

ABOUT THE METHODS OF TRANSFER OF MEANING  
IN THE UZBEK LANGUAGE**Nurmuhammadova Kizlarxon Kamolidin kizi**

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20053222>**ARTICLE INFO**Received: 01<sup>st</sup> May 2026Accepted: 04<sup>th</sup> May 2026Online: 06<sup>th</sup> May 2026**KEYWORDS***metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, functional transfer***ABSTRACT**

*This article provides information about the methods of meaning transfer in the Uzbek language, their types, and classification. It also includes illustrative examples. The main types of meaning transfer discussed in the Uzbek language are metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, and functional transfer.*

**Introduction**

It is well known that words can be used in both literal and figurative meanings. The literal meaning of a word is directly related to its nominative function. In linguistics, this meaning is called *denotative meaning*. The term *denotation* (from Latin *denotare* – “to indicate”) refers to the object, phenomenon, or reality named by a linguistic unit (e.g., a word).

Denotative meaning is the direct, primary, and concrete meaning of a word.

For example: *The child has just stepped on the ground.* In this sentence, the action refers to a real physical movement.

In addition to literal meaning, words may also be used figuratively. A figurative meaning arises when a word is used not in its direct sense but to express another concept based on similarity or association. In linguistics, this is referred to as *connotative meaning*.

Connotative meaning includes expressive and stylistic shades added to the denotative meaning. Thus, figurative meaning is a secondary meaning formed in context.

For example:

*Zebi had just turned fifteen.*

Here, “stepped into fifteen” does not indicate physical movement but a transition to a new stage of life.

A word is considered literal if it retains the same meaning both independently and within context. If its meaning changes in context, it is used figuratively.

For instance:

- *Thick snow* (literal meaning)
- *Close friend* (“thick friend” → figurative meaning)

The use of words in figurative meaning enhances stylistic coloring. This phenomenon is known as *meaning transfer*. There are several types of meaning transfer: metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, and functional transfer. Among these, metaphor is the most common.

### **Metaphor**

Metaphor (from Greek *metaphora* – “transfer”) is based on similarity between objects in terms of shape, function, or meaning.

Types of similarity include:

- Shape similarity: *branch of a tree – horn of an animal*
- Spatial similarity: *tail of a dog – tail of an airplane*
- Semantic similarity: *warm weather – warm personality*

Example:

In the phrase “*a heavy character*”, the word “heavy” does not refer to physical weight but to seriousness and calmness. This is a metaphorical transfer.

### **Metonymy**

Metonymy (Greek *metonymia* – “renaming”) is based on real associations between objects.

Example:

*Read Fuzuli* – here, the author’s name stands for his works.

Another example:

*The stadium rose to the sky* – here “stadium” refers to the people inside it.

### **Synecdoche**

Synecdoche (Greek *synekdoche* – “understanding together”) is a type of metonymy where a part represents the whole or vice versa.

Examples:

- *All eyes were watching* → “eyes” refers to people
- *Five fingers are not equal* → “fingers” represent individuals

### **Functional Transfer**

Functional transfer occurs when meaning shifts based on similarity in function.

Examples:

- *Human leg – table leg*
- *House lamp – car headlight*

Sometimes metaphor and functional transfer overlap, as in:

- *Human teeth – saw teeth*

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, words in the Uzbek language have both denotative and connotative meanings. Meaning transfer occurs through four main mechanisms: metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, and functional transfer. These processes enrich the expressive and aesthetic value of language, especially in literary texts.

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