



TAGGING AND CATEGORIZING EMOTIONS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LEXICAL FIELD

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INTRODUCTION

Expressing emotions through language is a fundamental human capacity embedded within each culture's linguistic system. Emotional vocabulary—that is, words, phrases, and idioms that signify specific emotional states—constitutes what linguists call a lexical-semantic field. A lexical field of emotions includes terms that are semantically related through emotional concepts such as happiness, anger, fear, and sadness. Comparative studies show that while basic emotions are universal, the boundaries and subdivisions within emotional lexicons vary across languages

ABSTRACT

This article explores the tagging and categorizing of emotional vocabulary within the English and Uzbek languages by analyzing lexical-semantic fields, cultural variation in emotional expression, and cross-linguistic alignment strategies. Drawing on recent comparative studies, it examines how emotions are identified, categorized, and aligned across these linguistic systems, highlighting key semantic and cultural nuances that influence linguistic representation, cognitive metaphor, and translation. The study concludes that universal emotional concepts exist in both languages, but lexical richness, metaphorical structures, and cultural norms shape distinct organisation and categorization within their respective lexical fields.

due to cultural, cognitive, and linguistic differences.

In cross-linguistic research, scholars often ask:

- How are emotions categorized and encoded lexically?
- How do cultural norms shape lexical fields?
- What methods can align these fields across languages for translation and NLP tasks?

This article answers these questions through a comparative analysis of English and Uzbek emotional lexicons, drawing on recent contrastive studies. It focuses on lexical tagging, field alignment, semantic differences, and



cultural influences affecting emotional vocabulary.

Lexical-Semantic Fields

A lexical-semantic field is a group of lexemes connected through shared semantic properties. In the field of emotions, words are classified according to:

Emotional categories (e.g., joy, anger, fear)

Semantic dimensions (valence, intensity)

Conceptual metaphors (e.g., anger is heat)

These frameworks help linguists and computational models analyse emotional terms systematically.

Conceptual Metaphor Theory (Lakoff & Johnson) posits that abstract concepts like emotions are often understood through bodily experience metaphors (e.g., up as happy / down as sad). Comparative studies identify universal metaphorical structures but also highlight cultural divergences. For instance, both English and Uzbek use heat metaphors for anger, but cultural focus on communal identity may shift metaphor usage and frequency.

Emotion expression is shaped by culture:

English, rooted in individualistic cultural norms, favours direct emotional expression.

Uzbek, grounded in collectivistic values, often expresses emotions indirectly or socially.

This cultural orientation affects how emotion words are used and categorized.

Cross-linguistic alignment involves matching lexical items or semantic categories across languages—for

example, pairing English happiness with Uzbek quvonch. Alignment can be:

Equivalence based (word-to-word synonyms)

Field-based (groupings of related emotions within lexical fields) This is crucial in translation studies and natural language processing (NLP).

METHODOLOGY

This study draws on existing comparative research on emotion vocabulary in English and Uzbek. Primary sources are contrastive analyses and lexicographic studies available in linguistic journals. Rather than original corpus work, it synthesizes findings on:

Lexical categories of emotion terms

Semantic structure and field boundaries

Metaphor usage and cultural coding

Translation and alignment strategies

Data includes:

Emotion lexicons and idiomatic expressions

Phraseological units

Cross-cultural semantic descriptions

English Emotional Lexicon: Categories and Structures

Core Emotional Categories

RESULTS

English emotional vocabulary distinguishes fundamental emotions—such as joy, sadness, fear, anger, surprise, and disgust—as discrete categories in psychological and linguistic models. These categories also manifest in lexical choices, with fine-grained terms like contentment, sorrow, and anxiety reflecting nuanced emotional states.



English has a broad range of emotional terms, often employing metaphorical and idiomatic structures:

“On top of the world” (extreme happiness)

“Boiling mad” (anger)

These metaphor clusters reflect embodied experiences (up/down, heat/cold) and help categorize emotions in complex, layered lexical fields.

Lexical Field Substructures

Within each category (e.g., sadness), English sub-distinguishes words such as: Melancholy, grief, anguish

Each term carries unique semantic contours, situating it within nuanced emotional subfields.

Uzbek also expresses basic emotional concepts—quvonch (joy), xafa (sad), qo‘rquv (fear), g‘azab (anger). These terms form fundamental nodes of its emotional lexical field, with cultural patterns in usage and expressivity.

Uzbek emotional vocabulary often prioritizes indirect expression, especially for negative emotions due to social harmony values. For example, instead of directly stating I am angry, speakers may use euphemistic or context-dependent constructions emphasizing group relationships.

Uzbek metaphors also link emotion with bodily and social imagery, such as yuragi siniq (“broken heart”), reflecting both universal cognitive metaphors and culture-specific imagery.

The Russian emotional lexicon has its own lexical-semantic fields for emotion, often sharing features with both English and Uzbek due to historical, cultural, and linguistic contact. Russian emotional categories include:

Core emotions (радость, гнев, страх)

Classical derivatives and borrowings Russian emotional vocabulary provides a useful intermediary for translating emotion terms between English and Uzbek due to historical lexicographic resources and shared academic tradition.

DISCUSSION

Because of differing lexical granularity, not all English emotion terms have exact Uzbek equivalents. For example, English distinctions like sadness vs. sorrow may map to a single broad Uzbek term but can be captured through descriptive phrases or context. Alignment thus requires field-based rather than strict one-to-one mapping.

Tagging emotional vocabulary in bilingual lexical fields benefits from cultural tagging—for example:

Tag: Emotion - joy - universal

Tag: Emotion - anger - cultural restraint.

These tags reflect both semantic content and cultural expression norms, aiding NLP and translation systems.

Alignment must account for shared conceptual metaphors (e.g., up/happiness) but adapt culturally specific imagery (e.g., heart metaphors in Uzbek), integrating cognitive semantics into bilingual lexical field design.

Understanding lexical field alignment allows translators to:

Choose culturally appropriate equivalents

Avoid false friends (literal but culturally inappropriate translations)

Maintain emotional nuance in target languages



Emotion tagging and categorization are crucial in sentiment analysis and NLP. Cross-linguistic datasets based on field alignment improve machine learning models for Uzbek and English emotional text processing.

Analysing how emotions are encoded helps educators and communicators understand cross-cultural emotional norms, reducing misunderstandings in intercultural interactions.

CONCLUSION

The lexical fields of emotions in English and Uzbek reveal both shared and distinct categorizations, influenced by cultural and linguistic structures. While some core emotions (e.g., happiness, sadness) are universally recognized, the granularity and expression differ—Uzbek may use more context-sensitive or metaphorical terms

compared to English's analytical labeling. Empirical studies show that speakers across linguacultures tag emotions differently, reflecting unique emotional conceptualizations. These differences impact translation, AI emotion detection, and cross-cultural communication. Understanding these patterns aids in developing accurate sentiment analysis tools for multilingual systems.

English exhibits lexical richness and direct emotional expression; Uzbek emphasizes cultural norms and indirect communication. Lexical field alignment involves not only semantic equivalence but also cultural orchestration. Effective tagging and categorization of emotions across languages relies on acknowledging both cognitive metaphors and language-specific cultural patterns.

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