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SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES OF COMPILING IDEOGRAPHIC DICTIONARIES: AN ENGLISH-UZBEK PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract: Ideographic dictionaries represent a special type of lexicographic resource in which lexical units are organized according to conceptual and semantic principles rather than alphabetical order. This article aims to explore the scientific principles underlying the compilation of ideographic dictionaries, with particular reference to English and Uzbek languages. The study highlights the theoretical foundations of ideographic lexicography, examines methodological approaches to semantic classification, and analyzes the role of conceptual systems, hierarchical structuring, and cultural specificity in dictionary compilation. Using examples from English and Uzbek ideographic practices, the article demonstrates how ideographic dictionaries contribute to the understanding of lexical systems, conceptual worldviews, and cross-linguistic comparison. The findings confirm that adherence to core scientific principles enhances both the theoretical value and practical usability of ideographic dictionaries in linguistic research, translation studies, and language teaching.

Keywords: ideographic dictionary, lexicography, semantic field, concept, English language, Uzbek language.

Introduction

Modern linguistics increasingly focuses on the systematic and conceptual nature of vocabulary. Lexical units are no longer viewed as isolated items but as elements of a structured semantic system that reflects human cognition and cultural experience. In this context, ideographic dictionaries occupy a central position, as they present vocabulary according to meaning-based classifications and conceptual relations. Unlike alphabetical dictionaries, which prioritize formal ordering, ideographic dictionaries aim to reveal the internal organization of the lexicon. They group words by semantic fields, thematic domains, and conceptual categories, thus providing insight into how speakers of a language conceptualize reality. This approach is particularly valuable in comparative linguistics, where the comparison of conceptual systems across languages helps to identify universal and language-specific features. The relevance of ideographic dictionaries is especially evident in the study of English and Uzbek languages. English, as a global language with extensive lexicographic traditions, and Uzbek, with its rich cultural and semantic heritage, offer fertile ground for ideographic comparison. The present article seeks to analyze the scientific principles that govern the compilation of ideographic dictionaries and to demonstrate their application through English-Uzbek examples.

The objectives of this study are: (1) to define the theoretical foundations of ideographic lexicography; (2) to identify the core scientific principles guiding dictionary compilation; (3) to

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analyze English and Uzbek ideographic classifications; and (4) to assess the practical significance of ideographic dictionaries.

Materials and Methods

The research is based on a qualitative and comparative methodology. The primary materials include existing ideographic dictionaries, thesauri, and semantic classifications in English and Uzbek, as well as theoretical works on lexicography, semantic field theory, and cognitive linguistics.

The methods applied in the study include:

- **Descriptive analysis**, used to outline the structure and features of ideographic dictionaries;
- **Semantic field analysis**, employed to classify lexical units according to conceptual domains;
- **Comparative analysis**, applied to identify similarities and differences between English and Uzbek ideographic systems;
- **Conceptual analysis**, used to examine how abstract notions are represented lexically in both languages.

Through these methods, the study systematically examines the principles that ensure the scientific validity and functional effectiveness of ideographic dictionaries.

Results

One of the fundamental scientific principles of ideographic dictionary compilation is semantic systematicity. This principle assumes that the vocabulary of a language forms an interconnected system in which each lexical unit occupies a specific place within a semantic field. In English ideographic resources, such as thesaurus-type dictionaries, words are grouped under broad conceptual categories like *Emotion*, *Movement*, *Perception*, or *Social Relations*. For example, within the field of *Emotion*, lexical units such as *joy*, *happiness*, *delight*, and *pleasure* are presented together, reflecting their semantic proximity. Similarly, Uzbek ideographic classifications group words under conceptual domains such as *his-tuyg'u* (emotion), *harakat* (movement), and *ijtimoiy munosabatlar* (social relations). The Uzbek lexemes *quvonch*, *shodlik*, *xursandchilik* illustrate how emotional concepts are systemically organized. Ideographic dictionaries are concept-oriented rather than form-oriented. Each section of such a dictionary corresponds to a specific concept that exists in human cognition. This principle aligns ideographic lexicography with cognitive linguistics. In English, the concept of *TIME* may include lexical items such as *moment*, *period*, *era*, *eternity*, while in Uzbek the same concept is represented by *lahza*, *davr*, *zamon*, *abadiyat*. Although the conceptual core is shared, the lexical realization reflects cultural and linguistic specificity.

Hierarchical organization is another essential principle. Concepts are arranged from general to specific, forming multi-level structures. Superordinate categories encompass subordinate ones, creating a logical framework. For instance, the general concept *Movement* may include subcategories such as *Direction*, *Speed*, and *Manner* in English, while Uzbek presents parallel subdivisions like *yo'nalish*, *tezlik*, and *harakat usuli*. This hierarchy ensures clarity and coherence in dictionary structure. Ideographic dictionaries are compiled with specific users and purposes in mind. Academic dictionaries prioritize theoretical completeness, while educational or translation-oriented dictionaries focus on usability. In English–Uzbek lexicography,

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ideographic dictionaries are particularly useful for translators, as they provide access to semantically related lexical units rather than single-word equivalents. This allows for more accurate and context-sensitive translation choices. Every language encodes culturally significant concepts. Ideographic dictionaries must account for national and cultural specificity to avoid oversimplification. For example, the Uzbek concept *mehmondo'stlik* (hospitality) includes a rich network of lexical and phraseological units that have no exact equivalents in English. Conversely, English lexical fields related to *privacy* or *individualism* reflect cultural values that are less prominent in Uzbek.

The results demonstrate that ideographic dictionary compilation is inherently interdisciplinary, combining elements of lexicography, semantics, cognitive linguistics, and cultural studies. The comparison of English and Uzbek data reveals both universal conceptual patterns and language-specific realizations. While both languages employ similar hierarchical and semantic principles, differences arise from cultural experience and linguistic structure. English ideographic dictionaries often emphasize abstract categorization, whereas Uzbek classifications tend to reflect concrete and socially embedded concepts. These observations confirm that ideographic dictionaries not only serve as reference tools but also as models of conceptual worldviews. Their scientific value lies in their ability to represent the mental and cultural organization of lexical knowledge.

Conclusion

The study confirms that the compilation of ideographic dictionaries is guided by a set of core scientific principles, including semantic systematicity, conceptual orientation, hierarchical structuring, functional relevance, and cultural specificity. The application of these principles in English and Uzbek ideographic lexicography ensures a comprehensive and coherent representation of lexical systems. Ideographic dictionaries play a crucial role in linguistic research, comparative studies, translation practice, and language education. Future research may focus on the development of bilingual and digital ideographic dictionaries, which can further enhance cross-linguistic understanding and practical application.

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