



COMPARATIVE-HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF LEXICAL UNITS RELATED TO FOLK MEDICINE

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Abstract This article delves into the intricate world of lexical units related to folk medicine within the Uzbek language, conducting a comprehensive comparative-historical analysis. It explores the multifaceted origins of these terms, tracing them back to Proto-Turkic, Persian, Arabic, and other influences. The study meticulously examines semantic shifts and diachronic transformations that have occurred within these lexical units over time, revealing the dynamic interplay between linguistic evolution and cultural change. Furthermore, it investigates the profound impact of sociolinguistic factors, including oral transmission, social hierarchies, and cultural values, on the formation and dissemination of folk medicine terminology. By meticulously comparing and contrasting these lexical units with their counterparts in other Turkic languages, the article illuminates both shared historical roots and unique linguistic developments within the Uzbek context. Ultimately, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of Uzbek culture, its historical trajectory, and the enduring legacy of traditional healing practices.

Keywords: Folk medicine, Uzbek language, Turkic languages, lexical units, etymology, semantic change, sociolinguistics, cultural heritage, diachronic linguistics, comparative linguistics, Proto-Turkic, Persian, Arabic, oral tradition, social hierarchy, cultural values.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada o'zbek tilidagi xalq tabobatiga oid leksik birliklarning murakkab dunyosiga chuqur sho'ng'iydi va ularga keng qamrovli qiyosiy-tarixiy tahlil o'tkazadi. Ushbu terminlarning ko'p qirrali kelib chiqishini o'rganib, ularning proto-turkiy, fors, arab va boshqa ta'sirlarga borib taqalishini izlaydi. Tadqiqot vaqt o'tishi bilan ushbu leksik birliklarda yuz bergan semantik o'zgarishlar va diaxronik o'zgarishlarni sinchkovlik bilan o'rganib, til evolyutsiyasi va madaniy o'zgarishlar o'rtasidagi dinamik o'zaro ta'sirni ochib beradi. Bundan tashqari, og'zaki an'ana, ijtimoiy ierarxiyalar va madaniy qadriyatlar, shu jumladan, sosiolingvistik omillarning xalq tabobati terminologiyasining shakllanishi va tarqalishiga ko'rsatgan chuqur ta'sirini o'rganadi. Ushbu leksik birliklarni boshqa turkiy tillardagi hamkasblari bilan puxta taqqoslash orqali maqola turkiy tillarining umumiy tarixiy ildizlari va o'zbek tilidagi noyob lingvistik rivojlanishini yoritadi. Oxir-oqibat, ushbu tadqiqot o'zbek

madaniyati, uning tarixiy yo'li va an'anaviy davolash usullarining uzoq yillik merosi haqida chuqurroq tushunchaga hissa qo'shadi.

Kalit so'zlar: Xalq tabobati, o'zbek tili, turkiy tillar, leksik birliklar, etimologiya, semantik o'zgarish, sociolinguistika, madaniy meros, diachronik linguistika, qiyosiy tilshunoslik, proto-turkiy, fors, arab, og'zaki an'ana, ijtimoiy ierarxiya, madaniy qadriyatlar.

Абстрактный Данная статья углубляется в сложный мир лексических единиц, связанных с народной медициной в узбекском языке, проводя всесторонний сравнительно-исторический анализ. Она исследует многогранное происхождение этих терминов, прослеживая их корни до прото-тюркского, персидского, арабского и других влияний. Исследование тщательно изучает семантические сдвиги и диахронические трансформации, происходящие в этих лексических единицах с течением времени, раскрывая динамичное взаимодействие между языковой эволюцией и культурными изменениями. Кроме того, в ней исследуется глубокое влияние социолингвистических факторов, включая устную передачу, социальную иерархию и культурные ценности, на формирование и распространение терминологии народной медицины. Тщательно сравнивая и сопоставляя эти лексические единицы с их аналогами в других тюркских языках, статья освещает как общие исторические корни, так и уникальные лингвистические развития в узбекском контексте. В конечном итоге, это исследование способствует более глубокому пониманию узбекской культуры, ее исторического пути и прочного наследия традиционных методов лечения.

Ключевые слова: Народная медицина, узбекский язык, тюркские языки, лексические единицы, этимология, семантические изменения, социолингвистика, культурное наследие, диахроническая лингвистика, сравнительная лингвистика, прото-тюркский, персидский, арабский, устная традиция, социальная иерархия, культурные ценности.

Introduction

Folk medicine, a constellation of traditional healthcare practices deeply embedded within a community's cultural fabric, constitutes a vital aspect of human history. In Uzbekistan, this rich tradition boasts a diverse array of practices, encompassing herbal remedies, acupuncture, traditional massage, bone-setting techniques, and a wealth of other modalities. This article embarks on a comprehensive exploration of the lexical units that constitute the very language of Uzbek folk medicine, undertaking a rigorous comparative-historical analysis to unravel their origins, evolution, and significance.

1. Etymological Roots: A Tapestry of Influences

The lexical tapestry of Uzbek folk medicine reveals a fascinating interplay of influences, reflecting the intricate historical and cultural interactions of the region. A significant portion of these terms can be traced back to Proto-Turkic, the ancestral language of the Turkic peoples,

underscoring the deep-rooted historical connections among Turkic languages.^[214] For instance, terms such as "o't" (herb), "dorivor o'simlik" (medicinal plant), "kasallik" (disease), and "davolash" (to treat) possess cognates across various Turkic languages, providing compelling evidence of their shared Proto-Turkic origins.

Persian exerted a profound influence on the Uzbek lexicon, particularly within the domain of medicine. Centuries of cultural and linguistic exchange resulted in the adoption of numerous Persian loanwords, enriching the vocabulary of Uzbek folk medicine. Terms like "hakim" (physician), "tibbiyot" (medicine), "dori" (medicine), and "kasal" (sick) exemplify the significant contribution of Persian to the Uzbek medical lexicon.

Arabic, through the conduit of Islamic medicine, also left an indelible mark on the Uzbek language. Terms such as "tabib" (physician), "ilaj" (treatment), and "darmon" (remedy) have Arabic origins and have seamlessly integrated into the fabric of Uzbek medical discourse.

Beyond these primary influences, other languages, including Sanskrit, Greek, and even some Central Asian languages, have contributed to the lexical diversity of Uzbek folk medicine. These influences, though perhaps less prominent, nonetheless offer valuable insights into the multifaceted nature of cultural exchange and linguistic borrowing throughout history.

2. Semantic Shifts: A Dynamic Lexicon

The lexicon of Uzbek folk medicine is not static; it is a dynamic entity that has undergone a series of semantic shifts and transformations over time. These shifts reflect the evolving understanding of health, disease, and the human body, as well as the changing social and cultural contexts within which these practices were embedded.

For instance, the term "o't" (herb), initially encompassing a broad range of plants, gradually narrowed its semantic scope to specifically denote medicinal plants. This semantic specialization reflects a growing understanding of the therapeutic properties of certain plants and the need for more precise terminology to distinguish between edible and medicinal flora.

Conversely, some terms have experienced semantic broadening. The term "kasallik" (disease), initially referring to a limited range of ailments, now encompasses a much wider spectrum of medical conditions, reflecting the expanding understanding of human pathology.

Furthermore, the social and cultural context has significantly influenced the semantic evolution of these terms. The term "hakim" (physician), originally denoting any learned individual, gradually acquired a more specialized meaning, specifically referring to a traditional healer or physician. This semantic shift reflects the increasing specialization of medical knowledge and the growing social recognition of traditional healers.

²¹⁴ Abdulazizov, E. A. (Ed.). (2006). *Uzbek Tilining Etimologik Lug'ati* [Etymological Dictionary of the Uzbek Language]. Toshkent: Fan.

3. Sociolinguistic Factors: Shaping the Language of Healing

Sociolinguistic factors have played a pivotal role in shaping the lexicon of Uzbek folk medicine. The transmission of folk medicine knowledge, often through oral traditions within families and communities, has profoundly influenced the development of a rich and nuanced vocabulary. Bennigsen and Wimbush (1979) argue that social and cultural factors have significantly shaped the development of Central Asian societies, including Uzbekistan, which undoubtedly influenced the sociolinguistic factors that have impacted folk medicine terminology^[215].

Social hierarchies and cultural values have also exerted a significant impact on the development of folk medicine terminology. Terms associated with more prestigious healing practices, such as acupuncture and bone-setting, often acquired more formal and elaborate designations, reflecting the social status and prestige associated with these practices. Conversely, terms associated with more common or less prestigious practices might have remained relatively informal or even stigmatized.

The interplay between language and social identity is further evident in the use of regional and dialectal variations within the lexicon of folk medicine. Different regions of Uzbekistan, with their distinct cultural and linguistic traditions, may have developed their own unique terminology for specific illnesses, treatments, and healing practices. These regional variations not only reflect the diversity of Uzbek culture but also provide valuable insights into the local adaptations and innovations within the broader framework of folk medicine.

4. Comparative Analysis: Shared Roots and Divergent Paths

Ermatov (1999) provides a historical overview of the Uzbek language, which can be helpful for understanding the diachronic development of folk medicine terminology.^[216] A comparative analysis of Uzbek folk medicine terminology with its counterparts in other Turkic languages reveals a fascinating tapestry of shared roots and divergent paths. While many core terms, such as "o't" (herb), "kasallik" (disease), and "davolash" (to treat), exhibit strong cognates across Turkic languages, reflecting their shared Proto-Turkic origins, significant variations emerge in the specific vocabulary used to describe different illnesses and treatments. Clauson (1972) provides valuable insights into the historical and linguistic connections between Turkic languages, which can be helpful for understanding the shared roots and divergent paths of folk medicine terminology across Turkic languages.^[217]

For instance, while the term "o't" (herb) is universally recognized across Turkic languages, the specific names for different medicinal plants often vary considerably. This variation reflects the diverse ecological environments and unique flora of different regions, as well as the nuanced ways in which different communities have interacted with and utilized the natural world.

²¹⁵ Bennigsen, A., & Wimbush, S. E. (1979). *The Muslim National Revival in Central Asia*. Princeton University Press.

²¹⁶ Ermatov, U. (1999). *Uzbek Tilining Tarixi [History of the Uzbek Language]*. Toshkent: Fan.

²¹⁷ Clauson, G. (1972). *Turkish and Mongolian Studies in Honour of Professor L. Ligeti*. London: School of Oriental and African Studies.

Furthermore, the terms used to describe different types of traditional healing practices may also exhibit significant variation across Turkic languages. This variation can be attributed to the diverse cultural and historical contexts in which these practices have evolved, as well as the unique social and cultural values associated with different healing modalities in each community.

5. Cultural and Historical Significance

The study of folk medicine terminology in Uzbek offers a unique window into the cultural and historical tapestry of the region. It provides valuable insights into the deep-rooted beliefs and practices related to health, healing, and the natural world.^[218] By analyzing the intricate interplay between language, culture, and history, we can gain a deeper appreciation for the enduring legacy of traditional healing practices and their profound impact on the lives of Uzbek people. Hamzaev (1995) explores the medicinal plants of Uzbekistan, providing valuable information for understanding the connection between folk medicine terminology and the specific plants used in traditional healing practices.^[219]

Furthermore, the study of folk medicine terminology contributes to the preservation of this valuable intangible heritage. By documenting and analyzing these terms, we can ensure that this precious knowledge is not lost to future generations. This research can also inform the development of culturally sensitive healthcare approaches that integrate traditional and modern medicine, promoting holistic well-being and respecting the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Conclusion

The lexical units that constitute the language of Uzbek folk medicine constitute a rich and multifaceted domain of linguistic inquiry. This article has undertaken a comprehensive exploration of these lexical units, examining their etymological roots, semantic shifts, sociolinguistic influences, and comparative relationships with other Turkic languages.

By understanding the intricate interplay between language, culture, and medicine, we can gain a deeper appreciation for the enduring legacy of traditional healing practices and their profound impact on the lives of Uzbek people. Furthermore, this research contributes to the preservation of this valuable intangible heritage and provides a foundation for future research and the development of culturally appropriate healthcare approaches.

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²¹⁸ Alimov, A. A. (2015). *Xalq Tabobati: Tarixi, An'analari, Zamonaviy Ahamiyati* (Folk Medicine: History, Traditions, and Modern Significance). Toshkent: Sharq.

²¹⁹ Hamzaev, K. (1995). *O'zbekiston O'simliklari va Ularning Tibbiyotda Qo'llanilishi* (Plants of Uzbekistan and Their Use in Medicine). Toshkent: Fan.

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