

## EXPRESSION OF CORE AND ADDITIONAL LAYERS OF WORD MEANING IN THE UZBEK LANGUAGE

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**Annotation:** *This article provides a scientific analysis of the mechanisms underlying the formation of denotative and connotative meanings in the Uzbek language, as well as the stages of their historical development. In addition, it examines how connotative meaning is realized in the speech process through phonetic, lexical, morphological, and syntactic means, and how it is also shaped by extralinguistic factors such as gestures and physical movements. These aspects are explored in depth through illustrative examples.*

**Keywords:** *denotative meaning, connotative meaning, terminological meaning, naming process, linguistic and extralinguistic means, paralinguistic factors.*

### INTRODUCTION

In all branches of linguistics, the primary unit that can serve as an object of study is the word. It is well known that the semantic structure of a word encompasses not only its basic meaning but also various additional semantic shades. In particular, in literary texts, lexical shifts play an exceptional role. Such linguistic devices function as some of the most active means for conveying deep artistic meaning, enhancing aesthetic impact, and ensuring vivid imagery. Language, by its very nature, is a complex system that performs both nominative (naming) and expressive (descriptive) functions. This duality reflects its dual nature: on the one hand, language serves as a form of thought that reflects objective reality; on the other hand, it represents an autonomous system organized through internal relationships, where the meaning of each element is determined by its interconnections with others. Therefore, the structural essence of language integrates its functional and semantic dimensions into a unified linguistic system [Ivanov S.I., 1975: 90–91]. Among the semantic shifts observed within linguistic units, the denotative and connotative layers hold a distinctive place. These layers emerge as the product of artistic thinking and are regarded as some of the most widely used semantic devices in language. As researchers have noted, the semantic structure of a word generally consists of two main layers: the denotative (nominative or referential meaning) and the connotative (additional emotional and expressive meaning). These two semantic strata — denotative and connotative meanings — are recognized as the key factors that determine the semantic richness of a word and its potential for artistic expression [Vakhidova F., 2022: 46]. The linguistic, semantic, and stylistic characteristics of these types of meaning have been extensively studied in Uzbek linguistics. Although denotative and connotative meanings play a significant functional role in the process of speech, they

have often been analyzed primarily within the framework of literary studies, as elements of artistic expression. However, every form of artistic depiction is inherently based on the internal linguistic capacities of the language. Therefore, the semantic shifts manifested in literary discourse are formed according to specific linguistic regularities and semantic mechanisms. This process is directly connected with the systematic nature and functional integrity of the language. In linguistics, the additional meanings of a word are expressed through various terms and theoretical frameworks.

Researchers interpret this phenomenon using various terms such as stylistic coloring [Navruzova N., Haydarov A., 2022: 45], expressive meaning, or semantic shades [Navruzova N., 2022: 34]. All of these terms serve a common purpose — to describe the connotative aspects of a word that constitute its emotional, evaluative, and stylistic load. At the same time, these concepts play a significant role in revealing the artistic and aesthetic potential of linguistic units.

Main part: Thus, in expressing the two types of meaning and functional aspects of a word, the terms denotation and connotation are generally used. A word manifests itself not only as a lexical unit, but also as a core element of the semantic system that forms syntactic relations at the morphological level. These phenomena are mainly related to the denotative (referential) meaning of the word, which is considered one of the primary semantic mechanisms ensuring nominative relations in speech. The denotative meaning of a word determines its position as a basic lexical unit within the language system. The connotative meaning, formed in direct relation to this meaning, broadens the functional capacity of the word and demonstrates the necessity of its analysis from a stylistic perspective. In other words, the connotative layer not only enriches the semantic volume of the word but also enhances its stylistic and expressive value, thereby being recognized as an important object of linguistic research. Today, the issue of denotative and connotative meaning is being actively studied not only within philology but also across the broader humanities. The fact that this issue is developing into a multidisciplinary research subject further underscores its relevance for linguistics. In particular, examining this phenomenon from the standpoint of Uzbek linguistics holds great scientific significance for gaining a deeper understanding of semantic processes within the national language system.

Although nearly two and a half millennia have passed since the emergence of the terms denotation and connotation, numerous scholarly studies have been conducted on the phenomena of metaphor and metaphoricity during this period. In antiquity, these concepts were primarily regarded as the object of study within rhetoric, whereas in later historical stages, they began to be analyzed within the framework of poetics, particularly poetic stylistics. Throughout this process, both Eastern and Western scholars examined issues related to connotation and denotation based on various theoretical approaches, thereby revealing their artistic and linguistic essence more profoundly. In Uzbek linguistics, since the 1970s, a number of scholarly studies have been devoted to the investigation of polysemy and figurative meaning. During this period, these issues were analyzed extensively from the perspectives of semantics and stylistics. In particular, the works of the linguist M. Mirtojdiyev deserve special attention. In his research, he conducted an in-depth analysis of



the multilayered nature of word meaning and the linguistic foundations of semantic shifts, thereby making a significant scientific contribution to the development of Uzbek linguistics.

In linguistics, two main types of connotative stability are distinguished:

1. Linguistic means
2. Extralinguistic means

Linguistic means function as elements that reinforce connotative meaning within the framework of the language system, whereas extralinguistic factors represent phenomena that express connotation during the process of speech but do not belong to the structural units of the language itself. Such factors include gestures, facial expressions, and various bodily movements. The expressive–emotional layer (i.e., connotation) is most vividly observed in spoken language. Although oral and written speech share a common linguistic basis, spoken language is distinguished by specific phonetic, intonational, and rhythmic variations. These pronunciation-related phonetic features play an active role in the language system as crucial elements that enhance connotative meaning and intensify the emotional expressiveness of speech.

a) Doubling of consonant sounds, i.e., repetition of a sound that creates an emotional emphasis in speech;

b) Prolongation of vowel sounds, which intensifies the emotional tone of speech;

c) Strong articulation of vowels, adding expressiveness to the meaning;

d) Modification of sounds, that is, substitution or softening of certain phonemes during pronunciation;

e) Omission of sounds, which contributes to the simplification of pronunciation.

In addition, connotative meaning is expressed not only through words or morphological units but also by means of suprasegmental elements. In particular, intonation, pauses, and stress play a crucial role in the emergence of connotation. These suprasegmental features enhance the semantic and aesthetic value of the connotative layer by conveying the speaker’s emotional state, attitude, and expressive tone [Haydarov A., 2009: 12]. In linguistics, extralinguistic means refer to gestures, facial expressions, and various bodily movements employed in the process of communication. These means have significant communicative value in expressing thoughts, enriching meaning, and supplementing content. However, they are not directly reflected in the internal structure of the language — that is, they do not belong to grammatical or lexical units. Nevertheless, extralinguistic elements can, when necessary, be represented in written discourse through linguistic means. Alongside linguistic units, they perform a complementary or reinforcing function, enhancing the expressive impact of speech. As a result, two types of information streams are formed in the process of communication: the first — a linguistic line generated through acoustic signals, and the second — a paralinguistic line that operates in parallel with it.

When paralinguistic means are transferred into written discourse, they are typically represented in a descriptive form or through special reporting verbs. This process allows for the recreation of the expressive features of spoken language within written text. According to the linguist M. Saidxonov, extralinguistic means involved in the process of communication are classified into three groups: phonation, kinetics, and mixed means. He

emphasizes that those means which accompany speech and convey meaning through additional acoustic signals are referred to as phonational nonverbal means. Among extralinguistic tools, Saidxonov considers phonation to be the most active form of information transmission, as it plays a crucial role in shaping the emotional and expressive tone of speech [Saidxonov M., 2008: 46]. In this context, linguist I.R. Galperin’s statement is particularly noteworthy: “Paralingvistika uchun nimani aytish emas, balki qanday aytish ahamiyatlidir” [Galperin I.R., 1974: 25]. This observation precisely captures the essence of paralinguistic means, as they determine not the semantic content of information, but its emotional, expressive, and stylistic coloring. Phonational means include such elements as intonation, pauses, changes in voice quality (e.g., prolonged, shortened, slow, or harsh pronunciation), and speech rhythm. These features are essential for conveying the speaker’s emotional state, attitude, and the pragmatic orientation of speech.

Extralinguistic means serve as auxiliary communicative mechanisms in the process of speech and, at the same time, act as important factors in shaping connotative meaning. They play a direct role in expressing the speaker’s emotional state, subjective attitude, and pragmatic intent. Such means are manifested not only in spoken communication but also in literary texts. In literary discourse, they function to enhance imagery, reveal psychological states, and intensify aesthetic expressiveness. For example:

1 Ochil buva mo‘ylovining bir uchi bilan kulib, labiga barmog‘ini qo‘ydi: “Jim” (A. Muxtor)

2. — Azizjonni aytyapsizmi? — Voy, bechoraa-a! Yoshgina ediya! — Qachon? Birinchi bo‘lib qorovul tog‘a o‘zini bosib oldi: “Xudo rahmat qilsin”, — deb yuziga fотиha tortdi.

In these examples, extralinguistic elements such as gestures, body movements, and facial expressions interact harmoniously with linguistic units to create emotional and expressive meaning. As a result, the communicative process between speaker and listener becomes more natural and impactful [O. Hoshimov, 2008: 184]. In the first example, the act of placing a finger on the lips — performed by touching the tip of the right index finger to the lips — represents a gesture that carries the verbal meaning of “Jim” or “Gapirma.” This nonverbal signal functions as a pragmatic marker, expressing the speaker’s attitude of warning or calming toward the listener. In the second example, the gesture of passing one’s hands over the face after a prayer (“wiping the face”) reflects a national-cultural norm of politeness and gratitude. This motion conveys the meanings of “offering a prayer” or “expressing thanks,” and serves as a nonverbal form of communication within the interaction process. Thus, in both cases, extralinguistic means, when combined with verbal expression, contribute to the creation of connotative meaning, enriching the emotional, social, and cultural layers of speech.

According to linguist A. Abdullayev, “Jest va mimika orqali so‘zlovchining suhbatdoshiga nisbatan turlicha psixofiziologik munosabatlari namoyon bo‘ladi” [Abdullayev A., 1987: 84]. Indeed, a person’s inner emotions and psychological experiences are reflected in their behavior and facial expressions. When an individual performs an action, the changes in their facial muscles occur in accordance with the meaning of that

action. In the process of speech, extralinguistic means play a crucial role in fully conveying such states, as they enhance the emotional, expressive, and connotative layers of meaning when integrated with verbal expression. As a result, the overall expressiveness and aesthetic value of the text increase, and the information delivered to the listener or reader gains greater emotional depth and artistic resonance.

“Bo‘ri polvonning onasi molxonadan chiqib keldi. Onasining qo‘llari... qop-qora tappi yuqi bo‘lib ketgan edi. Rais aftini burishtirdi, yuzini chetga o‘girdi. — Tfu! — deya tupurdi. — Qo‘lingizni naryoqqa qiling, kampir! Fahm-farosat bormi o‘zi!” In the analysis of this passage, it can be observed that feelings of disgust or aversion are conveyed through nonverbal means such as “aftini burishtirdi”, “yuzini chetga o‘girdi”. “aftini burishtirdi”, “yuzini chetga o‘girdi” “aftini burishtirdi”, “yuzini chetga o‘girdi”. These extralinguistic elements not only amplify the speaker’s emotional state but also deepen the connotative layer of meaning. As a result, the psychological impact of the text is enhanced, creating a vivid and figurative impression in the reader’s mind.

### CONCLUSION

Denotation constitutes the stable semantic foundation of language. It serves as a crucial factor for accurately understanding word meanings and establishing effective communication, distinguishing itself from connotation, which conveys figurative or subjective layers of meaning. In contrast, connotative meaning manifests in discourse not only through phonetic, lexical, morphological, and syntactic devices but also via extralinguistic elements such as gestures, facial expressions, and various physical actions. When these linguistic and nonverbal components operate in harmony, they enhance the speaker’s emotional state, evaluative stance, and the expressive power of speech.

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