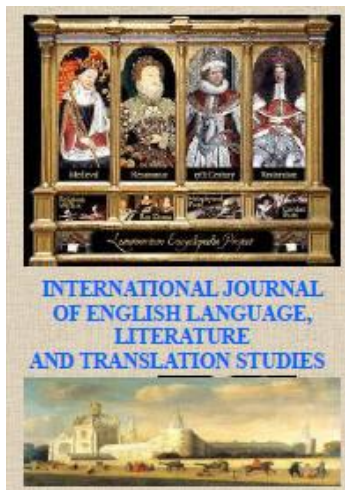**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

SEMANTIC INFORMATION IN MONOLINGUAL GENERAL PERSIAN DICTIONARIES

ZAHRA ZARE

Research Scholar, Department of studies in Linguistics, KIKS, University of Mysore, Manasagangotri, Mysore, Karnataka, India

ABSTRACT

One of the most important information a dictionary is semantic information of lexical units. The most important and pivotal task of lexicographer is semantic separation of a word or phrase before the definition according to its position in collocation axis and its relationship with other lexical units that are used in a unified context. To achieve this purpose, available examples and sentences in linguistic corpus should be examined exactly to extract different meanings of lexical unit. The semantic rootedness has its very far-reaching consequences for the field of lexicography as such and for the present study as well.

Kay words: semantic, dictionary, meaning, lexicography

INTRODUCTION

Semanticists have sometimes volunteered suggestions concerning the description of meaning in dictionaries, however, most lexicographers would argue that a good dictionary is the ultimate test of any theory of lexical semantics; they sometimes become impatient with criticisms from theorists who have never worked as lexicographers (Lew, R, 2007).

There is no denial of the role that, descriptive level of a language plays in the making of meaning. Even definitions a dictionary are rooted through the structural descriptions of a language. But it is important to observe that the phenomena called meaning and definition acquire their proper shape and focus mainly within the semantic makeup of language. It is this discovery, the relationships that bring in the element semantic centrality or call it semantic rootedness that places lexicographical practice in the field of semantics. (Singh, p, 2010)

Lexicographer is obliged to do two important: semantic separation and definition-writing.

Lexicographer should use some patterns and criteria to specify different meanings and concepts separation and to organize them in particular semantic areas. Some dictionaries mention meanings according to their order and the historical sequence from the earliest meanings to the recent ones. Different meanings are organized according to their order, origin, development and durability over times often accompanied by

examples. Some dictionaries, first mention the most common and the highest frequent meanings and concepts and then figurative ones and rare and old-fashioned ones (Hashmi Minabad, 2007).

The order of different meanings of lexical units is determined by dictionary type. If the dictionary is historical, usually semantic order is begun from the oldest entry meaning and is ended at the most recent meaning. The determining factor is usually the frequency of different meanings occurrence, which is determined by reference to the linguistic corpus and dialect speakers' linguistic instinct (Ghatreh, 2007).

In this article we will discussing Semantic information and Semantic Order and Organization in the Persian dictionars.

Semantic Order and Organization

Semantic order and organization in entries is one of the most important tasks of lexicographer that is done based on the fulfilling needs and addressees' capacities as well as dictionary type. Language and external world's realities and lexicographers' world view are effective in semantic order. Meanings and concepts in entries are organized in a particular order in order to determine an appropriate image from the meaning of the entry and finding and searching particular meanings and concepts will be easier and faster. (Hashemi Minabad, 2007).

When we do semantic separation of lexical units, we should consider that common semantic units should put in one class together. For the same token, for example words daste (handle), dar (door), kif (bag), ghablame (tiffin), livan (glass) and the conveying a common concept. On the other hand, some semantic differences result from phonological and phonemic of linguistic elements such as stress and emphasis, for example semantic difference of words such as vali (parent) and vali (but) is in their stress position that in the first word it is on the second syllable and in the second word it is on the first syllable (Ghatreh, 2007).

There are different orders for semantic organizing that lexicographers depending on the dictionary type and its users or merely by their preferences choose them and organize meanings based on them. There is no united system that will be so detailed and desirable which in all cases it prevents us from personal judgment in the process (Hashemi Minabad , 2007).

In all cases faultlessly and offered:

1. *The main and subordinate order*

In most cases, when lexicographers follow a semantic order, it is necessary that choose another order regarding the organization of the main parts. The subordinate order specifies the organization of smaller parts.

2. *Grammatical order*

The first criterion of semantic order organized based on the grammatical function. All the meanings of a grammatical category are collected in a unified unit. Some words have several grammatical functions like khoob (good) which is an adjective, adverb and noun. Lexicographers separate these categories from each other and provide them in different entries.

3*. Frequency order*

This order is taken based on the usage and real frequency rate in language mainly due to its practical usefulness for most users. Most of general dictionaries, first mention the most frequent and common meanings and concepts and then the other meanings are organized.

There is no frequency dictionary in Persian that lexicographers record the most frequent and common meanings based on it. Compiling such dictionary can be helpful for lexicographers in semantic organization.

4. *Historical order*

Meanings are organized based on their origins, changes over times, death or durability. Mere historical order has an explicit and unambiguous nature. At first, a concept that has been made earlier than other concepts based on the evidence is recorded and other concepts are organized according to their origin date. Historical order needs another order in internal organization. Main semantic distributions are basing on the historical order, a concept that are in close relationship with each other, are collected logically or based on the core meaning.

5*. Logical or core order*

Lexicographers that follow logical order have not an exact and explicit image from it. In this method, meanings are organized based on the lexicographers' logical order. Apparently, their basis is historical changes of words, of course, without profound study or research. Their image of logical order and its usage are extremely different in practice. Users should have information as much as lexicographers' and their world view and attitude towards language should be the same with lexicographers' in order to understand this order.

Often, words, not always, have core or central meanings that other meanings are derived from them. These meanings have clusters consisting of connected concepts and have separate concepts that is derived from them. Lexicographers first mention core meaning and then figurative or narrated, specialized and general, archaic, old-fashioned, rare and the like meanings or concepts. Apparently, the method of Dr. Moein in his dictionary was based on the logical order, because priority or non-priority of different meanings of a word has been done based on their importance and real and figurative meanings are done with consideration of their grammatical identity.

6 *. Usage Order*

Words have usage in language, including their general and specialized usage and the like that users maybe want general usage of a word in a dictionary or specialized, old-fashioned and figurative usage, thus usage order should be founded. The order of usage in this method is general, specialized, scientific and professional, figurative, old-fashioned, rare and archaic. Usage order makes finding meanings easy in dictionaries and avoids wasting time in finding needed usage. (Hashemi Minabad, 2007).

Semantic Order and Organization in Moein Dictionary

In Moein dictionary about the style of mentioning meanings and concepts is written as follows:

1. Different meanings of a word are determined by scores.
2. The priority and non-priority of different meanings of a word are specified according to their importance, real and figurative meanings and grammatical identity.
3. In definitions, scientific aspect of definitions is taken into account and in addition to Persian dictionaries, European dictionaries are also used.
4. Combinations related to each the meanings are mentioned below those meanings. In the case of combinations which are compatible with different meanings, they are written below the last related meaning.
5. References are excluded in definitions except in necessary cases.
6. Special abbreviations are written in parentheses before definitions showing special contexts, for example pz (pezeshki, Medical), jan (janavarshenasi=zoology), gia (giahshenasi=botany) and nj (njoom=astrology).
7. Family, group and class of plants, animals and stones are determined from a natural science perspective, and their French, English or German names are mentioned at the bottom of pages and also different types of diseases, microbes and viruses are described scientifically.
8. Some words are entered from Arabic or European languages and they are changed phonologically or semantically, thus their pronunciations and meanings in Persian and their origins are mentioned.
9. Sometimes one or several words are referred to one or several words for explaining, in this case there should be → sign before the word to be referred or after the mentioned word hm (be hamin made rojo shavad =see this material) is mentioned (Moein, 1991).

Semantic Order and Organization in Dehkhoda Dictionary

Dehkhoda dictionary is a historical dictionary. Thus, it is expected that meanings are written according to their historical order. That is, first the oldest meaning of a word is written, and then their derivational meaning or meanings are written. In the case that one word is used in two or three meanings, these meanings are mentioned based on the contract. In another case that a word is used in more than one function, it should be done the same as before, but examining several entries in this dictionary shows that:

1. Historical order is not observed and in some cases the new meaning has been mentioned before the old meaning.
2. In some cases, there is no differentiation among the various meanings of a word.
3. Some examples are not used in their place.

4. Meaning repetition is repeated in some entries two times. For example kafe has mentioned as the entry two times in the meaning of scale, one time as narrated from Nazem al-Ateba, Monthi al-Arb and Aghrab al-Mvared (in page 28, first edition) without example and another time as narrated from Borhan Rashidi and Ghias with several examples (in page 29, first edition) (Sadeghi, 2009).

Semantic change

One of the problems that we encounter in writing dictionaries is semantic change. That is, a word had a meaning in the past and now it has another one, these kinds of words are common in Persian. What can be done now? For example shabestan (bedchamber) was said to haramsara (harem) in the past, but today it is said to the covered part of a mosque. Negaran (here means watcher) was said in ey kabotar negaran bash ke shahin amd (Oh pigeon watch that hawk came) it means that "watch" but today it means "worried" in sentence negaranm dir kardeam (I'm worried, I'm late). On the other hand, in Afghanistan, "Adame nazer" (supervisor) is called "negaran" for example someone who check tickets in the train is called "aghay negaran" (Mr. supervisor). What can lexicographers do regarding this group of words? Should they mention all the meanings? Or they should mention the contemporaries? This issue is dependent on what dictionary we are writing. If we are writing a dictionary for contemporary usage, we write contemporary meaning and if it is the case of historical one, we should write all the meanings, but if we mention which one is older or more recent, great confusion will appear for example the meaning of tavile (stable) is mentioned in Moein dictionary as follows:

Tavile: 1. Long female, 2. Thread, 3. Necklace (like pearl necklace), 4. A rope that quadrupeds are tied to it (none of them are used today), 5. Stall, 6. Train.

Except the first meaning which is not clear that is used in Arabic or not, all their meanings are used in Persian, but each one was used in a particular period of time. The fifth meaning is also fault, because establ (stall) is equivalent with horse stall and tavile in the meaning of establ has a general and particular relationship, that is, tavile is a more common word than establ. Therefore, estable does not exactly mean tavile. Akhor (manger) is a part of tavile. It is interesting that among all the meanings, the fifth meaning is closed to tavile and that is also wrong. Thus, when we look at tavile meanings we understand nothing that what tavile means in contemporary Persian, but it is defined in today's Persian dictionary as: tavile is a place that farm animals are kept there (Sadri Afshar, 1991).Then gives examples viz: (monkey, horse and cow)this means today is stable. Sokan dictionary which does not claim is a contemporary dictionary has a good method as it has mentioned Moein dictionary meaning as: 1. a place for keeping farm animals (it is interesting that its contemporary meaning is this) 2. Necklace (but below it is written old-fashioned) 3. A rope that quadrupeds' legs are tied to it (below it is written old-fashioned) it means that its first meaning which is non-sign and is its contemporary meaning and those which has sigh are old-fashioned and are not used today. This is the best method for a historical dictionary, thus words' meanings are changed over times and it is unavoidable (Bateni, 2009).

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

We hope that lexicographers will keep open mind to developments in linguistics, and that linguists will continue healthy relationship with dictionaries. It appears that lexicography has also continued to remind linguists of the importance of meaning in language, that vital aspect that appears to have been neglected, Further, as John Sinclair pointed out in his 2004 paper under the telling title *In praise of the dictionary*, "[a] dictionary is both a practical object on the bookshelf and an application of a theory of language to the description of meaning". (2004:10)

Frawley (1993: 1) uses an interesting metaphor when describing the relationship of (Montague tradition) semantics and lexicography: "Semantics is to lexicography what economics is to accountancy. The problem is that when authors claim lexicography to be part of linguistics, it is not always clear which of the two (or perhaps both?) they mean.

Lexicography has had a hand in the rise of modern linguistics, the interesting point that lexicographic practice has implicitly shaped linguistic theory by influencing linguists as ordinary dictionary users.

REFERENCES

1. Bateni, MR., (2008), Facts about Lexicography, Lexicography, 2, Special Edition of the Persian Language and Literature Academy, pp. 168-175.

1. 2.Frawley, William (1993). Introduction. *Dictionaries: The Journal of the Dictionary Society of North America* 14: 1-3.

2. Ghatreh, F., (2007), Linguistics Roles in the Contemporary Lexicography, Lexicography Magazine, the first period, the first number (Special Edition of Academy), Academy of Persian Language and Literature Publications. pp. 68 to 94.

3. Hashemi, Minabad, H., (2007), Order and Organization of Meanings, Proceedings of Lexicography Papers, Tehran, Persian Language and Literature Academy, Asar Publications. pp. 150-154.

4. Lew, R. (2007). Linguistic semantics and lexicography: A troubled relationship.*Language and Meaning. Cognitive and Functional Perspectives. Frankfurt aM: Peter Lang*, 217-224.

5. Moien, M., (1992), Moein Persian Dictionary, Volume I, Introduction, Tehran, Amir Kabir Publications.

6. Sadeghi, A.A., (2008), Lexicography Methods in Dehkhoda Dictionary, Lexicography, 2, Special Edition of the Persian Language and Literature Academy, pp. 2-39.

7. Sadri Afshar, G.H., et al, (1991), Emrooz Persian Dictionary, Tehran, Kalemeh Publications

8. Singh, P.(2010). Hindi lexicography: a historical survey survey banaras hindu university

9. 10.Sinclair, John (2004), In praise of the dictionary. In *Proceedings of the Eleventh EURALEX International Congress, EURALEX* 2004, Lorient, France, July 6-10, 2004, Vol.1,