

## THE HYPONYMIC EXPRESSIONS IN ENGLISH

***Dadazhonova Farokhatkhon Abdokayumovna***

*University of Exact and Social Sciences*

*Master's Program, 2nd Year*

*Specialty: Foreign Language and Literature*

*2-курс магистратуры*

***Sobirova Nodira Karimbaevna***

*University of Exact and Social Sciences*

*D.Sc., Associate Professor*

**Abstract.** *This article explores the lexical-semantic features of hyponymic relations in English and Uzbek languages, with a particular focus on noun phrase-related lexical items. The study aims to identify the hierarchical and semantic structure of hypero-hyponymic relationships and compare their manifestations in both languages. Through examining specific examples, the paper proposes target language equivalents to facilitate translation and interpretation of hyponymic structures between English and Uzbek. The findings contribute to a better understanding of how semantic categorization and logical relationships are realized across linguistic systems. The results may be used to highlight the nuanced distinctions and similarities in semantic fields and lexical classification systems of both languages.*

**Key words:** *Hyponymy, hyperonymy, lexical semantics, semantic hierarchy, noun phrase, cross-linguistic comparison, Uzbek language, English language.*

In linguistics, hyponymy describes a semantic relationship where one word (the hyponym) is a more specific instance of a more general word (the hypernym). Essentially, the hyponym's meaning is included within the meaning of its hypernym.

Example:

- Hyponym: dog
- Hypernym: animal

In this example, "dog" is a specific type of "animal," making it a hyponym of "animal."

Key Characteristics of Hyponymy:

- Specificity: Hyponyms are more specific than their hypernyms.
- Inclusion: The meaning of the hyponym is included within the meaning of the hypernym.

- Hierarchical Relationship: Hyponymy creates a hierarchical structure where general terms (hypernyms) can be broken down into more specific terms (hyponyms).
- Co-hyponyms: Multiple hyponyms can share the same hypernym. For example, "pigeon," "crow," "eagle," and "seagull" are all hyponyms of "bird," which is a hyponym of "animal".

In essence, hyponymy helps categorize and organize words based on their semantic relationships, providing a hierarchical structure for understanding language.

In lexical classification, hyponymic relations of words, hierarchical structure of word combinations is considered important. Hyponymy is one of the types of systematic relations of units at the lexical-semantic level of language that is gender-type, reciprocal, hypero-hyponymic relations. According to giving different views about this relationship in lexical system of language, we rely on the facts that hypero-hyponymic relationships confirmed by many studies which belong to universal connections if lexical units. The main relationship of hyponymy is based on logical-semantic subordination that determines the hierarchical structure of individual semantic areas lexical system of the language as a whole structuring the lexicon of the language.

The 21st century has been called the "age of multilingualism" by the European Union, and the problem of effective learning and teaching of foreign languages is becoming increasingly important. In particular, raising the intellectual potential of young people in Uzbekistan, gaining a wide range of knowledge and professional skills, as well as active communication with peers abroad, keeping abreast of all events, innovations and changes in the world today, is the most important condition for acquiring great intellectual wealth<sup>1</sup>. Great opportunities have been created for them to study foreign languages in depth.

Like many other countries in the world, Uzbekistan pays special attention to teaching and learning of foreign languages as a social direction of the state. There is every opportunity to keep abreast of the news. Also, the President of Uzbekistan Mirziyoev Shavkat Miromonovich mentioned: "It is time to create a new system of teaching foreign languages. This system must become a solid foundation for the future. Since we set ourselves the goal of building a competitive state, from now on, graduates of schools, lyceums, colleges and universities must be fluent in at least two foreign languages. This strict requirement should become the main criterion for the work of the head of each educational institution"<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Babajonova D. New opportunities for learning foreign languages in Uzbekistan // Current Research Journal of History. – Tashkent, 2021, 43–48 p.

<sup>2</sup> President Shavkat Mirziyoev Miromonovich. Speech on measures to improve the system of teaching foreign languages – 6 May 2021. DOI: <https://www.google.com>, <https://yuz.uz/en/news/president>

Hyponymy is a less studied category in various systematic languages and has been considered in scientific work of a number of researchers. The followings can be seen in the study of the problem of hyponymy in the work of scientists. To this time, many foreigners' linguists investigated on many branches of language for instance, semantic and lexical characteristics of hyponymy that has been argued in their scientific research works which were illustrated many precious ideas and opinions. We can observe that the issue of hyponymy has been engaged in study about this in the works of the following linguists: Finch G "Linguistic terms and concepts", Firth J.R. "Modes of meaning", Cherry N. "On Human communication", Bierwisch B.M. "Semantics and Translations", Palmer F.R. "Semantics", O'Grady W, Katamba F. "Semantics and Pragmatics", "The Analysis of Meaning and Charles" W. Kreidler "Introducing English Semantics". Also, the candidate of Philological Sciences, Associate Professor, Doctoral student of National University of Uzbekistan (DSc) Sabirova N. K. mentioned some scientists work which were connected to investigate hyponymy relation in her article *The Lexical and Semantic Relation of Hyponym*. They are followings: Lyons J. *Semantics (2 vols)*", Katz J.J. "Semantic theory", Lehrer A. "Semantic fields and lexical structure", Murphy M.L. "Semantic relations and the lexicon", Safarova R. «Гипонимия в узбекском языке (на материале общеупотребительных зоонимов)», Jumabeva J.Sh. "O'zbek va ingliz tillarida leksik va stylistik graduonomiya" and so on<sup>3</sup>.

It is well known that lexical elements include lexical and syntactic categories in term of information about meaning and form. According to these categories, lexical elements are represented in the lexicon of semantics. In addition to the semantic classification, a lexical unit depends on meaning and its form that expresses, as well. In addition to some relationships in a lexical unit that consist of hyponym, hyperonymy, synonym, antonym and so on<sup>4</sup>.

A hyponym and hyperonym relationship are a relationship between a general and a specific (thematic) term that represents the term hyponymy. For example, the words "red", "yellow", "green", and "blue" are hyponyms of the hyperonym "color". Lexical semantics is one of the main directions of linguistics in which the meaning of a word is systematically studied. In lexical semantics, two main issues are addressed: a) the expression of the meaning of the word, b) the expression of the variability of the meaning of the word changing between contexts<sup>5</sup>.

It is clear that the phenomenon of hyponymy is the relationship between a hyperonym and its specific hyponym in the linguistics. A hyponym is more precise

<sup>3</sup> Safarova R. *Hyponymy in Uzbek*. – Tashkent, 1990, 26 p.

<sup>4</sup> Bierwisch B. M. *Semantics and Translations*. – UK: SIL Britain, 1970, 274 p.

<sup>5</sup> Dyachenko L. D. *Hyponymy in the English Verb System*. – Moscow, 1976, 42 p.

and clear word or phrase than hyperonym in the semantic field. In this above-mentioned condition, we can see homonymic relation of the color, also blue is considered a hyponym of the color but 'Blue' is itself a hypernym of various shades of blue, for instance navy, blue purple, aquamarine and so on. Also, Associate Professor, Doctor of Sciences in Philology Jamila Sharipovna Djumabaeva and Doctoral Student, Associate Professor, Candidate of Philological Sciences Nodira Karimbaevna Sabirova mentioned their own opinions in their article "The study of hyponymic taxonomy in English linguistics and the lexical and semantic relations of hyponymy". They mentioned: "Taxonomy involves the simultaneous existence of three types of relationships, namely hyperonymy (gender-type), hyponymy (type-gender), and cogynymia (type and type). In the study of lexical-semantic groups and functional-semantic fields of natural language word groups, there is a lack of strict consistency and structure in the manifestation of hypero-hyponymic relations.

In scientific typologies of various fields, hypero-hyponymy is common phenomenon that expands and systematizes the concepts of the profession"<sup>6</sup>.

The hypero-hyponymic taxonomic relations of words, phraseological units and terminology in the linguistics attracted the attention of M.V. Lysyakova, A.M. Plotnikova, E.L. Ginzburg, A.Sh. Hayrapetyan and other linguistics. According to D. Cruse, many words have different hyponymic relationships depending on the context, based on the facet on their meaning. In the example he cites, the word a book has facets like TOME and TEXT, and it has hyponyms like paperback, novel words. D. Cruse's facet approach is designed to express the different types of relationships of words such as book without increasing the number of meanings and hierarchical nodes. Also, although D. Cruse introduced the term microsense into linguistics, the phenomenon of the complete taxonomy requires some prevention of word meanings. For example, there are many superordinates of the word knife, i.e. cutlery, weapon, surgical instrument, tool and they do not represent the importance of the facets of the word knife, but rather the types of knife and the different meanings of the word knife. In the figure that given below, the hyponymic relationship is represented by a scheme called 'juice taxonomy'.

The lexical units in this scheme are parts of the hyponymic or taxonomic paradigm. Given the probability that the tree structure is in an asymmetric state, it can be observed that each lexical unit can have many hyponyms, but they have a single hyperonymy. For example, if the word 'juice' has hyponyms such as 'mandarin juice', 'Tropicana orange juice', 'navel orange juice', 'orange juice' is their hyperonymy. The word 'fruit juice' is the hyperonymy of 'orange juice'. According to English linguist

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<sup>6</sup> Djumabaeva J., Sabirova N. The study of hyponymic taxonomy in English linguistics and the lexical and semantic relations of hyponymy. – Tashkent, 2020, 870–878 p.

Lions, 'these cross-categorical relations are quasi hyponymy. But even in nominal taxonomies, we see some differences in syntactic categories at the highest levels'<sup>7</sup>. Adjectives can also have nominal hyperonyms, for example 'emotion>happy, sad, angry'. Hyponymy is a paradigmatic relationship in which the relationship between members of the same syntactic category is represented.

The inter-category relationship is called 'quasi-hyponymy'. In some cases, a high degree of syntactic category differences is observed in nominal taxonomy. For example, even though the word 'fruit' in the picture above is a noun phrase, it is used in the adjective form 'fruit juice'. The orange juice varieties 'navel' and 'mandarin juice' are represented at the bottom. Despite the fact that the words 'herbal juice' and 'vegetable juice' in primary stage are in the unit of uncounted, the word 'juice' is a noun in the category that is also not counted<sup>8</sup>.

The hyponym and hyperonym relationship are very important in giving a logical connection in speech, expressing the meaning of words. There is no clear basis for the fact that a hypero-hyponomic relationship is a linguistic-lexical relationship rather than a cognitive-semantic relationship. The taxonomies of hyponymy do not cover all types of relationships that fall into the general term. The fact that functional hyponyms do not have to be part of hyperonyms, the range of what is considered a hyponym in these taxonomies, suggests that hyponymy is a broad concept. English linguist A. Wierzbicka distinguishes hyponymic relations based on the morpho-semantic properties of hyperonyms<sup>9</sup>. These ideas raise the question of the relationship between hyponymy and words or concepts or meanings.

Easy and quick teaching of various terms to young people in teaching English can increase the level of communication in this foreign language and allow them to freely express their opinions in a foreign language.

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