



Muslima SHAVKATOVA^a 

^aMaster's Student, Yangi Asr University

E-mail: muslima21082001@gmail.com

THE ARABIC LEXICAL LAYER IN BABUR'S BABURNAMA: SEMANTIC AND STYLISTIC ADAPTATION

Abstract. This article analyzes the Arabic lexical layer in Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur's Baburnama and the semantic and grammatical changes these loanwords underwent in their adaptation to Uzbek. It surveys the historical course of Arabic borrowing into Uzbek, identifies the principal types of semantic and stylistic change (from concrete to abstract meaning, semantic broadening and narrowing, shifts in stylistic register, and the formation of fixed phrases), and classifies the Arabic vocabulary of the Baburnama into thematic groups. The study shows that Arabisms enriched not only the lexicon but also the semantic and grammatical system of the Uzbek language.

Keywords: Baburnama, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, Arabic loanwords, lexical-semantic adaptation, semantic broadening, semantic narrowing, thematic groups, Old Uzbek literary language.

INTRODUCTION

Loanwords –particularly Arabic words –occupy an important place in our lexical layer. These words were borrowed in different periods for particular reasons: some out of necessity, others under the influence of cultural and religious contact. The borrowing of Arabic words began in the eighth century, and in the ninth and tenth centuries their number and significance grew considerably as relations among peoples –economic, social, political, and cultural – expanded (Versteegh, 1997).

Arabic words and units are widely found in a number of Eastern and Western languages; according to some data, the lexicon of European languages contains more than 4,000 Arabic words and units that, over the centuries, have become embedded in those languages' lexical layers. After our country gained independence, the scope of a number of Russian and international words that had been actively used and had stagnated

during the Soviet period narrowed (some becoming historicisms or archaisms). One significant fact is that most words borrowed from Arabic have undergone structural-semantic changes to one degree or another in our language; special research has been carried out on this in Uzbek linguistics. The purpose of this article is to examine these changes in the Arabic lexical layer of the Baburnama.

MAIN PART

Observations show that, in the course of adapting to Uzbek, Arabic loanwords have undergone various semantic and stylistic changes:

(a) Some words with a concrete meaning in Arabic are used more abstractly in Uzbek. For example, صاحب (sohib) means in Arabic “owner, companion, one who possesses something,” whereas in Uzbek it is used chiefly as a respectful or honorific form.

(b) Some words expressing a gender category in Arabic are used in a generic sense in Uzbek. For example, عيال (‘iyal) means in Arabic “family members, children,” while the Uzbek word “ayol” derived from it means “woman.”

(c) Some monosemantic Arabic words have acquired polysemy in Uzbek. For example, غليان (ghalyan) means in Arabic mainly “boiling, surging,” whereas in Uzbek, in the form “g’alayan,” it means “revolt, disorder, agitation.”

(d) Some Arabic loanwords have no stylistic equivalent in Uzbek and retain their meanings directly –for instance عريضة (ariza), عروض (aruz), أنهار (anhor), and عنقاء (anqo).

(e) Some words active in Arabic belong to an archaic layer in Uzbek. For example, قاضي (qozi) and فرقة (firqa) are still actively used in Arabic today but are considered historical or archaic units in Uzbek.

(f) Some words used independently in Arabic occur in Uzbek only within a fixed expression. For example, ميثاق (misaq –covenant, pact) survives in Uzbek mainly in the phrase “almisoqdan qolgan.”

(g) Some lexemes used in isolation in Arabic are employed as phrases in Uzbek –for example نظر (nazar) → “nazar solmoq” (to glance) and عفو (‘afv) → “afv etmoq” (to pardon).

The researcher T. Rahmonov, who conducted special observations on the fate of Arabic loanwords after their entry into Uzbek, classified the changes in our lexical layer into four general types (Rahmonov, n.d.):

Nº	Type of loanword
1	Loanwords that have fully preserved their meaning
2	Loanwords that have undergone semantic broadening
3	Loanwords that have undergone semantic narrowing
4	Loanwords that have undergone a semantic shift

Thematic Groups of Arabic Vocabulary in the Baburnama

The Arabic vocabulary of the Baburnama serves to reflect reality and the author's thought, imagination, worldview, interests, and aspirations. These words can be distributed among several lexical-semantic (thematic) groups:

Word	Arabic	Meaning	Thematic group
tuyur	طيور	birds	Animal world
vuhush	وحوش	wild beasts	Animal world
maqabir	مقابر	cemeteries	Place names
asir	أسير	captive	Human state/quality
zaif	ضعيف	weak	Human state/quality
afv	عفو	pardon	Legal-administrative
zabt	ضبط	seizure, control	Legal-administrative
mahkam	محكم	firm, resolute	Legal-administrative
g'araz	غرض	aim, intention	Abstract concept

Thus, units of the Arabic lexical layer of the Baburnama such as tuyur, vuhush, maqabir, asir, zaif, afv, zabt, mahkam, and g'araz belong to different lexical-semantic groups and serve to express the historical, social, spiritual, and artistic content of the work. It is also worth noting that, of 167 Persian-Tajik loanwords, 39 percent consist of words actively used in the Old Uzbek literary language –such as parisa, mehr, hamrah, rast, and griftar –indicating that a given unit of the source language may, in the course of its life in the borrowing language, alter its structural-semantic nature to one degree or another (Bobur, n.d.).

CONCLUSION

Words borrowed from Arabic occupy an important place in the lexicon of the Baburnama. In the course of their adaptation to Uzbek, some of these units acquired distinctive semantic and grammatical features: words such as zaif, mahkam, asir, g'araz, and afv are clear examples. Some preserved their original Arabic meaning while functioning as nouns expressing abstract concepts; others, though plural in form in Arabic (tuyur, vuhush, maqabir), function as independent lexical units in the

language of the work. The Arabic loanwords of the Baburnama not only enriched the vocabulary but also actively participated in the semantic and grammatical system of the Uzbek language. Dividing these units into thematic groups helps to reveal the internal organization of the work's lexicon and to identify the functional features of the lexical means Babur employed.

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