*Independent researcher of Bukhara State University Senior English teacher of school 17*

**Annotation:** *This article explores the nature and classification of semantic relations in linguistics, with a particular focus on part-whole (meronymic) relationships. It reviews the development of the study of semantic relations in world linguistics, highlighting major theoretical approaches such as structuralism, generative grammar, and cognitive linguistics, associated with scholars like Ferdinand de Saussure, Noam Chomsky, and George Lakoff.*

*The article also examines the extent to which part-whole relations have been studied in Uzbek linguistics, emphasizing contributions by national scholars and the role of lexical-semantic analysis, phraseology, and linguocultural approaches. Special attention is given to how these relations reflect human cognition and cultural models. The study concludes that while significant progress has been made, further research using modern cognitive and interdisciplinary methods is needed to deepen understanding of semantic structures in the Uzbek language.*

**Key Words:** *semantic relations, meronymy, part-whole relationship, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, polysemy, cognitive linguistics, lexical semantics, phraseology, linguocultural approach, Uzbek linguistics*

In linguistics, semantic relations between lexical units constitute an essential part of the language system. Words are interconnected through various semantic links, which reflect human cognition, worldview, and cultural experience. Among these, part-whole (meronymic) relations hold a special place as fundamental models of conceptualizing reality.

This article examines the level of research on semantic relations in world linguistics and analyzes the study of part-whole relationships in Uzbek linguistics.

The study of semantic relations in world linguistics has a long history, dating back to ancient Greek philosophy and continuing through modern cognitive linguistics. Semantic relations are generally classified into the following types:

- synonymy (similarity of meaning);
- antonymy (opposition of meaning) ;
- hyponymy (class-subclass relations);
- meronymy (part-whole relations) ;
- polysemy (multiple meanings)

In the 20th century, with the development of structural linguistics, the systematic study of semantic relations began. Ferdinand de Saussure viewed language as a system of signs and explained meaning through paradigmatic and syntagmatic relations.

Later, Leonard Bloomfield and his followers approached semantics from a formal and behaviorist perspective. However, a new stage in the study of meaning emerged with Noam

Chomsky, whose theory of generative grammar focused on the internal structure of language and mechanisms of meaning formation.

From the 1970s onwards, cognitive linguistics began to develop rapidly. Scholars such as George Lakoff and Ronald Langacker emphasized that meaning is closely related to human cognition, conceptual systems, and experience. Within this framework, part-whole relations are seen as one of the fundamental ways humans categorize and understand the world.

Meronymy (part-whole relations) has been widely studied as a core element of semantic systems. Examples such as “tree-branch,” “body-hand,” and “book-page” illustrate how parts relate to a whole. In modern linguistics, these relations are also significant in fields such as ontology, artificial intelligence, and corpus linguistics.

In Uzbek linguistics, the study of lexical-semantic relations became more active in the second half of the 20th century. Many scholars have contributed significantly to the analysis of the semantic structure of the Uzbek language.

Researchers such as Abduazizov Abduaziz, Ne'matov Husan, and Rahmatullayev Shavkat have studied lexical systems, semantic relations, and phraseological units in depth.

In Uzbek linguistics, part-whole relations are mainly analyzed within the following frameworks:

- lexical-semantic groups;
- phraseological units;
- literary text analysis;
- cognitive and linguocultural approaches

For instance, pairs such as “house-roof,” “body-heart,” and “book-page” demonstrate semantic links between a whole and its components. These relations are important not only in the language system but also in reflecting national cognition and cultural perspectives.

In recent years, cognitive and linguocultural approaches have gained increasing importance in Uzbek linguistics. Within these approaches, part-whole relations are studied in connection with conceptual structures in the human mind. For example, body-part terms often develop metaphorical meanings (e.g., “kind-hearted,” “quick-minded”).

Furthermore, part-whole relations frequently appear in phraseological units, where they convey figurative and expressive meanings. This enhances the stylistic richness and expressive power of the language.

Semantic relations, particularly part-whole relationships, have been extensively studied in world linguistics through various theoretical frameworks, including structuralism, generative grammar, and cognitive linguistics.

In Uzbek linguistics, this area has also been explored to a considerable extent. However, there remains significant potential for further research, especially through modern cognitive and linguocultural approaches. Studies based on literary texts and phraseological units are particularly valuable in revealing the national and cultural specifics of these relationships.

#### REFERENCES:

1. Ferdinand de Saussure. (1916). *Course in General Linguistics*. Paris: Payot.

2. Leonard Bloomfield. (1933). Language. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.
3. Noam Chomsky. (1965). Aspects of the Theory of Syntax. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
4. George Lakoff, & Mark Johnson. (1980). Metaphors We Live By. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
5. Ronald Langacker. (1987). Foundations of Cognitive Grammar. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
6. John Lyons. (1977). Semantics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
7. Eugene Nida. (1975). Componential Analysis of Meaning. The Hague: Mouton.
8. Abduazizov Abduaziz. (2006). Tilshunoslik nazariyasi. Toshkent: O'qituvchi.
9. Ne'matov Husan. (2010). O'zbek tilining leksikologiyasi. Toshkent: Fan.
10. Rahmatullayev Shavkat. (2009). O'zbek tilining frazeologik lug'ati. Toshkent: O'qituvchi.
11. Cruse, D. A. (1986). Lexical Semantics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
12. Murphy, M. L. (2003). Semantic Relations and the Lexicon. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
13. Safarova M.R. THE LEXICAL-SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION OF WHOLE PART RELATIONS IN THE UZBEK AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES. Finlan. d, Helsinki international scientificonline conference "SUSTAINABILITY OF EDUCATION SOCIO ECONOMIC SCIENCE THEORY", <https://interoncof.com/plugins/generic/pdfJsViewer/pdf.js/web/viewer.html?file=https%3A%2F%2Finteroncof.com%2Findex.php%2Ffinland%2Farticle%2Fdownload%2F14848%2F13399%2F26419>.
14. Rajabovna, S. M. (2025). THE LEXICAL-SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION OF WHOLE-PART RELATIONS IN THE UZBEK AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES. SUSTAINABILITY OF EDUCATION, SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCIENCE THEORY, 3(36), 7-10.
15. Rajabovna, S. M. (2025). THE LEXICAL-SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION OF WHOLE-PART RELATIONS IN THE UZBEK AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES. SUSTAINABILITY OF EDUCATION, SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCIENCE THEORY, 3(36), 7-10.