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SEMANTIC FEATURES OF POLITICAL TERMS IN THE ARABIC LANGUAGE AND THEIR RENDERING IN TRANSLATION

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Abstract
This article provides extensive and detailed information on the grammatical and lexical problems of various systems in modern linguistics, as well as the terminology of the field, especially issues of terms related to the political sphere (Arabic language), substitution and translation of words. moving from foreign languages into words corresponding to our native language.

Keywords: morphological method, derivation, word formation, expansion of meaning, migration of meaning, narrowing of meaning, semantic method, diglossia.

Introduction

The national development of any state, particularly in the fields of economy, industry, domestic and foreign policy, as well as the advancement of all spheres and sectors of society and their integration into global processes, necessitates the development of terminology and the timely enrichment of the lexical stock of the language with modern terms. However, the formation of terms solely through morphological methods (derivation) cannot fully meet this demand. Therefore, the application of secondary nomination to existing lexical resources is a natural and effective approach to the creation of new terminological units. This method makes it possible to avoid direct borrowing and to make extensive use of the linguistic resources of the native language.

Secondary nomination, also referred to as semantic word formation or semantic derivation, primarily encompasses a broad range of semantic changes. These

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changes are characterized by the emergence of new semantic structures within the existing lexical units of a language. They may involve the complete loss of an existing lexical meaning, the emergence of an entirely new meaning, or the development of an additional lexico-semantic variant alongside the original meaning. In other words, terms formed through semantic derivation move from the domain of general vocabulary into the sphere of specialized and narrowly defined terminology. Thus, an existing lexical unit acquires a new terminological meaning.

According to linguists G. Paul and R. A. Budagov, semantic changes can be classified into three main types: (1) broadening of meaning; (2) narrowing of meaning; and (3) semantic shift or transfer [1, 112].

Like other terminological categories, the semantic characteristics of political terms are directly associated with these three processes: broadening, narrowing, and semantic shift.

Broadening of Meaning. Semantic broadening occurs when a word acquires meanings that extend beyond its original meaning and encompass a wider range of semantic content. This process leads to the formation of a new term without any changes to the phonetic or morphological structure of the word.

In the formation of political terms through this method, verbal nouns (maṣdars) in Arabic are used more frequently than other lexical units. This phenomenon can be explained by the fact that maṣdars are not characterized by grammatical categories inherent in verbs, such as voice, person, tense, and mood. It is precisely this feature that makes maṣdars particularly suitable for expressing specialized and narrowly defined meanings in a concise and precise manner. However, not all maṣdars derived from the various Arabic verb forms undergo such semantic changes. For example,

Maṣdars of Form I Verbs

- عَقْدٌ **(ʿaqd)** – its primary meaning is “connection” or “binding”. However, in contemporary usage, it is more commonly employed to denote such terms as “conclusion of an agreement”, “contract”, and “agreement”.

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- **وَضْعٌ (waḍʿ)** – its primary meanings are "placing", "positioning", and "setting". In political texts, however, it may convey meanings such as "development" (e.g. of a project), "situation", and "condition".
- **بَيَانٌ (bayān)** – a word frequently encountered in political texts, derived from the verb **بَانَ (bāna)**, meaning "to become clear", "to become evident", or "to appear". In Uzbek, depending on the context, it can be translated using such terms as "declaration", "communiqué", "manifesto", "address", "statement", "application", "announcement", "report", and "programme".

Maṣdars of Form II Verbs

- **تَخْطِيطٌ (takhtīṭ)** – "drawing lines", "planning", "scheduling", and "demarcation".
- **تَحْلِيلٌ (taḥlīl)** – "dispersal", "analysis", "analytical examination", "authorization", and "granting permission".
- **تَرْسِيخٌ (tarsīkh)** – "strengthening", "consolidation", and "reinforcement".

Maṣdars of Form III Verbs

- **مُبَادَلَةٌ (mubādalah)** – its primary meanings are "exchange" and "replacement". In contemporary usage, it is also used to denote "barter" and "barter trade".

Maṣdars of Form IV Verbs

- **إِنْتَاجٌ (intāj)** – "production" and "manufactured product".
- **إِبْرَامٌ (ibrām)** – its primary meaning is "twisting" or "bending". However, in political texts, it is used in the sense of "concluding" or "formalizing" an agreement or treaty, as well as "ratification", depending on the context.
- **إِخْبَارٌ (ikhbār)** – "notification", "announcement", "communication", "information", and "reporting".

Maṣdars of Form V Verbs

- **تَقَدُّمٌ (taqaddum)** – its primary meaning is "moving forward" or "advancement". In political texts, however, it conveys the concepts of "development" and "progress".
- **تَطَوُّرٌ (taṭawwur)** – "development", "evolution", and "progress".

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• **تَدَخُّلٌ (tadakhkhul)** – in political texts, it is translated as "interference", "intervention", and, depending on the context, "invasion" or "aggression".

Maşdars of Form VI Verbs

• **تَعَاوُنٌ (taʿāwun)** – in political texts, it is translated as "cooperation", "mutual assistance", and "collaboration".

• **تَنَازُلٌ (tanāzul)** – has such meanings as "withdrawal", "retreat", "concession", "yielding", "giving consent", and "transfer", depending on the context.

• **تَعَايُشٌ (taʿāyush)** – "coexistence", particularly "peaceful coexistence".

Maşdars of Form VII Verbs

• **اِنْحِصَارٌ (inḥiṣār)** – its meaning is associated with "restriction" and "limitation". In political texts, it may be rendered as "monopoly", depending on the context.

• **اِنْضِمَامٌ (inḍimām)** – "joining" or "accession". In political discourse, it may refer to one country incorporating another country into its territory, potentially resulting in the loss of the latter's independence.

Maşdars of Form VIII Verbs

• **اِعْتِمَادٌ (iʿtimād)** – "trust", "confidence", "reliance", and "recognition", depending on the context.

• **اِقْتِرَاحٌ (iqtirāḥ)** – "proposal", "motion", "resolution", and "legislative initiative".

Maşdars of Form X Verbs

• **اِسْتِثْمَارٌ (istithmār)** – "investment" and, in certain contexts, "exploitation".

• **اِسْتِعْرَاضٌ (istiʿrāḍ)** – "demonstration", "display", "review", and "showcase".

• **اِسْتِقْرَارٌ (istiqrār)** – "stability", "stabilization", "steadiness", and "consolidation". In certain contexts, it may also denote "inactivity" or "a state of immobility".

Semantic Features of Political Terminology in Arabic

In Arabic, the concepts of "president", "leader", "chairman", "chief", "head", "boss", and even "master" or "owner" can be expressed by a single lexical unit: **رَئِيسٌ (raʾīs)**. The appropriate equivalent is selected according to the context in which the word is used. This phenomenon demonstrates the importance of

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contextual analysis and semantic differentiation in translating Arabic political terminology.

وَصَلَ ٱلرَّئِيسُ ٱلْمِصْرِيُّ حُسْنِي مُبَارَك إِلَى رُومَانِيَا فِي زِيَارَةٍ تَسْتَغْرِقُ ٢٤سَاعَةً ، هِيَ ٱلْمَحَطَّةُ ٱلثَّانِيَةُ مِنْ جَوْلَةٍ قَادَتْهُ إِلَى أَلْمَانِيَا وَسَتَقُودُهُ إِلَى رُوسِيَا غَدًا . وَسَيُجْرِي ٱلرَّئِيسُ مُبَارَكٌ مُبَاحَثَاتٍ مَعَ ٱلرَّئِيسِ إِيُون إِيلِيِسْكُو . وَيُتَوَقَّعُ أَنْ يَكُونَ ٱلْوَضْعُ فِي ٱلشَّرْقِ ٱلأَوْسَطِ فِي صُلْبِ مُحَادَثَاتِ ٱلرَّئِيسَيْنِ. [3, 7]

Although, according to the grammatical rules of Arabic, the phrase **أَلرَّئِيسُ ٱلْمِصْرِيُّ حُسْنِي مُبَارَكُ** can be understood both literally and lexically as "the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak", in diplomatic discourse, it is more appropriate to translate this expression as **"President of Egypt Hosni Mubarak"** in accordance with established terminological conventions. Such a translation ensures a more formal register and adheres to the relevant rules and conventions of diplomatic documentation.

In this case, rendering the expression as "President of Egypt" rather than "Egyptian President" serves to establish Hosni Mubarak's official position as the head of state of Egypt, rather than merely describing his national affiliation. This approach contributes to a more precise, contextually appropriate, and unambiguous interpretation of the original text.

The distinction between "Egyptian President" and "President of Egypt" is not merely stylistic; it also concerns the precise representation of an official title. The latter formulation explicitly identifies Hosni Mubarak as the holder of the office of President of Egypt, rather than simply describing him by his nationality. Accordingly, this translation conveys the intended meaning more accurately and ensures greater clarity and precision in the interpretation of diplomatic texts.

As noted above, Arabic generally uses a single lexical item, **رَئِيسٌ (pl. رُؤَسَاءُ)**, to refer to officials holding leadership positions. This is not coincidental, since the word **رَئِيسٌ** also conveys the meaning of "head". Accordingly, in Arabic political discourse, particularly in news reports concerning leaders in the Arab world, the term **رَئِيسٌ** may be applied to any high-ranking official or person in a position of authority, regardless of whether that individual formally holds the title of president or occupies another leadership position. From the perspective of Arabic usage, the reader or listener is therefore expected to understand **رَئِيسٌ** as referring to a senior official who exercises leadership and represents an institution of authority.

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It is well known that vowels and case markers, such as fatḥah, kasrah, and tanwīn, are generally omitted in standard written Arabic. This convention applies particularly to personal names and geographical names.

Similarly, in Arabic political discourse, diacritical marks, including fatḥah, kasrah, and tanwīn, are used only when necessary to clarify pronunciation or eliminate potential ambiguity.

A closer examination of the verbal expression زَارَ (هُ) – يَزُورُ – زِيَارَةً reveals that the noun زِيَارَة appears without the definite article الـ. This may be explained by the fact that the report introduces the official visit for the first time within the text. Consequently, the noun is presented in its indefinite form, reflecting its initial introduction into the discourse.

Although official visits are generally described in terms of days, the expression سَاعَةً ٢٤, literally meaning "a 24-hour visit", is rendered more naturally as "a one-day visit" for the sake of linguistic conciseness and stylistic fluency.

The expression جَوْلَةٌ is likewise used without the definite article الـ, for the same reason: it is introduced for the first time in the given context and therefore appears in the indefinite form.

Similarly, the word مُبَاحَثَاتٌ is used without the definite article, as it is also introduced for the first time in the text. In this context, مُبَاحَثَاتٌ conveys a meaning equivalent to مُحَادَثَاتٌ, both referring to discussions or talks, although their precise usage may vary according to context.

Foreign proper names, such as إِيُون إِيلِيِسْكُو **(Ion Iliescu)**, are often written with a final ḍamma in fully vocalized Arabic texts. However, in accordance with established orthographic conventions, this case ending is generally not represented in pronunciation in ordinary written usage.

The expression الشَّرْقُ الْأَوْسَطُ, literally translated as "Middle East", refers to a geographical and political region commonly designated by this name in English. Depending on the linguistic and geographical context, it should be distinguished from the term "Near East", which has traditionally been used to designate a different, although sometimes overlapping, geographical area.

The second type of semantic change in semantic derivation is **semantic narrowing**, whereby the meaning of a lexical unit becomes more restricted.

Semantic Narrowing

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In the formation of new terms, semantic narrowing occurs less frequently in the Arabic political terminology system than the previously discussed process of semantic broadening. Semantic narrowing is understood as a lexico-semantic process that results in the relative restriction of a word's original meaning [4, 114]. As a result of this process, the original meaning of a lexical unit gradually becomes less frequently used or may eventually become obsolete, turning the word into an archaism, while its newly acquired meaning becomes more specialized and restricted in scope.

For example, B. N. Golovin emphasizes that "the narrowing of word meanings leads to the emergence of professional and occupational terms" [5, 84]. In Arabic, semantic narrowing is particularly characteristic of verbs, verbal nouns (maṣdars), participles, and nouns denoting specific, concrete objects. The following examples illustrate this process:

- **صَدَّرَ (ṣaddara)** – "to send out", "to export".
- **اِحْتِكَارٌ (iḥtikār)** – "purchasing" and "buying up and stockpiling".
- **عُمْلَةٌ (ʿumlah)** – "coin", "money", and "currency".
- **مُسَاعِدٌ (musāʿid)** – "assisting", "helping", and, in certain contexts, "favorable" or "supportive".

Semantic Shift (Transfer of Meaning)

Semantic shift refers to a change in the meaning of a lexical unit whereby a word originally used to designate one phenomenon is transferred to denote another. Semantic transfer in naming processes is generally classified into three types: metaphorical, metonymic, and functional transfer.

Metaphorical transfer occurs when two objects or phenomena share certain similar characteristics, allowing the name of one to be transferred to the other. Through this process, a word belonging to general vocabulary acquires a new meaning and becomes a terminological unit. In many cases, this type of semantic transfer can be observed in the meanings of verbal nouns (maṣdars) derived from verbs.

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The following examples illustrate this phenomenon:

Form I verb:

- **جَرَى (jarā)** – its primary meaning is "to flow" or "to run", particularly in reference to water. In political texts, however, it is translated as "to take place", "to occur", or "to be conducted".

Form I verbal noun (maṣdar):

- **رَبْطٌ (rabṭ)** – its primary meanings are "binding", "tying", and "connecting". In political discourse, it may be translated as "ties", "links", or "relations".

Form I verbal noun (maṣdar):

- **كَسَادٌ (kasād)** – derived from a verb associated with stagnation or remaining unsold. As a political and economic term, it is used to denote "stagnation", "economic slowdown", or "depression". For example, in political and economic texts, the expressions فَتْرَةُ الْكَسَادِ and الْكَسَادُ الْأَعْظَمُ are used to refer to "the period of depression" and "the Great Depression", respectively.

Synonymy and Polysemy in Arabic Terminology

The application of different methods and models of term formation in Arabic gives rise to linguistic phenomena such as synonymy and polysemy. According to V. P. Danilenko, synonymy emerges in terminology because terms may be formed from different sources [6, 73].

For example, the following Arabic terms and their corresponding equivalents illustrate terminological synonymy:

- **مِيتَافِيزِيقَا (mītāfīzīqā)** – "metaphysics"; **مَا وَرَاءَ الطَّبِيعَةِ (mā warāʾa al-ṭabīʿah)** – literally, "that which lies beyond nature".
- **إِيطِيقَا (ītīqā)** – "ethics"; **الأَخْلَاقُ (al-akhlāq)** – "morality" or "ethics".
- **إِسْتِطِيقَا (istīṭīqā)** – "aesthetics"; **عِلْمُ الْجَمَالِ (ʿilmu al-jamāl)** – "the science of beauty".
- **غَرَامَاطِيقَا / غَرَامَاطِيق (gharāmāṭīqā / gharāmāṭīq)** – "grammar"; **قَوَاعِدُ اللُّغَةِ (qawāʿidu al-lughah)** – "the rules of a language".

These examples demonstrate how Arabic terminology incorporates both internationally borrowed lexical forms and indigenous Arabic expressions to denote the same or closely related concepts.

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Thus, synonyms are defined as "lexical units that are close in meaning and express the same concept but differ in their phonetic form" [5, 112]. Polysemy, in turn, occurs when a single word has several meanings within a language [5, 116]. In political terminology, synonymy and polysemy are frequently observed in nouns derived from verbs (verbal nouns or maṣdars). For example, the following Uzbek terms can be rendered by a range of synonymous expressions in Arabic:

Uzbek term	Arabic equivalents
Contract, agreement	اِتِّفَاقٌ – اِتِّفَاقِيَّةٌ – عَقْدٌ – مُعَاهَدَةٌ – صَفْقَةٌ
Negotiations, talks	مُحَادَثَاتٌ – مُبَاحَثَاتٌ – مُفَاوَضَاتٌ – مُذَاكَرَاتٌ
Problem, issue	مُشْكِلَةٌ – مَسْأَلَةٌ – قَضِيَّةٌ
Situation, condition	مَوْقِفٌ – مَوْقِعٌ – وَضْعٌ – مَوْضِعٌ – حَالَةٌ
Field, sector	مَجَالٌ – مَيْدَانٌ – دَائِرَةٌ – صَعِيدٌ – حَقْلٌ

Furthermore, synonymous pairs such as veto (فِيتُو and حَقُّ النَّقْضِ) and etiquette (الإتِيكِيت and آدَابُ اللِّيَاقَةِ) illustrate the phenomenon of diglossia[1]. In other words, a single concept may be expressed in Arabic by both a borrowed foreign-language word and an Arabic equivalent.

In political and social texts, the term "deposit" may be rendered through several Arabic lexical units, depending on whether it is used in its literal or figurative sense. These units have distinct semantic features and may demonstrate polysemous usage [7, 78]:

- **أَمَانَةٌ** – safekeeping; something entrusted to another person.
- **ذَخِيرَةٌ** – treasure; reserve or stockpile.
- **إِذَاعَةٌ** – broadcasting; transmission or dissemination.
- **وَدِيعَةٌ** – an item or sum of money entrusted for safekeeping; deposit.

Another example of polysemy is the Arabic noun **دَائِرَةٌ** (plural: **دَوَائِرُ**), which, according to lexicographical sources, has eight meanings, including: (1) circle; circumference; (2) district; (3) field, department, or sector; and (4) environment or circle of people.

In political and social texts, this word forms part of the following terminological expressions:

[1] Diglossia – the use of two linguistic varieties within a speech community.

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- دَائِرَةُ الِانْتِخَابِ– electoral constituency.
- فِي دَائِرَةِ الْعَمَلِ السِّيَاسِيِّ– in the sphere of political activity.
- الدَّوَائِرُ الرَّسْمِيَّةُ– official circles.
- الدَّوَائِرُ الْمُطَّلِعَةُ– informed circles.
- دَائِرَةُ الْبُولِيسِ– police department.
- دَائِرَةُ الْحُكُومَةِ– government institution.

Conclusion

Thus, semantic derivation, understood as the formation of new meanings through semantic change, represents one of the productive mechanisms involved in the formation of political terminology. Political terms created through secondary nomination help reduce the need for direct borrowings from foreign languages and contribute to preserving the lexical identity of the Arabic language. Meanwhile, the phenomena of synonymy and polysemy reflect the interaction and competition among terminological units, which may result in the emergence of synonymous doublets and parallel terms.

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