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## THE EVOLUTION OF SEMANTIC DEVELOPMENT IN WORD CREATION (DURING THE INDEPENDENCE ERA)

*In the context of a globalizing world, where the mutual influence of languages leads to the emergence of shared lexical features, the creation of words through the internal resources of a language continues to maintain its relevance. The role of word formation through the internal resources of the Azerbaijani literary language has always been active in the development of its vocabulary. However, the impact of word formation methods on the enrichment of the language has not been uniform across all stages of its development. During the years of independence, the role of semantic word formation models within the Azerbaijani language has significantly increased. The method of word creation through semantic development simultaneously addresses the need to name new concepts and ideas emerging in the language without resorting to borrowing from other languages. As a result, the vocabulary of the language is protected from foreign elements, and the quantitative increase of words in the language is controlled, which also facilitates the practical learning of the language. This article examines the ways in which the Azerbaijani language's vocabulary has been enriched through the acquisition of new meanings during the years of independence. It also explores the possibilities of semantic word creation in the development of scientific terminology, which arises from the need for terminological development. The study provides a scientific and theoretical analysis of the semantic development of words in the enrichment of the language's lexicon. It discusses the factors influencing the change in word meanings and outlines the characteristic features of semantic development. The primary catalysts for semantic change in words are the advancements in science and technology, as well as the internal linguistic resources. In the Azerbaijani language, the semantic evolution and the adoption of new meanings by lexical items are indicative of its alignment with global progress.*

**Key words:** word creation, semantic development of words, years of independence, socio-political lexicon.

**Introduction.** Since language is a social phenomenon, one of its fundamental characteristics is its susceptibility to change. The meaning of a word evolves over time, making words inherently unstable. As stated, “the changes that occur in the meaning of a word after its initial meaning are historically referred to as semantic shifts” [9, p. 31]. Language enriches itself not only through the introduction of new lexical units but also through the semantic evolution of pre-existing words, where words acquire new meanings. This phenomenon, where existing words in a language take on new meanings to denote new concepts, is known as semantic derivation. A significant number of words in the lexicon can undergo semantic changes. In linguistic literature, the primary reasons for this include societal development, the prevailing socio-economic conditions, various historical processes, scientific and technological revolutions, rapid technological advancements, and various other factors of different forms and content.

In all languages, to varying degrees, the process of word creation through semantic means is observable.

It is practically impossible to assign a unique word to every object and phenomenon; if it were possible, it would result in an overwhelming number of words, making the language impractical to learn. “There is no language in the world that can express every concept with distinct words, nor can there ever be. For the expression of new concepts that emerge with development, existing words often undergo semantic shifts rather than the creation of entirely new words” [10, p. 389].

**Degree of problem elaboration.** The phenomenon where a word's meaning changes over time, gaining new nuances or becoming more contextually specific, is a natural law of language. This is because speech is a dynamic process, and the language that facilitates this process is ever-evolving. During active communication, a word can alter its semantic load and structure depending on the content of the communication. “A word transforms into a new semantic unit when it is used in a syntagmatic environment that is abnormal or unusual for its paradigm, and in this context, the word becomes

motivated, acquiring a new meaning without altering its formal-phonetic shell" [12, p. 307]. Therefore, the semantic change of a word arises from the needs of the language user in the speech process, driven by extralinguistic factors. To substantiate this point, consider the semantic evolution of the electronic lexical unit. The "Explanatory Dictionary of the Azerbaijani Language" notes the meanings of the word as "1. The smallest particle of matter with a negative electric charge; 2. Related to or involving electrons; 3. An aluminum-magnesium alloy known for its high strength and plasticity" [2, p. 19].

With the onset of the technological era and its rapid development, affecting various aspects of human activity, the meaning related to "involving electrons" has expanded. This expanded meaning is now used in naming various service sectors designed to enhance information accessibility, service speed, and quality for people. The "Dictionary of the Latest Words and Meanings" lists meanings such as "Various operations conducted on a computer: electronic application, electronic government, electronic school, electronic journal, electronic document, electronic document circulation, electronic commerce, electronic lottery, electronic signature" [17, p. 79]. It is noteworthy that these words and expressions are now actively used in the media.

The semantic changes of words influence the enrichment of the lexicon in two directions: 1) general vocabulary; 2) terminological vocabulary.

Let's review how the concept of semantic change, as a method of word formation, is addressed in linguistic studies. S. Jafarov identified six methods of lexical word formation: 1) dialects and sub-dialects; 2) loanwords; 3) acquisition of new meanings; 4) changes in phonetic structure; 5) simplification of derived words; 6) simplification of compound words [5, pp. 121–136]. In the section on word formation through the acquisition of new meanings, Jafarov explored the characteristics of polysemy, homonymy, and the involvement of different parts of speech in this process. H. Hasanov deemed it appropriate to consider the method of word formation through acquiring new meanings as part of the broader category of lexical-semantic word formation [7, p. 295]. According to Hasanov, the essence of lexical-semantic word formation lies in the utilization of the internal resources of the language, wherein words are incorporated in their existing form without the assistance of grammatical mechanisms. B. Khalilov, on the other hand, addressed semantic word formation as a variant of word creation, discussing it under the categories of semantic expansion, narrowing, and metaphorization [8, pp. 399–409].

In the scholarly work "Modern Azerbaijani Language II" (Lexicology), published by the Nasimi Institute of Linguistics of ANAS, the traditional categorization of semantic change into three types – "semantic shift, expansion of meaning, and narrowing of meaning" – is emphasized, with comprehensive explanations provided [13, p. 436]. Additionally, it is particularly noted that the issue of semantic shift has primarily been examined from a stylistic perspective, specifically within the context of literary texts.

Professor F. Veysalli proposed a classification that considers two additional aspects of semantic change not explicitly addressed in previous categorizations: 1) expansion of meaning; 2) narrowing of meaning; 3) amelioration of meaning; 4) pejoration of meaning [16, pp. 81–82]. The last two categories in this classification had previously been subsumed under the broader categories of meaning expansion and narrowing in most lexical studies. However, no specific examples of pejoration of meaning are provided in this classification. It is well known that the word "dəli" ("mad") in Azerbaijani once denoted "brave, valiant, heroic" [1, p. 575], but it is now used to refer to individuals with psychological disorders, meaning "mentally unstable, insane; lunatic" [1, p. 575].

**Objectives and tasks.** This article aims to examine the changes in the meanings of words in a certain period of time, namely, those related to the independent development of Azerbaijan. We are talking about both the old and new vocabulary, since replenishment of the dictionary is an inevitable process. Some features of the formation of the meaning of words and the new vocabulary in the modern Azerbaijani language are considered.

**Methods.** The research methods are the analysis of the existing scientific research literature on this issue, as well as the study of the vocabulary of the modern Azerbaijani language, based on some examples that most clearly characterize modern linguistic processes.

#### **Main section.**

**Characteristics of some semantic meanings in the vocabulary of the Azerbaijani language.** This demonstrates a pejoration in meaning. However, in traditional classifications, "dəli" is cited as an example of a word with a narrowed meaning. Comparing "aş" ("meal") and "dəli" ("mad"), both traditionally regarded as words with narrowed meanings, reveals that the meaning of "aş" has indeed narrowed. Initially, "aş" was used to refer to all types of food in both oral and written discourse, but it is now specifically associated with "plov" (pilaf), indicating a narrowing of its semantic range rather than a pejoration.

It would be appropriate to consider semantic change in two aspects: 1) the reason for the emergence of a new meaning; 2) the method by which the new meaning emerges. One of the primary reasons for the semantic evolution of existing words within the lexicon is the evolution of our knowledge, experiences, and habits related to objects over time. Another reason is the renewal of behavior and social interaction systems among people, particularly within different social groups, against the backdrop of societal events. “The reason for the emergence of a new meaning is not inherent to the language itself but rather an extralinguistic factor, namely the needs of society. The method of creating a new meaning, however, is connected with the internal laws of each language and its systemic characteristics. Yet, new meanings do not always arise out of a necessity to name objects and events in the objective world; sometimes, they emerge from the need to express existing objects and events in a new, more expressive way. The primary extralinguistic cause of semantic changes is the alteration of objects and events” [15, p. 123].

New meanings that deviate to a greater or lesser extent from the original meaning of a word arise out of such necessity. Any change in the semantic structure of a word is directly related to society, its activities, worldview, and thought processes. The process of semantic change does not occur suddenly; it manifests over time and is influenced by various historical and social factors. Considering H. Hasanov’s classification, the factors influencing semantic change can be summarized as follows: 1) changes in objects and events and their obsolescence leading to disuse; 2) societal transformations during periods of political, economic, and cultural change; 3) shifts in attitudes towards cultural and moral values; 4) similarities and generalities among objects; 5) advances in science and technology; 6) the diminishing differences between literary language and dialects; 7) the transition of words from one part of speech to another [6, pp. 9–10].

**Change and renewal of socio-political lexicon during the years of independence.** During the years of independence, many commonly used lexical units in the Azerbaijani language acquired new nuances in meaning due to changes and updates in socio-political lexicon. This was a necessity driven by the new socio-political relationships. This pattern has been evident in all periods of language development. The new emerges from the old. However, a distinctive feature of the independence period is the rapid succession of processes and the infiltration of technology into all areas of human activity, which inevitably affected the lexicon. As mentioned earlier, the rapid integration

of technology into our lives has influenced not only our lifestyle and activities but also the process of communication and our speech habits. Let us examine some frequently used socio-political terms that have undergone semantic change, selected from contemporary press.

The Azerbaijani explanatory dictionary lists four meanings for the word “post”: 1. A place or station designated for observing or guarding something or someone. 2. A sentry or group of soldiers positioned at a certain location to guard or observe something. 3. A place where the production process is managed through telemechanic, signaling, etc. 4. A responsible position or office [3, p. 616]. The last meaning listed in the explanatory dictionary is the one actively used in recent Azerbaijani media. It appears in expressions such as “left the post,” “assumed the post,” “abused the post,” “came to the post,” etc. For example: “The name of another candidate for the post of Minister of Education has been mentioned” [18].

The analysis of semantic change can be approached from two perspectives: 1) the reasons behind the emergence of new meanings; 2) the methods by which new meanings are generated.

One of the primary reasons for the evolution of word meanings within a lexicon is the changing nature of our knowledge, experiences, and usage habits related to objects over time. Another contributing factor is the renewal of behavioral patterns and social interactions among people and social groups in response to societal changes. “The emergence of new meanings is not inherently tied to the language itself but is rather an extralinguistic factor, specifically the needs of society. The method of generating new meanings, on the other hand, is connected to the internal rules of the language and its systemic characteristics. However, new meanings do not always arise from a necessity to name objects and events in the objective world; sometimes, they emerge from the need to express existing objects and events in new, more expressive ways. The primary extralinguistic cause of semantic changes is the alteration of objects and events” [15, p. 123].

New meanings, which may deviate more or less from the original meaning of a word, arise from these needs. Any change in the semantic structure of a word is directly related to society, its activities, worldview, and cognitive processes. Semantic change is not sudden but manifests over time, influenced by various historical and social factors. According to H. Hasanov’s classification, the factors affecting semantic change can be summarized as follows: 1) changes and obsolescence of objects and events;

2) societal transformations during periods of political, economic, and cultural change; 3) shifts in cultural and moral values; 4) similarities and generalities among objects; 5) advances in science and technology; 6) the decreasing distinction between literary language and dialects; 7) the transition of words from one part of speech to another [6, pp. 9–10].

In the years of independence, many commonly used lexical units in Azerbaijani have acquired new nuances of meaning due to changes and updates in socio-political lexicon. This reflects the necessity arising from new socio-political relationships. This pattern has been evident throughout all periods of language development. New meanings emerge from the old. However, a distinctive feature of the independence period is the rapid succession of processes and the infiltration of technology into all areas of human activity, which has inevitably impacted the lexicon. The rapid integration of technology into our lives has influenced not only our lifestyle and activities but also communication processes and speech habits. Let's examine some frequently used socio-political terms that have undergone semantic change, selected from contemporary press sources.

The Azerbaijani explanatory dictionary lists four meanings for the word “*status*”: 1. The condition of a citizen or a legal entity [4, p. 154]. 2. The Qabala State Vocational Training Center acquired the status of a public legal entity [20]. 3. In the years of independence, the meaning of “*status*” has expanded. In addition to the explanatory dictionary definition, it is now used to refer to “a set of words reflecting a user’s attitude towards life or a specific event” on social networks [17, p. 244].

Similarly, the word “*komanda*” (team) has several meanings: 1. A brief oral order given by a commander or leader; 2. Leadership or command in any military unit; 3. A military unit; 4. Ship’s crew; 5. A group engaged in the same sport [2, p. 724]. In addition to these meanings, the term is also used in political terminology. For example: “The President’s team lost in the elections” [19].

The Azerbaijani language has also seen the emergence of terms like “*toplantı*” (meeting) from the verb forms “*toplanmaq*” (to gather), “*toplaniş*” (gathering), and “*toplanişmaq*” (to be gathered). The expansion of the meaning of “*toplaniş*” and the influence of Turkish have contributed to the incorporation of this term into the socio-political lexicon. For instance: “Such meetings are generally a manifestation of the unity of the Turkic world, and I am sure that the Baku meeting will not be an exception” [21].

The systematic nature of language means that changes in meaning are influenced by both extralinguistic and intralinguistic factors. Hence, it is essential to consider both internal and external relationships systematically. “Words that initially seem distinct in terms of their individual semantic features, categorical meaning, and grammatical characteristics are actually interconnected through internal logical-linguistic relationships, forming a specific system” [12, p. 17]. H. Hasanov, in discussing semantic changes, considers the lexical-grammatical characteristics and emphasizes that semantic changes are multi-faceted rather than unidimensional: a) changes in logical-objective content; b) changes in lexical-grammatical relationships; c) changes in the semantic relationships within the lexical-semantic system [6, p. 11].

Given the various classifications and the characteristics of the development of the Azerbaijani lexicon during the independence years, it is appropriate to categorize semantic changes as follows:

Words in the common vocabulary of Azerbaijani that acquire new nuances while retaining their original meanings: **toplantı** (meeting), **bəyənmə** (liking), **paylaşım** (clown), **komanda** (team), etc.

Words where the usage of the original meaning diminishes while the new meaning becomes more prevalent: **bazar** (market), **kart** (card), **qaynaq** (source), **lazer** (laser), etc.

Words where there is no significant difference between the original and subsequent meanings, showing metaphorical usage: **ağıllı ev** (smart home), **ağıllı telefon** (smartphone), **ağıllı kənd** (smart village), **elektron sistem** (electronic system), **elektron hökumət** (e-government), etc.

Over the years, certain words that served as units of common vocabulary have acquired new terminological meanings and gained the status of scientific language in the years of independence.

The term “**bazar**” (market), which had long been used in common vocabulary to denote a place where people shop, has undergone an expansion of meaning due to the transition from socialism to capitalism, the emergence of new economic relations, and integration into the global market. As a result, “**bazar**” has entered economic terminology with meanings such as market economy, market price, domestic market, foreign market, global market, labor market, and black market. Notably, the original meaning of “**bazar**” as a place where people shop has gradually been replaced by terms such as “**market**,” “**supermarket**,” “**store**,” and “**bazaar**.” However, “**bazar**” still retains its original meaning in phrases like “animal market” and “car market.”

With the development of market economy, banking, and finance sectors, the term “**kredit**” (credit) has rapidly become an active part of the lexicon. In explanatory dictionaries, it is defined as: 1. The act of lending goods or money as a debt; 2. An amount of money allowed to be spent for a specific purpose [2, p. 767]. In addition to these meanings, “**kredit**” has also come to be used in the field of education, particularly in higher education systems, to refer to “a unit that determines the volume of educational work according to the European Credit Transfer System” [17, p. 144].

The term “**siçan**” (mouse), traditionally used to denote a small, long-snouted, long-tailed, usually gray rodent that damages crops [3, p. 111], has also gained a new sense related to computer technology due to its resemblance to the rodent.

The word “**ulduz**” (star), originally used to refer to celestial bodies, has long been a part of common vocabulary. Nowadays, it is also used metaphorically to denote “celebrity,” “prominent,” or “leading in one’s field,” functioning as a synonym for these concepts.

The term “**kart**” (card) originally referred to: 1. Any of the four types of playing cards, distinguished by their images and symbols; 2. A game played with these cards [2, p. 643]. In recent years, “**kart**” has taken on a new meaning related to financial transactions. With the shift towards card payments in many service establishments, terms like “standard card,” “chip card,” “classic card,” “gold card,” and “platinum card” have become commonplace. Additionally, phrases such as “one card,” “plastic card,” and “bonus card” have emerged and become widely used in everyday language [17, p. 135].

**Conclusion.** The lexicon of a language represents its most dynamic and responsive component, adeptly reflecting societal transformations. These alterations are manifested through the lexical units that articulate various concepts within the language. The enrichment of a language’s lexicon, facilitated by its intrinsic mechanisms, has been a continuous process across different historical periods, including the era of independence. This phenomenon becomes evident when analyzing the domains of usage of words that have undergone semantic development within the language’s vocabulary.

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#### Талібова С. А. ЕВОЛЮЦІЯ СЕМАНТИЧНОГО РОЗВИТКУ В СЛОВОТВОРІ (ЗА ЧАСІВ НЕЗАЛЕЖНОСТІ)

*У контексті глобалізаційного світу, де взаємний вплив мов призводить до появи спільних лексичних особливостей, словотворення за допомогою внутрішніх ресурсів мови продовжує зберігати свою актуальність. Роль словотвору через внутрішні ресурси азербайджанської літературної мови завжди була активною у розвитку її словникового складу. Проте вплив способів словотвору на збагачення мови не був рівномірним на всіх етапах її розвитку. За роки незалежності в азербайджанській мові значно*

зросла роль семантичних моделей словотворення. Спосіб словотворення через семантичний розвиток одночасно відповідає потребі називати нові поняття та ідеї, що виникають у мові, не вдаючись до запозичень з інших мов. В результаті словниковий склад мови захищається від чужорідних елементів, контролюється кількісне збільшення слів у мові, що також полегшує практичне вивчення мови. У цій статті розглядається шляхи збагачення словникового запасу азербайджанської мови шляхом набуття нових значень за роки незалежності. Досліджуються також можливості семантичного словотворення в розвитку наукової термінології, що виникає з потреби термінологічного розвитку. У дослідженні проведено науково-теоретичний аналіз семантичного розвитку слів у збагаченні лексики мови. Розглядаються фактори, що впливають на зміну значень слів, окреслюються характерні особливості семантичного розвитку. Основними каталізаторами семантичних змін у словах є досягнення науки й техніки, а також внутрішні мовні ресурси. В азербайджанській мові семантична еволюція та прийняття нових значень лексичних одиниць свідчить про її відповідність світовому прогресу.

**Ключові слова:** словотвір, семантичний розвиток слів, роки незалежності, суспільно-політична лексика.