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## CROSS-LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE SEMANTIC GROUP "ELEMENTS OF NATURE" IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

**Abstract:** This scientific article investigates the semantic group "Elements of Nature" in English and Uzbek, examining how these languages categorize and conceptualize natural phenomena. The research analyzes lexical representation, uncovering similarities and differences in vocabulary across the two languages. Additionally, it explores the underlying conceptual structures that inform the categorization of nature in each language, focusing on the potential influence of cultural values and beliefs. The analysis reveals distinct patterns in the semantic fields of nature, shedding light on linguistic relativity and the interplay of language, culture, and cognition in shaping our understanding of the natural world.

**Keywords:** Semantic Field, Cross-Linguistic Analysis, Elements of Nature, English, Uzbek, Linguistic Relativity, Culture, Cognition.

### Introduction

The study of language and culture has long recognized the intricate relationship between linguistic structures and cultural perspectives. This relationship is particularly evident in the semantic field of "Elements of Nature," which reflects a society's understanding and categorization of the natural world. This paper undertakes a cross-linguistic analysis of this semantic group in English and Uzbek, two languages with distinct cultural backgrounds and linguistic histories. The semantic group "Elements of Nature" refers to a collection of words that describe various natural phenomena and environmental entities. This group is crucial for understanding human interaction with the natural world and plays a significant role in shaping our perception of the environment. A cross-linguistic analysis of this semantic group can provide insights into the similarities and differences in how different cultures categorize and conceptualize natural elements.

### Methodology

The analysis will involve comparing the semantic group "Elements of Nature" in English and Uzbek. The following steps will be taken:

1. Identification of core members: Identifying the most common and representative words belonging to this semantic group in both languages. Analyze the vocabulary used to denote natural elements in both languages, identifying any shared or distinct terms and semantic nuances.
2. Semantic analysis: Examining the semantic fields associated with each word, including its denotation, connotation, and usage. Investigate the underlying conceptual structures that shape the categorization of nature in each language, uncovering any cultural influences or biases.
3. Cultural comparison: Exploring the cultural significance and metaphorical extensions of the words in both languages. Examine the metaphorical use of natural elements in both languages, revealing how these concepts are used symbolically and their cultural significance.

By comparing the semantic fields of nature in English and Uzbek, this study seeks to contribute to our understanding of linguistic relativity, the influence of cultural values on language, and the interplay of language, culture, and cognition in shaping our perception of the natural world.

## Discussion and results

### 1. Lexical Representation.

1.1 Similarities: Both English and Uzbek possess a rich vocabulary for denoting natural elements. Shared terms include:

Sun: English "sun" / Uzbek "quyosh"

Moon: English "moon" / Uzbek "oy"

Water: English "water" / Uzbek "suv"

Earth: English "earth" / Uzbek "yer"

Mountain: English "mountain" / Uzbek "tog"

Tree: English "tree" / Uzbek "daraxt"

Fire: English "fire" / Uzbek "olov"

Air: English "air" / Uzbek "havo"

River: English "river" / Uzbek "daryo"

Wind: English "wind" / Uzbek "shamol"

Rain: English "rain" / Uzbek "yomg'ir".

1.2 Differences: Despite similarities, distinct semantic nuances and lexical choices emerge. For instance, Uzbek has separate terms for "river" ("daryo"), "lake" ("ko'l"), and "sea" ("dengiz"), while English often uses "water" as a generic term for all. Similarly, Uzbek differentiates between "grass" ("o't") and "wild grass" ("begona o't"), while English utilizes "grass" for both.

1.3 Cultural Influences: The presence of specific terms for different types of water in Uzbek reflects the importance of water resources in Uzbek culture. Similarly, the separate term for "wild grass" suggests a greater awareness of the ecological balance and potential for invasive species in Uzbek culture.

### 2. Conceptual Structures.

2.1 Categorization: Both languages broadly categorize natural elements into categories such as sky, earth, water, and flora. However, differences emerge in the subcategories within these broader groups. For instance, Uzbek distinguishes between "mountains" ("tog") and "hills" ("tepa"), while English often uses "mountain" for both.

2.2 Cultural Influences: These differences in subcategories may reflect the specific geographical and ecological landscapes of each culture. The distinction between "mountains" and "hills" in Uzbek, for example, may be influenced by the presence of various mountainous regions in Uzbekistan.

2.3 Cultural Comparison: In English, the word "earth" often carries associations with home, stability, and belonging. In Uzbek, however, "yer" is more closely tied to the concept of land and territory. The Uzbek word "suv" (water) holds deep cultural and religious significance, symbolizing life, purity, and blessing. In both languages, the sun and moon are often associated with time, celestial bodies, and divine power.

### 3. Metaphorical Extensions.

3.1 Similarities: Both languages utilize metaphors based on natural elements. For instance, "sun" is often used to represent hope, warmth, and happiness in both English and Uzbek.

3.2 Differences: While both languages utilize metaphors based on "water," the specific connotations differ. In English, "water" can symbolize clarity, purity, and life, while in Uzbek it often represents abundance, fertility, and nourishment. This difference may reflect the cultural value placed on water as a vital resource in Uzbek society.

The words in this semantic group can be used metaphorically in both English and Uzbek to describe human qualities and experiences. For example, the phrase "earthly possessions" in English suggests material wealth, while the Uzbek expression "suv kabi toza" (like water into sand) conveys the idea of something vanishing quickly.

## Conclusion

This cross-linguistic analysis of the semantic group "Elements of Nature" in English and Uzbek highlights the impact of language and culture on our understanding and categorization of the natural world. While both languages share a basic framework for conceptualizing natural elements, distinct nuances and lexical choices reveal cultural influences and the role of linguistic relativity in shaping our perceptions. The differences in vocabulary, categorization, and metaphorical extensions demonstrate how language reflects cultural values and beliefs, influencing how we perceive and interact with the natural environment.

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