

THE STAGES OF WORD-FORMATION THEORY IN UZBEK LINGUISTICS: A HISTORICAL-THEORETICAL ANALYSIS

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Annotation

This article provides a historical-theoretical analysis of the stages in the formation of word-formation theory in Uzbek linguistics. The relevance of the problem is determined by the absence of a unified theoretical solution regarding whether word formation belongs to morphology, lexicology, or constitutes a separate, independent branch. The aim of the study is to elucidate the stages in the formation of word-formation theory from A.G'ulomov to contemporary linguists and to systematize the diverse views on this issue. The study employs the methods of historical-comparative analysis, periodization, and systemic-structural analysis; the main scientific-theoretical works of linguists such as A.G'ulomov, A.Hojiyev, Sh.Rahmatullayev, A.Nurmonov, T.Bushuy, and Sh.Safarov were selected as the source material for the analysis.

Keywords

word formation, derivation, morphology, lexicology, morphemics, derivative, A.G'ulomov, history of linguistics.

Аннотация

В статье проводится историко-теоретический анализ этапов становления теории словообразования в узбекском языкознании. Актуальность проблемы обусловлена отсутствием единого теоретического решения вопроса о принадлежности словообразования к морфологии, лексикологии или к отдельному самостоятельному разделу языкознания. Цель исследования — осветить этапы формирования теории словообразования от А.Гулямова до современных лингвистов и систематизировать существующие в этой области взгляды. В работе применены историко-сравнительный метод, метод периодизации и системно-структурный анализ; в качестве материала

отобраны основные научно-теоретические труды А.Гулямова, А.Ходжиева, Ш.Рахматуллаева, А.Нурманова, Т.Бушуя, Ш.Сафарова и других лингвистов.

Ключевые слова

словообразование, деривация, морфология, лексикология, морфемика, производное слово, А.Гулямов, история языкознания.

Abstract

This article presents a historical-theoretical analysis of the stages in the formation of word-formation theory in Uzbek linguistics. The relevance of the problem stems from the absence of a unified theoretical solution regarding whether word formation belongs to morphology, lexicology, or constitutes an independent branch of linguistics. The aim of the study is to trace the stages in the development of word-formation theory from A.Gulomov to contemporary linguists and to systematize the diverse views on this issue. The study employs historical-comparative analysis, periodization, and systemic-structural analysis; the main theoretical and scholarly works of A.Gulomov, A.Hojiyev, Sh.Rahmatullayev, A.Nurmonov, T.Bushuy, Sh.Safarov, and other linguists were selected as sources.

Keywords

word formation, derivation, morphology, lexicology, morphemics, derivative word, A.Gulomov, history of linguistics.

Introduction

The issue of word formation in Uzbek linguistics remains controversial to this day. Professor A.Gulomov, who laid the foundation of word-formation theory in the Turkic languages, was among the first in Uzbek linguistics to study word formation as a separate branch, doing so in the 1940s. He critically examined the fact that word formation had been studied within morphology on the basis of Indo-European linguistic models, and emphasized that, since a lexeme is produced in word formation, it is more closely related to the branch of lexicology. In Uzbek linguistics, the issue of word formation has mainly been studied on the morphological plane. However, word formation is the creation of a new word by some means. Consequently, it pertains to the domain of lexis. According to the old grammatical doctrine, word formation and word inflection (word change) were both treated within morphology. In fact, however, they are only formally similar to one another, while functionally they are entirely different phenomena: one is a lexical phenomenon, while the other is a syntactic phenomenon. From this it follows that the treatment of word formation on the morphological plane rests on the regularities established by Indo-European linguistics; Indo-European linguistics

operates with the formal method and, by directing its attention to phonetics and morphology, “relegates” the matter of the word to a secondary position, and takes absolutely no account of semantic phenomena (the doctrine concerning the meanings of words) [7;194-195].

Literature review

In the 1930s-1940s, special works devoted to verb and noun formation came into being. Professor A. Gulomov initially recommended studying word formation within lexicology, on the grounds that a derived word is a unit that is the product of word formation. However, later, in the course of researching word formation, he came to emphasize that it is a field distinct from lexicology, and that it should be regarded as a separate branch of linguistics lying between morphemics and morphology [7;195]. A. Gulomov says the following about word formation: “In this branch of linguistics, firstly, how new words are formed, and secondly, how the existing derivatives came into being, are examined” [7;195]. In his monograph, A. Gulomov emphasizes that word formation is not confined solely to the affixal method, and points out that, in particular, five types of it exist in the Uzbek language: 1) morphological (affixation); 2) syntactic (composition); 3) lexical (transposition); 4) semantic; 5) phonetic methods.

A. Gulomov’s theoretical views earned a worthy place in the tables of contents of grammars of the traditional interpretation of the Uzbek language, and gave impetus to separate scholarly research works. Nevertheless, certain issues connected with word formation remain among the pressing issues in Turkology, including in Uzbek linguistics, to this day. This state of affairs is evident even in such simple matters as the designation of types of word formation and their naming. In the system of word formation, special attention is given to the two main (leading) types by which new lexical units are formed – affixation and composition [4;22]. Distinguishing the structure of word formation from morphological structure, the professor emphasizes that it invariably consists of three parts: the formative base (root or stem) + *derivant* = *derivative* (derivative) [7;197]. He attaches great importance to the notion of semantic continuity (motivation) between the derivative and the formative part, and emphasizes that this is important in word formation. The newly formed lexeme resulting from the process continues the meaning of the base part that served for its formation, which is why A. Gulomov attaches great importance to the continuity of the connection between the derived words and the newly formed element.

A. Gulomov defines the syntactic method of forming words as the method of composition, that is, words are formed through the joining of two or more roots to one another. He also calls such words paired words or binomials [4;93].

In modern linguistics, word formation was separated from morphology as a distinct field, and, before it became a separate independent branch, it gave rise to heated debate and controversy in Uzbek linguistics. Distinguishing word formation as an independent discipline gave impetus, from the standpoint of studying language systemically and deepening ideas about linguistic (speech) processes, to broad and promising research in the field. Such views came to encompass not only the structure of sentences and texts, but also the creation of new words. However, the study of word formation as a separate phenomenon was first formed in the 1940s, on the basis of the research of Professor A.Gulomov. Thus, the concept of the morpheme in Uzbek linguistics arose from that time onward. Before that, there was no information correctly determining the linguistic unit called the “morpheme” and its essence. This was because the essence of morphemes had not been determined on the basis of Uzbek-language material. On the contrary, views expressed in Russian linguistics were transferred into Uzbek linguistics, and the examples underlying them were, and continue to be, found in the Uzbek language [12; 23]. A.Gulomov, for his part, criticizes the fact that word formation had been studied within morphology on the basis of Indo-European linguistic models, without regard to which branch it actually belongs to. He notes that, because a lexeme comes into being as a result of this phenomenon, word formation has more of a connection to lexicology. It should be noted here that, whereas morphology studies the morphological analysis of the parts of speech, lexicology studies matters such as the nominative meaning, semantics, etymology, and forms of the word.

Indeed, word formation is intimately connected with two levels of the language. Since the process of word formation is largely connected with the joining of morphemes, it comes into contact with morphology, or more precisely, with morphemics. As a result of the joining of the formative morpheme with the base morpheme, a new lexeme comes into being. Thus, a derived word is considered a unit that is the product of word formation, and remains material studied by lexicology [7;195]. Accordingly, Professor A.Gulomov states that it would be more correct to study word formation within the branch of lexicology. However, as a result of consistent study and research, the scholar came to the conclusion that word formation is a field distinct from lexicology, that it has its own distinct object of study, and that for this reason word formation should be studied as a separate branch of linguistics lying between the branches of morphemics and morphology, and in the book “Grammar of the Uzbek Language. Volume I, Morphology,” word formation was studied for the first time in the history of Uzbek linguistics as a separate branch [10; 7-8].

Over a short period (beginning in the 1950s), word-formation theory passed through several stages, including morphological, structural-semantic, syntactic-transformational, onomasiological, and functional-semantic assessment. Looking at the history of word formation in the Uzbek language, according to the view of the linguist A.Hojiyev, it can first of all be divided into two main stages: 1) the stage in which word formation was studied within the branch of morphology of linguistics; 2) the stage in which it was separated out and studied as a distinct branch of linguistics. This latter stage can, in turn, also be divided into two: a) the stage prior to the study of language as a system; b) the stage of transition to studying word formation as a system, that is, the present stage [12;139].

From the above it is evident that we may be witness to the fact that the work carried out in Uzbek linguistics in connection with word formation lies within the bounds of the first (morphological) and, partially, the second (structural-semantic) stage. The linguist U.Tursunov states: "The morphological division of a word into parts serves as the basis for forming new words... Word formation is considered the object of investigation of morphology" [9;108-109], while in the work "Uzbek Language," published by M.Mirzayev, S.Usmonov, and I.Rasulov, it is stressed that affixation, as compared with other methods of forming words, is a phenomenon directly pertaining to morphology [5;90]. On the basis of the views cited, one may conclude that word formation is connected with the property of a word's division into morphemic parts, and that without this property it would not exist. Nevertheless, although word formation and the division of a word into morphemes, as well as form-formation, are mutually connected phenomena, each of them is a distinct object distinguished by its own characteristic features.

Toward the end of the 20th century, special attention came to be devoted to studying the Uzbek language as a system, although the achievements attained in general linguistics were not made full and correct use of. This found expression in particular in the treatment of phenomena connected with methods of word formation in the Uzbek language. Every level of a language constitutes a particular system, and, in this regard, word formation likewise has its own system. As is known, every level of a language possesses units peculiar to it, yet in Uzbek linguistics no attention has been devoted to the matter of the units of the system of the word-formation level; that is, as the linguist A.Hojiyev has emphasized, when the question is raised of whether there exists in the Uzbek language a system of word formation and a unit forming the language that constitutes it, no definite view has been expressed. The reason for this lies in the diversity and complexity of the form of the derived word relative to units of other levels. In turn, however complex the essence of a derived word may be, it is not possible correctly to

elucidate the essence of word formation and the linguistic phenomena connected with it without determining the linguistic unit and its essence [12;142]. In our own research, relying on the view given by A.Hojiyev in his scholarly work "The System of Word Formation in the Uzbek Language," we found it correct to regard words (lexemes) and derived words as linguistic (langue) units. Indeed, in the work of Professors H.Ne'matov and R.Rasulov, the derived word is regarded as a unit of speech (parole) [6;41]. Such a view also hinders the elucidation of which direction of the language system derived words shape, as well as the essence of other important matters of linguistics. Lexemes and derived words exist in ready-made form for members of society, are entered into dictionaries, and are used in speech as ready-made units. This, however, does not mean that derived words are produced anew each time in the process of speech [11;29]. This is because to assess a derived word as a unit of speech would require accepting it as a syntactic unit, for which there is insufficient basis. Although a number of studies devoted to word formation exist in Uzbek linguistics, the question of whether the essence of the phenomena connected with the system of word formation exists as a system of word formation in the Uzbek language has remained unresolved [12;140-141].

Professor Sh.Rahmatullayev calls word formation "lexeme formation," thereby emphasizing that a derived word is a lexeme. However, in the scholar's research devoted to the basic units of the structure of language, no information is given as to whether or not a derived word constitutes a linguistic unit. Likewise, in the table given in the work concerning the branches of linguistics, "word formation" is not presented as a separate branch [8;28].

As is known, the investigation of any complex process must be systematic, and word formation is just such a complex process, one that may be studied from various angles. In our own research, we attempt, through a comprehensive analysis of the process of word formation, to shed light on new facets of research into it. This, in turn, provides an opportunity to analyze the theoretical information of the complex process (phenomenon) and to elucidate the linguo-cultural-cognitive nature of word formation.

As is known, in linguistics various views exist concerning word formation, its formative nature, its status, its meaning, and the history of its origin (genesis). It should be emphasized that word formation is the process of forming words, that is, the process of producing derivatives, and is referred to in linguistics as derivation. In the course of the present research, we found it appropriate to use the terms "word formation" and "derivation" synonymously with respect to this linguistic phenomenon. New words are formed within the language with the aid of its base, and the means and units of the language take part in this.

The category of word formation may be understood in a broad and a narrow sense. In the narrow sense, the “category of word formation” is connected with determining the types by which words are produced. In the broad sense, the “category of word formation” is connected with the process of human thought, and this, in turn, helps in classifying and categorizing words in their formation [2;12].

Professor T.Bushuy and Professor Sh.Safarov, who are counted among the representatives of modern Uzbek linguistics, have also set forth their own views concerning this important level of linguistics. In their view, the basis of the morphemic-morphological level is constituted by morphemes. It belongs to the parts of speech and to the composition of grammatical forms, consists in pronunciation of a sum of morphemes, and has variants within the composition of grammatical forms. It is also expressed, in respect of its inner integrity (the unity of meaning for all variants), by a special marker. This marker does not possess independent meaning of its own.

In their work “The Structure of Language. Methods and Methodology of Analysis,” Sh.Safarov and T.Bushuy divide the language system into levels on the basis of the syntagmatic, paradigmatic, and hierarchical relations of the language, and substantiate that word formation occupies a separate level among them. At the word-formation level, consideration is given to the structure of words existing within the language system (“how words are formed”) and to the possibilities for forming new words (“how are they formed?”). It is the word-formation possibilities of the language that give impetus to distinguishing this system as a separate level. Word-formation models take part in constituting morphological groups (parts of speech), generalize the relations among words, are realized anew within speech, and the model itself possesses inner wholeness (the wholeness of meaning, means, and modes of expression). The principal function of morphemes is to change the part of speech and the forms of a word [3;44].

Materials and Methods

The research was conducted as a historical-theoretical descriptive study. As the material of the research, the main scholarly-theoretical sources directly related to the formation of word-formation theory in Uzbek linguistics – the monographs, textbooks, and scholarly articles of linguists such as A.Gulomov, U.Tursunov, M.Mirzayev, S.Usmonov, I.Rasulov, A.Hojiyev, Sh.Rahmatullayev, H.Ne’matov, R.Rasulov, T.Bushuy, Sh.Safarov, and A.Nurmonov, created from the 1930s to the beginning of the 21st century – were selected.

The following criteria were adhered to in selecting the sources: first, that the work be devoted directly to the problem of word formation or to fields adjoining it – morphology, morphemics, lexicology; second, that the work be recognized as an

authoritative source in the history of Uzbek linguistics; third, that it express a clear theoretical position regarding the place or status of word formation in the system of linguistics. On the basis of these criteria, a total of twelve main sources were selected.

The methods of historical-comparative analysis, periodization, and systemic-structural analysis were used in the study. By means of the historical-comparative method, the views of representatives of various periods and various trends regarding the status of word formation were compared with one another; through the method of periodization, the stages of formation of word-formation theory were determined; while systemic-structural analysis served to examine, within a unified system, the relations of word formation bordering on morphemics, morphology, and lexicology.

The process of analysis was carried out in three stages: 1) collecting the sources and arranging them chronologically; 2) extracting and classifying, from each source, the views concerning the status of word formation within the system of linguistics; 3) forming general conclusions and a periodization scheme on the basis of comparing the views identified with one another. Since the research encompassed, as the object of analysis, not empirical linguistic material but rather theoretical-metatheoretical sources, the reliability of the results was ensured by direct recourse to the original texts of the sources and by page-by-page verification of the citations given.

Results

As a result of the analysis conducted, it was determined that the formation of word-formation theory in Uzbek linguistics may be divided into four main stages.

1) The initial (morphological) stage – the 1930s-1940s: special works devoted to the formation of verbs and nouns came into being, and word formation was regarded not as an independent phenomenon, but as a matter within the composition of morphology [9],[6].

2) The stage of separation – the 1940s: Professor A.Gulomov was the first to distinguish word formation as a separate object of research, determined its five methods (morphological, syntactic, lexical, semantic, phonetic), and proposed the formula of word-formation structure, formative *base + derivant = derivative* [4;22; [7;197].

3) The stage of institutionalization – 1975: word formation was officially recognized for the first time as an independent branch of linguistics in the work “Grammar of the Uzbek Language. Volume I, Morphology” [10;7-8].

4) The structural-semantic and systemic stage – from the 1980s to the beginning of the 21st century: A.Hojiyev further substantiated word formation as

an independent field lying between morphemics and morphology [12], Sh.Rahmatullayev proposed the term “lexeme formation” [8], H.Ne’matov and R.Rasulov interpreted the derived word as a unit of speech [6], while T.Bushuy and Sh.Safarov substantiated word formation as a separate level within the system of levels of language [3;44].

The analysis also showed the existence of three main theoretical trends concerning the status of word formation within the system of linguistics: (a) the trend of studying word formation within morphology (Tursunov, Mirzayev, Usmonov, Rasulov); (b) the trend of interpreting word formation as a field close to lexicology (Gulomov’s initial view, Rahmatullayev); (v) the trend of substantiating word formation as an independent level lying between morphemics and morphology (Gulomov’s later view, Hojiyev, Bushuy, Safarov).

Discussion

The results obtained show that the question of the status of word-formation theory in Uzbek linguistics has not had a one-time solution, but rather has taken shape as the result of a consistent evolutionary process. This state of affairs is explained, first of all, by the fact that the phenomenon of word formation itself possesses a twofold nature – both formal (morphological) and substantive (lexico-semantic) – and it is precisely this duality that has led scholars to differing theoretical positions.

The analysis shows that the initial study of word formation within morphology was, in large measure, connected with the transfer of Indo-European linguistic models into Uzbek linguistics [7;194-195]. It was precisely the critical approach to these models – in particular, the criticism initiated by A.G’ulomov – that gave rise, in Uzbek linguistics, to the necessity of studying word formation independently, proceeding from national language material. Viewed in this light, the process within Uzbek linguistics is in harmony with the tendencies within general theoretical linguistics, and the trend of distinguishing word formation as a separate level is likewise observed in contemporary world linguistics.

The practical significance of the research results is manifested in the following: first, the periodization scheme identified may be applied in higher education institutions in systematizing instructional materials for the courses “History of the Uzbek Language” and “Lexicology”; second, it serves as a theoretical basis for work on standardizing terminology relating to word formation (for instance, “lexeme formation,” “derivation,” “derivative”); third, the results may serve as a reference point for new lexicographic and grammatical research on the level of word formation.

Conclusion

The historical-theoretical analysis conducted showed that the formation of word-formation theory in Uzbek linguistics has passed through four stages – the morphological, the separation, the institutionalization, and the structural-semantic and systemic stages. This process, begun by A.Gulomov, was continued in the works of linguists such as A.Hojiyev, Sh.Rahmatullayev, T.Bushuy, and Sh.Safarov, and served to substantiate word formation as an independent level of linguistics lying between morphemics and morphology.

Thus, notwithstanding the existence, in the history of Uzbek linguistics, of views regarding the belonging of word formation to various branches, the fact that word formation is being studied as a separate branch in contemporary linguistics shows that the path of development of Uzbek linguistics is progressing and that substantial work is being carried out in this regard.

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