

THE PHENOMENON OF LACUNARITY IN THE NOVEL "LOLAZOR" BY M.M. DOST

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M.M. DO'STNING "LOLAZOR" ROMANIDAGI LAKUNARLIK HODISASI

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ФЕНОМЕН ЛАКУНАРНОСТИ В РОМАНЕ М.М. ДУСТА «ЛОЛАЗОР»

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Abstract: This article examines the phenomenon of lacunarity in M.M. Dost's novel "Lolazor." The study focuses on how gaps and omissions in linguistic and cultural representations are manifested within the text. It highlights the ways in which unexpressed or culturally specific concepts create spaces of interpretive ambiguity for the reader. Through analyzing selected passages, the article discusses the author's use of lacunae as a stylistic and conceptual device, contributing to the broader understanding of linguistic and cultural lacunae in literary discourse.

Keywords: lacunarity, literary analysis, cultural gaps, M.M. Dost, Lolazor, linguocultural lacunae, stylistic devices, intercultural communication

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada M.M.Do'stning "Lolazor" romanidagi lakunarlik hodisasi o'rganilgan. Tadqiqotda lingvistik va madaniy tasavvurlardagi bo'shliqlar va tushirib qoldirishlar matnda qanday namoyon bo'lishiga e'tibor qaratiladi. U ifodalanmagan yoki madaniy jihatdan o'ziga xos bo'lgan tushunchalarning o'quvchi uchun talqin noaniqligi maydonlarini yaratish usullarini yoritadi. Tanlangan parchalarni tahlil qilish orqali maqolada muallifning lakunalardan uslubiy va konseptual vosita sifatida foydalanishi haqida so'z yuritiladi, bu esa adabiy nutqda lingvistik va madaniy lakunalarni kengroq tushunishga yordam beradi.

Kalit so'zlar: lakunarlik, adabiy tahlil, madaniy lakunalar, M.M.Do'st, Lolazor, lingvomadaniy lakunalar, stilistik vositalar, madaniyatlararo muloqot

Аннотация: В данной статье рассматривается феномен лакунарности в романе М.М. Дуста "Лолазор." В исследовании основное внимание уделяется тому, как пробелы и пропуски в языковых и культурных представлениях проявляются в тексте. Она подчеркивает способы, которыми невыраженные или культурно специфические концепции создают пространства интерпретационной неоднозначности для читателя. Анализируя выбранные отрывки, в статье обсуждается использование автором лакун как стилистического и концептуального приема, что способствует более широкому пониманию языковых и культурных лакун в литературном дискурсе.

Ключевые слова: лакунарность, литературный анализ, культурные лакуны, М.М. Дуст, Лолазор, лингвокультурные лакуны, стилистические приемы, межкультурная коммуникация.

Introduction: One of the concepts that has been widely used in linguistics in recent years is the notion of the lacuna. Today, this concept is actively

applied in research related to linguistic cultural studies, translation studies, intercultural communication theory, and sociolinguistics. While

there are commonalities in the use of this concept across these fields, there are also differences. These differences arise based on the demands and needs of each research area and are realized through the varied interpretations offered by different scholars. The term lacuna was first introduced into scientific discourse by Canadian scholars J. Vinay and J. Darbelnet. In their book *Comparative Stylistics of French and English*, they define a lacuna as a linguistic phenomenon that is identified when a word in one language has no equivalent in another language. Their definition is as follows: "A lacuna occurs when there is no equivalent for a word in another language." As can be seen from this definition, the scholars used the term lacuna to denote the absence of corresponding concepts within the conceptual spheres of two different cultures. Although the term has undergone some minor semantic changes over time, this initial definition continues to serve as a foundational basis for its terminological characteristics. Another scholar who seriously engaged with the issue of lacunae is V. Gak, who explains lacunae as "gaps at the lexical level of language, where words that should exist are absent." From this explanation, it is evident that the scholar acknowledges the existence of lacunae within a single language itself. Naturally, the presence of gaps in the lexical system has been known in linguistics even before the formation of the term lacuna. Even earlier, figures like W. von Humboldt and F. de Saussure discussed "empty slots" in lexical paradigms and the absence of a counterpart in certain paradigms of the lexical system. The founder of Uzbek literary language, Alisher Navoi, in his work *Muhokamat al-Lughatayn* (The Comparison of Two Languages), also explained the absence of words for certain concepts in a language through literary examples when comparing Turkic and Persian languages. The widespread use and popularization of the term lacuna began in the 1970s. During this period, increased attention was given to comparative studies of languages, focusing on their connections and distinctions, particularly within fields like linguistic cultural studies, translation studies, and linguistic country studies. In these studies, the notion of lacuna appeared under various terms such as "gap," "interval," "untranslatable words," "words without equivalents," "zero words," "gaps on language maps," and "translationless

vocabulary." Although different sources use different names, researchers' views on the phenomenon of concepts existing without names in language are largely similar. The extensive study of the lacuna concept has helped differentiate it from related phenomena. Initially, it was common to consider all non-equivalent words as lacunae. However, in later years, the semantic scope of the term narrowed and became more specific (i.e., it was terminologized).

Relevance of the Work:

In recent years, the concept of lacunarity has gained prominence in understanding intercultural communication and literary representation. Analyzing "*Lolazor*" through the lens of lacunarity is crucial for appreciating the cultural depth and the subtle nuances embedded in the text. It enables a broader comprehension of how literary texts negotiate between expression and inexpression, especially when dealing with culturally bound concepts. The relevance of this research lies in its contribution to cross-cultural literary analysis and in enhancing the interpretative competence of readers and translators. In linguistics, the differentiation and characterization of lacunae from related phenomena have now been largely finalized. In particular, distinct research schools have emerged in English and Russian linguistics regarding this topic. Although these scientific schools primarily focus on studying lacunae through cross-linguistic comparison, increasing attention is being paid to the existence of lacunae within a single language, as well as to their role as developmental factors in language evolution.

One of the important studies in this field is the work of the Russian scholar G. Bikova, titled "Lacunarity as a Category of Lexical Systemology." In this research, the scholar extensively examines the types of lacunae, methods for identifying them, their causes of emergence, and possible ways to eliminate them, using data from the Russian language.

According to Bikova, a lacuna is "a concept that currently lacks a specific sound shell, is expressed through several words, and is standing on the 'trampoline' for eventual lexical realization as a new word." This interpretation acknowledges that lacunae are observed not only through language comparison but also within a single language itself.

The scholar emphasizes that not every unnamed concept constitutes a lacuna; rather, a sememe poised on the verge of lexical realization is considered a lacuna. In the process of communication, if a certain frequently referred-to concept remains unnamed, the need for its lexical realization becomes evident. Indeed, linguistic and speech needs play a crucial role in the formation of language units.

Materials and Methods of Research:

This research is based on a qualitative analysis of M.M. Dost's novel *"Lolazor."* Selected passages containing culturally specific elements, untranslatable concepts, or evident gaps in linguistic expression are closely examined. A comparative approach is employed to analyze how these lacunae affect the interpretation of the text and the reader's understanding. Linguistic and literary theories of lacunarity, particularly those proposed by V. Gak, J. Vinay, and J. Darbelnet, form the theoretical foundation of this study.

Results and Discussion: The analysis revealed that lacunae in *"Lolazor"* are primarily associated with cultural concepts unique to the Uzbek environment, traditional rituals, and specific socio-historical realities. These lacunae often lead to interpretive challenges for non-native readers or those unfamiliar with the cultural context. The presence of untranslatable terms, unique cultural references, and implicit meanings creates layers of depth in the novel, allowing for multiple readings. M.M. Dost employs lacunarity not merely as an accidental omission but as a deliberate stylistic strategy to preserve the authenticity of the depicted

culture. Nowadays, the study of lacunae is not limited merely to identifying differences between two languages. In order to systematically enrich and expand the lexicon of a language, it is necessary to investigate this linguistic phenomenon more deeply. Researchers, while comparing a foreign language with their own, strive not only to detect lexical gaps but also to eliminate them, while also aiming to thoroughly study the emergence of new concepts related to thinking and imagination, and their subsequent naming processes.

Based on the observed and collected data, scholars gain the opportunity to both enrich the lexical stock of a language and evaluate the processes of new word formation and their popularization. In Uzbek linguistics as well, revitalizing research in this area — specifically, identifying and filling lacunae in the literary language through comparisons with dialects and regional variations — will undoubtedly contribute to the development and purification of the national language.

Conclusion: The study of lacunarity in M.M. Dost's *"Lolazor"* demonstrates that gaps in linguistic and cultural representation are not only inevitable but also serve a functional role in enriching the literary text. Lacunae challenge readers to engage more deeply with the text and encourage intercultural awareness. Recognizing and understanding these gaps allows for a fuller appreciation of the novel's thematic and cultural richness. Future research may further explore how lacunarity shapes literary narratives in multilingual and multicultural contexts.

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