WORLD CONFERENCE ON STUDENT - CENTERED LEARNING APPROACHES

GRADONYMIC RELATIONS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK PROVERBS: A LINGUOPRAGMATIC PERSPECTIVE

Ergasheva Sohiba Baxtiyor qizi

ORCID: 0009-0000-5773-7802

Email: sohibaergasheva01@gmail.com

1st Year Master's Student

Tashkent University of Social Innovation

Abstract

This article examines the theoretical and methodological foundations for identifying implicit gradonymic relations found in English and Uzbek proverbs. The study analyzes the place of the concept of gradonymy in linguistics, its semantic and pragmatic characteristics, as well as the mechanisms through which it is implicitly manifested in proverbial structures. The potential of semantic componential analysis, contextual analysis, pragmatic analysis, and comparative analysis in identifying implicit gradonymic relations is scientifically substantiated. In addition, a comprehensive methodological approach is proposed for the linguopragmatic study of English and Uzbek proverbs. The findings of the study are of theoretical and practical significance for the development of gradonymy theory, the improvement of methods for the linguopragmatic analysis of proverbs, and further research in the fields of comparative linguistics, phraseology, and intercultural communication.

Keywords: gradonymy, implicit gradonymic relations, proverbs, linguopragmatics, semantic analysis, pragmatic analysis, contextual analysis, comparative analysis, methodological approach, English language, Uzbek language.

Language is not merely a means of transmitting information but also a complex system through which speakers express, interpret, and negotiate meaning in particular communicative and cultural contexts. Within this system, proverbs occupy a

significant position as concise and culturally embedded linguistic units that reflect collective experience, traditional values, social norms, and patterns of human reasoning. Their semantic structure often extends beyond the explicit meaning of the words used, allowing additional meanings to be inferred through contextual, pragmatic, and cultural interpretation. Therefore, the investigation of implicit semantic relations in proverbs represents an important area of contemporary linguistic research.

One of the semantic phenomena that can be observed in proverbial expressions is gradonymy, which refers to a hierarchical or gradual relationship between linguistic units based on different degrees of a particular semantic feature. Unlike synonymy, where words may denote relatively similar concepts, gradonymic relations involve a gradual increase or decrease in the intensity, quantity, quality, or other measurable characteristics of a phenomenon. Such relations may be expressed explicitly through lexical choices; however, they can also remain implicit, requiring the reader or listener to reconstruct the underlying semantic scale from the context. The study of gradonymy has attracted attention within semantic theory because gradual relations reveal the multidimensional nature of lexical and conceptual organization. In proverbial discourse, these relations acquire additional significance because proverbs frequently communicate their intended message indirectly. A proverb may juxtapose two or more concepts without explicitly indicating that they occupy different positions on a semantic scale. The gradational relationship between these concepts can consequently be identified through contextual interpretation, semantic comparison, and pragmatic inference. The problem becomes particularly relevant when English and Uzbek proverbs are examined comparatively. Although both languages employ proverbs to express universal human experiences and culturally specific values, the ways in which gradational meanings are conceptualized and linguistically represented may differ. The identification of implicit gradonymic relations in two linguistically and culturally distinct systems therefore makes it possible to reveal both common semantic patterns

and culture-specific mechanisms of meaning construction. From a linguopragmatic perspective, the interpretation of implicit gradonymic relations requires consideration not only of the lexical meanings of individual components but also of their interaction within the proverbial structure. The communicative intention of a proverb, the relationship between its components, the contextual situation, and the cultural knowledge shared by the participants may all contribute to the interpretation of a gradational relationship. Consequently, a purely lexical or semantic analysis may not always be sufficient to identify such relations, making the integration of semantic and pragmatic approaches particularly important. Despite the considerable attention given to gradonymy, phraseology, and proverb studies, the implicit manifestation of gradonymic relations in English and Uzbek proverbs remains insufficiently explored from a linguopragmatic and comparative perspective. In particular, there is a need for a systematic methodological framework that can identify gradational relations when they are not directly expressed by lexical markers but are inferred from the semantic and pragmatic organization of proverbial expressions. The present study therefore aims to examine the theoretical and methodological foundations for identifying implicit gradonymic relations in English and Uzbek proverbs. It focuses on the semantic nature of gradonymy, the mechanisms of its implicit realization in proverbial structures, and the methodological procedures that can be applied to reveal such relations. Special attention is given to semantic componential analysis, contextual analysis, pragmatic analysis, and comparative analysis as complementary methods for investigating the phenomenon.

The study is guided by the following research objectives: (1) to clarify the theoretical understanding of gradonymy and its relationship to semantic and pragmatic meaning; (2) to identify the linguistic mechanisms through which implicit gradonymic relations are realized in English and Uzbek proverbs; (3) to establish the potential of semantic, contextual, pragmatic, and comparative approaches for their identification;

and (4) to develop a comprehensive methodological framework for the linguopragmatic analysis of implicit gradonymic relations in proverbial discourse.

The significance of the research lies in its attempt to connect the theory of gradonymy with the linguopragmatic interpretation of proverbial expressions. The findings may contribute to the further development of semantic and phraseological studies and provide a methodological basis for comparative research involving English and Uzbek. In addition, the study may be relevant to research in intercultural communication, where understanding implicit meaning and culturally determined patterns of conceptualization plays an important role. Gradonymy is a semantic relationship that reflects different degrees of a common feature, quality, quantity, or state. Unlike synonymy, which is based primarily on similarity of meaning, gradonymy represents linguistic or conceptual units as points on a gradual semantic scale. Thus, the units involved share a general semantic component but differ in the degree of its manifestation. Gradonymic relations may be expressed explicitly through lexical means or implicitly through the interaction of words and concepts within a particular context. The latter is especially relevant to proverbial discourse, where meaning is often conveyed indirectly. In such cases, the gradational relationship is not directly marked but can be inferred from the semantic connection between the components of a proverb.

The identification of implicit gradonymic relations requires consideration of both semantic and pragmatic factors. Componential analysis helps determine the common and distinctive semantic features of the units, while contextual and pragmatic analysis reveals how these features contribute to the intended meaning of the proverb. Therefore, gradonymy in proverbial discourse can be viewed not only as a lexical-semantic phenomenon but also as a linguopragmatic one. In English and Uzbek proverbs, implicit gradonymic relations may reflect different degrees of human qualities, behaviour, emotions, social situations, and evaluative meanings. A

comparative analysis of such relations makes it possible to identify both universal patterns and language-specific ways of expressing gradational meaning. This theoretical perspective provides the basis for further analysis of implicit gradonymic relations in English and Uzbek proverbial expressions. Implicit gradonymic relations in proverbs are expressed indirectly, without explicit linguistic markers of degree. They emerge from the semantic interaction of the words, concepts, and images used in a proverbial expression. In such cases, the reader or listener needs to infer the underlying semantic scale based on contextual and cultural knowledge. Proverbs frequently present different degrees of a particular quality or situation through comparison, contrast, sequence, or metaphor. These relations may concern human character, emotions, behaviour, social status, quantity, or intensity. Although the gradational relationship is not directly stated, it becomes recognizable through the relationship between the components of the proverb and its overall communicative meaning. The identification of such relations requires an integrated analysis. Semantic analysis reveals the shared feature and differences in degree, while contextual and pragmatic analysis helps determine how the implied gradation contributes to the proverb's intended message. In comparative research, English and Uzbek proverbs can therefore demonstrate both similar ways of conceptualizing gradation and culture-specific patterns of its implicit expression. Thus, implicit gradonymy represents an important aspect of proverbial meaning, connecting semantic gradation with pragmatic interpretation and providing a useful basis for comparative linguopragmatic analysis.

The identification of implicit gradonymic relations in English and Uzbek proverbs requires a combination of complementary research methods. Componential analysis is used to identify the common semantic features shared by the lexical units and to determine differences in their degree of manifestation. Contextual analysis helps reveal how the meaning of these units changes or becomes more specific within a proverbial structure. Pragmatic analysis focuses on the communicative intention,

evaluative meaning, and implied message of the proverb. Finally, comparative analysis is applied to identify similarities and differences between English and Uzbek proverbs in the expression of implicit gradonymic relations.

The proposed methodological approach therefore combines semantic, contextual, pragmatic, and comparative perspectives. This integrated framework makes it possible to identify not only the linguistic forms of gradonymy but also the implicit meanings and cultural factors underlying their use in proverbial discourse.Furthermore, the methodological framework should take into account the cultural and contextual factors that influence the interpretation of proverbial meaning. Since proverbs are closely connected with the cultural experience of a speech community, the same gradational relationship may be expressed through different linguistic images in English and Uzbek. Therefore, the analysis should consider not only the dictionary meanings of lexical units but also their conventional and culturally determined associations. This approach allows researchers to distinguish between universal gradonymic patterns and those specific to a particular linguistic and cultural system. In addition, the proposed methodology can be applied to both individual proverbs and groups of proverbs representing similar semantic domains. Examining several examples within the same semantic field makes it possible to identify recurring patterns of gradation and determine how consistently implicit gradonymic relations are used. Such systematic analysis increases the reliability of the findings and provides a more comprehensive understanding of the relationship between gradonymy and proverbial meaning.

The analysis of English and Uzbek proverbs demonstrates that implicit gradonymic relations can be realized through various semantic and pragmatic patterns. In many proverbial expressions, the relationship between the components is not expressed through direct markers of degree but is understood through their contextual interaction and general communicative meaning. Such relations may represent different degrees of intensity, quality, quantity, emotional state, or social behaviour.

For example, proverbs may contrast two concepts that belong to the same semantic field but occupy different positions on a gradual scale. The difference between these concepts becomes meaningful only when they are interpreted within the complete proverbial structure. In this respect, the proverb functions as a compact semantic and pragmatic unit in which gradational meaning can be strengthened by comparison, contrast, repetition, or metaphorical representation. In English proverbs, implicit gradonymic relations are frequently associated with the evaluation of human behaviour, personal qualities, and social experience. Similar patterns can also be observed in Uzbek proverbs, where gradational meanings are often connected with moral values, interpersonal relations, patience, wisdom, and social conduct. Although the underlying concepts may be universal, their linguistic realization can differ according to the cultural and communicative traditions of each language. The comparative analysis shows that both English and Uzbek proverbs employ implicit gradation to make their messages more expressive and persuasive. However, the choice of lexical units, metaphorical images, and contextual associations may vary. Therefore, identifying implicit gradonymic relations requires attention not only to individual words but also to the semantic structure and pragmatic function of the entire proverb.

The analysis demonstrates that implicit gradonymic relations constitute an important semantic and pragmatic feature of English and Uzbek proverbs. In both languages, gradational meaning can be conveyed without explicit markers of degree and may be inferred from the relationship between the lexical components of a proverb. The findings indicate that implicit gradonymic relations are particularly noticeable in proverbs expressing human qualities, behaviour, emotions, social relationships, and moral evaluations. In such cases, different concepts are organized according to a certain degree of intensity or quality, allowing the proverb to communicate a stronger or weaker evaluation indirectly. The comparison of English and Uzbek proverbial expressions also reveals both similarities and differences. The similarity lies in the use

of gradation as a means of strengthening the communicative and evaluative effect of a proverb. However, the specific lexical choices, metaphors, and cultural associations through which gradational meaning is expressed may differ between the two languages. The results further show that no single method is always sufficient for identifying implicit gradonymic relations. Componential analysis reveals the semantic basis of gradation, while contextual and pragmatic analyses clarify its function and implied meaning. Comparative analysis, in turn, helps determine the similarities and culture-specific differences between English and Uzbek proverbial expressions.

Therefore, the findings support the view that implicit gradonymy should be examined as an integrated linguopragmatic phenomenon, in which semantic structure, context, communicative intention, and cultural background interact in the construction of proverbial meaning.

The study has examined the theoretical and methodological foundations for identifying implicit gradonymic relations in English and Uzbek proverbs. The analysis confirms that gradonymy is not limited to explicitly expressed differences in degree but can also be realized implicitly through semantic relationships, contextual interaction, and pragmatic interpretation. The findings demonstrate that English and Uzbek proverbs employ implicit gradonymic relations to express different degrees of qualities, emotions, behaviour, and evaluative meanings. Although the general semantic function of gradation can be similar in both languages, its linguistic realization is often influenced by cultural and contextual factors. The study also establishes that the combination of componential, contextual, pragmatic, and comparative analyses provides an effective methodological basis for identifying implicit gradonymic relations. Such an integrated approach makes it possible to examine both the semantic structure and the communicative function of proverbial expressions.

Overall, the research contributes to the study of gradonymy and linguopragmatics by highlighting the importance of implicit semantic relations in proverbial discourse. The proposed approach may also serve as a basis for further comparative research in English and Uzbek linguistics, phraseology, semantics, and intercultural communication.

REFERENCE

1. Cruse, D. A. (1986). Lexical semantics. Cambridge University Press.

2. Dundes, A. (1975). On the structure of the proverb. Proverbium, 25, 961–973.

3. Hrisztova-Gotthardt, H., & Varga, M. A. (Eds.). (2015). Introduction to paremiology: A comprehensive guide to proverb studies. De Gruyter Open. https://doi.org/10.2478/9783110410167

4. Levinson, S. C. (1983). Pragmatics. Cambridge University Press.

5. Lyons, J. (1977). Semantics (Vols. 1–2). Cambridge University Press. https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511620614

6. Mieder, W. (2004). Proverbs: A handbook. Greenwood Press.

7. Mieder, W. (2015). Origin of proverbs. In H. Hrisztova-Gotthardt & M. A. Varga (Eds.), Introduction to paremiology: A comprehensive guide to proverb studies (pp. 28–48). De Gruyter Open. https://doi.org/10.2478/9783110410167.2

8. Norrick, N. R. (1985). How proverbs mean: Semantic studies in English proverbs. Mouton de Gruyter.

9. Speake, J. (Ed.). (2015). The Oxford dictionary of proverbs (6th ed.). Oxford University Press.

10. Taylor, A. (1931). The proverb. Harvard University Press.

11. Yule, G. (1996). Pragmatics. Oxford University Press.

12. Eshboev, K. (2023). Linguistic study of the phenomenon of graduonymia. Web of Scientist: International Scientific Research Journal, 4(5). https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/3RTVG

13. Rayimaliyeva, Y. (2025). Paremiology: Analyzing language, society, and thought through proverbs. O‘zMU Xabarlari, 1(1.5.1). https://doi.org/10.69617/nuuz.v1i1.5.1.7811

14. Davis, E., Danforth, C. M., Mieder, W., & Dodds, P. S. (2021). Computational paremiology: Charting the temporal, ecological dynamics of proverb use in books, news articles, and tweets. Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media. https://arxiv.org/abs/2107.04929

15. Ergashevich, M. N. (2020). Proverbs in Uzbek linguistics and the determination of their periodicity. Scientific Journal of Philology, (4), 45–52.