

## THE IRRESISTIBLE ROLE OF THE DICTIONARIES IN LEARNING LANGUAGES.

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Although we are living in a period of highly developed technological age, learning languages still demand much effort and has its own challenges. Learning foreign languages is one of the time consuming As Uzbek language is being used larger and larger year by year, perfect bilingual or talking dictionaries are in great demand among students and tourists and scientists too. In this article I want to discuss about Uzbek and other languages dictionaries especially, Uzbek – English dictionaries and vice versa. Besides these, we'll also discuss a bit about electronic dictionaries.

So, a dictionary is an encyclopedia of linguistic information about words and phrases. It presents to a target group (learners, researchers, and even for tourists) of lexicographers and professionals general information about words belonging to various disciplines of linguistics such as

- semantics (the meaning of words and phrases)
- phonology (the pronunciation of words, transcription, intonation).
- syntax (the syntactic category of words and phrases in which they participate).

If it is a bilingual dictionary there is some shortcomings of dictionaries that a paraphrase of the meaning of function words is often not very insightful with respect to their use.

It is proposed to use syntactic knowledge to structure articles about function words. In addition, dictionaries can covertly use example sentences to illustrate syntactic phenomena. Such measures strengthen the encyclopaedic character of a dictionary.

### 1. Dictionary information is encyclopaedic and multi-disciplinary in nature

This contribution focuses on the type of grammatical information about words which is represented in dictionaries, and, more specifically, how function words are dealt with. In a way, a dictionary can be likened to an encyclopaedia. Like an encyclopaedia, a dictionary presents information that must be relevant for its target group of laymen, among which higher-level learners of language may be distinguished as an important subgroup (Coffey 2006: 159). Idiomatic and collocation phrases are belong to syntactic studies. However, dictionaries should give information in example I think, especially popular ones. For example, gossips or nonsense mean in Uzbek (g'iybat, gurunglashish, laqqillash and etc.). There is an idiom in English for these meaning “chewing the breeze (fat) or shoot the breeze (fat)<sup>1</sup>. This idiom does not mean strong negative meaning; it's might be just spend time, exchange information, and, so on. Although gossip often happens when the person being talked about is not around, it is not necessarily bad. Is this surprising? Yes, gossip can also be seen as a form of communication used to share information, learn, bring a group closer together, and strengthen personal bonds.

Of course, the specific information contained in a dictionary may be tailored to the needs of the specific target group which it is written for.

<sup>1</sup> Mixed up metaphors and expressions, by Brian Borchardt 2000.

But in general English dictionaries it would be useful for learners if to give more complete meaning of words for instance, for students and scientists or for wide public too. In Google translator for example, if look for word “mung”, it translates into Russian as “mash” but it does not translate into Uzbek.

A dictionary is a repository of various kinds of linguistic information about words. Thus the following pieces of information about a word may be found in a dictionary:

- Meaning of the word(s) or phrases
- its pronunciation (in transcription, electronic dictionaries may present soundly pronunciation).
- its etymology (origin of a word)
- its substructure with respect to derivational morphology (distinguishing affixes)

We know that Uzbek language is a suffixed language so dictionary should give full version of a word to make it easy for learners.

- its membership of a paradigm of inflectional morphology
- the syntactic category to which it belongs

The word gossip for example, in Webster’s new world college dictionary is explained as following: Late old English godsibbe , godparent. 1 a) a godparent b) a close friend, 2. a) a person who chatters or repeats idle talk and rumors especially, about private affairs of others. 3 a) such talk or rumor, d) chatter – vi. to be a gossip or engage in gossip – gossipy (adj).

Gossip monger , n. (see n 2).<sup>2</sup>

Next dictionary Cambridge advanced learner’s dictionary explains or gives the meanings of the word such: n (noun) 1. A conversation or reports about other people’s private lives which might be unkind, disapproving or untrue. Her letter was full of gossip. (this may be give negative meaning in Uzbek) but Jane and Lyne sat in the kitchen having a good gossip about their friends. (in this example we do not see negative meaning). 2 gossip monger (mainly in UK) disapproving someone who enjoys talking about other people and their private lives; example She is a terrible gossip.

Gossip column, (noun ) (c) part of a newspaper in which you found stories about the social and private lives of a famous people<sup>3</sup>.

The word gossip (g’iybat) in Uzbek encyclopedia is described as following; Talk about a people who is not presenting, (orqavarotdan gapirish) and this gives negative meaning. But sometimes in Uzbek also may be used as a positive but often as a joke, for instance, we are gossiping about our friends. (Do’stlarimiz g’iybatini qilayapmiz). In this case, we also do not observe enough positive meaning.

Next meaning in Uzbek “G’iybatxona” which we do not see the equivalent in English dictionaries. The meaning of “G’iybatxona” is a place that there are often gossip and not peaceful disagreement or disapproval. And, also this word often about the families that they do not live peacefully in mutual understanding.

<sup>2</sup> Webster’s new world college dictionary.

<sup>3</sup> Cambridge advanced learner’s dictionary.



“G’iybatchi” – gossip, who often talks about other people and their personal lives. In this book the authors often try to give meaning with the help of proverbs but the clear meaning of the word. For example, “G’iybatchida burd bo’lmas tuhmatchida yuz bo’lmas”<sup>4</sup>. The meaning of the saying is like this: “A gossip has no word (does not keep promise) and a slanderer has no face”.

The syntactic distinctions drawn above will also be useful to foreign learners of Uzbek. Native speakers of English learning Uzbek will immediately see that the first and the third use of words as a synonym, but they are not often synonyms and they are not interchangeable in the context. For example, Uzbek words “yong’in, olov, o’t” are considered as synonyms and they are often not interchangeable in the context.

Syntactic distinctions are often hard to explain to the lithographer, because they pay too much attention to syntactic jargon. In this case, it is nevertheless possible to illustrate the relevant distinctions by means of appropriately chosen example sentences. The importance of using appropriate examples should not be underestimated. Such example sentences will be intuitively grasped by author, while professional users will grasp their relevance. So, to be clear the differences of first or second meaning of a word for users giving samples, let it be sayings or simple sentences they are useful. In Uzbek with adding suffixes to the word we change not only the tense of a word (especially verbs) but change the meaning also. For instance, “yoq”- switch on, “yoqa”- collar, and so on. So, when consisting dictionaries concerning to Uzbek language, above mentioned peculiarities of the language should be taken into consideration.

## References

1. O’zbek tilining izohli lug’ati (talking dictionary of Uzbek language) second volume, Z. M. Ma’rufov. –“Russian language” publishing house, 1981.
2. Brian Borhardt . “Mixed up metaphors and expressions”, 2000.
3. Webster’s new world college dictionary, fourth edition, Michael Agnes, David B. Guralnik. Wiley Publishing House Ink. 1985
4. Cambridge advanced learner’s dictionary. Cambridge University Press, 2006
5. <https://translate.google.com/>

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<sup>4</sup> O’zbek tilining izohli lug’ati (talking dictionary of Uzbek language) second volume, Z. M. Ma’rufov. –“Russian language” publishing house, 1981.