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INGLIZ TILIDA ONOMATOPEIK SO‘ZLARNING FONOSEMANTIK TAHLILI
PHONOSEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF ONOMATOPEIC WORDS IN ENGLISH
LANGUAGE

ФОНОСЕМАТИЧЕСКИЙ АНАЛИЗ ЗВУКОПОДРАЖАТЕЛЬНЫХ СЛОВ В
АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

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Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilidagi onomapoetik so‘zlardagi tovush va ma’no o‘rtasidagi munosabat fonosemantik jihatdan o‘rganilgan. Unda fonosemantika, tovushlar qanday ma’no bildirishini o‘rganish va uning onomatopoeik so‘zlarga aloqadorligi haqida to‘liq ma’lumot berilgan. Maqolada, shuningdek, ushbu so‘zlarning fonetik elementlari ularning semantik tarkibiga qanday ta’sir ko‘rsatishi o‘rganildi, onomatopoeik so‘zlarni eshitish orqali idrok etish va lingvistik tasvir o‘rtasidagi ichki bog‘liqlik hodisasi muhokama qilingan.

Аннотация

В этой статье исследуются отношения между звуком и значением звукоподражательных слов в английском языке, используя фonoсемантический аналитический подход. Он предоставляет всесторонний обзор фonoсемантики, изучение того, как звуки передают значение, и ее отношение к звукоподражательным словам. Исследование исследует, как фонетические элементы этих слов влияют на их семантическое содержание, подчеркивая внутреннюю связь между слуховым восприятием и языковым представлением.

Abstract

This article investigates the relationship between sound and meaning in onomatopoeic words within English language, employing a phonosemantic analytical framework. It provides a comprehensive overview of phonosemantics, the study of how sounds convey meaning, and its relevance to onomatopoeic words. The study explores how phonetic elements of these words contribute to their semantic content, emphasizing the intrinsic connection between auditory perception and linguistic representation.

Key words: phonosemantics, onomatopoeic words, semantics, phonetic features, sound symbolism, plosive sound, fricative sound, phonosemantic analysis.

Kalit so‘zlar: fonosemantika, onomatopoeik so‘zlar, semantika, fonetik xususiyatlar, tovush simbolizmi, portlovchi tovush, frikativ tovush, fonosemantik tahlil.

Ключевые слова: фonoсемантика, звукоподражательные слова, семантика, фонетические особенности, звуковая символика, взрывной звук, фрикативный звук, фonoсемантический анализ.

INTRODUCTION

The issue of the relationship between a phonetic sound and the meaning of a word has been observed by linguists for a long time; however, even in our time the proper answer still has not been given, and the issue continues to cause numerous disputes. A surge of interest in this science led to the emergence of a number of interesting works related to the definition of the meaning of phonemes. Phonosemantics, as a science, studies the connection between the sound of a word and the emotional sensations that it causes in the mind of a person who is a native speaker. Phonosemantics pays attention not so much to the lexical meaning of a word as to the totality of its phonetic elements. Phonosemantics, the study of the relationship between sounds and meanings in language, offers a unique lens through which to examine imitative words. These words are a subset of the broader category of sound symbolism, where phonetic elements directly reflect sensory or emotional experiences. Phonosemantics also explores the role of sound patterns, such as consonant clusters, vowel harmony, or tonal contours, in creating meaning distinctions in specific languages. These patterns may contribute to the semantic distinctions or categorization of words within a particular language or language family. Additionally, research in phonosemantics investigates crosslinguistic

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patterns and similarities in sound-meaning associations. It explores how different languages might exhibit similar sound symbolism or certain recurring patterns in sound-meaning relationships. This comparative aspect of phonosemantics contributes to our understanding of how sounds and meaning interact across different linguistic systems. The founder of phonosemantics is S. V. Voronin who contributed to the development of the main research method. His method consists in the analysis of a word through interrelated operations aimed at establishing the presence or absence of tone-painting in a word and identifying its nature. Onomatopoeic words are particularly fascinating because they represent a direct mapping between the auditory properties of the referent and the phonetic structure of the word. This paper aims to dissect the phonosemantic characteristics of these words, elucidating the systematic patterns that govern their formation and usage in English.

METHODOLOGY

The study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative analyses. A corpus of onomatopoeic words was compiled from various English language dictionaries and linguistic resources. Phonological analysis was conducted to identify common phonemes and phoneme clusters, while semantic analysis focused on the meaning and usage contexts of these words. Since the field of phonosemantics are based on the combinative approaches of two different linguistic branches like phonetics and semantics, it is very rare case to analyse the word from those two perspectives. But in the case of onomatopoeia, there is a vivid connection of words phonetic features with its meaning. Onomatopoeic words are always in the central attention of phonosemantic studies as their sound symbolic characteristics make them unique in this field. Those words involve different methodological approaches from semantic classification to phonetic analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.

Generally phonosemantic covers all of the branches of linguistics, but in the case of onomatopoeia it is obvious that some words are connected with certain sounds because of their phonosemantic features. Onomatopoeic words in English often exhibit distinct phonological features that align with their meanings. For example, the word "slither" not only mimics the sound of a snake moving but also evokes the imagery of its sinuous motion. This dual conveyance of sound and imagery enhances the communicative efficiency of imitative words, making them powerful tools in descriptive and expressive language. For instance, plosive sounds (e.g., /b/, /p/, /t/, /d/) are frequently found in words that mimic abrupt, impactful sounds such as "bang," "pop," or "tick." Conversely, fricatives (e.g., /s/, /ʃ/, /z/, /ʒ/) are prevalent in words that represent continuous sounds, like "hiss," "shush," and "buzz." These phonological patterns suggest that certain sounds inherently carry specific semantic qualities, facilitating immediate and intuitive understanding. More specifically, it is much simpler to comprehend the meaning of the word to the listener through phonetic system of that word. In the following table there are given some aspects of English sounds which make them referential to their semantics:

Existence of plosive sound /b/ at the beginning of the word carries the meaning of sudden, unexpected action with very loud noise	Boom, bang, bark, beep
Combination of the consonant sounds /sp/ at the beginning of the word refers to sounds of water or liquid	Splash, spray
Beginning of the word with two consonant sounds represent /cl/ sharp ringing sounds made by hard or solid things	Clink, clutter, clang, click
Existence of double fricative sounds /zz/ at the middle of the word relates to the process of cooking	Drizzle, sizzle, fizzy
Coming of two consonant sounds /gr/ at the beginning of the word refers to the a deep inarticulate sound conveying pain or despair	Groan, growl, grind

The semantic properties of onomatopoeic words reveal that they often convey more than just the auditory characteristics of the referent. Moreover, the phonetic aspects of certain sounds makes it clear that being plosiveness or fricativeness has an influence on the semantic denotation of the word. As given in the table above, phonetic aspects of the onomatopoeic words are of much importance in meaning through different sound combinations rather than forming words' building elements in speech. Those characteristics of onomatopoeic words make them unique in English

lexicon with their correlation between sounds and meaning in the same word. Through examples above it seems that only consonant sounds play a basic role in the formation of semantic properties in English language but it still obvious that, in the case of onomatopoeic words there are certain phonetic features of vowel sounds which contributed to semantic perception of that word. We have also to admit that some vowels have the meaning similar in many languages. For example:

oh! – astonishment

ooh-la-la-mockery

a-a-a! – a cry of pain or danger

u-u-u – disappointment.

Although there is a small difference between the languages in sound symbolic words there are many similar interjective sounds which are universal to all languages. But here it is crucial to differentiate onomatopoeic words from interjections although their phonetic system expresses similarity. Some onomatopoeic words consists of vowel sounds making them similar to interjections. From a cognitive perspective, imitative words provide a direct link between perception and linguistic expression. They leverage the human brain's ability to associate sounds with meanings, thus facilitating quick and effective communication. This efficiency is particularly evident in language acquisition among children, who often learn and use onomatopoeic words early in their linguistic development.

CONCLUSION

The phosemantic analysis of imitative words in the English language underscores the intricate relationship between phonetic form and semantic content. Imitative words exemplify how sound symbolism operates in natural language, providing insights into the cognitive and communicative mechanisms that underlie human speech. Certain words in English language which denote onomatopoeic meaning have common phonetic features specific to exact sounds or sound combinations. Despite their position in the word those sounds convey specific meanings according to their semantic characteristics which make them separate from other morphological elements in that language. Although not only for English but universal phonetic moulds and classifications of onomatopoeic words have already been researched, it is still debatable to categorize onomatopoeic words according to their sound symbolic elements. Future research could expand this analysis to other languages and explore cross-linguistic similarities and differences in onomatopoeic word formation.

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