

## Tatar Possessive Verbs with the Meaning Component "Part of Plant"

*Alfiya Makarimovna Galieva and Radif Rifkatovich Zamaletdinov*

Kazan Federal University, 18 Kremlyovskaya St., Kazan 420008  
Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation

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**Abstract:** The article deals with the analysis of semantics and structure of Tatar denominal verbs, having the interpretation 'S, which starts to have S<sub>m</sub>', where S<sub>m</sub> is the component, denoting the part of plant. The semantic structure of verbs under analysis includes integral semantic features: beginning, properly possessive relations, meronymy relations, characterization relations; the verb semantics also expresses changes in the subject of possessive relations (in the plant), conditioned by new qualitative state, namely the appearance of new part. A distinctive feature of verbs of analyzed type is the presence of incorporated actant. The denotation sphere of verbs of analyzed type is determined, some restrictions on collocability, conditioned by the verbal semantics, are described. Using methods of classical semantics and cognitive linguistics, it was shown that the features, connected with the plant growth and development stages, which are also important for the human life activity, are verbalized in the verbs of this group.

**Key words:** Denominal Verbs • Tatar Language • Incorporated Actant • Semantics

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### INTRODUCTION

The article deals with the analysis of semantics and collocated features of Tatar verbs, motivated by nouns, naming the parts of plants. The verbs of this type were not subject to system structured-semantic analysis; nevertheless, they present a great interest from the viewpoint of both semantics and syntagmatics. The selection of topic is also connected with the necessity to study the semantics of Tatar denominal verbs from a perspective of cognitive linguistics—a branch of linguistics, which studies the correlation problems of language and mind, the role of language in conceptualization and categorization of the world, in cognitive processes and generalization of human experience, the connection of separate cognitive human abilities with the language and their interaction forms. At that, the language is understood as an informative mechanism, a system of signs, coding and transforming the information in a specific way.

In Russian linguistics, the semantics of denominals was traditionally studied in the aspect of dependence on the semantics of deriving name or on context, where the derivative verb is used. In Turkic linguistics, there are also

similar studies [1]. In the works of last years the accent is made on the fact, that the formation of meaning of the denominal verb can be considered by analogy with incorporation ([2, 3] etc.)

Our work was based on examples, taken from the Tatar National Corpus [4]. Corpus-based technologies provide an opportunity to study real language use at the material of large amount of texts of different types [5].

The word semantic structure, as a product of human thought, is connected with compression of information by human mind, with the mechanisms of categorization, presupposing comparison, classification, generalization. The peculiarities of categorization of human experience and its reflection in language are connected with the peculiarities of lexical, grammatical and word-formative language systems. A categorization implies a process and results of classificatory (taxonomic) activity of minds, the perception of infinite multitude of world phenomena (objective and subjective) through their contraction to less number of groups or unifications. The apprehension of categorization mechanisms is necessary to understand, how a man thinks and acts, consequently, to understand the essence of the human nature, it is necessary to understand the functioning of categorization.

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**Corresponding Author:** Alfiya Makarimovna Galieva, Kazan Federal University, 18 Kremlyovskaya St., Kazan 420008 Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation.

Without the ability to categorize, we could not function at all, either in the physical world or in our social and intellectual lives. An understanding of how we categorize is central to any understanding of how we think and how we function and therefore central to an understanding of what makes us human [6 p. 6].

The semantics of possessive verbs with the meaning component "part of plant"

A category of possessivity, as well as a category of space and time, can be referred to the universal categories, reflecting typical extralinguistic relations of possessivity. The basic universal category of possessivity has its real implementation in each language, its unique set of expressive means and its place in the special model of the world. In languages of different types, the possessive verbs have different semantic organization and they are characterized by different features of collocability. Besides, the structure of category of possessivity is not homogeneous for different lexical classes that are why to determine the boundaries, composition and peculiarities of implementation of this category, it is necessary to analyze the conceptualization of possession relations in different lexico-semantic groups.

Tatar language belongs to the languages of Esse model and it has a complex and heterogeneous set of means to express possessivity. The predicative expression means of possession relation in Tatar language have their own specificity and present a perfect illustration of syncretism of verbal semantics. We understand by the term "lexico-semantic syncretism" a presence of different, not interconnecting components of meaning in a lexeme and mutual (simultaneous) actualization of different semantic features. Since different lexeme groups have different types of possessive meanings, in the languages with the variety of possessive indices, these indices mainly turn out to be distributed as per lexico-grammatical and semantic lexeme classes.

In the languages of agglutinative type, not only word-forming and inflectional word stems, but also affixes, used in each wordform, turn out to be significantly more independent and psychologically more "weighty" linguistic units [7, p. 239], resulting in the fact, that the structure of derivative word appears to be more transparent.

The categorial meaning of the deriving units has a fundamental importance for the semantic arrangement of the derivative verbs. Such verbs can be subdivided into two types as per the meaning of the deriving word:

- The verbs, derived from the nouns, naming the parts, usually present in all plants: *tamyrlanu* (to take roots), *sabaqlanu* (to form a stalk), *botaqlanu* (to form branches), *börelänü* (to form buds).
- The verbs, derived from the nouns, naming the fruits or root crops of definite plants: *almalanu* (to form a set-concerning apples), *qabaqlanu* (to form a set-concerning pumpkin), *qýyarlantu* (to form a set-concerning cucumbers), *bärängelänü* (to form tubers-concerning potatoes) etc.

Between these two groups there are the verbs, derived from nouns, denoting parts (leaves, root crops etc.), typical of definite kinds or families of plants: *suganlanu* (to form a bulb-concerning bulbous), *qýyaqlanu* (to form thin narrow leaves, pinniform or spear-concerning, onion, garlic, gramineous plants and some others), *köpşälänü* (to tube (to form tubes)-concerning the hollow-stalked plants), *qabýqlanu* (to cover with bark (concerning the tree), *quzaqlanu* (to form silicles-concerning leguminous and some other plants, for instance, pimento), *başaqalanu* (to head-concerning cereals), *üzäklänü* (to form a pith-concerning plants, it is typical of).

Due to specificity of Tatar language, there is no final list of such verbs, as in speech they can be derived from any nominal stem, naming a definite plant or its part: *borychlanu* (concerning pepper), *pomidorlanu* (concerning tomatoes), *tälgäşlänü* (to form racemes) etc.

The deriving word-formative types can be considered as a manifestation of categorization process, division of world phenomena, as a cognitive process of ordering and organization of variety of world phenomena by means of word-formative models, i.e. contraction of infinite variety of world phenomena to relatively small number of ranges.

The main meaning of possessive verbs with the meaning component "part of plant", starts to have that, what is named a deriving stem, i.e. the interpretation of such verbs can look like as *S starts to have S<sub>m</sub>*. The meaning "to form that, what is named a deriving stem" is recorded in Tatar grammar for the verbs of such type [8, p. 423].

The semantic structure of the analyzed verbs includes the following integral semes: beginning, properly possessivity, meronymy relations (a part and a whole) and characterization. The verb semantics also reflects definite changes in the subject, conditioned by the new qualitative state, the presence of that, what is called a deriving stem. Here it is necessary to underline the special character of the possession object-its existence as a component of doer.

The initial stage of possessive relations is fixed in the verb semantics: initially, the plant did not have the part, named by the deriving noun, but it appeared. What is named the deriving stem, becomes a component of the plant, thus, the verb fixes changes in possession subject in a plant.

A correlate of possessive relation is a motivating word: a word-formative formant-*lan* is attached to the word, denoting not the possessor, but what is possessed, the derivative lexeme in reduced view contains the relation of meronymy (a part-a whole). The verbs, denoting processes, taking place in the subject (in plant), express the semantic feature of beginning-the beginning of possession by object. The change is a semantic feature of situation, it denotes some modification, concerning the subject or/and object of possessive relation. It is obvious that a development process of plants is not a single-step action. The verb fixes in its meaning just the qualitative jump in the development of plant, but not the achievement of action limit. The plant part, which has been appeared, can develop and develops further.

In the verbs of such type, the presentations about special connection between a possessor and a possessed object are fixed; it is a special, naturally conditioned possessivity. A process, named by the verb, is implemented in subject and fixes the oncoming of one or another stage in plant development, when the plant gets one or another vital part. The plant development process is carried out as per natural laws and it is determined only by natural necessity, that is why such verbs do not produce the forms of causative. In singular cases, when the actant derivation takes place and the verb is used with the causative marker, the meaning changes and, consequently, the verb collocability as well (compare, the verb *orlyqlandyru* (with the causative affix from the noun *orlyq* "semen") has the meaning "to inseminate the jenny by artificial injection of sperm").

The verbs of the analyzed type are intransitive, they are close to the reflexives in their semantics, but in Tatar language there are no relevant lexemes of basic voice (without incorporated reflexive marker), that is why morphologically they cannot be treated as reflexives.

The semantics of derivative word determines typical collocability of such formations. Thus, the word *böre* in Tatar language has the meaning "a bud, a germ of leaf, flower or inflorescence, of berry or seeds", the denomination of germs of different types by one word (including a flower bud and germ of fruit) frequently

requires concrete definition, that is why it is usually specified in contexts, what kind of germs are discussed. Not only such combinations, as *yafraqqa börelänü* (to form the buds of leaves-this combination is tautological for Russian language, where the bud is, firstly, the primordial leaf) are typical of Tatar language, but also such combinations, as *çäçäkkä börelänü* (to form a flower bud), *orlyqqa börelänü* (to form a seed), *cimeskä börelänü* (to form a fruit germ); the concept specification takes place in all cases at the syntactic level.

A type of semantic relations, presented in such verbs, as *sabaqlanu*, can be referred to manifestations of imprescriptible possessivity, which is the reflexive possessivity at the same time (oriented at the subject). The verb denotes a feature, taking an important place in the concept structure, verbalized by the subject; it is a feature, constituting the certainty of the plant itself (generic character) or specific plants (specific character), that is why here is possible to trace the close connection with the philosophical category of essence, expressed through the linguistic units.

#### **Incorporation of Actants and Denotation Sphere:**

The semantics of word signs, expressing processual features, is formed not only from their nominal value, but also from the reduced model of logical relations of two notions-"a subject" and "a feature" in wide understanding. The verb provides minimum logico-semantic models: the subject and its action or state; the action and object, under the action [9, p. 136]. These models themselves come from semantic valence-determined by lexical meaning of necessity of verb collocability with the other words. Such logical abstractions have the universal character, but manifest themselves in a specific way in a particular language, in dependence on its lexical, semantic and grammatical systems. The semantics of verbal word is complex in that meaning, that it reflects not just a notion about a class of subjects, as it is in object names, but the minimum situations.

A distinctive feature of verbs under analysis is the presence of incorporated actants, the actants, present in the verbal lexeme. "The concept of incorporated participator is not variable, unlike the others, but fixed within the lexeme in vocabulary" [10, p. 57]. E.V. Paducheva mentions that "when the verb is used in initial diathesis, the incorporated participator has a rank *Off-screen*: the syntactic actant is not in comply with it" [10, p. 57].

The incorporated object in Tatar denominal verbs under analysis is presented by the motivating word, denoting the part of plants: *sabaqlanu* (to form a stalk), *tamýrlanu* (to take roots), *botaqlanu* (to form branches), *börelänü* (to form buds), *almalanu* (to form the apple germ), *qabaqlanu* (to form the pumpkin germ), *bäräñgelänü* (to form potatoes). The propositionally compulsory actant is not usually expressed through the relevant sentence member, as it is present latently, in bind view (see below the tautology cases).

The denotation sphere of verbs under analysis is determined by semantics of the deriving stem and background encyclopedic knowledge of the speakers. As an example, let us consider the verb *quzaqlanu* with the meaning "to form pods", derived from the noun *quzaq* (pod, silicle).

The verb *quzaqlanu* can be used only in contexts about plants, which can form pods or silicles as per their morphology: beans, sweet pepper, Siberian pea shrub etc. All contexts with the verb *quzaqlanu*, taken from the Tatar national corpus, contain a word *borçaq* (pea) as a subject-possessor, for instance:

*Igennär üle ölgermägän, in kötelgäne borçaq ta äle quzaqlanmağan* (The wheats are not ripen; the pea also does not have silicles).

It is explained by the fact that from all legumes for the midland of Russia, where the main part of Tatar population lives, pea has the main household significance, explaining the typical collocability of the verb *quzaqlanu*.

The verbs, denoting the process of acquisition of the part by the plant, presenting in all or in the majority of plants, have quite wide collocability (logically, all plants with appropriate structure can act as a subject at these verb predicates):

- *sabaqlanýp kilgän arýş*-corn, sending out stalks;
- *quaqalanýp kilgän bäräñge*- bushed potato, etc.

The verbs, having the figurative metonymic meanings, can be the subject:

- *baqça yafraqлана*-the garden forms leaves.

The last example presents the typical metonymic association: *baqça* (garden)-the plants in the garden: the plants in the garden form fruits.

The verbs, derived from words, denoting the fruits of specific plants, have the restrictions in syntagmatics; they are collocated either with plants, denoting the plants

themselves, or with the words, from which the derivative verb is produced, for instance: *qýýarlar qýýarlanalar* (cucumbers produce cucumbers). In this case, there can emerge an obvious tautology for the speaker, which can be softened due to syntactic possibilities of the language. Nevertheless, such constructions are quite frequent in colloquial speech, as there is the polysemy, based on metonymy. In predicative combinations, such as *qýýarlar qýýarlanalar*, the subject *qýýar* denotes the cucumber, as a plant and a verb is motivated by lexico-semantic variant of the word *qýýar* (cucumber) "cucumber vegetable".

In that cases, when the words for plants do not coincide with the ones for vegetables, the name of plant acts as a subject: *almağaçlar almalana* (apple trees produce apples).

In some cases, as a subject at the possessive word there is a word, naming the plant part, which shall disappear in the process of plant development with the appearance of new parts:

*Börelär yafraqlanmas borýn sarğaysa, ülännär üsmäsä, igennär urmasaη* (If the buds turn yellow, not producing leaves, if the grass will not grow, resulting in harvest failure?)

The incorporated actant can be expressed explicitly without polysemy, if it is accented by the speaker and in this case there is a phenomenon of tautological incorporation (the term of O.N. Lyashevskaya [11].

*Ağaçlar da änä böregä börelänep köyäzlänmkçe* (The trees want to swank and produce buds).

## CONCLUSION

Thus, such verbs as *sabaqlanu* in Tatar language are denominal ones and have the meaning "to distinguish, to produce from oneself", "to form a part in the structure, called a deriving stem", / to create, cause the appearance of part, called a deriving stem". At that, the verb points to the change of subject, caused by the appearance of part, called by the deriving stem. Such type of semantic relations can be referred to manifestations of imprescriptible possessivity, which is a reflexive possessivity at the same time (oriented at the subject). A distinctive feature of the verbs of analyzed type is the presence of incorporated actant.

The verbs under analysis fix the stages of plant growth, important for a man and his life activity-the appearance of leaves, stalk, seeds etc., the doer at that is characterized as active (the plant develops and goes to new qualitative state).

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