

A Comparison of the Lexicology of the Russian and Dari Languages

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.47814/ijssrr.v8i5.2752>

Abstract

Although the study of linguistic phenomena has a long history, serious study of it began at the start of the nineteenth century in Europe. In the first step, tracing the historical and comparative development of linguistic phenomena creates a kind of regularity, which leads to the discovery of the regularity of changes and transformations in Indo-European sounds. However, in the meantime, the comparison of other aspects of languages is never-ending. Lexicology is a branch of linguistics that emerged in the twentieth century and forms an independent part of language studies. Lexicology deals with the classification of words from a semantic perspective and their historical development. Synonyms, antonyms, monosemy, polysemy, the usage of words in terms of style and expression, as well as the evolution of words throughout history, are specific topics discussed in lexicology. The search and preparation of generalizations in the Russian and Dari languages, considering the branches studied in lexicology, have been conducted and reflected in this work.

Keywords: *Lexicology; Comparison; Root; Stress; Syllable; Adjective; Adverb; Noun; Prefix; Suffix; Synonym; Antonym; Inflectional Structure*

Introduction

The aim of the present scientific paper is to reveal the similarities and differences in lexicology between the Russian and Dari languages in order to gain information and make appropriate use of them.

In contemporary sciences, especially in comparative linguistics, methods are employed for which there is less doubt about their accuracy. These methods include historical comparative methods as well as the systematic study of linguistic phenomena, which are applied in this scientific paper.

Topic of Research

Lexicology is the science that deals with the grouping and classification of words in terms of form and meaning, or, in other words, the expression of relationships and connections of words in terms of form and meaning, as well as the study and specialization in the field of the development and etymology of words. [5]

The word is the fundamental topic of study and research in lexicology, although for speakers of any language, the definition and description of a word are considered very obvious and clear, so the issue of discussing a word seems unnecessary.

Such perception and approach were widespread until the beginning of scientific research and the emergence of modern linguistics in the early 20th century. However, serious analysis and study of words in different languages, particularly in the languages of Native American and African tribes, challenged the definition of the word. For speakers of Indo-European languages, determining the boundaries of words in a simple sentence seemed obvious and did not require linguistic analysis. For example: I / am going / to the market- (man / bazar / merawam), consisting of three words, each of which can freely be used in similar grammatical positions without changing form and meaning. The colloquial analysis of Dari language is significantly different from scientific linguistic analysis. [3]

In the Russian language, further segmentation has occurred, which also exists in English and French.

Therefore, it can be inferred that any definition for the word "Dari language" is also applicable to the word "Russian language". [12]

A word consists of a set of sounds that have meaning and stress. In both Russian and Dari languages, despite differences in the placement of stress in each language, stress plays a crucial role in identifying words and their boundaries. Stress in the Russian language is dynamic, and the syllable that bears stress is pronounced more distinctly and strongly than other syllables. Stress in Russian has no fixed position and can be placed in different parts of the word. For example:

1. Stress on the first syllable – яблоко (apple)
2. Stress on the second syllable – дорога (road)
3. Stress on the last syllable – молоко (milk)

Stress in Russian is used for distinguishing semantic and grammatical meanings, for example:

- мука' – flour
- му'ка – pain

For grammatical differentiation, like the imperative word "read," the stress is placed at the beginning of the word. [11] In Dari, stress is not as dynamic and is usually placed at the end of the word, with the exception of the imperative form, where the stress comes at the beginning of the word. In other cases, the stress is at the end of the word. For example:

Here (going home), the stress is at the end of the word, but in imperative words, the stress is also mostly at the end of the word, such as: read, don't do, go...[4]

The lexical meaning of a word refers to the stable connection between the sound sequence and the natural phenomena that are ingrained in the human mind. Most words name phenomena, characteristics, qualities, and processes of those phenomena. Words, considering their shared grammatical and lexical properties, are classified into larger groups, which are called categories or grammatical categories.

Grammatical categories in the Russian language are mostly formal, and Russian words are classified into specific categories based on the suffix (окончание) they have. In other words, Russian is a flexional language, while Dari lacks this feature and is an analytical language, which does not have any markers for showing or indicating categories in its endings. [4]

If we consider the word (книга), meaning book, it is clear that this word is a noun, as the suffix /a/ at the end of this word indicates the feminine gender of the noun. The word (хороший) is an adjective because it has the suffix /ий/ at its end. Also, (хорошо) is an adverb because it has /о/ at its end.

However, in Dari, there is no such suffix. For example:

- خوب- adjective.
- خوب- noun.

The appearance of these two words does not show which one is a noun and which one is an adjective. Therefore, when defining grammatical categories in the Dari language, more attention is paid to the meaning of the word, while in Russian, in addition to meaning, the form and ending are also considered. Moreover, in Russian, each word belongs to only one category, whereas in Dari, there are many instances where a word can belong to several categories (classifications). For example:

- خوب- noun: خوبان این شهر. (Good people of this city).
- خوب- adjective: او شخص خوب هست. (He is a good person).
- خوب- adverb: او خوب کار میکند. (He works well).

In the Russian language, words not only convey lexical meaning but also carry grammatical meaning. However, such instances are not observed in Dari words. [14]

In Russian, adjectives can have both singular and plural forms. For example: Красивые здания были построены в городе. (In the city, beautiful buildings have been constructed).

However, such a phenomenon does not exist in Dari. For example: Interesting book. Interesting books.

In the Russian language, due to the inflectional structure of words, they can be placed almost without restriction in any part of the sentence, and the meaning of the sentence remains unchanged in terms of grammatical function. For example: [10]

- Я читаю книгу.
- Книгу читаю я.

But such changes and rearrangements are not always possible in all sentences of the Dari language due to its analytical nature. In both languages, due to the development and existence of a strong multi-century culture, most words have individual meanings.

Each word generally has a primary meaning and several figurative meanings. For example, the word (родить) in Russian has the following primary and figurative meanings: [6]

1. А.С. Пушкил родился в 1799 году. - A.S. Pushkin was born in 1799. (Literal meaning)
2. Ум правду родит. - Mind gives birth to truth. (Figurative meaning)
3. Земля хроршр родит. - The earth yields well. (figurative meaning)

In the Dari language, we can observe the literal and figurative meanings of the word "sea." How does it work?

The literal meaning of the word "sea" usually refers to the body of water. For example:

1. We observed the sea from the edge of the shore. (literal meaning)

In a figurative sense, the word "sea" can refer to vast and unlimited concepts. That is, it can be used to describe a human characteristic or feeling, such as "the sea of emotions" or "the sea of knowledge." For example:

2. He is immersed in the sea of knowledge, meaning that the person is very knowledgeable and wise. Here, "sea" no longer refers to water but to a metaphorical or figurative concept.

Such words are used in the works of Mawlana Jalaluddin Balkhi, such as in his *Masnavi and Manawi, Divan-e-Shams*, as well as in the works of Sadi Shirazi, such as *Bustan and Golestan*, where such metaphors are used to describe human and social characteristics.

Merit and Capability:

- The literal meaning of merit refers to a person's ability or competence in performing a specific task. For example: He has the necessary merit to manage this task.
- The figurative meaning of merit may refer to a person's right or deservingness to receive something. For example: He deserved a better award. Here, it refers to the person's merit to receive a better reward.
- The literal meaning of capability refers to the skills, characteristics, and abilities of a person that make them capable of performing tasks properly or accepting responsibilities. For example: He has the capability to teach at the university.
- The figurative meaning of capability might refer to the moral or inner qualities of a person that make them suitable for a specific position. For example: His capability led him to be placed in this position. Here, it refers to the individual's ethical qualities that earn him respect and admiration.

Ultimately, both words "merit" and "capability" refer to a person's abilities, characteristics, and moral and human qualifications that make them suitable for performing tasks or assuming responsibilities.

Similarly, the words "merit" and "capability" appear in the poems of Hafiz Shirazi and are interpreted in this way:

The heartbroken ones are humble,

Their foreheads do not carry the burning mark of sorrow.

These two verses, in total, refer to the contrast between appearance and inner reality, where a person may have an inner life full of pain and suffering, but these pains may not be outwardly visible. (Zohuri)

The figurative meanings of words arise as a result of the transfer of meaning from one object or phenomenon to another based on similarity. In the above examples (Russian and Dari), this transfer is clearly seen. As it was found, most words in both languages have multiple meanings; however, some words, especially scientific and technical terms, have a single meaning in both languages. The monosemous words in both languages can be classified as follows:

1. Proper names (احمد - Ahmad, Виктор - Viktor) refer only to specific individuals. In such cases, the main meaning of the word is not intended, and understanding the meaning of proper names is not of great importance.
2. Monosemous words are usually newly introduced into languages and are of recent origin, such as pizza – پیتزا.
3. Monosemous words refer to an object or tool with a limited usage. For example: taxi – تاکسی.
4. Monosemous words, which usually denote scientific terms. For example: physics – فزیک [4]

In both languages, there are similar words that are called (омонимы) (homonyms) in Russian linguistics, and they come in various forms. Similar words include: In Russian: source – ключ (key) and key – ключ are both homonyms in the Russian language. In Dari: تنها (alone) – تنها (bodies), باز (a type of bird) – باز (open) are similar words.

Homonyms are words that have the same pronunciation but different meanings. The emergence of such words in both languages occurs in two ways:

1. Homonyms have developed from different roots but have become similar at a certain point in the historical development of the language.
2. There are homonyms that, etymologically, come from the same root, but as a result of later changes, the similarity in meaning between them becomes restricted, leading to the creation of a polysemous word.

Another group of words consists of synonyms, which are frequently found in both languages (Russian and Dari) due to their literary and cultural characteristics. For example:

Родина " Homeland "; میهن - Отечество " Patronymic ". These two words are synonymous, but from a stylistic perspective, their usage scope in both languages is different. " Homeland " is more of a neutral word (stylistically) and can be used in any context (written and spoken), while " Patronymic " is only used in literary and artistic language. Synonyms are very important for expressing deep meaning.

Antonyms in both languages are created in different ways. Some of them are formed using prefixes (не - نا Not) in Russian, which signifies negation, while in Dari, the prefix (بی - Without) is usually used to create antonyms. For example:

- правда - truth ; دروغ - не правда - lie – not truth
- имеющий - having ; ندارد - не имеющий - without
- воспитанный - well-mannered ; بی ادب - невоспитанный – rude [7]

Most parts of speech (verbs, nouns, adjectives, and adverbs) have their antonyms. Antonyms can be formed from different roots or through different word-formation techniques:

- Adverb (from different roots): мало (few) – много (many)
- Adjective (from different roots): плохой (bad) – хороший (good)
- Adjective (from the same root): умный (smart) – неумный (not smart)

The words in both languages are formed from various phenomena. Over the course of the development and evolution of the Russian and Dari languages, in addition to their usage, many original groups of words were developed due to the influx of foreign words, expanding the vocabulary in both languages. Russian and Dari belong to the Indo-European language family. This language family belonged to a broad group of peoples around four thousand years before Christ, and later spread throughout the world. There are no exact records of the early Indo-European language, but linguists have reconstructed its grammatical structure over the past two centuries by comparing the evolution of existing languages and languages of peoples such as Old Persian, Avesta, Sanskrit, Old Germanic, and others. A large number of original words still maintain similar pronunciation in Russian and Dari. For example:

مادر (mother) мать - دختر (daughter) дочь - دو (two) два - ده (ten) десять ... [1]

After the separation of the Indo-European tribes and the formation of new groups from its body in the Asian region (especially around the Amu Darya and Syr Darya), and the settlement of the Slavic tribes in the western Volga region and the north of the Black Sea, subsequent developments and the separation of languages from ancient Slavic led to the emergence of the Russian language and ancient Avestan and Persian (Modern Dari Persian) languages from the early centuries after Christ. The settlement of these languages in separate regions and their influence from neighboring tribes led to the adoption of many words in these languages.

After the acceptance and spread of Islam, the Dari language borrowed numerous words from Arabic. Over the past thousand years, the influence of this language on Dari has significantly expanded, and Arabic words have entered the Dari language in various fields without restriction.[13]

The Russian language, with the adoption of Christianity in the 9th century and acquaintance with Greek civilization, incorporated Arabic and Greek words into its language through religious and philosophical books. In recent centuries, due to familiarity with modern sciences and technologies, many words from Western languages like English, French, German, and Italian have entered the Russian, Dari, and other languages of the world. For example, words like "спорт" (sport), "футбол" (football), etc., have entered from English.

From the French language, words like انتك (antic), بيوتيك (biotic), юник (unique), فوتو (photo), البوم (album), ژاندارم (gendarme), and پوليس (police) have been borrowed. Also, word exchange between Russian and Dari languages has existed since ancient times and continues to this day. Some words have entered Dari through the Turkish language, which was in close proximity to Russian. For example: سمار (samovar), چاينك (teapot), پتونوس (potnus), سيوتنيك (sputnik)...

Words from the Dari language are also used in the Russian language. For example: پسته (pistachio), تافته (taffeta). [9]

Results

1. The Russian and Dari languages, due to existing connections, share many similarities with the Proto-Indo-European language.
2. The Dari language, as a result of changes, has a word structure that sometimes differs in the Russian language.
3. Both languages have many lexical phenomena.

Suggestions

1. The comparison of lexicology in Russian and Dari languages has important theoretical results for both languages. However, issues in defining words remain unclear, and this comparison can be a step forward toward reaching a comprehensive and precise definition of words.
2. Since learning foreign languages cannot happen without learning vocabulary, and on the other hand, both languages have rich lexicons, this comparison could provide useful methodological advice due to the identified similarities and differences.

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