# Associative Approach to a Language and the Problem of Associative Relation of Words in Uzbek

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## Abstract

This article discusses the problems of verbal associations in linguistics, associative relation of lexical units in Uzbek, formation of lexical associations by means of linguistic and extralinguistic factors.

An attention at the study of lexical (verbal) associations in world linguistics began from the end of the 19th century. As G.Martinovich informs the study of verbal associations had two separate directions at the same time. The first discipline (which is called traditional linguistic) included the research works investigated by outstanding Russian scholars A.Potebnya, I.Baudouin de Courtenay, N.Krushevsky, M.Pokrovsky and others, whereas the second direction (which is called experimental-psychological) consisted of the scientific works of western psychologists, psychiatrists, later psycholinguists such as G.Kent, A.Rozanov, D.Dieze, G.Miller, Ch.Cofer etc [1].

At the end of the 19th century N. Krushevsky, a representative of the Kazan linguistic school, was one of the first linguists who suggested the idea about division of words into associative rows according to association law in Russian linguistics.  According to N.Krushevsky, "the words are directly related with each other in regards with the association of :1) similarity;  2) contiguity. The systems and rows of words are formed from this point" [2, 68-69].

The study of associative approach became crucial in Russian linguistics in the middle of the 20th century. M.Pokrovsky's conclusions about verbal associations, namely the role of association in the formation of human lexicon, became an important issue in this period.  According to M.Pokrovsky, words and word forms are united into certain groups or categories according to the similarity in form and meaning regardless their relation to the mind(thought) ... Association of form, word, category in a language is different and it can be an interesting material for both linguists and psychologists [3, 18].

A special attention began to be paid at the study of verbal associations in West european linguistics beginning with the end of the 19th century.   Associative experimental method was first used in psychological investigations in this period. The interest in the analysis of verbal associations in the world linguistics and the introduction of associative experimental method in linguistics at the beginning of the 20th century caused the first associative dictionaries to be compiled.

The problems of the formation of verbal associations in linguistics, different features of associative pairs, and their classification have deeply been investigated up to now and much is being done in this field of investigation at present. This problem has deeply been investigated by a number of well-known linguists: F.Galton, A.Tumb, C. Marb, G.Kent, A.Rozanov, D.Palermo, M.Rosenzweigh, R.Woodworts, L.Postman, C.Noble, G.Diese, J.Jenkins, F.Cramer, A.Looriya, A.Leontyev, L.Sakharny, A.Zalevskaya, Yu.Karaulov in the example of different languages.

The number of published scientific works devoted to the problem of the associative relation of lexical units in Uzbek in Uzbek linguistics is very few. The candidate's dissertation named «Psycholinguistic analysis of content perception of newspaper texts in Uzbek» written by Azimova is devoted to the analysis of the lexical associations forming publisictic text [4], whereas the doctorial thesis called «Antropocentric analysis of the text in Uzbek» written by D.Khudoyberdiyeva is dedicated to the study of specific features of lexical units with associative relation used in literary texts [5, 240]. The problem of associative relation of lexical units in the Uzbek language has not specifically been studied in the aspect of monographs.   Russian scholar A.Zalevskaya has drawn ceratin conclusions having compratively analyzed lexical associations in the example of 111 word-correlate specific for Russian, Khazakh, Khirghiz, Uzbek languages [6,32]. However, the analysis of lexical associations in Uzbek, and the investigation of national-cultural, gender, social coloring (marker) of the associates are one of the actual problems of modern Uzbek linguistics.

It is common knowledge that verbal associations appear on the basis of native speaker's psychological imagination about reality. Therefore verbal associations in each native speaker are formed differently. The volume of verbal associations depends on native speaker's word stock.  The volume and the elements of associative field in children, adults, owners of different professions are different.

One of the specific features of verbal associations is that they lead to the creation of different speech constructions. In other words,   associatively interconnected units (lexical, syntactic units) for any speech construction from semantic point of view can function as a main unit.  For instance, the Uzbek lexeme *belamoq(to put a child in a cradle)* depicts such lexemes associatively connected in Uzbek people's memory as *beshik (a cradle), bola(a child), chaqaloq(a baby), go'dak (a new-born child), farzand(a son or a daughter), ona (a mother)*. Using these lexemes it is possible to make up the following sentences *«Bola beshikka belandi»(The child is put in a cradle), «Ona chaqalog'ini beshikka beladi» (A mother has bedded her child in the cradle)* or *«Ona go'dagini beshikka beladi» (A mother has bedded her baby in the cradle)* in speech. To make up such sentences a native speaker must know not only the grammatical rules of the language, but also national-cultural wealth about a cradle. Associatively connected syntactic units (word combinations and sentences) from semantic point of view can perform constitutive function for certain speech constructions. Proverbs, sayings and precedent phrases fixed in native speaker's vocabulary stock perform the ready-material function for different speech patterns. For instance, the proverb *«Bolali uy – bozor, bolasiz uy - mozor»(a house with a child is a pleasant place wheras a house without a child looks like a graveyard (-**word for word translation**))* is used in a speech act as a ready-material from word stock. So, associatively connected units (lexical and syntactic units) perform constitutive function for certain speech patterns.  According to Russian linguist Yu.Karaulov, every stimulus-reaction pair is unfinished phrase, its necessary component is either the nucleus of a future completed phrase or a sentence  or a part which is complete from grammatical point [7, 191]. But each stimulus-reaction pair can not be a constituting material of a speech pattern. It is necessary to state only about stimulus-reaction which is connected from semantic point of view in this case. Because the associates which do not take part in forming speech patterns can also be frequently found. These associates can artificially be formed by a person who is attracted at the experiment or they can only be formed according to their phonetic structure or pronunciation of the stimulus word, or they may not be connected with the stimulus word in any case.

What factors can cause to the formation of verbal associations, namely lexical associations? Regardless its grammatical form or meaning any lexical unit reminds certain lexical units, a phrase, a proverb or other units related to different factors in human mind and this lexical unit is associatively linked with them.   Lexical units of a language can be united on the basis of certain generality such as semantic, structural, derivational, connotational, acoustic markers. Such common markers are observed in many lexical associations. However, without understanding the meaning of a lexeme in associative experiment one cannot observe the connection between the stimulus word and the associate like the following pairs formed artificially: *chayon-yovvoyi hayvon*

*(a scorpion – a wild animal), maorif- odamlar yig'ilishi (education – people's meeting).* There is no common linguistic marker between the stimulus word and the associate in the following pair: *mastava- jonga tekkan (rice soup – fed up), shirinlik – jonu dilim (cookies- my pleasure)* which are based on native speaker's evaluative relation towards reality (extralinguistic factor).

It is characteristic feature that the associative relations in human mind can be realized by means of semantic components of lexical units as well. In this case it is possible to mention about the unity of semantic and associative components. However, that won't do to be restricted with the associative connection of words with semantic composition of lexemes.

Linguists link the formation of verbal associations with a number of factors. Russian linguist L.Kuznetsova divides the associations into linguistic (certain features of the stimulus word), pragmatic (participant's "personality" influence) and the conditions of experiment factors according to the formation of associations [8]. In our mind, it would be better to combine participant's "personality" influence and the conditions of experiment factors into extralinguistic factor according to their meaning. Approached the problem from this angle, it is possible to study the factors causing to the formation of associative pairs by dividing them into linguistic and extralinguistic factors.

Interrelation according to the semantic markers in a language leads to the formation of lexical associations, namely semantic interrelation of lexical units in synonymic, antonymic, patronymic relations causes to remind one another in human memory.  For example, the Uzbek lexeme *chiroyli (beautiful)* reminds the lexeme *khunuk (ugly)*, the lexeme *bola (a child)* reminds *gudak (a baby),*  the lexeme barmoq (a finger) reminds the lexeme qo'l (a hand).

Another type of lexical associations based on semantic relation in Uzbek is formed by means of thematic lexemes (a group of words belonging to the same semantic field). As the lexemes belonging to the same thematic group means similar notions from semantic point of view they form associations reminding each other in human mind. For instance, the lexeme *kavush (galosh)* reminds the lexeme makhsi (a footwear in the shape of socks made of rubber or leather and always worn with galosh).

The relation between the lexeme and the derivatives formed by means of this lexeme can create the associations reminding each other in human mind in Uzbek. Therefore the lexeme *pul (money)* can have associative relation with the lexemes *puldor (a person who has much money), pulsiz (a person without money), pulli (a person with money).*

Besides that, lexical units united around one group on the basis of national-cultural, sociability, genderological marker can also have associative relation. For instance, the Uzbek words *qurbonlik (sacrifice), kelinsalom ( a ceremony where a new bride greets relatives of bridegroom by bending in Uzbek culture), hayit (Eid), duppi (skullcap), kamzul, nimcha(ladies' wearing similar to a coat without sleeves)* convey the information about customs and clothes specific for the Uzbek culture they express besides their denotational meaning. Such national-cultural markers specific for lexical units lead to uniting them into certain groups in human mind. Therefore the lexeme *uzbek* may also remind the lexical units owning national-cultural markers such lexemes as *kelinsalom ( a ceremony where a new bride greets relatives of bridegroom by bending in Uzbek culture),  hayit (Eid), chopon (a wearing similar to dressing gown)* in Uzbek people's memory besides the lexeme nationality. Some lexemes may not have national-cultural marker from one point, they can be seen as a national cultural marker in certain people's mind.

As D.Khudoyberdiyeva states «…in some cases the image of a certain object in mind can also express national associations. For instance, the word *pakhta ( cotton)* can be translated into other languages.  This notion can be translated by means of word combination into the language which does not have its equivalent.  But it is natural that there is difference between the associations appeared in the mind of a person belonging to Uzbek nationality and a representative of other nationality» [5, 36].

The specific dialectal use in Uzbek, lexical units specific for certain social groups convey the information about native speakers' social status, profession, hobby, etc.  The reason of such lexemes' reminding one another in human mind is that they are similar according to their social marker.  For example, the lexeme fermer (a farmer) reminds the lexeme dehqon (a peasant), the lexeme vrach ( a doctor) reminds the lexeme hamshira (a nurse) in Uzbek. Such associative pairs are formed by means of the expression of professions constantly linked with each other. The lexemes *boss- secretary* are combined into the associative pairs on the basis of the expression of social status of people in the society.

It is characteristic feature that the lexical units with gender marker can also make up different associations in human memory. Foe example, the lexeme ugil (a son) reminds the lexeme qiz (a daughter), the lexeme er (husband) reminds the lexeme khotin (a wife).  This shows that lexical units can be grouped by means of their semantic marker in human mind as well as their gender feature.

Extralinguistic factors also play an essential role in the formation of verbal associations. There exist a number views about the problem of the formation of associative pairs on the basis of extralinguistic factors. M.Pokrovsky discusses about the extralinguistic factors (the objects of outer world, human spirituality, the history and culture of the nation, etc)  causing to the formation of verbal associations. According to this scholar Унинг фикрича, "the words denoting these objects are associated with each other in a language and, of course, the objects denoting theses words are associated in human mind" [9, 28].

Linguist E.Koneva, who investigated the problem of the formation of paronyms on the basis of associaitve experiment, states that "human-society-culture" and profession as extralinguistic factors influence at paronimazation process [10, 12]. It is possible to state that the images which are associated with each other and reflected in outer world's mind have linguistic feature in the  verbal associations.

The image of different things situated in certain place, the events happened in certain places finds their reflection in human mind together with their place. Such relation between the place and event (realization) can also be observed in the relation of lexical associations. For instance, the action of *"to stop"* can be done in different places such as *at bus-stop, turning*.  The relation between an action and the place it is done makes the word *to stop* have up the associative relation with lexical units such as a bus-stop, turn.

Different associations are also formed by means of the relation of event (realization) with time in a language. For example, when heard the word *summer* one can also think of the words *time, day* besides the word *season*.  As any other seasons the summer is a period of a year. Based on this relation the associative relations *yoz kunlari (summer days), yoz vaqti (summer time)* can be formed in the Uzbek language.

The objects in reality possess different markers such as colour, taste, smell, shape, based on which the image gets sense in human mind. The relationship of reality and markers specific for it forms associative relations in a language. For example, *darkness, gloom* specific for a *night* forms associative relation of the word *night* with the words *darkness and gloom*.  The watch being made of gold or silver makes the word watch form associative relation with the words *gold, silver*.

The information about a sound and its owner possesses the same place in human's linguistic thought. This witnesses that a sound and a verbal expression of the object, animal, person it forms are personified together in human thought (mind). Therefore the sound *inga-inga* (made by newly born child) reminds a *baby* in native speaker's mind, the sound *tuq-tuq* (the sound made when high-heel shoes are worn) reminds the lexeme *a pair of shoes* or *a stick*, the sound *piq-piq* (the sound produced when someone bursts into tears) reminds the lexeme *cry*, the sound *chi-chi* reminds the lexeme *mouse*.

The assimilation of objects to another one in reality based on certain marker by a native speaker forms the imagination about the relationship of these objects in their thought. And this imagination creates association with assimilation in a language. For instance, the Uzbek word combination *qattiq qurut* (coarse qurut (an eatable made of dried sour cream) can have associative relation with the lexeme *toshdek* (as hard as stone (rock)).

Realizations in outer world can sometimes be linked on the basis of cause-consequence relation. In other words, one event can cause another to happen. For example, high noise can cause a headache. Such relation can cause the associative relation of words shovqin (noise) and bosh og'rig'i (headache).

Different association may be formed in a language with speaker's will. For example, *mastava – achchiqina (a rice soup – bitter), kuyov – boyvochcha ( a bridegroom- tycoon), to'y – dang'illama ( a wedding – luxury).*

Certain associations can be formed in a language regarding with speaker's personal features (character, age, gender, profession, education, outlook). For example, the associative relation of the lexemes *shokolad-yeyman (I eat chocolate)* is formed on the basis of age as young children like eating chocolate very much. The associative pair *Bijildoq-qizcha* (very talkative young girl) is related to a person's character.

It is common knowledge that a number of associations based on the relation of subject (mostly person) and the object it is activating are formed in a language.    The following can be good examples in this case Haydovchi-mashina ( a driver  - a car), talaba – institut ( a student – an institute).  A cook and dfferent names of food ( such as palov, lagman, dish) can also be an example for this idea.

The relationship between activities and objects can cause to the formation of a number of associations. This is observed in the following examples: chopiq – o't (cleaning(cutting) – grass), terim – pakhta ( picking – cotton), qurilish – takhta ( building – a board (timber)), kasalkhona – bemor ( a hospital – a patient).

The associative relation between the objects and their owner in reality can also be found in a language. Based on this the lexeme *so'rg'ich* (baby's dummy) reminds the lexeme *chaqaloq* ( a baby), the lexeme *galstuk* ( a tie) reminds *boshliq* (a boss). As the Earth, the Sun, the Moon belongs to a planet the lexemes the Earth, the Sun, the Moon form associative relation with the lexeme planet. Based on this relationship the word combinations Quyosh planetasi (the planet Sun), *Oy planetasi* (the planet Moon) and *Yer planetasi* (the planet Earth) are frequently found in our speech.

The relation between living demands necessary to exist and formation of matters in outer world can cause to the formation of such associations as *daftar- qog'oz ( a notebook- paper), baliq – suv(fish –water), yomg'ir – bulut ( rain – cloud)* in the Uzbek language.

Thus, different verbal associations are formed in human mind on te basis of linguistic and extralinguistic factors. The following linguistic factors are essential in the formation of lexical associations in the Uzbek language:  1) semantic relations of lexemes; 2) generality (common features) in the formation of lexemes; 3)

harmony in the pronunciation of lexemes; 4) sameness of lexemes' national-cultural markers; 5) the relation of lexemes according to their sociability marker; 6) the relation of lexemes according to their gender marker.

The following extralinguistic factors motivate to the formation of lexical associations: 1) the relationship of matters ( matter in general sense) in place; 2) the relationship of matters in time; 3) the relationhip of matters with their features; 4) the relationship of objects (matters) with a sound; 5) assimilation of objects; 6) the relationship of objects in regards with their cause-consequence relation; 7) the willing or desire of a speaker; 8) personal qualities of a speech owner; 9) the relationship of the subject and the object (field) of its activity; 10) the relationship between the types of activity and the objects; 11) possessiveness, belonging, membership markers of the matters (objects); 12) the relationship of objects with necessary living demands which cause existence, being alive and formation of objects, etc.

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