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A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF MEDICINAL PLANT NAMES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

Kholikova Nodira Alisher qizi
1st course Master's student of the Termez State Pedagogical Institute

Abstract

This article explores the comparative linguistic characteristics of medicinal plant names in English and Uzbek languages. It focuses on their lexical-semantic features, etymological origins, and translation strategies. The research highlights the cultural and linguistic factors influencing the naming of medicinal plants and the challenges faced in translating these terms across the two languages.

Keywords: medicinal plants, lexical semantics, comparative linguistics, translation, English, Uzbek

Introduction

Medicinal plants play a vital role in human life, both in terms of healthcare and cultural heritage. Their names carry linguistic, cultural, and historical significance. In the field of comparative linguistics, analyzing plant names helps uncover the cultural perceptions and semantic structures of different languages. This study examines the linguistic characteristics of medicinal plant names in English and Uzbek, highlighting similarities, differences, and translation issues.

Methodology

The study adopts a descriptive and comparative approach. A corpus of 50 commonly used medicinal plant names was collected from English and Uzbek herbal medicine literature, dictionaries, and online resources. The analysis focused on:

1. Lexical-semantic structures.
2. Etymological origins.
3. Translation techniques.

Findings and Discussion

1. Lexical-Semantic Features in both languages; medicinal plant names often reflect specific features in English but in Uzbek they do not:

Physical attributes: e.g., dandelion (from "dent-de-lion," meaning lion's tooth in French vs. Literal meaning in Uzbek arslon tishi) - Qoqi o't or momaqaymoq

Usage or medicinal properties: e.g., feverfew (used to reduce fever vs.literal meaning In Uzbek isitma tushiruvchi) - a type of moychechak

Mythological or cultural associations: e.g., St. John's Wort (named after the holy person, associated with spirituality) vs. In Uzbek it is called Dalachoy

The Uzbek language often employs descriptive compounds, while English tends to use historical or borrowed terms.

2. Etymological Analysis:

English medicinal plant names are derived from Latin, Greek, and Old English roots due to historical influences of classical medicine. For example, valerian originates from Latin valere (to be strong). Uzbek plant names often stem from Turkic or Persian origins, reflecting the region's traditional medicine. For instance, rayhon (basil) comes from Persian.

3. Translation Challenges:

Translation of plant names between English and Uzbek poses difficulties due to:

Non-equivalence: Certain plants exist in one region but not the other, leading to a lack of direct counterparts.

Cultural connotations: Names may carry symbolic meanings that are not transferable, e.g., mistletoe in English symbolizes Christmas but has no equivalent in Uzbek culture.

Phonetic adaptation: Some names are phonetically borrowed, e.g., lavender in Uzbek remains lavanda.

Translation Strategies:

Descriptive translation: Using functional descriptions, e.g., English foxglove as Uzbek tulkizabon.

Borrowing: Retaining the original term, e.g., aloe vera in both languages.

Adaptation: Modifying terms to fit cultural contexts, e.g., holly as doim yashil o‘simlik in Uzbek.

Conclusion

The analysis demonstrates that while English and Uzbek medicinal plant names share some universal semantic patterns, they differ significantly in their etymology and cultural connotations. These differences reflect the unique historical and cultural contexts of the two languages. Translating plant names requires a nuanced approach that balances linguistic accuracy with cultural sensitivity.

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