

## **The Phenomena of Hypernymy-Hyponymy of Psychological Lexical Units in the English and Uzbek Languages**

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**Abstract.** *The article analyzes the hypernymy and hyponymy relations of psychological lexical units in the English and Uzbek languages. These relations are not only essential in most fields, but also particularly in psychology. By these relations, several psychological lexical units can be grouped and classified, making them efficient to analyze. Examples in both languages are presented producing contrastive analysis.*

**Key words:** *hypernymy, hyponymy, psychological lexical units, contrastive linguistics.*

**Introduction.** Hypernymy and hyponymy relations play a fundamental role in shaping the semantic organization of psychological vocabulary, as they reveal how mental states, processes, and personality traits are hierarchically structured within a language. In both English and Uzbek, psychological lexical units form multilayered semantic networks in which broad conceptual categories (hypernyms) encompass more specific psychological notions (hyponyms). These hierarchical relations not only reflect the internal logic of each language's lexicon but also demonstrate how different linguistic communities conceptualize human cognition, emotion, and behavior. A comparative study of English and Uzbek hypernym-hyponym structures therefore provides valuable insights into the universal and language-specific mechanisms of semantic categorization, offering a clearer understanding of how psychological concepts are lexically encoded and interconnected across the two languages.

**Literature Review.** The genus-species relationship, introduced into the systematics of plants and animals by scientists such as J. Rey, K. Linnaeus, Ch. Darwin, was later applied to language units<sup>1</sup>. G.Q. Ergasheva, speaking about the work done in this area, cites the following: "In 1968, the words hyponymy, hypernym, hyponym were introduced into linguistics by J. Lyon as terms expressing the genus-species relationship. The scientist's book "Semantics" provides complete information about hyponymy."<sup>2</sup> The phenomenon of hyponymy has been widely studied in world linguistics by V. Gak, Y. S. Stepanov, A. A. Ufimtseva, L. A. Novikov, M. V. Nikitin<sup>3</sup>. In Uzbek linguistics, certain considerations were put forward in the monographs of R. Safarova and A. Sobirov. For example, A. Sobirov "The term hypernym is used in relation to the head word, dominant, which expresses a general meaning in relation to certain species and is the core (center) of the semantic field. This word

<sup>1</sup> Собиров А. Ўзбек тилининг лексик сатҳини системалар системаси тамойили асосида тадқиқ қилиш. – Тошкент: Маънавият, 2004. – 136-б.

<sup>2</sup> Эргашева Г.Қ. Рус ва ўзбек тилларида психология терминларининг лексик-семантик хусусиятлари: Филол. фан. фалс. докт. ...дисс. – Тошкент, 2018. – 69-б.

<sup>3</sup> Лайонз Дж. Введение в теоретическую лингвистику. – Москва, 1978. Новиков Л.А. Семантика русского языка. – Москва: Высш. шк., 1982. Никитин М.В. Основы лингвистической теории значения. – Москва: Высш. шк., 1988.

denotes the genus. The hyponym appears as a lexical unit denoting the species of a certain genus. Together with the cognate hyponyms that have the same value as it, it is subject to the hypernym.<sup>4</sup>”

O.S. Akhmedov, speaking about hyponymic relations, in particular, expresses the following thoughts: “In terminology, hyponymic relations are reflected in the genus-species relations, and the term expressing the concept of genus is considered a hypernym, and the term expressing the concept of species is considered a hyponym.<sup>5</sup>”

**Research Methodology.** In the English and Uzbek languages, one can come across the phenomena hypernymy-hyponymy in the field of psychology. G.Q. Ergasheva in her study investigated the phenomena in the Russian and Uzbek languages of psychology domain. In this study, we relied on G.Q. Ergasheva's theoretical and classification model in analyzing the hypernymic and hyponymic relations of psychological lexical units in the Uzbek language. At the same time, within the framework of the study, the existing approach was enriched with additional examples, and the hypernymic and hyponymic relations were improved and expressed through diagrammatic hypernymic chains. This approach allows us to interpret the semantic structure of psychological lexical units as a multi-level hierarchical system, as well as visually illuminate their semantic connections. It should be noted that the identification of hypernymic-hyponymic relations within the psychological lexicon not only determines the semantic boundaries of lexical units, but also reveals their functional place in the process of categorization. The hierarchical distribution of lexical units not only reflects semantic relationships, but also expresses how psychological concepts are formed, at what levels they are classified in the mind, and in what logical sequence they are transferred to speech.

Hyponymic relationships were observed between the following psychological lexical units in English:

The range of hyponyms of the hypernym “emotion” is quite extensive: *fear, anxiety, panic, joy, happiness, delight, anger, rage, irritation, sadness, grief, disgust, shock, surprise*, etc. Since these units are united under one general category – *emotion* – they form a hypernym-hyponym relationship. It is noteworthy that some of these hyponyms are further divided into smaller hyponyms. For example, “fear” – *social fear, phobic fear, existential fear*.

The hypernymic system of “memory” in psychology has a complex and multi-stage nature:

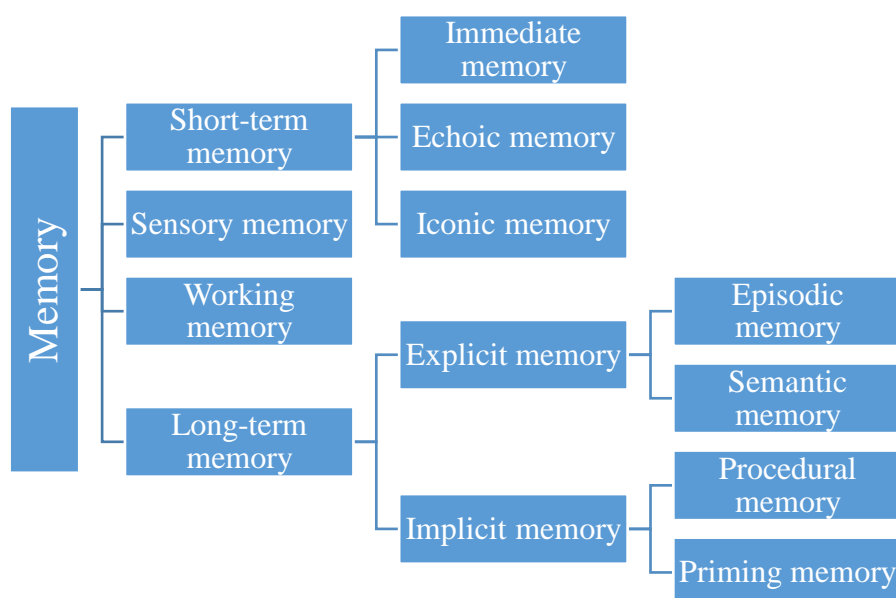


Figure 1. Multi-level hyponymic chain of the hypernym “memory”

<sup>4</sup> Сафарова Р. Лексик-семантик муносабат турлари. – Тошкент, 1996. Б.18. Собиров А. Ўзбек тилининг лексик сатҳини системалар системаси таъйини асосида тадқиқ қилиш. – Тошкент: Маънавият, 2004. – 136-141-б.

<sup>5</sup> Ахмедов О.С. Инглиз ва ўзбек тилларида солиқ-божхона терминларининг лингвистик таҳлили ва таржима муаммолари. Монография. – Тошкент: Innovatsiya-Ziyo, 2020. – Б.103-104.

The “memory” hypernymic system also has general category hyponyms: *mnemonics*, *mnemometer*, *reminiscence*, *recall*, *recognition*, *retention* and others.

In the Uzbek language, there are also hyponyms of several hypernyms related to psychology.

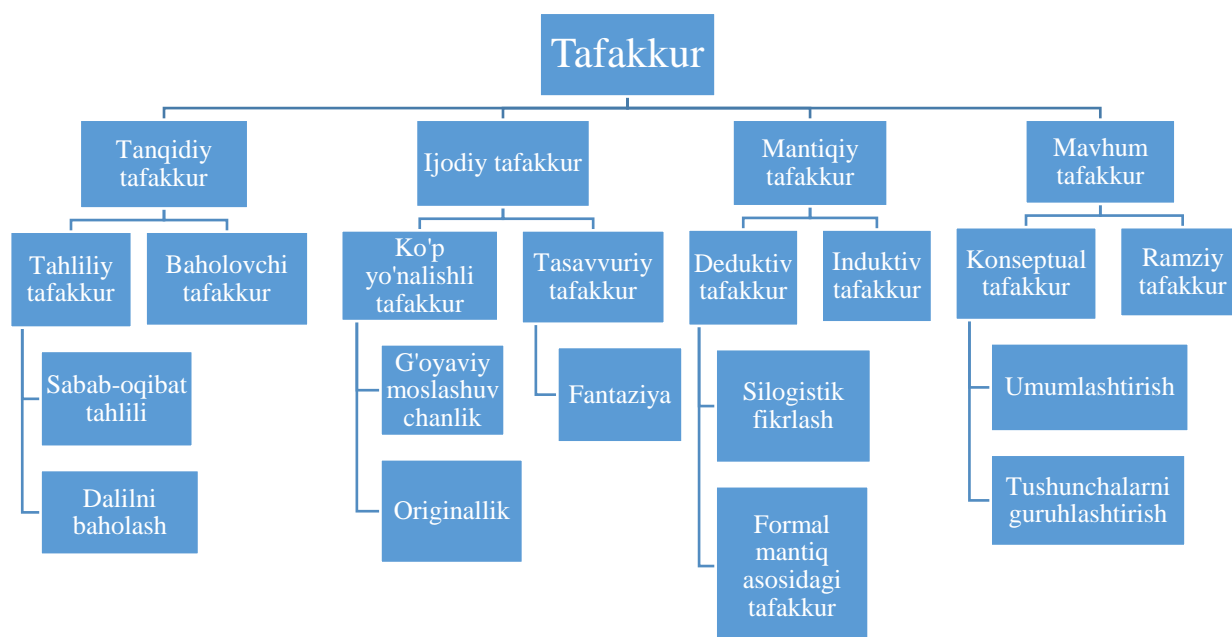


Figure 2. Multi-level hyponymic chain of the hypernym “Tafakkur” (Thought)

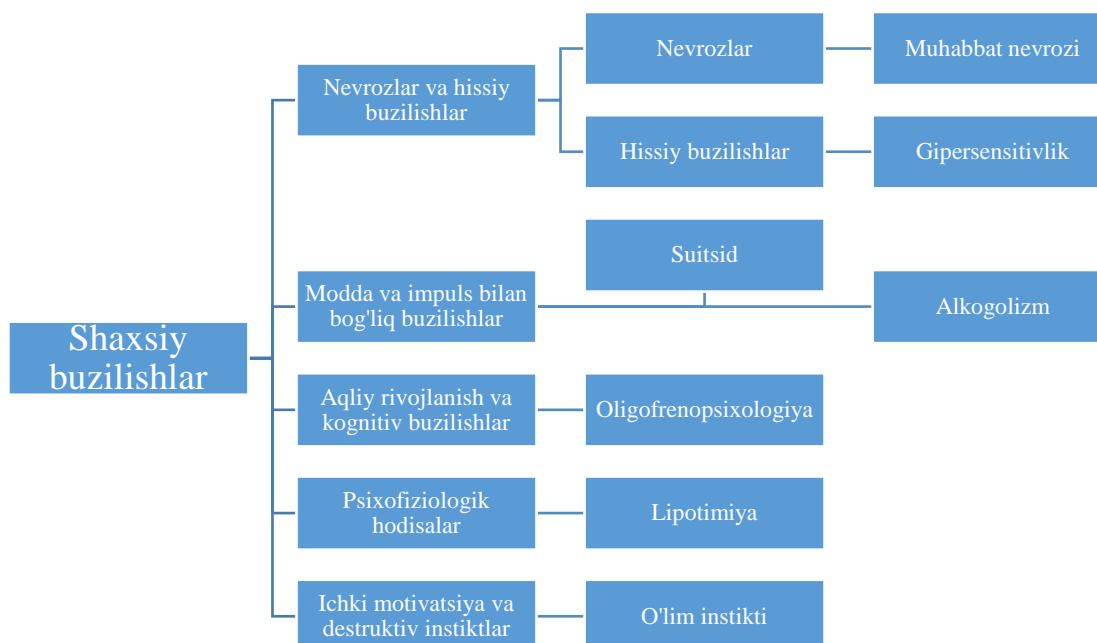


Figure 3. Multi-level hyponymic chain of the hypernym “Shaxsiy buzilishlar” in Uzbek (Personality disorders)

In English, this hypernym “personality disorders” is classified differently from the hyponymic chain we have presented in Uzbek. This is because the main sources used in English psychological literature are nosological classifications based on the DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) and ICD (International Classification of Diseases), which are diagnostically oriented. They are designed for clinical diagnosis and are not based on psychodynamic or functional

approaches<sup>6</sup>. Therefore, while the hyponymic system of the hypernym “personality disorders” in English is divided based on the form of the disease and symptomatic signs, the functional-psychodynamic classification in Uzbek is aimed at shedding more light on the internal mechanisms and motivational foundations of psychological processes<sup>7</sup>.

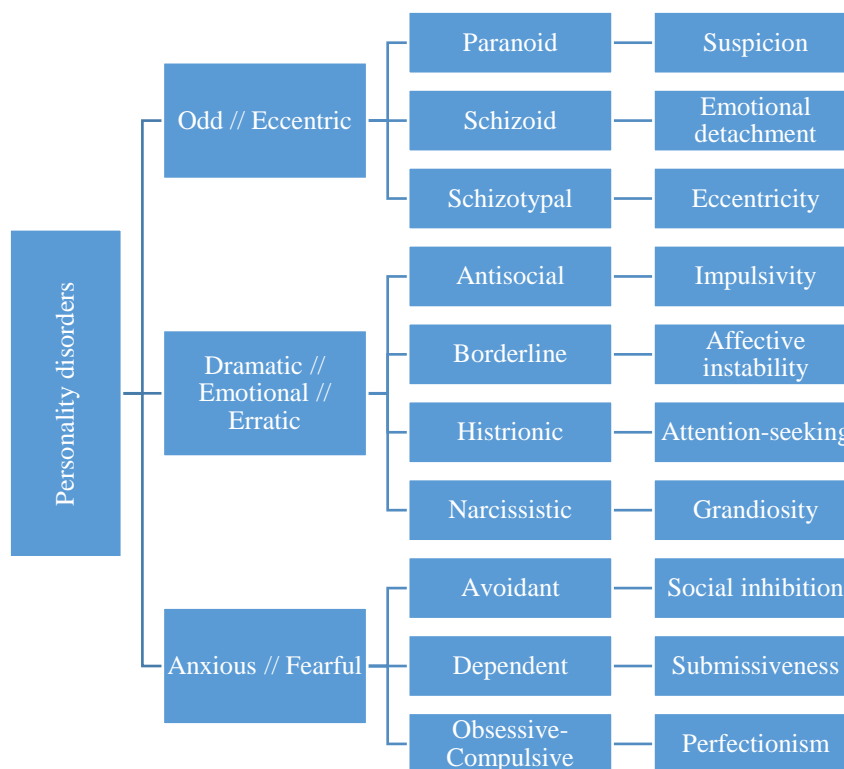


Figure 4. Multi-level hyponymic chain of the hypernym “Personality disorders” in English

**Conclusion.** From a lexical-semantic point of view, hypernym-hyponym relations are important in clarifying the boundaries of meaning and determining the semantic distinction between lexical units. Hypernyms, expressing a broad concept, introduce a high-level semantic generalization into the meaning, while hyponyms narrow and clearly define the scope of this generalization. This prevents the mixing of lexical units in psychology, and the system of lexical units of a particular field is formed on the basis of the principles of clarity, consistency, and dimensionality.

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