SEMANTIC AND SYNTACTIC ASPECTS OF VALENCY IN UZBEK

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Abstract: *This article analyzes scholarly approaches to the issue of valency in Uzbek linguistics. In particular, it examines the essence of valency, its semantic and syntactic types, and its manifestation across different parts of speech based on the views of Professor M. Mirtojiyev. The study demonstrates, using Uzbek language material, that valency is not limited to verbs but represents a general linguistic phenomenon inherent in nouns, adjectives, adverbs, and other word classes. It also highlights valency as an important theoretical category located at the intersection of lexicon and grammar, as well as semantics and syntax.*

Keywords: *uzbek linguistics, valency, semantic valency, syntactic valency, predicate, parts of speech, combinability.*

In Uzbek linguistics, the issue of valency has been analyzed in the scholarly works of Professor M. Mirtojiyev. Relying on European linguistic theories, the scholar developed an Uzbek linguistic interpretation of valency. In particular, within sentence structure, the predicate—regardless of which part of speech it is expressed by—serves as the element that determines the sentence pattern. This feature is especially evident in verbal predicates, as the verb is the part of speech most naturally adapted to the predicate function. Professor Mirtojiyev attempted to substantiate this idea based on the works of European linguists.

In his book Uzbek Semasiology, the scholar also refers to the views of S. D. Kasnelson, who states: “The verb as a predicate is nothing more than a simple lexical meaning in its content; however, while expressing a particular meaning, it also retains the structural pattern of the sentence it forms.” Professor Mirtojiyev seeks to justify whether Uzbek language data support this view. He emphasizes that this property is not limited to verbs alone but is also characteristic of adjectives functioning as predicates across languages. At the same time, he demonstrates that the active use of adjectives in the predicate position is well supported by Uzbek language material. Words belonging to the noun and adverb categories also possess this property.

The verb, however, is capable of governing all sentence elements except the attribute. For example, in the sentence Bu uyga kecha keldim (“I came to this house yesterday”), the verb keldim (“came”) directly governs the words uyga (“to the house”) and kecha (“yesterday”). Meanwhile, the demonstrative pronoun bu (“this”) performs the syntactic function of an attribute and is therefore connected to the word uyga, which functions as an adverbial modifier in the sentence, and is governed indirectly through it. Moreover, the element that governs the attribute is itself governed by the verb. This can be seen in constructions such as Bu uyga … keldim.

This phenomenon can also be observed in the way words are connected within a text. If, in the speech process, the predicate expressed by a verb is replaced by a noun, the noun functioning as a predicate may also govern attributes. Thus, the valency of a nominal predicate semantically adapts to a word denoting a feature as an equally valid actant. For example: Bugun bu dala juda chiroyli (“Today this field is very beautiful”).

Based on linguistic principles, a verb may also function as the predicate of a secondary predication within a larger construction. In such cases, it retains the structural pattern of that construction. From a logical perspective, any conceived idea is expressed in sentences, which ultimately fall within the

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semantic scope of the verb. In a broader sense, the meaning of a verb contains the meaning of an entire sentence. Together with its actants, the verb fills various syntactic constructions and occupies a central position in syntax, distinguishing itself from other sentence elements. For this reason, special attention must be paid to the valency of verbs functioning as predicates. At the same time, the valency of adjectives, nouns, and adverbs used in the predicate position should not be overlooked.

At this point, it should be noted that some linguists use the term content valency instead of semantic valency, and formal valency instead of syntactic valency.

To date, research on valency has primarily focused on verb-related levels. Specifically, a word functioning as a predicate accepts its actants according to its valency and the communicative situation in speech, thereby realizing the components of its semantics. These actants perform specific syntactic functions within the sentence. Thus, an actant of valency simultaneously constitutes a sentence element. In short, valency represents the intersection of grammar and lexicon, as well as syntax and semantics.

It should also be emphasized that when discussing the logical components of a word's lexical meaning, only its denotative meaning is taken into account. These components give rise to semantic valency, or more precisely, lexical-semantic valency. Therefore, valency is studied from two perspectives: semantic and syntactic.

Semantic valency is based on the logical components of a word's lexical meaning. These components semantically correspond to the logical components of another word's lexical meaning, making their combination possible. This possibility constitutes semantic valency. In this regard, the capabilities of words—especially verbs—deserve special attention. Verbs not only name an action but are also capable of anticipating all participants,

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performers, circumstances, and conditions of that action. This capacity of the verb is interpreted as its semantic valency.

However, limiting this phenomenon solely to verbs would be incorrect. The mutual requirement of words within sentence structure is also characteristic of other parts of speech. This study specifically aims to address this issue. Accordingly, it is appropriate to consider that this capacity can be observed in other word classes as well.

For instance, when a noun functions as a sentence element, it may subordinate and attach other elements to itself. Consider the example: Ma'lum otliq qutidorning darvozasida otini to‘xtatdi-da, o‘ng oyog‘ini uzangidan uzdi. In this sentence, the words darvozasida ("at the gate") and oyog‘ini ("his leg") are nouns that govern the attributes connected to them. However, for an element to function as a dependent component in a sentence—whether by specifying or complementing meaning—the positional shifts of word classes may occur. Otherwise, communicative interaction would not be realized. In this process, alongside deviations from normative usage, derivational affixes, grammatical forms, and function words that do not express lexical meaning play a significant role.

The phenomenon of combinability manifests differently in adjectives. Adjectives can combine with all word classes in a sentence, expressing color, taste, shape, size, manner, characteristics, and even smell. Thus, adjectives not only express multiple types of features simultaneously but also form relations of dependency between words. With regard to specific combinability, adjectives typically realize this feature when functioning as predicates, and in some cases, when serving other syntactic roles. For example: Qoramol bilan uvoq molga bu yerda to‘playdigan yem-xashagimiz bemalol. In this sentence, the word bemalol ("sufficient/adequate") functions as the predicate and therefore governs all sentence elements. Even when adjectives appear in other

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syntactic positions, they can perform the function of attaching subordinate elements.

Other parts of speech can also be discussed in relation to valency. For example: Gazobodda gazning kindigi qayerdaligini aniqlab olgach, birdaniga uch joyga parma vishkasi tikladi. In this sentence, the word qayerdaligini ("where it is") functions as an adverbial modifier and simultaneously serves as an actant of the predicate. At the same time, it forms a combination with the word kindigi ("core"), which functions as an indefinite genitive attribute, thereby realizing the phenomenon of combinability. Similar examples can be found with pronouns as well, such as: U [Azimjon] mastlikda hech kimni rioya qilmasligini mingboshi yaxshi bilar edi.

From a logical perspective, a word, based on its semantic valency, accepts certain textual components that correspond to specific semantic features, while rejecting others that do not. This can also be observed in adverbs. For example: Tojiboyning Gulsumga jazmanligi to‘g‘risidagi gaplar esiga tushib, tabiati biroz xira bo‘ldi. In this sentence, the word biroz ("slightly") combines with tabiati ("his nature"), forming a specific type of combinability. In another example: O‘tmishda xalqimiz tabobatchilikda ko‘pgina turli giyohlar, dori-darmonlar ishlatganlar, the word ko‘pgina ("many") combines with tabobatchilikda ("in folk medicine"), once again realizing a linguistic regularity.

Thus, the structure of content-based, that is, semantic valency corresponds to the structure of thinking described in formal logic as a predicate and its arguments.

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