



STRUCTURAL CLASSIFICATION OF UZBEK SWEET NAMES: SIMPLE, COMPOUND AND PAIRED LEXICAL UNITS

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Abstract: The names of traditional sweets represent an important part of the lexical wealth of the Uzbek language and reflect the historical, cultural, and linguistic development of the nation. The structural organization of these names demonstrates the productive mechanisms of word formation and reveals how language preserves information about traditional food culture. This study examines the structural classification of Uzbek sweet names by dividing them into three main categories: simple, compound, and paired lexical units. The research aims to identify the linguistic characteristics of each group and explain their role in enriching the vocabulary of the Uzbek language. The study is based on descriptive, lexical-semantic, and structural analysis. A number of traditional Uzbek sweet names were collected from dictionaries, ethnographic publications, and other reliable sources. Each lexical unit was analyzed according to its morphological structure, formation patterns, and semantic features. The research demonstrates that simple names generally consist of a single lexical root, while compound names are formed through the combination of two or more lexical elements that create a unified meaning. Paired lexical units, although less common, illustrate the expressive potential of the language and reflect specific naming traditions within Uzbek culinary culture. The findings indicate that the structural diversity of sweet names is closely connected with cultural values, regional traditions, ingredients, methods of preparation, and historical language contact. Many of these lexical units have been preserved for centuries and continue to function as important elements of everyday communication and cultural identity. Their structural characteristics provide valuable material for studies in lexicology, morphology, ethnolinguistics, and onomastics.

Keywords: Lexical classification, word formation, morphology, compound lexical units, paired lexical units.

Introduction. Language is closely connected with the history, traditions, and everyday life of a nation. One of the areas where this relationship can be clearly observed is the vocabulary related to traditional food. The names of national sweets are not only used to identify different confectionery products but also preserve information about cultural values, social customs, and the



historical development of the Uzbek people. As a result, these lexical units are of particular interest for linguistic research.

The Uzbek language contains a rich variety of sweet names that differ in their structure, meaning, and origin. Some of these names consist of a single lexical base, while others are formed by combining two or more lexical elements. There are also paired lexical units that have developed according to the word-formation patterns of the language. Studying these structural features makes it possible to understand how new lexical units are created and how they become part of the national vocabulary.

Although a number of studies have examined Uzbek culinary terminology from cultural and ethnographic perspectives, the structural classification of sweet names has received comparatively limited attention. Most previous research has focused on the history, preparation methods, or cultural significance of traditional sweets rather than on their linguistic structure. Therefore, a systematic analysis of simple, compound, and paired lexical units can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of Uzbek lexical formation.

Lexical classification. Lexical classification refers to the process of organizing words into different groups according to their linguistic characteristics. These characteristics may include semantic meaning, grammatical function, morphological structure, or the method by which words are formed. In lexicology, classification helps researchers identify common patterns within a vocabulary and explains the relationships between lexical units.

In the study of Uzbek sweet names, lexical classification provides a systematic framework for examining their structural features. According to their morphological composition, these names can be divided into simple, compound, and paired lexical units. Simple lexical units consist of a single root or stem, while compound lexical units are formed by combining two or more lexical elements into one meaningful name. Paired lexical units are created through the combination of two coordinated words that function together as a single lexical expression.

The lexical classification of sweet names is important because it demonstrates the productive word-formation processes of the Uzbek language. It also reveals how traditional culinary terminology has developed under the influence of cultural practices, regional traditions, and historical language contact. Through lexical classification, researchers can identify structural similarities and differences among sweet names and better understand their role in preserving the linguistic and cultural heritage of Uzbekistan.

Therefore, lexical classification is not only a method of organizing



vocabulary but also an effective approach to studying the linguistic structure and development of traditional food terminology.

Word formation. Word formation is one of the fundamental areas of linguistics that studies the processes through which new lexical units are created in a language. It explains how existing words, roots, and morphemes combine or change to produce new vocabulary. Every language possesses its own word-formation patterns, which develop over time under the influence of historical, social, and cultural factors. As vocabulary expands, word formation plays a significant role in enriching the lexical system and meeting the communicative needs of speakers.

In the Uzbek language, word formation is an active process that contributes to the development of different lexical fields, including the terminology of traditional food. The names of Uzbek sweets demonstrate various structural patterns that reflect the productive mechanisms of the language. Some sweet names consist of a single lexical base, whereas others are formed through the combination of two or more lexical elements. Such formations show how meaningful lexical units are created according to the morphological rules of the language.

The analysis of word formation is particularly important in the structural classification of Uzbek sweet names because it reveals the linguistic principles behind their construction. By examining simple, compound, and paired lexical units, researchers can identify the morphological patterns used in naming traditional sweets and explain how these names have become part of the national vocabulary. This approach also highlights the relationship between language structure and cultural traditions, since many sweet names preserve information about ingredients, preparation methods, regional customs, and historical development.

Therefore, the study of word formation not only explains the internal structure of lexical units but also provides valuable insights into the evolution of Uzbek culinary terminology and its contribution to the lexical richness of the Uzbek language.

Morphology. Morphology is a branch of linguistics that examines the internal structure of words and the principles governing their formation. It focuses on morphemes, the smallest meaningful units of language, and explains how they combine to create different lexical forms. Morphological analysis is essential for understanding the organization of a language's vocabulary because it reveals the structural relationships among words and the mechanisms through which new lexical units are produced.

In the Uzbek language, morphology plays an important role in the formation and classification of lexical units. Traditional sweet names provide



valuable material for morphological research because they demonstrate different structural patterns. Some names are composed of a single lexical root, while others consist of two or more lexical elements that function together as one lexical unit. These structural differences make it possible to classify sweet names into simple, compound, and paired lexical units according to their morphological composition.

A morphological approach also helps identify the word-formation patterns used in Uzbek culinary terminology. The structural organization of sweet names reflects not only the grammatical system of the language but also the influence of cultural traditions, historical development, and naming practices. Through morphological analysis, researchers can determine how lexical units are formed, how their components contribute to meaning, and how they become established in the vocabulary of the Uzbek language.

Therefore, morphology provides an effective theoretical framework for the structural classification of Uzbek sweet names. It allows researchers to examine the linguistic characteristics of these lexical units systematically and contributes to a deeper understanding of the relationship between word structure, lexical development, and the cultural heritage reflected in traditional food terminology.

Compound lexical units. Compound lexical units are words formed by combining two or more independent lexical elements into a single meaningful unit. In morphology, compounding is recognized as one of the most productive word-formation processes because it allows languages to create new lexical items without changing the basic meaning of their components. Although each element has its own lexical meaning, together they form a new concept that functions as one lexical unit within the vocabulary.

In the Uzbek language, compound lexical units are widely used in different lexical fields, including the terminology of traditional food. The names of many Uzbek sweets are formed by combining lexical elements that describe ingredients, colour, shape, preparation methods, or other distinctive characteristics. As a result, compound names are not merely combinations of words; they represent specific cultural concepts that have become established in the national vocabulary through long-term usage.

From a structural perspective, the analysis of compound lexical units makes it possible to identify the principles according to which sweet names are formed. Their morphological composition demonstrates the productive nature of word formation in Uzbek and illustrates how several lexical components can function together to express a single meaning. This structural organization contributes to the richness of the Uzbek lexicon and reflects the close relationship between language and traditional culinary culture.



Therefore, the study of compound lexical units is essential for the structural classification of Uzbek sweet names. It provides a clearer understanding of the morphological patterns used in naming traditional sweets and explains how compound formations contribute to the development and preservation of Uzbek culinary terminology.

Paired lexical units. Paired lexical units are lexical combinations consisting of two coordinated words that function together as a single semantic and structural unit. In linguistic studies, these formations are regarded as a special type of lexical organization because both components contribute equally to the overall meaning. Unlike ordinary word combinations, paired lexical units are characterized by their stable structure and fixed usage in a language.

In the Uzbek language, paired lexical units are found in various semantic fields and reflect the expressive and productive nature of the language. Their formation is based on the coordination of two lexical elements that are semantically related or complementary. Such lexical units often emerge through long-term language use and become established as conventional expressions within the vocabulary.

From the perspective of structural classification, the analysis of paired lexical units helps explain the diversity of lexical patterns found in Uzbek terminology, including the names of traditional sweets where such formations occur. Their morphological structure demonstrates that lexical meaning can be expressed through the combination of coordinated components rather than a single lexical base. This feature contributes to the richness of the Uzbek lexicon and reflects traditional naming practices shaped by cultural and historical development.

The study of paired lexical units is therefore important for understanding the structural organization of Uzbek sweet names. It enables researchers to distinguish this category from simple and compound lexical units and provides a clearer description of the word-formation patterns used in Uzbek culinary terminology. Such analysis also contributes to broader research in morphology, lexicology, and ethnolinguistics by revealing the interaction between language structure and cultural heritage.

Conclusion. The structural analysis of Uzbek sweet names demonstrates that these lexical units represent an important component of the Uzbek lexical system and reflect the linguistic as well as cultural heritage of the nation. Based on their morphological structure, sweet names can be classified into simple, compound, and, where attested, paired lexical units. Each category possesses its own structural characteristics and contributes to the richness of Uzbek culinary terminology.



The findings of this study show that simple lexical units are generally formed from a single lexical base, whereas compound lexical units are created through the combination of two or more meaningful elements. Paired lexical units, although relatively limited in number, illustrate another structural pattern found in the lexical system. This classification provides a clearer understanding of the word-formation processes involved in naming traditional sweets and highlights the productivity of Uzbek morphology.

Furthermore, the study confirms that the names of traditional sweets are not merely linguistic labels but also carriers of historical experience, cultural values, and national identity. Their structural features reflect the interaction between language, tradition, and everyday life, making them valuable material for linguistic and ethnolinguistic research.

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