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## **SIGNIFICANT AND INSIGNIFICANT SEMES IN LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS**

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### **Annotation**

The article explores the distinction between relevant and irrelevant semes in English and Uzbek. It focuses on how relevant semes contribute to the core semantic structure of a word, whereas irrelevant semes provide supplementary or context-dependent information. The study examines how these semes are realized lexically, contextually, and pragmatically across both languages..

**Keywords:** meaning, semasiology, denotative meaning, semantic content, semantic scope, relevant meaning, irrelevant meaning, componential analysis.

Language is one of humanity's oldest and richest inventions, with its primary function being the exchange of thoughts and transmission of information. However, behind the seemingly simple sounds of words lies complex and profound meaning. Meaning—the content expressed through a word, phrase, or text—is one of the fundamental manifestations of human thought.

The types and forms of meaning have long been studied in the fields of linguistics and philosophy. Lexical meaning, contextual meaning, figurative and metaphorical meanings all reveal the diverse capabilities of language. This article aims to provide a deeper understanding of these rich and mysterious layers of language.

In the Uzbek language, scholarly research on meaning and its types has been extensively explored in the field of semantics. The study of meaning in Uzbek linguistics began to deepen from the second half of the 20th century. There are several major research directions and notable contributions in this area. In Uzbek linguistics, lexical meaning has been studied as the core and most essential semantic feature of a word. The types of word meaning are classified as follows: Primary (denotative) meaning: the main, usually first meaning of a word (e.g., "kitob" — a written material for reading); Figurative (metaphorical) meaning: the use of a word



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in a non-literal sense (e.g., "yurak" — as the center of emotions); Related meaning: the closely associated meanings of words derived from the same root.

Uzbek is rich in polysemous words, which take on different meanings depending on the context. Among scholars who studied polysemy in the Uzbek language, Sh. Rakhmatullaev's contributions are significant. He focused on the structure and functions of polysemous words.

Another important direction in the study of word meanings includes synonyms (words with similar meanings), antonyms (words with opposite meanings), and homonyms (words that have the same form but different meanings). The scientific works of A. Madrahimov in this regard are noteworthy. The meanings of phraseological units in the Uzbek language have also been a subject of study, particularly their semantic specificity, figurative, and metaphorical meanings. N. Mahmudov has conducted research on phraseologisms.

The meaning of a word can vary depending on its position and function in the context, which is studied within the frameworks of pragmalinguistics and text linguistics. Below is an attempt to analyze relevant and irrelevant semes using examples from the English and Uzbek languages:

The English lexeme [sister] contains semes such as "relative," "blood relative," and "direct reference." In the Uzbek lexeme [opa], in addition to these semes, it includes the relevant seme "older than me." This contrasts with the lexeme [singil], meaning "younger sister." The English [sister] lacks a unit that contrasts with this seme, resulting in an ambiguous seme "older/younger than me," which is thus considered irrelevant.

Another example is the lexeme [cousin] in English, which has the semes "relative" and "blood relative." The Uzbek lexeme [amakivachcha] contains an additional relevant seme "children of brothers," which contrasts with [xolavachcha] — "children of sisters." The English [cousin] does not contrast with this seme, so the seme "children of brothers/sisters" is considered ambiguous and therefore irrelevant. The same applies to the lexeme [uncle], which includes semes like "relative" and "blood relative." In Uzbek, [amaki] has the additional relevant seme "father's brother," which contrasts with [tog'a] — "mother's brother." Since [uncle] does not



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have a contrastive unit for this seme, the seme "father's or mother's brother" is ambiguous and irrelevant.

This phenomenon is not limited to kinship-related lexemes but also appears in many other lexemes. For example, the English lexeme [student] denotes "a person receiving education in an educational institution." In Uzbek, [talaba] includes the relevant seme "person receiving higher education," which contrasts with [o'quvchi] — "school student." The English [student] lacks a contrastive unit, so the seme "higher/general education" is ambiguous and thus irrelevant.

The lexeme [game] in English has semes like "leisure activity for fun or training," and "regulated competition." The Uzbek lexeme [o'yin] includes the relevant seme "general recreational activity," which contrasts with [musobaqa] — "competition." Since [game] lacks a contrasting unit for this seme, the "recreational/competitive" seme is ambiguous and irrelevant.

The lexeme [chair] includes the seme "a single-person seat, usually with a backrest." In Uzbek, [kursi] has the relevant seme "seat without backrest," which contrasts with [stul] — "chair with a backrest." Since [chair] lacks a contrasting unit, the seme "with/without backrest" remains ambiguous and irrelevant.

Research on meaning and its types in the Uzbek language reflects the richness and potential of national linguistics. While traditional approaches to the study of literal and figurative meanings have established a solid scientific foundation, there is a growing need for new methods that meet the demands of modern linguistics. This includes a deeper exploration of the pragmatic and cognitive aspects of semantics, meaning analysis using technological tools, and the cultural peculiarities of language. Studying these facets of language in greater depth not only contributes to scientific development but also strengthens the international status of the Uzbek language.

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