

LEXICOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF PHYTONYMS IN EXPLANATORY DICTIONARIES OF THE UZBEK LANGUAGE

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Annotation

This article examines the issues of lexicographic interpretation of phytonyms (plant names) in explanatory dictionaries of the Uzbek language. The paper analyzes the lexical meanings of plant names, the methods of their linguistic expression, and the specific characteristics of definitions provided in dictionary entries. Furthermore, the relationship between botanical classification and linguistic interpretation of phytonyms, as well as their etymological and semantic layers, are explored. The findings of the research serve to provide recommendations for a more accurate description of plant names in lexicographic practice.

Keywords

phytonym, lexicography, explanatory dictionary, plant name, lexico-semantic group, terminology, linguistic worldview, botanical nomenclature.

In world linguistics, studying the linguistic worldview—specifically the connection between humans and nature through language units—remains a vital field. Phytonyms, or plant names, represent a nation's national-cultural views, lifestyle, and the linguistic reflection of its regional flora. Interpreting these units accurately in explanatory dictionaries is strategically important not only for linguistics but also for botany, ecology, and folk medicine. Currently, the presentation of phytonyms in published explanatory dictionaries varies significantly. This article aims to analyze the principles of presenting plant names in Uzbek dictionaries and to develop scientific proposals for improving their lexicographic interpretation.

Phytonyms in Uzbek linguistics have been studied from various perspectives (etymological, terminological, and linguo-cultural) by scholars such as Sh. Dadaboev, N. Tukhtashev, and H. Berdiyurov. However, a comparative analysis of their semantic structure and representation in modern dictionaries based on contemporary lexicographic requirements still requires specialized research. Scholar Sh. Dadaboyev notes that plant names form a unique micro-system within

a language's vocabulary, where external features, growth environment, and economic importance serve as primary semantic indicators.

Phytonyms in the Uzbek language are not merely labels for biological entities; they often carry deep-seated symbolic meanings rooted in the nomadic and agricultural history of the people. For instance, certain plants have transitioned from physical objects to stable cultural metaphors:

The Willow (Majnuntol): Beyond its botanical description as a "salix," it is linguistically established as a symbol of "hijron" (sorrowful separation) or a grieving lover in classical literature.

The Pomegranate (Anor): In the Uzbek linguistic worldview, it serves as a multifaceted symbol representing beauty (the color of cheeks/lips) and abundance.

Cotton (Paxta): Referred to as "white gold" (*oq oltin*), its lexicographical treatment must go beyond its industrial use to reflect its status as a national symbol.

One of the core challenges in the lexicographic interpretation of plant names is the tension between professional botanical terminology and folk nomenclature. Sh. Dadaboyev points out that for a dictionary entry to be effective, it must integrate three primary semantic indicators:

Morphological features: The physical appearance and structure of the plant.

Environmental context: Where and how the plant grows.

Pragmatic value: Its role in the national economy or daily life.

A critical review of the "Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language" (O'TIL) reveals that while many phytonyms are recorded, their descriptions are sometimes incomplete.

The Case of Basil (Rayhon): While its classification in the *Lamiaceae* family is scientifically accurate, its essential role as a culinary spice and a medicinal herb is often overlooked in traditional definitions. Modern lexicography suggests that adding functional descriptions (e.g., its use in traditional dishes) would provide a more holistic semantic picture.

Dialectal Diversity: Many plant names vary across different regions of Uzbekistan. For example, the entry for "Jiyda" (Oleaster) lists specific varieties like "qandak jiyda" or "beshovul jiyda", yet it lacks the differential morphological markers (size, taste, shape) that would allow a reader to distinguish between them accurately.

The study concludes that for the Uzbek lexicographic tradition to align with global standards, the inclusion of Latin nomenclature is non-negotiable. This addition ensures international terminological clarity and allows for accurate cross-

linguistic comparison, bridging the gap between local folk wisdom and global scientific knowledge.

Based on the research, the following conclusions have been drawn:

1. Scientific Balance: Dictionary entries must balance botanical accuracy (family, species) with linguistic description (etymology, figurative meanings).
2. Differential Features: Semantic indicators such as appearance, taste (bitter, sweet), smell, and practical use (medicinal, food) should form the basis of the dictionary entry.
3. Connotative Depth: Expanding on the role of plants in literature and folklore (e.g., cotton as "white gold") helps fully reveal the linguistic worldview.
4. International Standards: Including Latin nomenclature in future dictionaries will increase scientific value and facilitate cross-linguistic comparison.

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