

A comparative- typological classification of archaic words in english and uzbek languages

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Abstract

This study recommends a comparative-typological classification to categorize archaic words according to their semantic functions. Through this study, we clarify the pragmatic content of three related terms archaic words, historical words and anachronisms in terms of their similarities and differences. Moreover, we provide detailed explanation of archaic words existed in English and Uzbek languages. Mainly, through this study, we propose a revision of the semantical classification of archaic words to simplify their typology. This framework is conducted based on the other classifications of the archaic words. Existing categorizations of archaic words refer to lexical and grammatical categories that are referential in function, with the additional categories of phonetic and derivational archaic words. We suggest bringing semantic categories of archaic words, such as medical archaisms, occupational archaisms, zoarchaisms, phytoarchaisms, topoarchaisms and hydroarchaisms.

Key words: archaism, historism, typological analysis, semantic fields.

1. Introduction

In the world linguistics, the main language phenomena are learnt by defining their different features, such as lexical, morphologic, phonetic, semantic, and typological. In this article, we are going to discuss archaic words in Uzbek and English languages in terms of their typological analysis. However, prior to moving the main part of our work, initially, we must identify three related terms that may confuse us:

1. Archaism
2. Historism
3. Anachronism

The language is rich in old and obsolete words in the vocabulary, nevertheless, there are some issues that these words have certain distinguishing factors. Coming to the archaisms, an archaism is an old word or phrase, which is no longer active in general spoken language or written use. **Archaisms** are found in poetry, nursery rhymes, historical novels, proverbs and place names. For example, the old version of the word “**ago**” was “**agone**” in the past. “**Aright**” was used instead of “**right**”, people said “**aye**”, when they want to express “**yes**” in the history. Such examples can also be found in the Uzbek language vocabulary, for instance, the term “**ulus**” was used to mean the “**people**”, who belong to a particular country, nation and area. “**Bitik**” was used instead of “**writing**”. We can see from the abovementioned examples that, archaisms are the old versions of the words that still exist.

Another term that can be confused with an archaism is historism. Historisms belong to obsolete words. Their denotatum is outdated. We mean here, when the words were out of use together with the object they call, they become historisms. They are very numerous as names for social relations, institutions and objects of material culture of the past. The names of ancient weapons, types of boats, types of carriages, instruments belong to historisms. Coming to the examples: in the history, blacksmiths used an “**anvil**”, which is a heavy usually steel-faced iron block on which metal was shaped (as by hand hammering). As we can see this example that nowadays an anvil as an object is no longer in use, so as the word itself. Observing other examples, a **prairie schooner** was a canvas-covered ship used by pioneers crossing the North American prairies. Or a **crossbow** was a type of weapon. A great number examples exist in the Uzbek language also, such as, “**paqir**” was an ancient type of currency, which was equal to 2 copper coins. “**Yasovulboshi**” was an ancient military status, which is one of the palace positions in the Turkestan khanates. In the Khiva khanate, yasovulboshi had a police station, prisons, and guards for the khan. He also passed through secret decrees. He led the soldiers into the battle by order of the khan. Each yasovulboshi had several assistants, who were called yasovums. Another historism is “**oshiq**”. This word itself nowadays mean

a person who is in love, however, in the historical vocabulary of Uzbek language, “oshiq” meant a type of ancient playing stones, which are made of bones. As these examples, we can see that, neither the words nor their denotatum are in use, so they are called historism.

The last term is an **anachronism**, which is any thing, person, or word that is out of place chronologically. An anachronism is anything that is not historically correct. It is most frequently found in works of imagination that rest on a historical basis, in which appear details borrowed from a later age; e.g., a clock in William Shakespeare’s “Julius Caesar”, an attendant to the Pharaoh shod in tennis shoes in Cecil B. de Mille’s “The Ten Commandments”. Anachronisms originate in disregard of the different modes of life and thought that characterize different periods or in ignorance of the facts of history (Encyclopedia Britannica 2016). For example,

Shakespeare used to like taking a **photo**.

We can simply know, at that period, camera was not invented, so it is historically incorrect sentence, or

When Alisher Navoiy was studying at his **Master’s** degree, he met Husayn Boykaro.

In these both examples, the words “photo” and “Master’s” are considered anachronisms, and such words are used in the context of fictions for humorous purposes in most cases.

Below, we firstly discuss the typological analysis of archaic words in terms of semantics. In the first part, we identified 6 types of semantical groups of archaic words and we will look through them in detail.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Typological analysis focusing on different aspects of words provide additional insights to evaluate and improve existing materials and forecast desirable future directions for the field of linguistics. Classification is essential for interpreting data, extrapolating information from specific sources, setting strategic objectives or standards, and evaluating. Classification provides a necessary framework for research and it is a way of simplifying complex information and can have important educational values. Therefore, in this part we have defined six semantical groups of archaic words in English and Uzbek language.

It is natural that, so far, linguists have studied archaic words in terms of several classifications. For example, some researches distinguish lexical and grammatical archaisms, in which, the former means the archaic units, such as woe (sorrow), nigh (near), aught (anything). Grammatical archaisms are old grammatical forms: thou (you), the -est inflexion for the 2nd person singular, -th for the 3rd person singular, the plural form of brother (brethren), tense forms like wilt, spake, builded.

In Russian linguistics, Edneralova Natalia Gennadievna distinguishes historisms and archaisms in terms of their relevance to the following thematic groups:

- 1) household vocabulary;
- 2) personal physiological and psychological vocabulary;
- 3) socio-political vocabulary;
- 4) economic vocabulary;
- 5) military vocabulary;
- 6) vocabulary of culture, upbringing and education;
- 7) vocabulary of nature, space, time;
- 8) scientific and technical vocabulary. (Edneralova 2003)

Besides that, some modern linguists distinguish the following types of archaisms:

- 1) Lexical - the word itself is outdated, since its phonetic-alphabetic composition has disappeared from use and has been replaced by a new word that has a completely different, unlike the original, phonetic composition. For example, lanita - cheeks, ramen – shoulders.
- 2) Phonetic - in connection with historical transformations in phonetics, derivatology and grammar, the sound image of the word has changed, which is also reflected in its spelling. On the this aspect influenced the termination of the law of the open syllable, the development of full

consonance, a change in the pronunciation of vowels, a combination of hard and soft consonants, the degree of hardness, the influence of affricates, etc.

- 3) Word-building or derivational - in connection with changes in the means of education of the word, for example, obsolescence of the suffix or prefix.
- 4) Grammatical - the word has lost some forms, which has changed the paradigmatic composition.
- 5) Semantic - the word exists in the modern language, but has lost one or more meanings.

However, different linguists have classified archaisms and historicisms in different ways, there is still no consensus on this matter, because the question of typology is still debatable. In addition to the main ones mentioned above, Dmitry Nikolaevich Shmelev identifies partial archaisms and exoticisms, Oleg Evgenievich Voronichev complements the typology with lexical and lexical-semantic archaisms. Elena Innokentievna Dibrova proposes to take into account the following word-formation feature, on the basis of which it expands the classification: it distinguishes single-root and multi-root within the boundaries of derivational archaisms and historicisms.

In this work, we suggest a classification of archaic words, according to their semantical features. (Figure 1)

FIGURE 1. Semantic classification of archaic words



In the following section, we will discuss these types turn by turn. So, the first type is **medical archaisms**. The name itself shows that such words express archaic words related to the medicine, meaning names of illnesses, terms associated with diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease etc. A great number of medical linguistic units that were in use in the past, but later with the development of science and technology, they were replaced by new alternatives, resulting the appearance of medical archaisms. For example, the archaic word “**calenture**” was used to express “burning temperature, fever”. The modern medical term of this state is hyperthermia, which is also known simply as overheating, a condition where an individual's body temperature is elevated beyond normal due to failed thermoregulation. Another synonym archaism for the word “calenture” is “feuer”. The use of such words can be seen in several folklore genres, for example, in the Oxford dictionary of Proverbs, the proverb “Fasting is a great remedie in **feuers**” is given. Another example is “**lasks**”, which meant actually the diarrhea. This word is derived from Old Northern French “lasque”, from lasker ‘to loosen’. Later this word has given its meaning to the diarrhea. Next example is the term “**Pissing disease**”, which was used to express diabetes. As we can see from these examples, there were great many medical archaic terms in the history of English language, now we will look

through the examples from the Uzbek language. “**Xafaqon**” illness was used instead of “hypertonia”, which is the illness of blood pressure. Here we should mention that, the term “xafaqon” once lost its meaning as a “hypertonia”, but the physicians began to reuse this term again in their discourse, in order to make the situation more easier for the patient, not make them worried about themselves, and helping them to be calm in the remedies. Such “restored” words are widely appearing in the language, so at the end of this section, we have discussed these words under the name of “**integro archaisms**”. The next archaic word “bod” was applied for the meaning “rheumatism”. Bod was originated from the Persian language, meaning edema, it is a common name for diseases such as joint pain (arthralgia), muscle pain (myalgia), sciatica, plexitis, radiculitis, and rheumatism. The last medical term is “**xapdori**”, which is used to express “pills”, which is a small round mass of solid medicine for swallowing whole.

Next type of archaic words are occupational archaisms. As the name indicates, they are old words related to jobs. For example, beekeepers were called as “**apiarians**” during the XVIII century. This words core is “apiar”, meaning “bee”. “**Balister**” meant an archer and bakers were called as “**baxters**”. Providing Uzbek examples, “**qozikalon**” was used for calling a man, who is appointed by the ruler in Muslim countries, acting as a judge on the basis of Sharia law, and the chairman of a Sharia court. “**Sayyod**” was used instead of “hunter”. From these examples, we can see that there are lots of archaic words in the system of occupational words.

Some of these professions still exist today but the word for them has changed; some (mason or boatswain, for example), are still in use but are included for their rich historical associations. Some of the vocations that did not survive still exist as surnames (Cooper, Stabler, etc).

Phytoarchaisms are the out dated names of herbs, plants and trees. Let’s look through the examples. In the past the dandelions were called as **devilsmilk**. Pumpkin was named as **Pompion**. **Aromaticus** was used to express acorus calamus, sedge, calamus, sweet flag, sweet root, sweet rush, sweet cane, gladdon, sweet myrtle, myrtle grass, myrtle sedge, cinnamon sedge. The Sweet Sedge is a vigorous, reed-like, aquatic plant, flourishing in ditches, by the margins of lakes and streams and in marshy places generally, associated with reeds, bullrushes and bur-reed; esteemed as an aromatic stimulant and mild tonic. It's used to increase the appetite and benefit digestion. The term **arsmart** was replaced by water pepper (*Polygonum hydropiper*). It was so called as it would be laid in bed linen to repel fleas and would sting or make smart any bare flesh that came in contact with it. The juice was used against colds, swellings, and bruises.

The similar examples from the Uzbek language are as follows, Aloe Vera’s old name was **Sabir** and chamomile was called as **Uqhuvon**. The noticeable part is that, among the phytoarchaisms, there are synonymic features in the English contexts. For instance,

Zooarchaisms are the ancient names of animals and birds. For example: burgander-duck, cony-rabbit, in Uzbek language, samak-fish, qunfuz-hedgehog. In the table below, we provide archaic word list for the names of animals. (Table 1)

Table 1. Concise list of Zooarchaisms

Modern English	Archaic English name	Archaic Uzbek name
penguin	Arse-feet	-
giraffe	camelopard	-
duck	burgander	-
rabbit	cony	-
pismire	ant	qarinjqqa
worm	wyrm	xarotin
hedgehog	Urchin, hedgepig	qunfuz
fish	-	Samak
quail	-	sumono
snake	serpent	hayya

We know that in the past the names of cities and countries were different. Their names were replaced by means of several factors, such as political and religious ones, resulting those old names become archaic. Below we have listed the examples (Table 2):

Table 2. Concise list of Topoarchaisms

Modern name	Archaic name
Aegyptus	Egypt
Albania	Georgia, Azerbaijan
Albion	England
Anatolia	Turkey (east)
Aquincum	Budapest
Arabia Felix	Yemen
Argentoratum	Strasbourg
Azania	South Africa.
Baetica	Spain
Berolinum	Berlin
Caledonia	Scotland
Cambria	Wales
Cantabria	Cambridge
Cantiacorum	Canterbury
Constantinopolis	Istanbul
Eblanda	Dublin
Glatia	Turkey (central)
Great Tartary	Siberia.
Hafnia	Copenhagen
Hibernia	Ireland
Hispania	Spain
Ilea Capitolina	Jerusalem
Indenburgus	Edinburgh, Scotland.
Lutetia	Paris
Mamucium	Manchester
Mauretania	Morocco
Muscovia	Moscow.
Oxonia	Oxford
Scythia	Ukraine

Such examples, exist not only in English language, but also, in Uzbek also. For example, the word “Chin-Mochin” was used to express “China” in most of the folklore poems and other literary works. The word “Farang” expressed France, whereas in some texts, it identified Europe.

Hydroarchaisms are the words of rivers and lakes, oceans that were out dated. for example, the river Danube was called with Donaw, Donwy, Donava, Donua, Donuavis. In Uzbek discourse, river Amudaryo was called with several names, such as Jayhun, Oksus, Ukuz, Amul and others. It is the longest river in Central Asia. the Greeks called it Ox. Among the locals, the river is known as Jayhun. Amudaryo was called Oxus or Oxos by Romans, Jaihun by the Arabs, and native people called it first by Oguz, Balkh, Vakhsh, and then by Amul.

Another hydroarchaism is Sirdaryo, which was also called by different names. Yahartes (Yaksart) is a name found in the works of ancient Greek historians and in medieval Western European sources. According to Pliny, the river was called “Laksat” (Yaksart) by the Bactrians and “Silis” by the Skifs.

According to Claudius Ptolemy (2nd century BC), A Handbook of Geography, a large tribe called the Yaksart lived near the banks of the Yaksart River.

The orientalist I. Markvart interprets Yaksart's name in Pahlavi form as Yahsha arta - a real, pure pearl. The word Yakshagavhar is also found in the Chinese (Chinchukhe) and Turkish (Yinchuoguz) names of the river. It is found in Arabic (Beruni's Mas'ud's Law) and Persian (Hudud ulalam) sources of the Islamic period in the form of Hashart.

Syrdarya is sometimes referred to as Tanais, in the Zoroastrian holy book Avesto, it is called as Danu, in the Runic (Turkish) inscriptions- Yenchuoguz, in Firdavsi's "Shahnama" and Hamdullah Qazvini's "Nuzhat ul- qulub"- Gulzarriyun. In many chronicles after the arrival of the Arabs, Sayhun, Hashart and Qanqar is mentioned in the works of Arab geographers Ibn Khurdadbeh (9th-10th centuries) and in the works of Beruni in the form of Hasart. At the same time, depending on where it flows, it is also called Obi Fergana (or Fergana River), Ozgan River, Obi Khojand (Khojand water), Nahr osh-Shosh (Shosh River), Banokat River.

The term Syrdarya first appears in the form of "Silis" in the work of the Roman historian Pliny (1st century AD). The word "Silis" or "Sir" is probably derived from the name of a tribe that lived around the river.

In conclusion, we have shown the explanation of three related terms: archaism, historism and anachronism, as they are closely associated with each other. Moreover, we have distinguished 6 semantic groups of archaic words in Uzbek and English languages, together with the examples. These archaisms show that as time passes, languages change. As new words replace archaisms, we forget words that we once used. Outdated language lives on in our most conservative areas of activity and that in itself gives it a special feeling.

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