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SEMANTIC DIFFERENTIATION OF ADJECTIVE-FORMING AFFIXES IN THE MODERN UZBEK LANGUAGE

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Introduction

One of the most pressing directions in modern Uzbek linguistics is the study of the word-formation system, including inter-categorical meaning shifts and morphological methods. The adjective category possesses specific semantic and grammatical features in the Uzbek language, and various affixes play a crucial role in its formation. The core topic of this master's thesis is dedicated to the problems of semantic differentiation of adjective-forming affixes. The relevance of the study is demonstrated by the abundance of synonymic and variant affixes within the adjective category, the determination of criteria for their semantic limitation in speech, and the establishment of their productivity levels based on corpus linguistics and statistical analysis.

The object of the study is lexical-semantic units formed with the help of native (morphological) and borrowed (Perso-Tajik, Arabic) adjective-forming affixes in the modern Uzbek language. The subject encompasses the semantic microfields of adjective-forming affixes, their mutual synonymy, variantness, and differential features in functional-stylistic characteristics.

Classification and Semantic Microfields of Adjective-Forming Affixes

In the Uzbek language, adjective-forming affixes are divided into two major groups according to their origin:

1. **Native (purely Uzbek) affixes:** These include suffixes formed during the specific historical stages of the development of the Uzbek language and actively participating in deriving adjectives from other parts of speech.
2. **Borrowed affixes:** Affixes borrowed from the Perso-Tajik and Arabic languages that have actively integrated into the lexical-semantic system of the Uzbek language (e.g., -dor, -mand, -ser, -iy, etc.).

Semantic differentiation of adjective-forming affixes refers to their lexical meaning shades, types of denoting signs-characteristics, and their role in microfields. Each affix possesses specific semantic features, and their spheres of action form certain microfields:

- **Microfield denoting possession and property:** Units arising with the participation of -dor, -li, and -mand affixes.
- **Microfield denoting the absence or lack of a sign:** The -siz affix acts as the primary indicator.
- **Microfield denoting feature, relation, and likeness:** Realized through affixes such as -iy, -viy, -simon, and -kor.

Synonymy and Variantness Phenomena

Synonymic relations and variantness occupy an important place in adjective derivation. Because some affixes express identical or similar meanings, they form mutual synonymic series. For instance, semantic differentiation is clearly observed at the intersection points of the functional roles of certain borrowed and native affixes that express signs and meanings.

Variant affixes are forms that vary according to phonetic conditions, and their frequency of usage differs depending on speech styles. In the study, the limits of their usage are determined based on the following criteria:

- Stylistic delimitation (activity in belles-lettres, official-business, or scientific style).

- Semantic nuance (differences in meaning shades).
- Morphological adaptability (the part-of-speech affiliation of the base word).

Corpus Linguistics and Statistical Analysis Results

The scientific novelty of this research lies in the fact that, for the first time in Uzbek linguistics, adjective-forming affixes were subjected not only to traditional morphological perspectives, but also to quantitative (statistical) analysis based on deep semantic-cognitive differentiation and the data of the National Corpus of the Uzbek Language.

Statistical observations carried out based on the national corpus data showed the following:

- **Productivity level:** Certain affixes (e.g., -li, -siz) are highly productive, showing equal activity in all styles of the language. Another group of affixes (e.g., -kor, -vand), however, is used within a limited scope and is primarily specialized in denoting occupation or character.
- **Corpus analysis:** Text volumes and word usage frequency indicators clearly demonstrated the real function of adjective-forming affixes in speech and their semantic capacity in exact figures.

Conclusion

The study of the semantic differentiation of adjective-forming affixes in the modern Uzbek language serves to further deeply reveal the word-forming potential of our language. Utilizing methods of corpus linguistics in determining synonymic series within the adjective category, the variantness of affixes, and the level of productivity ensures the authenticity and validity of scientific conclusions. As a result of the conducted analyses, the semantic microfields of adjective-forming affixes were identified, and their specific functional-stylistic features in speech were scientifically substantiated.

Keywords: semantic differentiation, adjective-forming affixes, productivity, microfield, synonymy, corpus linguistics, national corpus, borrowed affixes.