# ZAMONAVIY ILM-FAN VA TA'LIM: MUAMMO VA YECHIMLAR

## ILMIY-AMALIY KONFERENSIYA
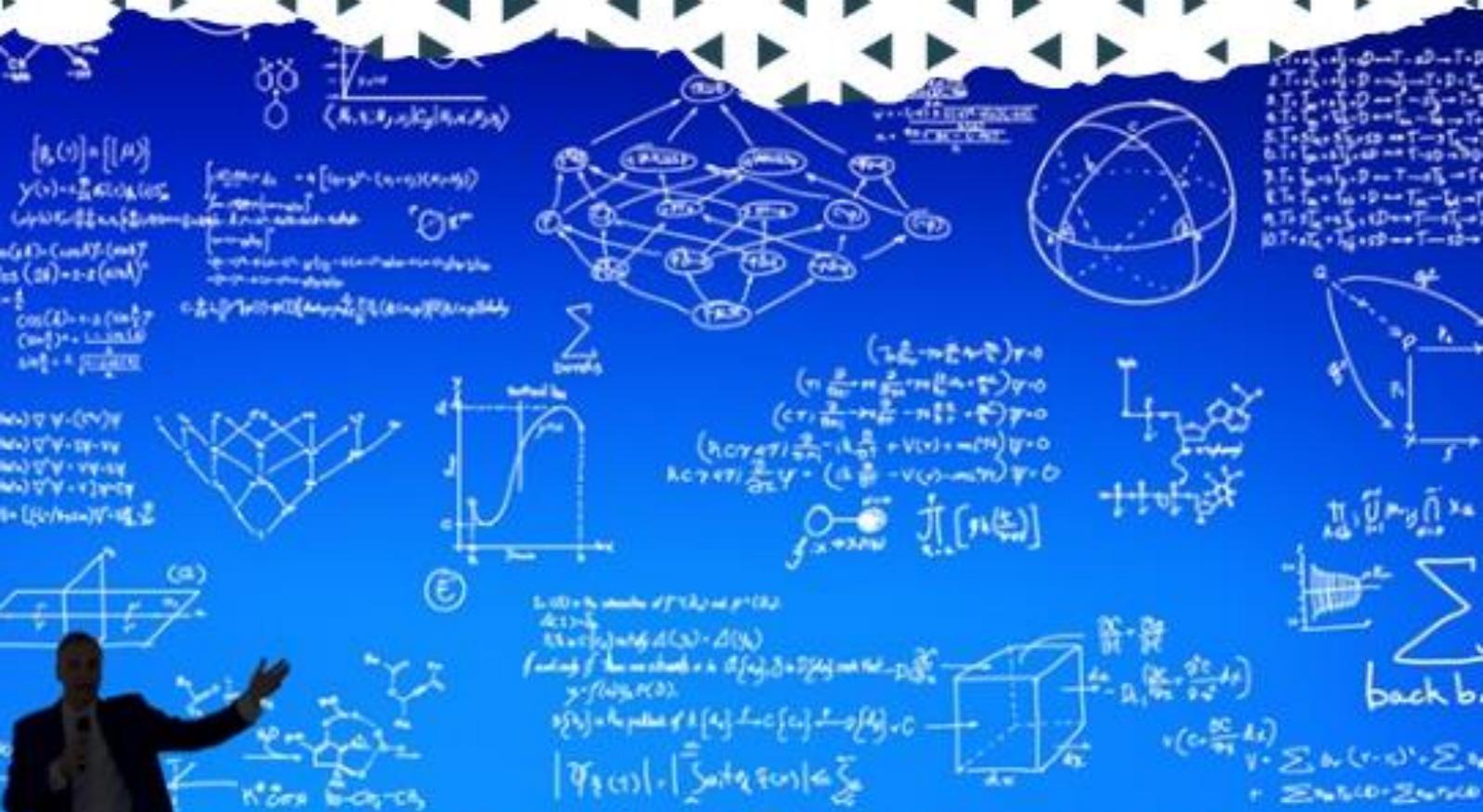
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# LEXICAL CATEGORIZATION AND MEANING ORGANIZATION IN MODERN LEXICOLOGY

**Umaraliyeva Munojatxon**

Teacher of Fergana State University

**Yoqubov Hisenxon Botir zoda**

Student of Fergana State University

manujoniman2005@gmail.com, +998885573030

**Abstract.** Modern lexicology investigates how words are organized and categorized within a language's lexical system. This article focuses on lexical categorization and the organization of meaning, examining how speakers classify words based on conceptual, functional, and communicative principles. Rather than analysing word structure or usage frequency, the study explores how lexical categories reflect human cognition and linguistic convention. The paper discusses meaning organization, lexical grouping, and category boundaries, emphasizing that vocabulary structure mirrors patterns of human conceptualization and social interaction.

**Keywords:** lexicology, lexical categorization, meaning organization, lexical system, cognition

**Introduction.** One of the central tasks of lexicology is to explain how vocabulary is organized in the human mind and within the language system. Words are not stored or used randomly; instead, they are grouped into categories that reflect shared features and communicative functions [1]. These categories help speakers process, retrieve, and interpret lexical items efficiently during communication.

In modern linguistic research, lexical categorization is viewed as a cognitive and linguistic process shaped by experience and convention [2]. This approach moves beyond traditional dictionary-based descriptions and focuses on how speakers mentally organize meaning. As a result, lexicology increasingly intersects with cognitive linguistics and semantics, offering new perspectives on the structure of the lexicon.

## Lexical Categories and Conceptual Grouping

Lexical categories represent groupings of words based on conceptual similarity rather than formal structure. Such categories include concrete and abstract nouns, action and state verbs, evaluative adjectives, and other semantic groupings [3]. These groupings allow speakers to make sense of complex experiences by mapping them onto linguistic forms.

Unlike rigid grammatical classes, lexical categories often have flexible boundaries. Words may belong to multiple categories depending on context and interpretation [4]. This flexibility reflects the dynamic nature of meaning organization and demonstrates that lexical categories are shaped by usage and cognition rather than strict formal rules.

## Meaning Organization in the Lexical System

Meaning organization refers to the way lexical items are interconnected within the vocabulary. Words form networks based on similarity, contrast, and association, creating structured patterns of meaning [5]. These networks enable speakers to infer meaning, recognize relationships, and expand vocabulary through analogy. From a lexicological perspective, meaning organization is influenced by cultural knowledge and shared experience. Lexical distinctions typically reflect what is considered relevant or significant within a speech community [6]. Therefore, the structure of the lexicon provides insight into both linguistic and cultural systems.

### Lexical Categorization and Language Change

Lexical categories are not static; they evolve as languages respond to new realities. Technological innovation, social change, and cultural contact introduce new concepts that require linguistic categorization [7]. As a result, existing categories may expand, shift, or reorganize to accommodate new meanings. This process demonstrates that lexical categorization is closely connected to language change. Speakers actively negotiate category boundaries through usage, gradually establishing new lexical patterns [8]. Lexicology studies these developments to understand how meaning organization adapts over time.

**Conclusion.** The examination of lexical categorization and meaning organization highlights the systematic nature of vocabulary in modern lexicology. Words are organized into flexible categories that reflect cognitive processes and communicative needs rather than purely formal characteristics.

By focusing on how meaning is grouped and structured within the lexicon, lexicology offers valuable insights into language use, conceptualization, and change. This perspective enriches our understanding of vocabulary as a dynamic system shaped by both linguistic structure and human cognition.

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