

Lacunae in Chinese and Uzbek Languages and Methods of their Detection

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Abstract: *There are conducted theoretical and practical researching works, analysis on notions such as “lacuna”, “lacunar phenomenon” in this article. There are several types of the lacunas: language lacunas: lexic, grammatic, stylistic lacunas; cultural lacunas: ethnografic, psychologistic, behavioral, kinesthetic lacunas etc. And language lacunas, specifically lexic lacunas were analyzed in this article.*

The step of choosing appropriate, equialente units for every lacunar unit, depends on linguistic knowledge and translation skills of foreign language learner. In case of equivalency is equal to zero, there will be revealed lacunar phenomenon. Most language teachers can face to such problematic cases, which are associated with lacunar phenomenon during classes. In such case it is difficult to explain to students lexical and grammatical aspects of some words. The word “soat” in Uzbek has 3 forms in Chinese: 1) 点钟diǎnzhōng; 2) 小时xiǎoshí, 钟头zhōngtóu; 3) 钟zhōng, 表biǎo (闹钟alarm-clock, 手表shǒubiǎo watch). If teachers do not explain such words exactly inside the certain sentences, the students cannot make their difference out and as a result they will begin use them incorrect. Even in English, lacuna often occurs while learning it. For instance, “soat” can be translated into Uzbek language as the following words: (1) o'clock, 2) hour, 3) watch). So learning lacunas is always important and crucial.

Supporting with such examples on lacunar phenomenon, we formulated questionnaires, devised for the purposes of a statistical study of the correct usage by Chinese language learner students. There are given analysis and results of these researching activities.

Key words: *phenomenon of lacunarity, lacuna, lexical gap, lacunar unit, language background of lacuna.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The term of “lacuna” was first introduced by Canadian linguists J.P.Vine and J.Darbelne in their scientific research, and for the first time, this term was translated into Uzbek linguistics and used widely by professor Sh.Usmanova in her research works [19].

J.P.Vine and J.Darbelnel described the phenomenon: “Wherever a single word has no alternative in another language, the situation of lacuna always occurs”[19].

In English, the word “lacuna” is used in accordance with the terms “lexical gap”, “lexical hole”, “lexical vacancy”. In linguistics, the term lexical gap is often used. The word “gap” in this vocabulary, which is used as a reference to scientific circulation, means “space”, “hole”, and other words of the

lacuna are added together with this word to identify different words: “Semantic gap”, “cultural gap”. Thus, the word “gap” is used synonymously with the word “lacuna” and we can say that the word “gap” with its determinant is consistent with the types of lacuna (grammatical lacuna, cultural lacuna, etc.).

Italian linguists L.Bentivogli and E.Piantas make the following statement about lacuna: “Lexical lacuna occurs when a concept is expressed in a lexical unit, but in the second language it is the same concept with free speech combinations” [2].

G.V. Bykova and O.B. Pylaev concludes that today there is insufficient concealed knowledge of the lexicon (complex of lacunas) and that there is no integrated view of this phenomenon in the world linguistics, and that research on lacunarity is not well-studied [8].

Indeed, in terms of equivalence-free vocabulary, we see the different approaches, definitions, and dispersal terminology of world scientists in expressing this notion.

As for the formation of the terminology of the lacuna, the study of the lacuna has become more intensive since the second half of the twentieth century. Although the term “Lakuna” has been introduced by Canadian linguists as mentioned above, this term is particularly improved in Russian linguistics and translation. As a result, there was appeared a special linguacultural study field – “lacunology” in Russian linguistics. As a result in Russian linguistics a special field of lacunology was created. At the same time, besides linguistic terms, words (realism, equivalence without equivalence, etc.), a number of linguistic categories, terms and concepts have also emerged. In particular, the number of scientific works in general, explanatory and analytical form has increased significantly on such concepts as lacunology, lacuna phenomenon, lacuna, lacunar unit, language background of lacuna. Much research has not yet been done on lacuna detection. It can be found a number of references in the works of Russian scholars I.A.Sternin, Z.Popova, M.A.Sternina [14], and Jurgita Cvilikaitė from Lithuania [4]. A more detailed development of lacuna detection can be found in the studies of Russian scientist G.V. Bykova [7]. G.V. Bykova's classifications will be used in this article as well as some suggestions will be made on the subject. In the following pages, some of the methods will be used to identify lacunas in the different languages.

II. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Contrastive Method

The contrastive method for detecting lacuna is comparing language units with other alternatives, as G.V.Bykova [7]. It is worth noting that lacuna occur in two languages.

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Therefore, the contrast method, which is comparative, is typical of all the methods we are going to analyze.

In the monograph, "Theoretic equations of linguistic theory" by the Uzbek linguist, U.Yusupov compares directions in comparative linguistics in three ways: 1) theoretical comparison of language; 2) lingvo-didactic; 3) linguistic philosophical comparison [20]. According to this classification given by the scientist, we will develop methods for detecting lacunas in theoretical comparison of languages. At the same time, the lacuna can be detected at three levels.

1) Comparison of phonologic (phonetic) level of two languages

As it is known that the Chinese language is one of tone languages. Four tones in Chinese have a vocabulary of lexical and grammatical meaning, and a similar phonological category is not available in Uzbek. This in turn causes the occurrence of the phonological lacunar phenomenon. The Uzbek language is of a tranquil character and the words can be distinguished by meaning or by the use of long or short pronunciation. However, this is not a language phenomenon that is not an alternative to the Chinese tones system.

For example, "ot" (a domestic animal is pronounced with "o" vowel). "Ot" (pronounced "o" in the sense of "name" and "throw").

According to Rahmatullaev, 1) ot - I (name) – ot - II (work animal) - ot- III (verb); where the relationship between "ot" I and II – the homonymy homolexemas; the relationship between I and III – homomorphic homolexemas [5].

The word *ma* in Chinese has four different tones and five tones. However, the inscription also contains several different expressions (马 mǎ、妈 mā、麻 má、骂 mà、吗 ma). Therefore, Chinese deposits can only be included in the homophones.

When comparing the sounds of the Uzbek and Chinese sounds, there are gaps. It is not a different pronunciation of the same sound (for example, the sound of the *zh* in Chinese sounds more pronounced than the *j* sound in Uzbek).

Yunmu *ü* is a phoneme lacuna in the background of the Uzbek language. This phoneme is not available in the Uzbek language. Also, the sound of *x* is a complex pronunciation of *s* and *sh* sounds, and occurs only when the Uzbek speaker deliberately pronounces this language. So, while the Chinese sounds are lacuna against the Uzbek sound system, the speech apparatus is capable of emitting those sounds.

The sounds of *q* and *g'* in the Uzbek language also create the lacuna against the Chinese language. In the Chinese language system, such sounds are completely absent, and for Chinese speakers, it is very difficult and often impossible to pronounce them.

2) Comparing the lexical level of the two languages, the actual lacuna can be observed in the following cases:

Here we divide the lexical units into one of the following categories:

Knowing that lacuna is not a single word, it is its antagonistic lacunar unit that participates in the conjunction and comparison of languages.

According to the point of views of linguist L.K.Bayramova, the interlingual lacunar unit is a concept, which has zero correlation, space in other languages. Thus, the lacunar unit belongs to one language (conditional A language), while the lacuna belongs to another language (conditional B language).

The lacunar unit and lacuna are the structural categories of the phenomenon of lacunarity. Therefore, lacunarity is a category consisting of lacunar units and lacunas [6].

Bordering the concepts of "lacunar unit" and "lacuna" allows to avoid confusion in the analysis.

Monosemantic lacunar units. According to A. Semenas, modern Chinese has a large number of lexical words that are tightly integrated into one form, with such scientific and technical terms (地球 *dìqiú* Earth, 太空 *taikong* cosmos, 太阳能 *taiyangneng* solar energy, names of animals, insects (马 *ma* a horse, 骆驼 *luotuo* a camel, 蚂蚁 *mayi* an ant), proper names – antroponyms or toponyms (李伯 *Li Bo*, 上海 *Shanghai*, 黄河 *Huanghe*), new words that have just emerged and have not yet developed a secondary meaning (超导体 *chaodaoti* superconductor, 待业 *daiye* a person who is waiting for employment) [13].

If we look at the last paragraph in the composition quoted by the scientist, we are talking about neologisms. A new word accepted in one language may not be in the consumer's realm of another. In this case, there is a phenomenon of suicide. In this regard, the Arabic linguist A.A.Avadelkarim recommends a joint study of the lacuna and neologisms. Because, in his view, the speakers have the ability to distinguish between two different groups, and it is obvious that our thinking has its own "imaginary dictionaries", composed of possible and impossible words. However, new vocabulary is added to our vocabulary, depending on the nature and rules of the language [1]. This means that some of the concepts that make up the gap in our thinking have their own nominal units and serve to create neologisms.

Let's take an example above. The word 待业 *daiye* is used to refer to a person who is looking for a vacant position at job exchanges. The labor exchange was established in Europe in the early 20th century and existed in China in the form of a bureaucratic capitalist structure that was created to exploit the unemployed before 1949. In some dictionaries, this word has been translated as "jobless". But that's not correct. The alternative is the word 失业 *shiyè*, which means "unemployed". Unemployment has existed in every era, in every country. The word was created and put into operation after the advent of the labor exchange as a neologism. This word is a lacuna in the background of the Uzbek language as it does not have a lexical expression in the form of a word or phrase in Uzbek.

Polysemantic lacunar units. Most words in languages have polysemantic meanings, and we differentiate between their own and portable meanings. U. Tursunov and other scholars point out that almost half of modern lexemes in Uzbek are polysemantic [16]. V.I.Gorelov quotes Sun Lyangming as saying that the plurality of words is the result of the evolution of their meanings, and that Chinese polygamy is mainly one-syllable [9].

Below we illustrate the lacuna in the sense of the word 头 *tóu*. The modern Chinese explanatory dictionary contains 14 lexical meanings of the word 头 *tóu* [21]. As an alternative to this word, the word "head" has

20 meanings in the explanatory dictionary of the Uzbek language [18].

Table – I: As an alternative to this word, the word “head”

| № | “Bosh” (Head) – 头 <i>tou</i> the meaning of the words that created the mutual lacunas | Uzbek | Chinese |
|----|--|-------|---------|
| 1. | Aql-xush, miya (mind, brain) | + | ∅ |
| 2. | Lavozim, mansab jihatdan kata, yuqori turuvchi (position) | + | ∅ |
| 3. | Ulkan, kata, asosiy (large, basic, main) | + | ∅ |
| 4. | Odam, kishi (a man) | + | ∅ |
| 5. | Bahona, dastlabki sabab (what is the pretext for the beginning of an event and so on, the initial reason is) | + | ∅ |
| 6. | Predmet, buyumning singan qoldig'i (the part of broken thing) | ∅ | + |
| 7. | Jihat, tomon, aspekt (side, aspect) | ∅ | + |
| 8. | Famiya (family name) | ∅ | + |

Thus, in the polysemantic word “head” there are 5 Chinese lacuna in the background of the Uzbek language, and 3 in the Uzbek language, and vice versa. The total number of semantic lacunar units is 8.

3) Grammatical comparison of two languages

I.A.Sternin, Z.D.Popova, M.A.Sternin also distinguishes the type of “lacunas of word categories” in their works [14]. The problem of the occurrence of grammar lacunas in comparison with languages is poorly studied. The study of the lakuna case is of particular relevance, as it is known that the verb sequence is very important in the construction of text or speech, and in this sense there are a number of problems associated with the verb group. These problems, especially the characteristics of these two languages, depend on the system of grammatical categories in them. The existing grammatical category in one language may not exist in another language or can be expressed by other means, such as forms of verbs of the Uzbek language, such as tendency, The Chinese grammar does not have such definitions as verb 'proportion' or 'verb', which means that the two languages are secondary. resulting in the occurrence of grammatical lacunas in Sida. Relative category refers to the attitude of the action to the subject (performer). This relationship occurs with a special grammatical form [12]. Verbal forms are formed by the use of suffixes in the Uzbek language, and in Chinese usually by the prepositions. For example: 1) U kiyimini kiydi (He wears his clothes) (exact ratio) 他穿衣服了。 *Ta chuan yifu le*. 2) U bosh kiyimini kiydi (He wears headdresses) (net proportions). 他戴帽子了。 *Ta dai maozile*. There is no obvious lacuna in the grammar of Chinese and Uzbek. The order of the words is in both languages proportional to each other. 3) Marasul ashula aytib asboblarini yig'ishitadi va kiyinadi (Marasul sings his instruments and dresses). (Kahhor, 5) (proportionality) Marasul 唱着歌收拾了东西, 就穿衣服了。 *Marasul changzhe ge shoushi le dongxi, jiu chuan yifu le*. (Kahhor, 8) (proprietary ratio) 快点儿走啊, 穿衣服吧, 女儿! *Kuai dianr zou a, chuan yifu ba, nver!* 5) Bolani kiyintiring! (Dress the baby!) (increase ratio 帮孩子穿衣服! *Bang haizi chuan yifu!* 6) Ular kiyinishdi (They were

dressed). (joint ratio) 他们穿衣服了。 *Tamen chuan yifu le*. Note that in the above sentences, the verb ratios in sentences 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 are presented in different languages in Uzbek, with the same combination of 穿衣服 *chuan yifu* in Chinese. Here you can see that verbs whose meaning and function changed with the use of suffixes such as -in, -tir, -ish, did not find their equivalent in Chinese, and that there was a grammatical gap in the middle. The verb "to wear" in sentences 1 and 2 is translated in two versions into Chinese. Because in Chinese the word "to wear" is used separately as its subject, that is, for the "outer garment" and for the "hats" as for the verb. The word "try on clothes" also differs from Chinese: 脱衣服 *tuo yifu* - to untie clothing, 摘帽子 *zhai maozi* - to remove headdress. Although the Uzbek language has the terms “hats” or “overalls”, there are no separate lexemes to express these concepts. Consequently, the concepts recorded in the Uzbek language give rise to lexical vocabulary. Below we see another expression for the word “wear” in Chinese. 7) Nasiba. Kiyib ko'raychi! Nasiba. Let me try on! (Kahhor, 14) Nasiba: 我试试看呢! *Wo shishi kan ne!* The word “try” in Uzbek is entirely different in Chinese, which means “试试” *shishi*. As we have seen, the only verb to wear is that there are several lacunar units in Chinese.

B. Historical and comparative method

Historical-Comparative Method - Comparison of Concept Naming Methods in diachronic.

It is well-known that the names and pronouns that are given as a result of historical evolution vary according to the demands of the time and the intrinsic nature of the language. Some histories are only realities in the culture of one nation (khalfa, yorma, misqol [17]. For example, the word “gatekeeper” in the Uzbek and Chinese languages, which is a tavern, means “an official who controls and controls the city's gates” in the past. Explanatory Dictionary” [18] As an example of A. Kadyri's work of “Days gone by”, note that events in this work took place in the middle of the nineteenth century. The official is represented by the word "goalkeeper" in Uzbek, and as a result of searching for an alternative word in Chinese, we find that the word "goalkeeper" varied in terms of position and position during the various dynasties in Chinese history. In this case, the names of the goalkeepers are also different from their names. This situation, that is, the fact that the goalkeeper does not differ according to the duties of the goalkeeper, creates a phenomenon in the Uzbek language.

Following the same explanation, we list some Chinese words in the

Table – II: “Dictionary of Chinese Historical Title Names” [22].

| № | Position names that could be an alternative to the word “gatekeeper” | The dynasty period when the name of the position was introduced | An extended commentary on Chinese |
|----|--|---|--|
| 1. | 司门 <i>simen</i> | The dynasty of Joe dynasty (1046 BC-256 BC) | Head of the City Gates (赵德义 , 1999:355) |
| 2. | 门尹 | The Chunqiu Period kingdom of Chu (770 BC-476 BC) | The Chief of the Guard (赵德义 , 1999:262) |



| | | | |
|----|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| 3. | 卫尉 <i>weiwei</i> | The Janguo Period (475 BC-221 AC) | Head of the Imperial Palace Gate Guard (赵德义, 1999:401) |
| 4. | 城门校尉 <i>chengmen xiaowei</i> , 城门朗尉 <i>chengmenlang</i> | Khan Dynasty (206-220 BC) | Head of the City Gates (赵德义, 1999:50, 51) |
| 5. | 城门尉 <i>chengmenwei</i> , 城守尉 <i>chengshouwei</i> , 城领尉 <i>chengmenling</i> | Ching Dynasty (1616-1911) | The chief of the city gate guard (赵德义, 1999:50) |
| 6. | 九门提督 <i>jiumen tidu</i> | The Ching Dynasty (1616-1911) | The head of the nine capital gates (正阳 Zhèngyáng、崇文 Chóngwén、宣武 Xuānwǔ、安定 āndìng、德胜 Déshèng、东直 Dōngzhí、西直 Xīzhí、朝阳 Cháoyáng、阜城 Fùchéng) (赵德义, 1999:215) |

Now these words are in the historical word, each of which has been consumed by certain emperors one after another during the dynasty. In the modern Uzbek language there are words such as soqchi (sentry), posbon (watchman), qoravul (guard), and the Chinese, such as 看门人 *kanmenren*, 门卫 *menwei*. When determining the lacuna by means of the historical and comparative method, it is necessary to pay attention to various factors, such as the historical period, the region, the tasks assigned to the concept.

C. Stylistic-paradigmatic method

The stylistic-paradigmatic method is used to compare lexicon of the sub-system lexis with the limited lexicon.

On the basis of this method the lexicon with limited scope of consumption is used for comparative analysis. There are two types of lexicon with limited consumption: socially restricted vocabulary and functionally restricted vocabulary.

G.G.Bykova, Argo language, a literary language, and vocational vocabulary of fishermen and hunters in northern Priangare, illustrate lacuna in subsystems with Russian examples [7]. Observations show that the lacunar of socially-restricted vocabulary can be seen mainly in one language. Because jargons and arguments are often fleeting. By the dispersion or depletion of crowds and groups, jargons and arguments are also forgotten [7]. But jargon and vulgarisms can be studied in the same way in the two languages. For example, the expression “juvonmarg bo’lgur” (die earlier) in the Uzbek language is not a word in the Chinese lexicon, it is a phraseological lacuna.

According to E.Vereshchagin, V. Kostomarov, socially restricted vocabulary is called "secret languages" (including children's language, hooliganism, language of nomadic traders), "taboo" and "euphemisms". All these languages are characterized by the fact that, for some reason, a certain concept stops being expressed in one lexeme and begins to be expressed by another. The analogy between the special languages of science and the natural languages is complete,

all of which serve only to understand each other within a particular group [3].

Functional limited vocabulary includes dialectal words, vocabulary, and terms [11]. When comparing functionally restricted vocabulary, the composition of the dictionary of two different languages can be taken as a comparison object. For example, in the bilingual dictionaries of different fields, the phenomenon is obvious. For example, in the vocational terminology of the postal industry, we observed a number of lacunas in the Tourism Dictionary. These are: clearly expressed 明文电报 *mingwen dianbao* - telegram, 双挂号信 *shuangguahaoxin* - letter of payment (with delivery message), 保价信 *baojiaxin* - letter containing valuable (money), 译电员 *yidiannyuan* - telegram decoding officer, 转寄 *zhuaji* - forward to a new address, 收据 *shouju* - Delivery Notification [3].

Like other nations, the Uzbek people dominated such professions as farming, horticulture, handicraft ceramics, jewelry, knitting. A few words from A.Turakhujaeva in the Uzbek knife lexicon: a wreath (a tool used to decorate a knife), a cut (an iron piece cut into a single knife), a cut (a narrow, slender section of the blade with a sharp edge); screwdriver (blade knife), hammer (blade-sharpening tool), star-studded (one type of knife-blade pattern), knives (knives) (knife), spinners are like a knife blade curving) [15] are more difficult to find analogues in the Chinese language. In this case, as with the extended comments in parentheses, it is advisable to provide a translation option in Chinese.

D. Paradigmatic method of word formation

They point out that the use of certain words and methods in the language is the creation of new words, and that the word production system is inextricably linked to morpheme. The reason for this is that significant parts of the word - morphemes (root morpheme and afferent morpheme) are considered to be the most important elements in the formation of new words in the language [16].

In the Uzbek language, a number of words are drawn from different word categories by means of the "white" stem morpheme. Some of these rules and regulations do not conform to Chinese language rules. And some of the artifacts will not exist in a particular dictionary. The following table shows some of the words made using the "white" stem morpheme.

Table – III: The Uzbek language Chinese is a legible translation in the case of lacunas.

| Uzbek | Chinese | Optional annotated translation in the case of Lacunas |
|------------------------------|---------|---|
| Adjectives | | |
| oppoq (snow-white) | | |
| oqish (whitish) | 微白色 | |
| oqchil (light-white) | 淡白, 苍白 | |
| Nouns | | |
| oqliq (whiteness for yogurt) | ∅ | 做奶制品用的酵母 |
| oqpadar (wretch) | ∅ | 被父亲诅咒的儿子 |
| Verbs | | |



| | | |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| To get white (from fair) | 发白, 变白 | |
| bleach (wall) | 刷白 | |
| acquit (in the court) | ∅ | 宣告被告人无罪 |

III. CONCLUSION

Undoubtedly, lacuna detection takes place between two languages, where the different language units are studied diachronically and synchronously, and gaps are identified.

Comparative analysis of the phonological, grammatical, lexical levels of the two languages and their units are compared to theoretical comparisons of the language using the contrast detection method.

The largest gap in the Uzbek language in the phonological (phonetic) level is the presence of the Chinese category of tones.

The units of lexical levels in Chinese and Uzbek can be compared within monosemantic and polysemantic vocabulary. While explaining these linguistic phenomena, knowing that the lacuna is not a single word, its use of the term "lacunar unit" is involved in the conversion and comparison of languages. Monosemantic lacunar units, identified in Chinese and Uzbek, may serve to explore the phenomenon of new word formation. Compared to polysemia, there is a lacuna within the semen, which are closely related to function and meaning.

The problem of lacuna occurrence in the grammatical level, as compared to the languages, is poorly studied. The fact that a certain grammatical category in a language does not exist in a second language, but that other grammatical functions can be the cause of this phenomenon is also apparent.

Historical-comparative method is used in comparing the conceptual naming methods in diachronic to reveal comparisons of taverns and archaisms, as well as the forms of use of modern lexical units. Different factors, such as the historical period, the region, and the tasks assigned to understanding, are important in determining the lacuna by means of the historical and comparative method.

The stylistic-paradigmatic method is used to compare lexicon of the sub-system lexis with the limited lexicon. On the basis of this method the lexicon with limited scope of consumption is used for comparative analysis. Lacunarism in socially-restricted vocabulary can be seen mainly in one language. Because jargons and argos are often fleeting. But jargon and vulgarisms can be studied in the same way as the two languages.

In the paradigmatic method of word-formation, because of differences between the rules of word-formation in languages, some of the same word-for-word words in both languages are mutually exclusive, while in others the lacuna appear. In the case of Chinese and Uzbek languages, this phenomenon was mainly attributed to the nouns of the noun phrase.

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