

# LACUNAE IN A MODERN LINGUISTICS

**Dilorom Khaydarova**

**Teacher at Jizzakh State Pedagogical Institute**

**E-mail address: [diloromkhaydarova@jspi.uz](mailto:diloromkhaydarova@jspi.uz)**

**Abstract:** Following work is dedicated to a property of the entire lexical system of the language. The phenomenon of lacunae is associated with the systemic nature of language, which is expressed and conditioned by the nonverbal nature of our thinking, as well as the whole variety of mental forms of reflection of reality, and the fundamental difference between thinking and language processes. The intra-linguistic lacunae as a linguistic phenomenon, analyzes various types of intra lingual lacunae in the lexical system of the Uzbek language. Special attention is paid to the study of systemic (potential) lacunae as to the largest group. The problem of lacunae is directly related to the listed areas of current scientific interest. In addition, the characteristic manifestations associated with the functioning of a particular idiom are particularly pronounced in comparison with the system of another idiom.

**Key words:** lacunae, specific words, language, intercultural communication, stylistic gaps, ethnographic lacunae, texts, images, concepts, associations.

## INTRODUCTION

The national-cultural peculiarity of the vocabulary can manifest itself not only in the presence of a series of specific words, but also in the absence of words for meanings (denotations) expressed in other languages. As well as such concepts and the words expressing them are called “lacunae” and are noticeable only when comparing languages. If you compare the cultures of different peoples and languages, you can distinguish the elements that do not match and coincide. Language is certainly a component of culture. Linguists believe that the concept of non-equivalent vocabulary is very close to the concept of “lacuna”, which is the basis of the so-called problem of “lacunae” in intercultural communication.

Lacunar vocabulary is one of the most prominent areas of cross-language research, which reveals the specifics of each of the languages. The methodological innovations introduced in recent decades reveal the attempts of researchers to

answer a whole range of questions related to the linguistic thinking of bilinguals, the linguistic and cultural characteristics of the language material (in particular, the functioning of the vocabulary that has a pronounced cultural component in its field, in general, the linguistic expression of ethnicity), the lexical distribution, if necessary, to express the same content plan, the existence of specific vocabulary and universal conceptual classes. The problem of lacunae is directly related to the listed areas of current scientific interest. In addition, the characteristic manifestations associated with the functioning of a particular idiom are particularly pronounced in comparison with the system of another idiom. As a result of superimposing the facts of one language on the facts of another language, finding out the functional load of specific elements of these languages, gaps, or “empty cells” of the structure, points of discrepancy, which are always of the greatest interest to those who study a foreign language from the perspective of a native speaker, are isolated.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The most diverse type of lacunae can be called stylistic lacunae. First of all, stylistic gaps can be detected based on the absence of a word (or phraseological unit) in one of the languages that has the same stylistic coloring as a word with an identical meaning in another language. Secondly, this type of lacunae clearly confirms the need for a diachronic analysis of the phenomenon of lacunae. As part of our study, about 180 lacunae were analyzed. Comparative analysis confirms that lacunae evolve along with the development of language vocabulary. In addition, it often happens that during a certain historical period, gaps are “filled”, which usually occurs as a result of the process of borrowing or forming new words by the language's own means. Another factor in the emergence of language gaps is the process of globalization, in other words, the spread of multinational companies, the expansion of mass production, the growing popularity of foreign mass media in the Uzbek media market (Shopping center- from the English “Mall”; press kit; monitoring; PR;). All of the above factors create a high factor of mutual influence

of cultures. A gap appears in the language, which, in the conditions of a rapidly developing modern society, must be quickly filled. Most often, the influence of two languages on each other is expressed in borrowings, but only over time it becomes clear which word will be assigned to a new concept for the culture. In addition to the factors of progress that motivate filling the gaps that have arisen, there are opposite processes. Over time, the needs of society change, the need for the use of any concepts disappears. The disappearance of many historicisms is a vivid illustration of this situation. Thus, considering the stylistic gaps in diachronic, we can talk about the presence of gaps in the modern language not only in relation to a foreign language, but also in relation to the past state of the same language. Another example of stylistic lacunae, are unmotivated words with a certain stylistic relatedness. Such gaps are distinguished within the framework of scientific, journalistic, business, and artistic style. When translating, it is revealed by the absence of words with the same stylistic coloring that correspond to the meaning. It is impossible not to notice that often one English word corresponds to three Uzbek words, of which one can be attributed to the colloquial style (a common expression), the second to the artistic style (an elevated poetic expression, or historicism), or to the scientific style (terminology, professionalism). For example, “eye” – ko’z, nazar. There are two sections of lacunae: linguistic lacunae, the specifics of which we discussed in detail earlier, as well as ethnographic lacunae. The identification of ethnographic gaps is primarily based on the fact that the reality of two peoples cannot be identical. At the same time, it is impossible to deny that all human concepts are universal. In other words, concepts are universal, as a category of thinking, and every person, no matter what language he speaks, is able to comprehend them. We are convinced of this by the example of gaps filled by borrowing or using explanatory periphrasis. Indeed, the conditions of existence of two peoples may be identical in a general sense, and a certain element of national coloring will enter into the concept, but will not always be able to distort it. However, as B. V. Belyaev noted, “It would be a miracle if, in the presence of

different living conditions, different peoples thought with the help of systems of absolutely identical concepts”. In the case of ethnographic lacunae, the primary question is the degree of identity of concepts. To what extent does the national coloring of the concepts not contradict their identity?

Most often, a certain national color of concepts does not interfere with the communication process, despite the fact that it is on the border of divergence. There are, however, examples of concepts whose national color has a categorical effect on their content. Thus, the existence of ethnographic lacunae does not exclude mutual understanding in the process of communication, but it can still puzzle the interlocutor. When translating (especially in the case of literary and journalistic texts), the author should deeply study the national culture, customs, and culture of the people who speak this language, otherwise the translation, and with it the author's work, risks being unrecognized. Within the framework of ethnographic lacunae, their own varieties are also distinguished; for example, absolute ethnographic lacunae. In contrast to linguistic lacunae, absolute ethnographic lacunae cannot be fully identified by simply stating the absence in one of the languages of a word (phraseology) to express the concept. A number of additional ethnographic criteria are used to identify absolute ethnographic gaps. An obligatory ethnographic sign of absolute ethnographic lacunae is the absence of an object or phenomenon in the life of a given people, if it is present in another civilization. Accordingly, in the second case, native speakers will not have a lexically fixed household concept. The main linguistic criterion is the absence of a word or phraseology to express the corresponding concept. The identification and classification of absolute ethnographic lacunae seems necessary to us, because today most bilingual dictionaries do not indicate the boundaries of the use of concepts, thereby blurring significant semantic differences.

Another type of ethnographic lacunae is relative ethnographic lacunae. The appearance of such gaps is caused by social and cultural factors, features directly related to the facts of civilization, different from national ones. Relative gaps are

characterized by the concept of frequency of use. A direct linguistic expression of the weak prevalence of a phenomenon or object in everyday life is exoticism or a semantically unassimilated word. Obviously, exoticism has a very limited use. On the contrary, in another language, due to the great importance of these concepts for another civilization, the words denoting them are semantically assimilated and are used quite often. In connection with the study of relative ethnographic gaps, it is impossible not to mention the question of the greater or lesser significance of identical concepts in different languages. Such a degree of deviation in significance is associated with a certain color of the corresponding concepts (for example, the different purpose of using the same items). Such a national color of Ants is suggested to be called relevant. Thus, the question arises of creating an additional classification of the degree of national coloring of multilingual concepts. Minor coloration of 15 concepts – commonality of concepts; Relevant coloration of concepts – relative ethnographic lacunae; Specific coloration of concepts – absolute ethnographic lacunae. Also, ethnographic relative gaps indirectly determine some features, for example: the absence of lexical and word-forming activity, the absence of figurative meanings in a word from one language, if the same meaning is present in another language.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

According to the researchers, language gaps are determined as a result of the combination of different aspects of two languages as systems. This group includes grammatical, lexical, and stylistic gaps. Grammatical gaps arise when trying to convey the meaning of the English article in the Uzbek text, or to indicate its absence: “On glancing over my notes of the seventy odd cases in which I have during the last eight years studied the methods of my friend Sherlock Holmes, I find many tragic, some comic, a large number merely strange, but none commonplace...”(Arthur Conan Doyle); “Sherlock Xolmsning sarguzashtlari haqidagi yozuvlarimni ko'rib chiqayapman va olib borgan bunday yozuvlarim so'nggi sakkiz yil davomida yetmishdan ortiqdir — men ular orasida juda ko'p

fojiali hodisalarni topganman, kulgililar, g'alatilar, lekin oddiylarini emas...” Also, examples of grammatical gaps in the Uzbek language can be considered the category of gender in the English language, the species-modern forms of English verbs and gerunds. In the process of translation, such gaps remain secondary in terms of adequate perception of the sentence, but as for the translation of texts (journalistic, artistic, etc.), the translator tries to convey the English grammatical meaning by grammatical means of the Uzbek language. Lexical gaps follow. By lexical lacunae, the authors define a lexical unit of one language that does not have an equivalent designation in the form of a word in another language. The meaning of such gaps can be conveyed descriptively or at the phrasal level: “childfree” - an ideology characterized by a conscious unwillingness to have children; “pet” – an animal that is kept at home for fun. The following type of language lacunae can be identified by comparing the connotative meaning of the vocabulary units of the two languages. Stylistic gaps arise as a result of the discrepancy between the stylistic shades and the pragmatic aspects of the lexical meaning of the vocabulary units of languages. The same words in two languages can refer to different styles of speech, or they can be filled with an additional meaning in one language, if there is no such meaning in another language: in Uzbek *suv manbai*- water source. For the problem of lacunae, the question of whether new lexemes always appear in place of lacunae, i.e. fill them, is fundamentally important. G. V. Bykova answers this question negatively, since extra-linguistically conditioned new lexical units and borrowings are quantitatively more, weighty. But they have almost nothing to do with the problem of intra lingual lacunae: a new reality enters the life of society, having already been named. Although lacunae can still be observed, but for a very short period of time. For example, in 1970, after the landing of the Soviet automatic apparatus on the Moon, a new gap was realized in all languages, which was filled in a very short time. A new word moon move has appeared in the Uzbek language. In the dictionaries of new words of the Russian language, of course, neologisms of intra-linguistic origin are also widely represented. Lexical changes

are not always directly related to non-linguistic causes. “Internal transformations in the language are less noticeable. The neologisms caused by them do not denote new objects and concepts, they are used to name already existing realities, which were previously designated either descriptively (a lacuna in its classical form), or by the word already known in the language”. Naturally, such tokens are less noticeable. The expression of novelty in them is less pronounced.

As already noted, gaps in a monolingual situation are characterized by a high degree of latency, they are very difficult, and sometimes almost impossible to detect. And there is a high probability that the array of these “white spots” is very, very extensive. Intra-system innovations that fill in the gaps are diverse both in their nature and in the nature of their functions, which suggests a variety of empty niches that have an undoubted causal effect on the appearance of neologisms. G. V. Bykova identifies 16 types of intra-lingual gaps. 1 System (potential) gaps. This group of gaps is due to the systematic nature of the language and the systematic approach to the study of language phenomena. We can assume that this group is the most numerous. Among the system lacunae, in turn, it is necessary to distinguish between lexical and word-forming lacunae. 1. System word-formation and lexical - word – formation gaps are what is possible, allowed by the system, but is not lexically represented. 2 Communication gaps. “If a concept becomes the subject of discussion in society” notes I. A. Sternin, “we can talk about the formation of its communicative relevance. The lexical gap in this case should be filled – to discuss the concept, it should be called”. Since the “habitat” of communicative gaps is oral communication, in the case of increasing the communicative relevance of the concept, they are most often filled with either a slang unit or dialecticism. In the process of filling in communication gaps with slang units, the layer of colloquial vocabulary is constantly replenished. 3 Personal (subjective) gaps. If the speaker, having a concept, cannot immediately remember the necessary lexeme or does not know it at all, there is a personal lacuna. 4 Stylistic gaps. Sometimes the language does not have a commonly used lexeme for

denoting a communicatively significant concept or object in the presence of its reduced synonyms, i.e. there is a niche-a functional stylistic lacuna. 5 Intersystem gaps. It is known that in the theory and practice of translation, it is often necessary to face interlanguage gaps. 6 Formative lacunae. This type of lacuna is found in incomplete paradigms. 7 Customary (normative, codified) gaps. As already mentioned, restricts the use of language units. This applies, for example, to the 1st person forms of some verbs (find yourself, win). 8 Segment gaps. The concentration of meaning, and thus formal economy, in some cases is provided by semantic transformations of words existing in the language, in the semantic structure of which semantic voids are potentially provided, as if derivational segments that can be filled with new semes. 9 Trans nomination gaps. A significant part of the lexical innovations that have arisen for the trans nomination (renaming) of already known concepts is the result of the generative function of the language system, which makes it possible to generate certain lexemes of the word-formation nest, which never exists in the language in its entirety. 10 Hyperonymic and hyponymic lacunae. One of the reasons for intra-system transformations is the desire for generalization, the need to give a common generic name to similar phenomena, things, and concepts. 11 Absolute gaps. Unrealized systemically possible units exist at all levels of the language, but many of them will never be called a separate word. These are the absolute lacunae, the universal lexicalization of which is impossible due to intra-linguistic factors.: 1) the prohibitions and restrictions that the language system imposes on the compatibility of word-forming bases and affixes; 2) due to the degree of communicative sufficiency; 3) analogies. Due to the semantic regularity, according to which the values of completeness, excess of the attribute cannot be manifested in adjectives that convey the signs weak, incomplete, will not be. 12 Motivated and unmotivated gaps. Motivated lacunae reflect the absence of a word in the language due to the absence of an object, a phenomenon in the very reality of the people. 13 Relative gaps. According to Yu. S. Stepanov, gaps can be relative when a word or word form that

exists in the national language is used very rarely. 14 Latent gaps. This type of lacuna implements the language's ability to express concepts covertly. For example, in the names of crops, the concept of "plant" is hidden from food crops: wheat, rye, barley, oats. G. V. Bykova distinguishes this type taking into account the possibility of detecting gaps against the background of partial belonging (from the part of speech). 16 Linguistic and cultural gaps.

## **CONCLUSION**

The study of the national and cultural specifics of the text from the point of view of the types of lacunae available in it allows us to formulate the following provisions: the degree of completeness of the understanding of the text depends on the size of the cultural distance. In other words, it is of primary importance how much cultures are similar or dissimilar from each other; an ethno-cultural text is interpreted in the images, concepts, associations of one's own culture; the features of another's culture may be incomprehensible, or may be completely unnoticed; the understanding of a foreign-cultural text often depends on a whole complex of extra linguistic factors (national psychological characteristics of the communication participants, mismatch of cultural spaces, language features of the text). The systematization of lacunae helps to investigate the problems of understanding a foreign-cultural text, increases the effectiveness of cross-cultural communication, and also allows us to consider the phenomenon of lacunae in the broader context of the relationship between language-thinking-culture.

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