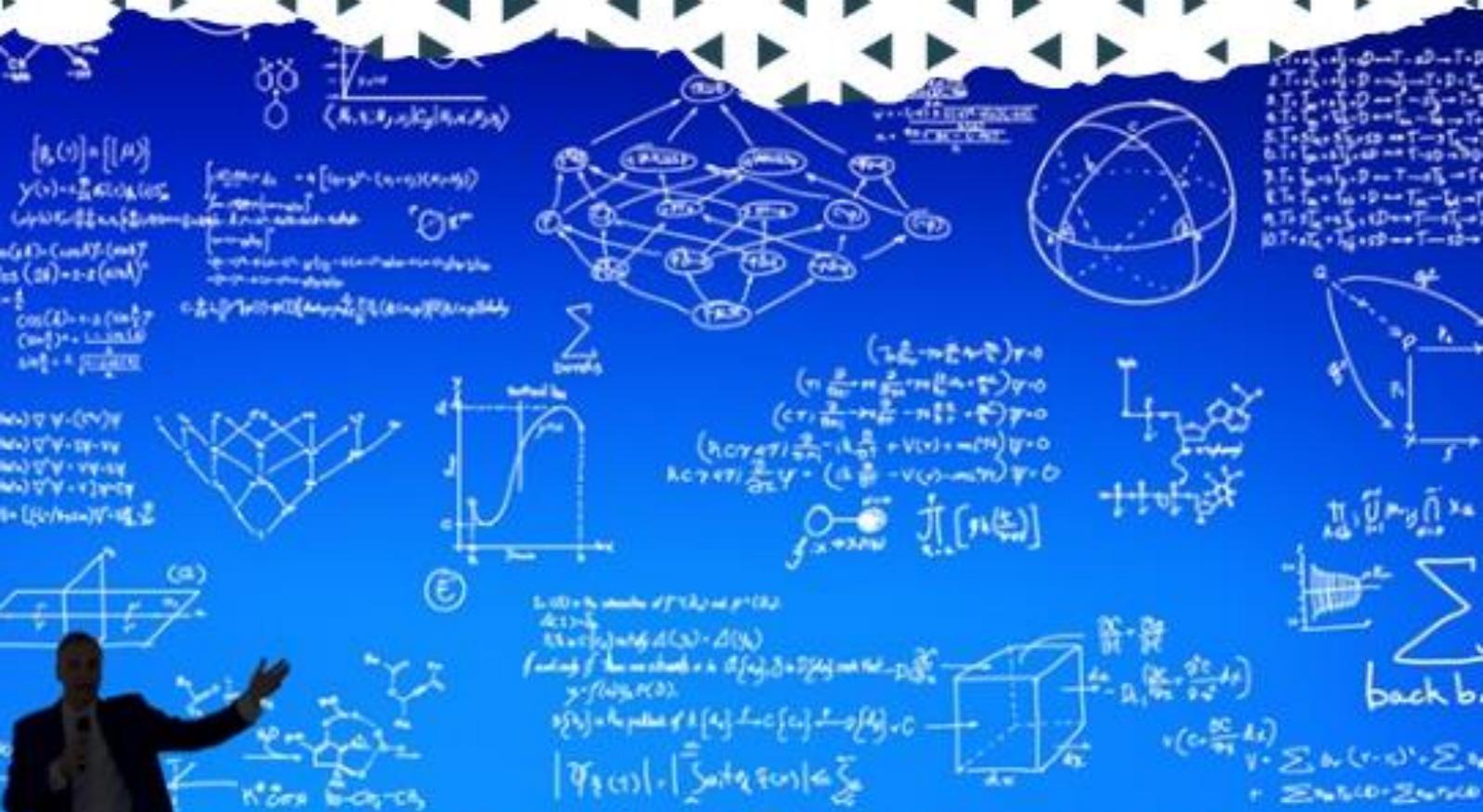




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**SEMANTIC AND STRUCTURAL PROPERTIES OF WORDS IN MODERN
LEXICOLOGY****Umaraliyeva Munojatxon**

Teacher of Fergana State University

Aminjonov Dilyor Doniyor zoda

Student of Fergana State University

aminjonovdma@gmail.com. +998770860154

Abstract. In modern linguistic theory, lexicology investigates words not only as isolated items but as functional elements within a dynamic lexical system. This article examines the semantic and structural properties of words from a contemporary lexicological perspective, with particular attention to how meaning, form, and usage interact in language. The study discusses lexical meaning, contextual variation, internal word structure, and word formation processes, emphasizing their role in communication rather than historical description. By focusing on functional and usage-based aspects of words, the article aims to demonstrate that semantic and structural properties cannot be analyzed separately, as they jointly contribute to the organization and development of the lexicon.

Key words: lexicology, lexical meaning, word structure, morphology, lexical system

Introduction. Lexicology occupies a central position in linguistic studies because vocabulary represents the most flexible and expressive component of language. Unlike grammatical structures, which are relatively stable, the lexicon constantly adapts to social, cultural, and communicative needs [1]. Words serve as the primary means through which speakers encode experience, express attitudes, and convey information. As a result, the study of words requires attention not only to their meanings but also to their internal structure and functional behavior in discourse.

Modern approaches to lexicology emphasize the systematic nature of vocabulary, viewing words as elements of an interconnected lexical network rather than independent units [2]. From this perspective, the semantic and structural properties of words are closely linked: meaning influences form, and form constrains meaning. Therefore, an integrated analysis of these properties is essential for understanding how the lexicon operates as part of the overall language system.

Semantic Properties of Words in Lexicology

The semantic aspect of lexicology focuses on how words encode meaning and how this meaning functions in communication. Lexical meaning is not fixed or absolute; rather, it is shaped by context, usage, and speaker intention [3]. A single word may convey different meanings depending on situational and linguistic factors, which highlights the importance of context in semantic interpretation.



Modern semantic theories distinguish between core meaning and contextual meaning. The core meaning represents the relatively stable semantic content shared by speakers, while contextual meaning emerges in actual language use [4]. This distinction allows lexicologists to explain phenomena such as polysemy, where one word develops several related meanings over time. Semantic flexibility enables vocabulary to respond to new communicative demands without the constant creation of new lexical items.

In addition, semantic relations between words play a crucial role in structuring the lexicon. Words are linked through relations such as similarity, opposition, and inclusion, forming semantic fields that reflect conceptual organization [5]. These relations help speakers access and interpret vocabulary efficiently, demonstrating that meaning is distributed across the lexical system rather than stored in isolated words.

Structural Characteristics of Words

The structural analysis of words examines their internal composition and formal organization. From a lexicological point of view, a word consists of one or more morphemes, each contributing to its overall meaning or grammatical function [6]. Morphemic structure provides insight into how complex meanings are built from smaller meaningful units.

Words may be structurally simple or complex. Simple words consist of a single morpheme, whereas complex words are formed through derivation or compounding. These structural processes are not random; they follow productive patterns that allow speakers to generate new words in a systematic way [7]. For example, derivational affixes often signal changes in word class or meaning, which illustrates the close connection between structure and semantics.

Structural properties also influence how words behave syntactically. The internal composition of a word can determine its grammatical category and combinatory possibilities in sentences. Thus, word structure is not merely a formal characteristic but a functional feature that affects language use.

Word Formation and Lexical Development

One of the key concerns of modern lexicology is explaining how vocabulary expands and adapts. Word formation processes such as affixation, compounding, and conversion provide efficient mechanisms for lexical growth [8]. These processes allow languages to respond to technological innovation, social change, and cultural contact.

In addition to formal word formation, semantic extension plays a significant role in lexical development. Existing words may acquire new meanings through metaphorical or associative processes, enabling speakers to describe new concepts using familiar linguistic resources [9]. This interaction between semantic change and structural patterns demonstrates that lexical development is a dynamic and creative process.



From a modern perspective, lexical growth is closely connected to language use. Frequency, communicative relevance, and social factors influence which new words or meanings become established in the lexicon. As a result, lexicology increasingly incorporates usage-based and functional approaches to vocabulary analysis.

Conclusion. The analysis of semantic and structural properties of words reveals that lexicology is concerned with both meaning and form as interdependent aspects of vocabulary. Words function as complex units whose semantic content and structural organization jointly contribute to communication. Modern lexicological approaches emphasize context, usage, and systematic relations within the lexicon, moving beyond purely descriptive or historical accounts.

Understanding how words are structured and how they convey meaning enhances our knowledge of language organization and use. Such insights are particularly valuable for applied fields such as language teaching, translation, and lexicography, where effective vocabulary description and instruction depend on an integrated view of semantic and structural properties.

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