

The Phenomenon of Homonymy in Hindi Language (On the Example of Lexemes Related to Numeratives)

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Abstract:

In this article, it has been studied that lexemes related to numeratives in Hindi have other semantic features in addition to their meaning, i.e. they also have the phenomenon of homonymy. All the examples involved in the analysis were studied in semantically different groups and their specific semantic features were shown.

Keywords and expressions: numerative, homonymy, tadbhava, tatsama, videshi, cardinal numbers, units of measurement, lexeme.

The study of the specific linguistic aspects of numerals is one of the urgent issues of linguistics. Despite the existence of research works on numerals, their fundamental nature has not yet been sufficiently revealed. In the current era of linguistics, along with the great attention paid to the structural-typological comparison of languages, the specific aspects of the expression of lexical units specific to numerals in languages belonging to different systems are also widely studied.

It should be noted that in the counting system of each language, words specific to numerals are of great importance. Numerals are usually used with countable numbers. However, at the same time, in many languages, there are also archaic forms of such words that have been used since ancient times.

In some sources, numeratives are also given in alternative versions, such as counting words or measurement words. Words that are used together with a count number and determine the quantitative measure of an object are called measurement (count) words [2, 138]. This article provides a detailed analysis of the phenomenon of homonymy in the formation of lexical units related to numeratives in the Hindi language, which belongs to the Indo-Aryan language group.

In the lexicon of modern literary Hindi, there are many numerative words, which have their own expressive aspects. Below, the semantics of numeratives with the homonymic feature were studied in detail and they were divided into the following groups.

Group I. The examples in this group are specific to the unit of measurement of weight, and all of them were found to be lexemes of the tadbhava type. For example:

मन *man* – this word is a unit of weight equal to 40 kilograms [8, 1045]. In addition to meaning a numerical word specific to a unit of weight, the lexeme मन *man* is also widely used in Hindi to mean “heart”.

धड़ा *dhara*: – in some sources it is also found in the form धरा *dhara*: [4, 910]. It is approximately equal to 4 kilograms. In some sources we can see that this numerical word is also equal to 4 सेर *ser*. Also, this lexeme has such meanings as “group”, “organization”.

सेर *ser* [5, 1556] – this lexeme, which is characteristic of numeratives, is a unit of weight from 600 grams to 1 kilogram and has the meaning of “rich”, “full”.

पाव *pa:v* – this lexeme is used as a unit of measurement of weight from 150 to 250 grams, and this word is a lexeme denoting the meaning of “quarter”, which is characteristic of a fractional number [5, 72].

रत्ती *ratti*: – this numerative word is specific to a unit of weight of 0.125 grams, and it has also been noted that it corresponds to units of measurement such as 4 grains dha:n and 8 grains cha:val [8, 1136]. This lexeme also has semantic features such as “small”, “tiny”.

चावल *cha:val* – this word, which is specific to the numeratives, is the smallest lexical unit used for a unit of weight, meaning 0.015625 (1/64) grams, and is also widely used in the sense of “rice” [4, 528].

Group 2. The examples in this group are specific to the unit of length and are all examples of the tadbhava type. For example:

लट्ठा *lattha*: – this lexeme, which is specific to the numeratives, is a unit of length equal to 5 meters [5, 492]. This lexeme also has the meaning of “white cotton fabric”.

हाथ *ha:th* [8, 1626] – this lexeme is also equal to 2 बिस्ते *bitte*, which is a unit of length measuring around 45-46 centimeters. This numerical word is also used in the sense of “hand”, which is characteristic of the somatic noun.

जौ *jau* – this word denotes a unit of length equal to 0.25 centimeters, and this word is also widely used in the sense of “barley” and “millet” [8, 516].

Numeratives of the tadbhava type were studied in two groups, namely, units of measurement of weight and length, and their homonymous features were shown. Among them, lexemes specific to the unit of measurement of weight occupied the leading position. In the next places, it was found that the numerative words specific to the units of measurement of length belonged to the tadbhava type. Thus, during the transition of these lexemes from the ancient Indo-Aryan languages, Sanskrit, to the lexicon of the Hindi language, which is characteristic of the new Indo-Aryan languages, various phonetic processes occurred in them.

Words of the Tatsama type, that is, words that have not changed in form and meaning based on Sanskrit words, were also analyzed. According to the results of the analysis, the following lexemes of the length unit of measurement related to numeratives were found to be homonymous. For example:

योजन *yojan* – this numerical word means a unit of distance equal to approximately 15 kilometers [5, 438]. In some sources it is also equated to 4 koc kos. This lexeme also has the property of being used in the meanings of “union”, “appointment”.

दंड *dand* – this word is equal to 1.83 meters, and it also has lexical meanings such as “stick”, “punishment” [8, 601].

धनुष *dhanush* – in ancient times this word was used as a unit of length, and like the dand unit of length, it is equal to 1.83 meters [4, 821]. This lexeme also has semantic features such as “bow arrow”, “shooter”.

अंगुल *angul* – this lexeme means a unit of length equal to 2 centimeters [8, 4]. This word is also used in the sense of “finger”, which is characteristic of the somatic noun.

प्रदेश *pradesh* – this word corresponds to the lexeme characteristic of the Uzbek unit of measurement “karich”, which is approximately equal to 15-20 centimeters. This word also has lexical meanings such as “state”, “territory”, “foreign country” [5, 132].

Lexemes of the Tatsama type for numeratives were found to be specific to only one group, namely units of length. These are Sanskrit lexemes, which are characteristic of ancient Indo-Aryan languages, and which passed into modern literary Hindi without any phonetic changes, and in which the phenomenon of homonymy occurred.

Videshi-type words are Arabic, Persian, and Western numerical words for a unit of length, with relatively few cases of homonymy. For example:

जरीब *jari:b* – this lexeme is borrowed from the Arabic language and means a unit of length equal to 50 meters. This lexeme also has the meaning of “stick” [8, 490].

गिरह *girah* – this lexeme is borrowed from Persian and is a unit of length measurement meaning 5-6 centimeters. In some sources, this numerical word is also equated with 3 अंगुल *angul* [4, 460]. It is also used in the meanings of this word such as “knot”, “pocket”.

Based on the results of the above analysis, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. As a result of studying the phenomenon of homonymy in lexemes related to numerals in modern literary Hindi, which is characteristic of the Indo-Aryan group of the Indo-European language family, widespread in the South Asian region, it was found that they belong to words of the tadbhava,

tatsama and videshi types. Numeral words with homonymous properties of each type were divided into 2 groups in terms of their use, namely, units of measurement of weight and length.

2. As a result of the analysis of numeral words, it was found that, in addition to forming lexical units related to numerals, they also have homonymy features. It was observed that the phenomenon of homonymy occurred relatively more often in the composition of examples of the tadbhava type. The phenomenon of homonymy occurred relatively less in the composition of examples of the tatsama and videshi types.
3. According to the results of the analysis, when homonymy occurs, the second meaning of many lexemes characteristic of numeratives is found to be characteristic of somatic nouns. It was found that when homonymy occurs in the composition of some numerative words, lexemes belonging to the adjective group are also formed from them.
4. It should be noted that, although international units of measurement are now widely used in all languages of the world, all numerical words under analysis are still widely used in India, and most of them have homonymous features.

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