



**OCCASIONAL UNITS: ESSENCE, CLASSIFICATION, SPECIFIC FEATURES OF
WORD FORMATION AND FUNCTIONS IN LITERARY TEXTS**

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Abstract. This article provides a comprehensive analysis of one of the important branches of modern linguistics – the phenomenon of occasional units. The theoretical foundations of the concept of an occasional unit, its lexical, phraseological, and syntactic manifestations, word-formation mechanisms, and stylistic functions in literary and journalistic texts are considered. In the study, the materials of the Uzbek language were studied in comparison with theoretical approaches in world linguistics. Conclusions have been developed regarding the lexicographic registration of occasional units and the determination of their place in.

Keywords: occasional unit, occasionalism, lexical occasionalism, phraseological occasionalism, syntactic occasionalism, word formation, literary text, stylistics, lexicography.

Introduction. Language is not only a means of communication, but also a mirror of creative thinking. Human speech is not always limited to standard boundaries: in a given situation, a speaker or writer creatively deviates from the norms of the language, creating new lexical, phraseological or syntactic units. Such creations are called occasional units [1].

The problem of occasional units encompasses several areas of modern linguistics - lexicology, word formation, stylistics, pragmatics and lexicography. For this reason, this phenomenon has been at the center of extensive scientific discussions since the 20th century. However, a systematic analysis is necessary to fully understand what exactly the concept of "occasional unit" is, what types it is divided into and what mechanisms are used to create it.

Main part. The purpose of this article is to comprehensively analyze the concept of occasional units, covering all their manifestations: lexical, phraseological and syntactic types; to identify the features of their manifestation in Uzbek language materials; to reveal their stylistic functions in artistic and journalistic texts; and to indicate lexicographic problems.

The research used the works of Russian linguists such as A.G.Lykov, E.A. Zemskaya, D.N.Shmelev, V.V.Lopatin, English linguists such as L.Bauer, D. Crystal, G. Leech, as well as Uzbek linguists such as B.Yuldoshev, N.Mahmudov, B.Khasanov. [2].



The term "occasional" comes from the Latin word *occasio* - "a certain situation", "chance".

Although this term was used in linguistics by the German scientist G. Paul, it was formed as an independent scientific category in the second half of the 20th century, especially in Russian linguistics. A.G. Lykov defines an occasional unit as follows: "An occasional word is a lexical unit that is used once in speech, depends on certain circumstances, is outside the normative system of the language, but is formed on the basis of its word-forming capabilities."

The concept of "occasional unit" is broader than the concept of "occasionalism". While occasionalism refers only to a phenomenon at the word level, an occasional unit encompasses language units at various levels, from words to phraseological expressions, and even entire syntactic structures. [4].

In linguistic literature, the following main characteristics of occasional units are distinguished:

- Belonging to speech: an occasional unit is a phenomenon belonging to speech, not to language. It appears in a specific speech situation and often ceases to exist outside this situation.
- Single or rare use: an occasional unit is usually used once within a specific text or communication.
- Authorship: most occasional units are created by a specific person - a writer, poet, journalist or speaker.
- Compliance with the internal laws of the language: even if an occasional unit violates existing language patterns, it is created on their basis.
- Expressiveness: occasional units are often created with the aim of a strong emotional or aesthetic effect.

E.A.Zemskaya expresses the most important of the signs as follows: "The main sign of an occasional word is that it does not enter the vocabulary - it always remains a product of this time and this place."

Linguists use various criteria to classify occasional units. The most widely accepted classification is according to language levels: lexical, phraseological, and syntactic occasional units. [5].

Lexical occasional units are the main and most widely studied type of occasionalism, manifested in the form of new words. They, in turn, are divided into two large groups: a) Word-formation occasionalisms. These are words created using the existing affixal, composite or conversion methods of the language, but not standardized. For example, such creations as "ko'zlanmoq" (ko'z+la+n+moq), "yuraklanmoq" (yurak+la+n+moq), "osmonparast" (osmon+parast) in the Uzbek language belong to this category. In English linguistics, L. Bauer calls such words "nonce formations"[3]. b) Semantic occasionalisms. Occasionalisms of this type are words that exist in form, but are used in a new, portable or expanded meaning. For example, in expressions such as



"the wind sang", "the stone cried", the verbs "sang" and "cried" are used outside their usual meanings. S. Ullmann describes this type of semantic shift as "creative metaphor" [3].

Phraseological occasional units are formed by transforming existing phraseologisms or creating a completely new phraseological combination. V.V. Vinogradov explains the variability of phraseological units by the relative freedom of the words in their composition [16].

There are three main types of phraseological occasional units:

- Structural change: one or more components of an existing phraseologism are replaced. For example, instead of "to avoid attention", "to avoid attention" or "to avoid heart".
- Expansion: additional content is introduced into the phraseologism and the meaning is enriched.
- New combinations: a completely new phraseological unit is created, but it is based on the model of existing phraseologisms.

In Uzbek fiction, phraseological occasional units are especially widely used in poetry. As N. Mahmudov noted, this phenomenon is one of the most important tools for shaping a writer's individual style [8].

Syntactic occasional units are devices created on the basis of creative deviations from the syntactic norms of the language. R. Quirk and S. Greenbaum call such phenomena in English "grammatical occasionalism" [17].

Forms of manifestation of syntactic occasional units:

- Inversion: violation of the usual word order. This method is widely used in Uzbek poetry: "Spring has come again" instead of "Yana keldi bahor".
- Ellipsis: omission of one or more necessary components of a sentence - in order to give expressiveness to speech.
- Parcellation: expression of a whole sentence into separate parts. For example: "U ketdi. Bir o'zi. Jim-jimdek".

Word formation mechanisms of occasional units: 1. Affixal method - the most effective and widespread way of creating occasional units in the Uzbek language. B. Yuldoshev, analyzing word-forming suffixes in the Uzbek language, emphasizes that some of them are used in normative word formation, while others are used only in occasional formations [7].

A characteristic feature of occasional affixal formations is the combination of suffixes that are not used in the norm or in borderline cases with new word bases. For example, the combination of the suffix "-siz" with abstract concepts: "sevgisiz", "umidsizlik" - normative; "osmonisiz", "kuylariz" - occasional.

2. The composite (compound word formation) method is another effective method of occasional formations, which is the formation of a new unit by combining two or more independent words. Occasional units created in this way often have a unique expressive power and



expressiveness. For example, such poetic formations as "oy-yuz", "koz-ko'l", "yurak-deniz" are found in Uzbek poetry. D.N. Shmelev calls such units "secondary nomination".

3. The method of semantic transfer is the use of an existing word in a new sense, that is, the basis for the creation of semantic occasional units. This process is carried out through metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche and other tropes. As G. Leech noted, semantic transfer not only serves the economy of language, but also gives aesthetic value to speech [12].

Uzbek poetry has rich examples of occasional units based on semantic transfer. In poets such as Abdulla Oripov and Erkin Vohidov, natural phenomena, inanimate objects, and abstract concepts acquire human qualities, forming occasional semantic units [11].

4. Conversion method - the use of a word belonging to one word family as a word family of another without changing its form, that is, the conversion method. Although this method is limited in the Uzbek language, it is observed in occasional uses in literary texts. For example, cases of using an adjective as a noun and a verb as an adjective fall into this category [19].

Functions of occasional units in literary texts:

1. Expressive-emotional function. The main function of occasional units in literary texts is to increase the emotional impact. According to S. Ullmann, the usual use of words creates an "aesthetic habit" in the reader, weakening the power of influence; the occasional unit breaks this habit and evokes a new aesthetic impression.

The expressive function of occasional units is clearly manifested in the work of Gafur Ghulam. In expressing his lyrical heroes, the poet goes beyond the limits of existing linguistic means and creates new, unexpected combinations. These combinations evoke a strong emotional resonance in the reader.

2. Naming function – when the existing language units are not enough to express a new concept, thing or event, the author turns to an occasional unit. This is called the naming function. For example, occasional units are created for new concepts related to the development of technology, new social phenomena, psychological states [14].

3. Individualization function – a writer or poet uses occasional units to form his or her own speech portrait – individual style. As M.Yuldoshev noted, one of the most important language tools that show the individuality of the author in a literary text is his or her own system of occasional units [18]. For example, occasional combinations expressing irony and sharp realism in the prose of Abdulla Qahhor, and poetic creations expressing philosophical thought in new forms in the poetry of Abdulla Oripov have become signs of the unique style of these authors.

4. The function of play and irony - In journalism, satirical literature and modern Internet speech, occasional units are widely used as a means of humor, irony and criticism. This is a phenomenon close to word play (pun), which evokes unexpected associations and laughter in the reader. D. Crystal describes such occasional units as "creative language games" [6].



The study of occasional units in Uzbek linguistics. The study of occasional units as a special object of research in Uzbek linguistics is a relatively new direction. In Soviet linguistics, occasional words were considered a side effect of word formation; during the period of independence, this topic was partially paid attention to [13]. B. Yuldoshev, analyzing the word formation system in the Uzbek language, dwells separately on occasional formations and evaluates them as important material indicating the word formation capabilities of the language. N. Mahmudov, in his studies on stylistics, pays special attention to the place of occasional compounds in the literary text.

There are a number of problems in the study of occasional units in Uzbek linguistics. First, a single, dominant definition of the concept of "occasional unit" has not been developed in Uzbek linguistics. Second, clear criteria that distinguish occasional units from neologisms and potentialisms have not been established [20]. Third, a comprehensive dictionary of occasional units has not been compiled in Uzbek fiction and journalism. Fourth, the activity of occasional units in modern digital text and Uzbek speech in social networks has not been studied. B. Khasanov emphasizes the need for systematic research to fill these gaps. Criteria for recording in dictionaries. The issue of recording occasional units in dictionaries is one of the most complex problems of lexicography. Traditional lexicography requires three main criteria for lexical units - stability, widespread use and normativity. Occasional units, however, do not correspond to all three of these criteria in their essence [15]. D. Crystal expresses this problem as follows: "The lexicographer faces a dual problem - if he includes all occasional creations, the dictionary will be infinite; if he does not include them at all, he will not reflect the living creative layer of the language."

Author dictionaries (author dictionaries, авторские словари), which are becoming increasingly widespread in world lexicography, are considered one of the most acceptable forms of recording occasional units. In such dictionaries, occasional creations of a particular writer or poet are recorded in a special system, their context, meaning and methodological function are explained. In Uzbek linguistics, it is an urgent task to compile author dictionaries that include occasional units of classical and modern writers such as Gafur Ghulom, Abdulla Oripov, Erkin Vohidov. Such dictionaries will have both scientific and practical value.

Modern corpus linguistics and electronic lexicography are creating new opportunities for studying occasional units. Based on a large corpus of texts, it is possible to automatically identify occasional units, calculate their frequency and carry out contextual analysis. Creating such a national corpus for the Uzbek language and using it for lexicographic purposes is a promising direction.

In conclusion, occasional units are an important linguistic phenomenon that fully demonstrates the creative potential of the language and ensures the liveliness of speech. The analysis carried out in this article showed that the concept of an occasional unit is broader than



occasionalism and covers all individual creative creations at the lexical, phraseological and syntactic levels. As a result of the study, the following conclusions were drawn:

- The main features of occasional units are their belonging to speech, one-time use, authorial character, expressiveness and reliance on the existing laws of the language.
- From the point of view of classification, occasional units are divided into lexical (word-formation and semantic), phraseological and syntactic types.
- In terms of word-formation mechanisms, the affixal method, composite method, semantic transfer and conversion occupy the main place.
- Their functions in the literary text: expressive-emotional, nominative, individualizing and playful-irony functions.
- The study of occasional units in Uzbek linguistics needs to be developed as an independent scientific direction.
- Lexicographically, author's dictionaries and corpus capabilities are the main way to solve this problem.

In future research, it is necessary to establish as a priority task the compilation of a complete inventory of occasional units based on a large corpus of Uzbek literary literature, their linguistic and stylistic analysis, as well as the creation of a dictionary of occasional units for the Uzbek language.

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