LEXICAL AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF TERMINOLOGY IN ISLAMIC STUDIES

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the lexical and semantic characteristics of key terminologies used in Islamic studies. By analyzing the etymology, morphological patterns, and semantic shifts of selected terms, the article highlights their theological, legal, and sociocultural dimensions. The study also explores how these terms have evolved across different historical periods and linguistic contexts, while noting the challenges of translation and interpretation in non-Arabic settings. Understanding these features contributes to more precise academic engagement and interreligious dialogue.

Keywords: Islamic terminology, lexical semantics, Arabic roots, Islamic studies, semantic shift, etymology, translation, religious language

ISLOMSHUNOSLIKKA OID TERMINLARNING LEKSIK-SEMANTIK XUSUSIYATLARI

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ANNOTATSIYA

Ushbu maqolada islomshunoslikda qoʻllaniladigan asosiy atamalarning leksik va semantik xususiyatlari koʻrib chiqiladi. Maqolada tanlangan atamalarning etimologiyasi, morfologik qoliplari va semantik siljishlarini tahlil qilinib, ularning diniy, huquqiy va ijtimoiy-madaniy jihatlari yoritilgan. Tadqiqot shuningdek, ushbu atamalarning turli tarixiy davrlar va lingvistik kontekstlarda qanday

rivojlanganligini o'rganadi, shu bilan birga arab bo'lmagan sharoitlarda tarjima va talqin qilishning qiyinchiliklarini qayd etadi. Ushbu xususiyatlarni tushunish yanada aniqroq ifoda etish va dinlararo muloqotga yordam beradi.

Kalit so'zlar: *islom terminologiyasi, leksik semantika, arab ildizlari, islomshunoslik, semantik siljish, etimologiya, tarjima, diniy til*

ЛЕКСИКО-СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ ТЕРМИНОЛОГИИ В ИСЛАМОВЕДЕНИИ.

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АННОТАЦИЯ

В данной статье рассматриваются лексические и семантические характеристики ключевых терминологий, используемых в исламских исследованиях. Анализируя этимологию, морфологические модели и семантические сдвиги выбранных терминов, статья выделяет их теологические, правовые и социокультурные аспекты. В исследовании также изучается, как эти термины развивались в разные исторические периоды и языковые контексты, отмечая при этом проблемы перевода и интерпретации в неарабских условиях. Понимание этих особенностей способствует более точному академическому взаимодействию и межрелигиозному диалогу.

Ключевые слова: *исламская терминология, лексическая семантика, арабские корни, исламские исследования, семантический сдвиг, этимология, перевод, религиозный язык.*

INTRODUCTION

Terminology in Islamic studies is deeply rooted in classical Arabic, a language known for its rich morphology and deep semantic structures. Unlike general vocabulary, Islamic terms often carry profound theological, legal, and ethical implications. Words such as Tawhid, Fiqh, Shari'ah, Hadith, and Ijtihad are not only linguistic units but also conceptual frameworks that shape Islamic thought and practice. This paper aims to explore the lexical and semantic features of such terms by examining their etymology, morphological structure, semantic range, and

contextual usage. It also addresses the issues encountered in translating these terms into other languages, especially English, and how meaning may shift or narrow in the process. Islamic terms are derived from trilateral (three-letter) Arabic roots, which allow for extensive word formation while retaining semantic unity.

For instance: "Tawhid" originates from the root w-ḥ-d, meaning "one" or "to unify." "Fiqh" comes from f-q-h, which means "to understand" or "comprehend."

These roots are modified through patterns known as "wazn" (morphological templates), which indicate forms such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and verbal nouns. This morphological system is crucial in maintaining semantic coherence across related terms.

Many Islamic terms exhibit polysemy—the phenomenon of having multiple related meanings. For example: "Shari'ah" can mean: The divine path prescribed by God, islamic legal rulings derived from Qur'an and Hadith, a moral and social code encompassing all aspects of life. The semantic range of these terms depends on context: legal, spiritual, theological, or political.

Over time, Islamic terms have undergone semantic shifts due to changing historical, cultural, and political contexts. For instance: The term "khalifah" originally referred to the leadership of the Muslim community after the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). In the modern era, it has been politicized by various movements, often distorting its classical meaning. The term "ijtihad", once a common scholarly tool for independent reasoning, was discouraged in later centuries but has recently seen a revival in contemporary Islamic reform movements. These shifts show that Islamic terminology is not static but dynamic and responsive to historical currents.

Translating Islamic terms into other languages, especially English, presents significant challenges: Loss of nuance: The term "taqwa" is often translated as "piety" or "God-consciousness," yet it encompasses fear, love, awareness, and ethical vigilance. There are some cultural gaps, the concepts like "barakah" (divine blessing) or "niyyah" (intention) have no direct equivalence in secular Western languages.

Words like "Shari'ah" and "Jihad" are often mistranslated or taken out of context in media and political discourse. As a result, scholars advocate for transliteration with contextual explanation rather than simplistic translation.

Context plays a crucial role in determining the meaning of a term. For example: "Ilm" (knowledge) in Islamic discourse refers not only to empirical knowledge but also to spiritual and revealed knowledge. The term "ummah" can refer to the global Muslim community, the local congregation, or even previous religious communities

in Qur'anic usage. Thus, pragmatic and discourse analysis is essential to fully understand the semantic depth of Islamic terms.

CONCLUSION

Islamic terminologies possess unique lexical and semantic features that reflect the richness of classical Arabic and the depth of Islamic intellectual traditions. Their meanings are shaped by etymology, morphology, context, and historical usage. Misinterpretation or mistranslation of these terms can lead to misunderstandings both in academia and in public discourse. Therefore, a nuanced and linguistically informed approach to Islamic terminology is essential for accurate scholarship and meaningful cross-cultural communication.

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