

## THE USE OF SYNONYMS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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### Annotation

This article provides a comprehensive comparative study of synonym usage in English and Uzbek languages. It examines theoretical interpretations of synonyms, their classifications, semantic and stylistic functions, as well as their role in enriching speech and literature. Drawing on both classical and modern linguistic research, the paper highlights how synonyms contribute to lexical diversity, stylistic variation, and cultural expression. Special attention is given to the similarities and differences between English and Uzbek synonymic systems, with examples taken from literary works, folklore, and contemporary usage.

**Keywords:** synonym, lexical meaning, stylistic richness, context, synonymic series, language contact, English, Uzbek.

### Introduction

Synonymy constitutes one of the most significant aspects of linguistic richness. Synonyms, as words with similar or identical meanings, serve as essential tools for expressing nuances of thought, avoiding unnecessary repetition, and enhancing stylistic variety. In rhetoric and poetics, synonyms are valued for their ability to create emphasis, rhythm, and imagery. The study of synonyms dates back to antiquity. Aristotle, in *Poetics*, reflected on the phenomenon of lexical similarity. In Arabic linguistic tradition, the relationship between *lafz* (word form) and *ma'no* (meaning) received considerable attention. Later, in European linguistics, synonymy was systematically studied in the works of prominent scholars.

In Uzbek linguistics, researchers such as M. Jo'rayev, S. Karimov, and G'. Abdurahmonov analyzed the semantic and stylistic dimensions of synonyms. In English linguistics, J. Lyons, F. Palmer, and D. Crystal examined synonymy within the framework of semantics, stylistics, and discourse studies. The aim of this paper is to analyze the formation, classification, and functions of synonyms in English and Uzbek languages in a comparative perspective, demonstrating how cultural, historical, and structural factors influence their development. Theoretical Foundations of Synonymy:

The term synonym originates from the Greek *syn* ("together") and *onyma* ("name"), denoting words that differ in form but share a similar meaning. However, absolute synonymy—two words with completely identical meanings—is rare. Instead, synonyms usually differ in stylistic usage, connotations, or pragmatic context. J. Lyons emphasizes that absolute synonymy does not exist because no two words can share identical semantic, stylistic, and pragmatic properties; F. Palmer argues that synonyms exist in paradigmatic relations, forming synonymic sets, but they differ in stylistic or connotative value; D. Crystal views synonymy as a fundamental component of lexical variation and stylistic choice; M. Jo'rayev regards synonyms in Uzbek as reflections of the richness of the language and as cultural markers of national identity. These approaches highlight that synonymy is not merely a lexical phenomenon but also a socio-cultural and stylistic one.

Types of Synonyms:

Absolute (Full) Synonyms Rare in natural languages, they occur mostly in technical terminology or borrowings.

Uzbek: do'st – o'rtoq

English: begin – start

Relative (Partial) Synonyms

Words with close meanings but differing in intensity, usage, or style.

Uzbek: go'zal – chiroyli – latofatli

English: clever – smart – intelligent

Stylistic Synonyms:

Words denoting the same concept but differing in stylistic coloring.

Uzbek: vafot etdi – jon berdi – olamdan o'tdi

English: die – pass away – kick the bucket

Contextual Synonyms:

Lexical items that function as synonyms only within a particular context.

Uzbek: Ko'nglim yorug', qalbim porloq

English: He was strong, mighty, and powerful

Formation of Synonyms:

Native words:

Uzbek: yaxshi – chiroyli – go'zal

English: good – fine – nice

Word formation:

Uzbek: bilimli – bilimdon – bilimparvar

English: hopeful – optimistic – confident

Borrowings from related languages:

Uzbek: muhabbat (Arabic) – sevgi (Turkic)

English: kingly (Germanic) – royal (French) – regal (Latin)

Phraseological synonyms:

Uzbek: yurakdan sevmoq – chin dildan sevmoq

English: to keep silent – to hold one's tongue

Stylistic Functions of Synonyms

Enrichment of speech

Synonyms prevent redundancy and repetition.

Uzbek: U quvondi, shodlandi, sevinib ketdi.

English: He was happy, glad, delighted.

Expressiveness:

They intensify emotional coloring.

Navoiy: Yorug', porloq, munavvar diyor.

Shakespeare: Fair, lovely, beautiful lady.

Stylistic diversity:

Different registers are expressed through synonyms.

Uzbek: yig'lamoq – o'ksimoq – ko'z yoshi to'kmoq

English: to cry – to weep – to sob

Imagery and aesthetics. Synonyms play a crucial role in poetry and rhetoric by creating imagery and rhythm.

Comparative Analysis. In Uzbek, synonyms are deeply rooted in oral tradition, folklore, and classical poetry. Proverbs and sayings often rely on synonymic pairs to strengthen meaning: “O‘g‘il – farzand, bola – davlat.”

In English, the synonymic system has been enriched through centuries of borrowing from Latin, French, and Norse languages. Many English synonyms exist in triplets, reflecting layers of borrowing: ask (Germanic) – question (French) – interrogate (Latin). This indicates that while Uzbek synonymy developed mainly within the framework of the native language and folk creativity, English synonymy expanded primarily due to historical multilingual influences.

Modern Perspectives on Synonymy: In contemporary linguistics, synonymy is also studied within the frameworks of:

Pragmatics: how synonyms are chosen depending on politeness, formality, or audience.

Corpus linguistics: frequency and distribution of synonyms in different registers (academic, journalistic, conversational).

Cognitive linguistics: how synonyms reflect conceptual categorization in the human mind. For instance, the English synonyms freedom and liberty differ subtly in connotation—freedom being more colloquial and emotional, while liberty carries a formal, legalistic nuance. In Uzbek, *sevinch* and *xursandchilik* both mean “joy,” but their stylistic application differs depending on context.

### Conclusion

Synonyms constitute a vital part of the lexical system, reflecting not only the richness of vocabulary but also the cultural and historical development of a language. In both English and Uzbek, synonyms serve to enrich speech, enhance stylistic variety, and create expressive imagery.

While English synonymy is heavily influenced by historical borrowings and multilingual contact, Uzbek synonymy thrives on native word formation, folklore, and classical literature. Despite these differences, both languages demonstrate the universal role of synonymy in expanding lexical choice and refining human expression.

Synonyms, therefore, should not be seen as mere duplicates of meaning but as dynamic tools that reveal subtle distinctions, stylistic preferences, and cultural values.

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