

**SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF THE SYMBOLIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE
“POMEGRANATE” FRUIT IN UZBEK AND TURKISH LANGUAGES.****Hojiyeva Nigina Hayotovna,**

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Abstract: This article provides a comparative analysis of the linguistic features and semantic dimensions of the pomegranate fruit in the Uzbek and Turkish languages. In the course of the study, the etymology of the name pomegranate, its place within the lexical-semantic field, its use in phraseological units, and its symbolic meanings in literary texts are examined. Based on folklore materials, proverbs and sayings, and literary sources, the article analyzes the use of the pomegranate as a symbol of abundance, fertility, unity, vitality, and sacredness in both languages. In addition, the common and distinctive aspects of the pomegranate image in the cultural consciousness of the Uzbek and Turkish peoples are elucidated from a linguocultural perspective. The results of the study offer significant scholarly conclusions for investigating the semantic load of fruit names in Turkic languages and for further research in comparative linguistics.

Keywords: language, pomegranate, folk songs, culture, Turkish language, linguistics, symbol.

The study of the intrinsic relationship between language and culture is regarded as one of the important directions of modern linguistics. In particular, the investigation of lexical units not only in their nominative function but also in their symbolic and cultural-semantic layers has gained special significance within the frameworks of linguoculturology and comparative linguistics. From this perspective, fruit names—especially the pomegranate, which has long been associated in the collective consciousness with specific concepts, beliefs, and values—represent a vivid example of the harmony between language and culture.

In the cultures of the Uzbek and Turkish peoples, the pomegranate has traditionally been widely recognized as a symbol of abundance, unity, fertility, continuity of life, and sacredness. The active use of this fruit in folklore, literary works, proverbs and sayings, as well as in everyday speech of these peoples, indicates the remarkable richness of its semantic potential. At the same time, alongside the shared features in the scope of usage, semantic nuances, and symbolic interpretations of the pomegranate in the Uzbek and Turkish languages, there also exist distinctive aspects rooted in each nation’s cultural mindset.

In this article, the linguistic features and semantic load of the pomegranate fruit in the Uzbek and Turkish languages are examined through a comparative analysis, and its place within the lexical-semantic field, symbolic meanings, and linguoculturological significance are highlighted. The results of the study contribute to a deeper understanding of the semantic nature of fruit names within the framework of Turkic languages.

In the Uzbek and Turkish languages, the name of the pomegranate has a common Eastern cultural origin and is borrowed from the Persian word “anār.” This fact is closely related to the historical and cultural interactions between the two languages.

In the Uzbek language, this fruit is called anor. In the Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language, the entry anor is defined as follows:

ANOR. 1.A subtropical plant belonging to the pomegranate family, growing in the form of a small tree or shrub. "...har joy-har joyda ko'milgan anor tuplari do'mbayib yotibdi." (S. Zunnunova, Olov).

2.The round fruit of this tree, filled with red seeds inside. Achchiq anor. Chuchuk anor. Anor suvi. "Uchinchi kuni Hafiza olma, asal... anorlar bilan to'la setkani... bir qizdan Umidga kiritib yubordi." (Mirmuhsin, Umid).

3.Anor (a male and female personal name).

In the Turkish language, this fruit is called nar. In the Türk Dil Kurumu Türkçe Sözlük (Explanatory Dictionary of the Turkish Language), the pomegranate is defined as follows:

1.İsim, bitki bilimi. Nargillerden, yaprakları karşılıklı, çiçekleri büyük, koyu kırmızı renkte, küçük bir ağaç (*Punica granatum*).

2.İsim. Bu ağacın kırmızımtırak sarı sert bir kabukla örtülü, içinde çok sayıda kırmızımtırak, sulu taneler bulunduran yuvarlak yemişi.

In other words, 1. a small tree belonging to the pomegranate family (*Punica granatum*), with opposite leaves and large, dark red flowers; 2.its round fruit, covered with a hard reddish-yellow rind and containing numerous reddish, juicy seeds.

In Turkish, the word is used in a phonetically shortened form, as in:"Nar taneleri kırmızı, çok çekirdekli bir meyve."(Pomegranate seeds are red; it is a fruit with many seeds.)

This indicates that while the full lexical form of the word has been preserved in the Uzbek language, a process of phonetic simplification has occurred in the Turkish language.

The Semantic Field and Symbolic Meanings of the Pomegranate.In both languages, the pomegranate carries a symbolic-semantic load beyond its function as an ordinary fruit name.

In Uzbek oral folk tradition, the pomegranate is often represented as a symbol of abundance, fertility, and prosperity. In particular, it acquires rich and elegant meanings in proverbs and riddles. In folk songs, the fruit pomegranate not only enhances musicality but also conveys a unique, multifaceted semantic significance.

If you are a hunter who goes roaming, my beloved,

If you shoot with your rifle and take prey.

I am a pomegranate in the garden,

My beloved, what would you do there?

This example demonstrates that in the Uzbek mentality, the pomegranate is inseparably associated with family happiness and abundance, and moreover, it expresses meanings such as affection and love.

In Turkish culture, the pomegranate is more often interpreted as a symbol of unity, integrity, beauty, love, and sacredness:

Narçiçeğim salma sakın

Üzülürüm dayanamam

Sen ellerin alma sakın

Üzülürüm dayanamam

Sen ellerin alma sakın

Üzülürüm dayanamam.

Translation:

My pomegranate flower, do not fade, do not fade,
I would be heartbroken, I could not endure.
Do not withdraw your hands, please,
I would be heartbroken, I could not endure.
Do not withdraw your hands, please,
I would be heartbroken, I could not endure.

This example shows that in the Turkish language, the pomegranate possesses a semantic layer closely associated with affection and love.

The Image of the Pomegranate in Phraseological Units. The pomegranate (Uzbek anor, Turkish nar) has long been interpreted in the culture of Eastern peoples as a symbol of abundance, fertility, unity, integrity, and beauty. These symbolic meanings have been firmly established in the language system through phraseological units, poetic expressions, and metaphorical representations.

1. In the Uzbek language, phraseological units involving the name anor are not very numerous; however, poetic-folkloric expressions and symbolic comparisons are widely encountered:

1.1. Anordek qizarmoq (to redden like a pomegranate) (Blushing of the face; a sign of beauty and health). Its phraseological feature lies in being a comparative unit that describes outward appearance. For example: Kelinchakning yuzi anordek qizargan edi.(from Uzbek oral folk speech).

1.2. Anorday (anor kabi) donador (Extremely abundant, plentiful, densely arranged).For example: Anorday donador uzumlar shoxda osilib turardi. (from figurative literary description).

!!! This unit occurs in speech more often as an expression close to a proverb.

2. Phraseological units involving the pomegranate (nar) in the Turkish language. In Turkish, expressions containing the nar component are more active compared to Uzbek, and they are especially used to convey meanings of abundance and multiplicity.

2.1. Nar gibi kızarmak (to redden like a pomegranate – as a result of embarrassment, cold, or emotional impact). It is mostly used in colloquial and literary speech. For example: Sözleri duyunca nar gibi kızardı. (from Turkish colloquial speech).

2.2. Nar tanesi gibi (Very beautiful, clear, small, and numerous; usually referring to teeth, grains, or beads).For example: Dişleri nar tanesi gibi dizilmişti. (from literary texts).

CONCLUSION

The results of the conducted comparative semantic analysis demonstrate that the linguistic features of the pomegranate in the Uzbek and Turkish languages are significant not only as a lexical unit but also as an important linguocultural image. In both languages, the name of the pomegranate is associated with positive semantic components such as abundance, prosperity, unity, vitality, and continuity, which is closely connected with the historical experience and cultural worldview of the respective peoples. The analysis of the usage of the pomegranate in folklore, literary works, proverbs, and sayings reveals that its symbolic meanings become increasingly enriched in different contextual environments.

In the Uzbek language, the pomegranate is predominantly interpreted as a symbol of family prosperity and fertility, whereas in the Turkish language it is closely associated with ideas of

unity, social integrity, and sacredness. At the same time, the semantic layers shared by both languages confirm that Turkic peoples possess common cultural roots.

In conclusion, the semantic analysis of the pomegranate serves as an important source for revealing the cultural and spiritual content of lexical units in the Uzbek and Turkish languages. The findings of this study have both theoretical and practical significance for further research in comparative linguistics, linguoculturology, and the semantics of Turkic languages.

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