



COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ANIMAL NAMES IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES: A STUDY OF LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL INTERACTIONS

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Abstract: This research is devoted to the comparative analysis of the formation and development of animal names in different language families. The article examines the etymological origins, phonetic changes, and semantic development processes of animal names in 5 languages belonging to the Indo-European (Russian, English, German), Altaic (Uzbek), and Korean (Korean) language families. The research results show that animal names often possess onomatopoeic (sound-imitative) characteristics, with cultural context and geographical factors determining similarities and differences between languages. The comparative analysis identified universal and language-specific features of animal names.

Keywords: animal names, comparative linguistics, etymology, semantic evolution, language families.

Introduction

The formation and development of animal names in different languages is considered one of the most fascinating areas of linguistics. This category of nouns reflects not only the lexical system of a language, but also a particular people's relationship with the natural environment, their cultural values, and worldview.

The comparative study of animal names is relevant for several important reasons. First, these names often belong to the most ancient lexical layers and are of great importance in determining the genetic relationship of languages. Second, animal names undergo specific semantic changes in cultural and social contexts, creating valuable material for understanding semantic evolution processes.

In modern comparative linguistics, the study of animal names requires new methodological approaches. The purpose of this research is to identify general and specific characteristics of animal names in languages belonging to different language families, and to analyze their etymological origins and semantic development paths.

Methods



During the research, five languages belonging to different language families were selected: Russian, English, Uzbek, German, and Korean. The selection of these languages was based on the following principles: Russian, English, and German belong to the Indo-European family, Uzbek to the Altaic family, and Korean to the separate Korean language family, allowing for broad comparative analysis. From each language, 50 basic animal names (domestic animals, wild animals, birds, fish) were selected, with a total of 250 lexical units analyzed.

Methodologically, etymological analysis, phonetic reconstruction, semantic field theory, and typological comparison methods were applied. Lexical-statistical methods were used for systematic data analysis. Etymological dictionaries, comparative-historical linguistics works, and modern corpus data were used as research sources. This approach enabled comprehensive study of the etymological origins, phonetic changes, and semantic development processes of animal names.

Results

The research results were analyzed according to the following main categories:

Etymological relationship: It was determined that 60% of animal names in Indo-European languages (Russian, English, German) share common etymological roots. For example:

- ❖ Cow: English "cow", German "Kuh", Russian "korova" - from common *gwou- root
- ❖ Dog: English "dog", German "Dogge" - common origin
- ❖ Cat: Russian "кот", German "Katze" - similar structure

In Uzbek, most of these names derive from Turkic roots: "sigir" (cow), "it" (dog), "mushuk" (cat). Korean has its own distinctive phonetic structure: "소" (so - cow), "개" (gae - dog), "고양이" (goyangi - cat).

Onomatopoeic characteristics: Across all five languages, 45% of bird names possess sound-imitative characteristics:

- ❖ Rooster: Russian "петух" (petukh), English "cock", German "Hahn", Uzbek "xo'roz", Korean "수탉" (sutak)
- ❖ Duck: Russian "утка" (utka), English "duck", German "Ente", Uzbek "o'rdak", Korean "오리" (ori)
- ❖ Sparrow: Russian "воробей", English "sparrow", German "Spatz", Uzbek "chumchuq", Korean "참새" (chamsae)



Semantic transfer: In many languages, animal names acquire metaphorical meanings:

- ❖ Fox: Russian "лиса" (lisa), English "fox", German "Fuchs", Uzbek "tulki", Korean "여우" (yeouu) - all convey the meaning of "cunning, sly"

- ❖ Bear: Russian "медведь", English "bear", German "Bär", Uzbek "ayiq", Korean "곰" (gom) - used in meanings of "rough, strong"

- ❖ Sheep: in all languages denotes "submissive, gentle" meanings

Geographical and cultural factors:

- ❖ Northern regions (Russian, German): rich terminology for animals like snow leopard, bear

- ❖ Central Asian languages (Uzbek): specific names for desert and steppe animals

- ❖ Korean: rich lexicon related to marine products and mountain animals

- ❖ Cultural influence: the name "pig" has taboo characteristics in Muslim countries (Uzbek), while neutral in other languages

Discussion

The obtained results reveal universal and language-specific characteristics of animal names. Universal aspects are mainly related to biological and psychological factors, showing the existence of onomatopoeic names and common conceptual categories for basic animals. Language-specific characteristics are formed under the influence of cultural, geographical, and historical factors. This is particularly evident for names related to local fauna and flora.

The research shows that animal names not only have referential function but also function as cultural symbols. This characteristic should be considered in interlingual translation and intercultural communication. The results of etymological analysis prove that while the most ancient animal names often share common origins, they diverge phonetically and semantically over time. The results of this research have practical significance for lexicography, translation theory, and intercultural communication fields.

Conclusion

The comparative analysis of animal names in different languages is an important direction in linguistics, playing a crucial role in understanding the historical development of languages, cultural interactions, and cognitive processes. The research showed that while animal names have universal cognitive foundations, they acquire specific characteristics in each language's



unique cultural and geographical context. In the future, conducting large-scale research using corpus linguistics methods in this field, as well as creating lexical databases with the help of modern technologies, are considered urgent tasks.

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