

## ABSTRACT

of the thesis by Talgatkyzy Gulnara on the topic «The Semantic System of the Category of Combinability» submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the study program «8D02303 – Linguistics»

**Relevance of the research topic.** Language is a phenomenon that exists in a state of constant motion and development. Changes in the development of a language have a significant influence on the principles and regularities of structural linguistics. As can be observed, even sentences themselves and the word combinations that constitute them change depending on patterns of usage shaped by the era and social processes. For example, the series of nominations *журналист, жорналишы, жаңалық жаршысы, төртінші билік, медиаменеджер* and others is continually renewed, expanding its nominative field. Similarly, the sets *резиденция, ақ орда, үкімет үйі, ақ үй; мешіт, құлшылық орны, Алланың үйі, дін ордасы; рак, оба, жаман ауру, қатерлі ісік, засыр дерті; депутат, халық қалаулысы, елдің елеулісі, мандат иесі, мәжілісмен* are used in parallel. Furthermore, in expressions such as *бензин – жанар-жағар май, сұйық отын; газ – көгілдір отын; көлік – темір тұлпар; түрме – темір тор; оятар – қоңырау сағат, дабыл сағат*, we see that the secondary naming is often realized through word combinations or complex designations. These are not only figurative paraphrases, but also terms that are increasingly gaining currency as nominative units. Therefore, the growth of such phrasal nominations in contemporary Kazakh requires dedicated study.

Since our object of research is the combinability of words, our main task is to identify the transformations occurring within the system of word combination formation – from terminological combinations to paraphrastic combinations in mass media language. For instance, instead of *шап қырқу* or *шап кесу*, one cannot say *шап күзеу*, because the verb *күзеу* is used when referring to the trimming or cutting of *жылқы құйрығын, түйе шудасын, от сақал-мұртты*. One says *қыл күзеу, сақал-мұрт күзеу, түйе шудасын күзеу*, as well as *қой қырқу*, but not *қойдың жүнін қысқарту*, nor *қой кесу*, nor *қой жүнін кесу*. Although the verbs *кесу, күзеу*, and *қырқу* are close in meaning, their combinability is selective and governed by specific semantic constraints. Thus, examining the semantic coordination of words within combinability and analyzing their semantic structure becomes a relevant scholarly task.

From this perspective, combinability emerges as a complex linguistic category belonging not only to grammar, but also to lexicology, semasiology, onomasiology, and even phonetics. One may note that Kazakh word combinations frequently rely on sound-based patterns. For example: *темекі тарту* (t-t), *шылым шегу* (ш-ш), *емшек ему* (е-е). The verbs *тарту, шегу*, and *ему* all denote actions involving suction with the lips or mouth. However, we do not use *темекі сору, шылым сору*, or *емшек сору*, because these actions already have established conventional expressions. It is possible that combinations referring to the same object, such as *темекі шегу* and *шылым тарту*, may interchange with one another. Nevertheless, the persistence of alliterative and assonantal patterns indicates phonetic harmony within the combinability system, which contributes to the stability of these combinations. In this sense, we aim to demonstrate that phonetic laws are directly involved in combinability.

In word combinations, words connect with one another according to particular structural-semantic models. On this basis, one can determine valency properties and the distribution of words, as well as their capacity to combine. Systematic analysis of these relations makes it possible to uncover the semantic structure of combinability. For example, the expressions *аяқасты болды, аяқасты жүрді, аяқасты жасады* convey an event occurring quickly, suddenly, or unexpectedly, while the fixed expression *аяқасты етті* means “to disregard, to ignore, to treat as insignificant.” Thus, the difference between a stable word combination and its more flexible or selective combinability results in semantic change, which falls within the domain of semasiology.

Until recently, combinability was viewed primarily as a grammatical phenomenon, but now we observe the need to acknowledge its existence at both the phonetic and semantic levels and to study it more deeply. Therefore, combinability is a category realized at all levels of the structural language system. This constitutes the relevance of our study.

For instance, the combinations *күн шықты* and *күн батты* were once stable units and even considered phraseologisms, but as the semantic range of the verbs *шығу* and *бату* expanded, these combinations became restricted to functioning as complex lexical units expressing *күншығыс* and *күнбатыс*. Similarly, the former phraseologism *бой жазу* meaning «to rest, to refresh oneself» has evolved into *бойжазу*, a term referring to a type of warm-up exercise.

The study of combinability plays an important role in lexicography. Establishing correct and precise word combinations, identifying semantic relationships among words, and recording accurate collocations in dictionaries are essential practical tasks. For example, the combinations *күн райы* and *күн ашық* relate to the meaning of *күн* as a celestial body within the astronomical domain, while *күні қараң*, *күн көрсетпеді*, *әрбір күн* relate to another meaning of *күн* – a unit of time within a month, from sunrise to sunset. Thus, semantic analysis of combinability ensures that lexicographic entries are organized appropriately within the system.

Systematic research into word combinations also supports formal and automatic recognition of homonymy. For instance, to determine the meaning of the word *қара* in *басына қара салды* and *қара аспанды орнатты*, an automatic morphological analyzer relies on surrounding context: in *қара салу* the word *қара* functions as a substantive, while in *қара аспан* its position before a noun identifies it as an adjective.

**The object of the study** is word combinability in the Kazakh language.

**The subject of the study** is the semantics of word combinations.

**The aim of the study** – to substantiate combinability in the Kazakh language as a linguistic category and to determine the semantic (lexical, stylistic, and combinatorial) system of relations between word combinations. In the course of the research, the following **objectives** are set to achieve this aim:

- to clarify the main criteria and regularities inherent to combinability and to justify it as an independent category;

- to classify the models of the word-combinability process in Kazakh (according to internal organization – paradigmatic and syntagmatic; according to semantic features of combination – denotative, connotative, significative, hypo-hyperonymic, lexical-semantic field; according to model types – occasional, stylistic, cognitive);

- to describe the combinatorial field of combinability by defining the combinatorial system of this category as a multifaceted semantic-syntactic structure (selective combinations, non-selective combinations, nominal combinations, verbal combinations, fixed, complex, and figurative combinations);

- to examine the combinability potential of the head word in the process of forming word combinations in Kazakh, as well as the semantic-stylistic potential of the resulting combinations themselves (eurysemic, contextual (pragmatic), cognitive-associative potential);

- to present a mapping of combination chains involving words with high combinability potential that constitute the semantic system of the Kazakh language.

**Research sources.** 15-volume Dictionary of the Kazakh Literary Language, the Orthographic Dictionary of the Kazakh Language, the Dictionary of Kazakh Collocations, the 31-volume Terminological Dictionary, and the Phraseological Dictionary serve as the primary sources for this research. In addition, material was collected from oral folk heritage, works of well-known poets and writers, as well as from periodical publications.

**Methods and techniques used in the study.** During the research, the empirical method of analysis, the method of semantic analysis, the method of categorization, the method of contextual analysis, the statistical method, the corpus method, the annotation technique, the field analysis technique, and the method of semantic modeling were employed.

**Methodological basis of the study.** As the methodological foundation of the research, works by both Kazakhstani and international scholars dedicated to issues of combinability and valency were used. In the study of word combinations, the research drew on the works of Kazakh scholars such as A. Baitursynuly, K. Zhubanov, N. Sauranbaev, S. Nurkhanov, G. Musabaev, A. Bolganbaev, G. Kaliev, M. Balakayev, T. Kordabaev, Y. Mamanov, A. Iskakov, S. Isaev, N. Oralbaeva, A. Ablakov,

K. Akhanov, M. Sergaliev, R. Syzdyk, T. Sairambaev, M. Orazov, B. Sagyndykuly, Sh. Zhalmakhanova, A. Salkynbai, R. Avakova, G. Smagulova, A. Tymbolova, N. Kurmanova, M. Alieva, M. Zholshaeva, A. Zhanabekova, A. Turarova, D. Karagoisheva, and A. Altaeva. In examining complex words, complex designations, and combinability in the system of word formation, the research relied on the works of Q. Kuderinova, B. Kasym, G. Khasanov, and G. Syzdykova. Among foreign scholars, the study primarily referred to works on the concept of valency, including those by G. Helbig, G. Sandau, W. Bondzio, K. Sommerfeld, R. Ginzburg, S. Katznelson, N. Filicheva, Yu. Stepanov, N. Shansky, I. Kobozova, L. Novikov, Yu. Apresyan, S. Pankratova, D. Shmelev, A. Wierzbicka, N. I. Gorina, M. V. Vlavatskaya, O. N. Anishcheva, V. I. Gerus, M. M. Makovsky, A. V. Ogovolec, and A. M. Shishlyannikova. In addition, studies on combinability in Turkic languages by Ch. Naimanova and B. Abramov were also utilized.

**Theoretical significance of the work.** The category of combinability marks the boundary between the lexical and grammatical levels of word combinations, making it possible to identify the combinability potential of a word and to accurately determine the semantic structure of words and word combinations in lexicographic practice. It helps to distinguish between such notions as compound word, complex word, fixed word combination, phraseological unit, idiom, periphrasis, extended metaphor, and figurative combination, as well as to establish criteria for differentiating an integral complex naming unit from a word combination whose components may vary.

**Practical significance of the work.** The work has significant practical value for translating fixed word combinations and complex words, for automatic text recognition, for distinguishing homonyms, for identifying the combinability potential of each word and determining its frequency, for compiling annotations of its combinability, for revealing figurative combinations in the language of poets and writers, and for accurately understanding the semantic combinability of a word.

**Scientific novelty of the research:**

- Combinability was examined as a linguistic category for the first time. In Kazakh linguistics, combinability was substantiated for the first time not merely as a lexicogrammatical phenomenon, but as an independent linguistic category with its own criteria and regularities; its structural, semantic, and cognitive dimensions were identified. The interdependence between the meaning of a word and its ability to combine with other words was demonstrated, and it was theoretically established that combinability is the primary mechanism through which semantic meaning is realized.

- The system of word combinability in the Kazakh language has been described through a multi-level model. Models of word combinability were systematized according to their internal organization (paradigmatic, syntagmatic) and semantic characteristics (denotative, connotative, significative, hypo-hyperonymic, and lexical-semantic field models). Typical patterns of combinability (occasional, stylistic, cognitive) were scientifically classified.

- The combinatorial system of the combinability category has been defined. The combinatorial field of combinability was described as a multifaceted semantic-syntactic structure within which systematic relationships between selective and non-selective combinations, nominal and verbal combinations, as well as fixed, complex, and figurative word combinations were identified.

- A new methodological approach was introduced. In the study of combinability, the principles of valency, combinatorics, distribution, and cognitive semantics were integrated, resulting in the development of an integrative model for analyzing combinability in the Kazakh language. The combinability potential of the key (head) word and the semantic-stylistic potential of the word combination were examined comprehensively: in evrisemic, contextual (pragmatic), and cognitive-associative aspects, and their textual and stylistic functions were determined.

- The semantic system of words with high combinability potential has been presented in an annotational model. The semantic-combinatorial field and chains of combinability of high-frequency lexemes were demonstrated, which made it possible to construct a systematic representation of the combinability potential in the Kazakh language.

### **Main theses defended in the dissertation:**

– In Kazakh linguistics, combinability is understood as a semantic and cognitive category with its own internal regularities. The ability of words to enter into combinations is realized through their semantic compatibility and mutual dependence. Therefore, combinability functions as the primary linguistic mechanism for expressing semantic meaning. Accordingly, the semantic system of combinability forms the typology of word combinations. Depending on the nature of combinability, the following types may be distinguished: free combinability, non-selective combinability, group combinability, selective combinability, fixed combinability, and others.

– The system of word combinability in the Kazakh language is constructed on a multi-level combinatorial model, which has different forms of internal organization, semantic features, and typical combinability patterns. From this arises combinatorial meaning. Combinatorial meaning in the system of combinability refers to the meaning that emerges through the interaction of words in specific combinations and contexts. It holds a special place within the category of combinability, since words express meaning not only “by themselves,” but also through relational interaction, creating new contextual meanings.

– If a word’s valency denotes its potential ability to connect with other words, combinability determines the specific semantic content of these connections. Considering these notions together makes it possible to reveal more deeply the semantic system of the word, its lexical-semantic field, and its combinatorial potential. Word valency is also governed by certain laws of combinability. The laws of combinability are the conditions under which words correspond to particular grammatical and semantic requirements. These laws determine the structure of word combinations, the order in which words are connected, and the nature of their semantic relationships. Limitations and boundaries in the process of combination are based on semantic compatibility and collocational dependence. Since combination is formed through interactions among elements within a semantic field (actant and circumstantial structures), analyzing the semantic system of the language requires examining word combination models in terms of semantic compatibility and field relations – this is essential for identifying the semantic potential of a word.

– The combinability potential of words in the Kazakh language can be represented in the form of an annotational model that shows the semantic-combinatorial field and the chains of combinations formed by lexemes with a broad semantic range. On this basis, it becomes possible to determine the combinability of nouns and verbs and to identify their evrisemic, pragmatic, and cognitive-associative potential. The result is a systematic representation of word-formation combinability, that is, the uncovering of the combinability potential of each word in the Kazakh language.

– The scope of combinability may be narrow or broad depending on the number and semantic capabilities of words. In Kazakh, nouns and verbs are the most prone to forming combinations. Nouns (including substantives, adjectives, numerals, and pronouns) most often form combinations in the roles of objects, attributes, and other syntactic components. Nominal combinations are an important unit that enriches the nominative resources of the language. Verbs, when combined with words expressing various manners and directions of action, actively participate in forming combinations as the primary carriers of action and process.

**Information on publications.** The content of the dissertation, its provisions, and its main results have been published in the following conferences and editions.

Publications in journals indexed in Scopus:

1. *Semantic Valence and Cultural Representation of Phraseological Units (Kazakh and English)* // Forum Linguistic Studies. – 2024. – Vol. 06, Iss. 5. – pp. 65–81. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30564/fls.v6i5.6865>
2. *Exploring the Semantic Significance ‘Camel’ and Cultural Representation in the Kazakh Ethnic Worldview as Reflected in the National Corpus* // Forum Linguistic Studies. – 2024. – Vol. 06, Iss. 4. – pp. 268–276. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30564/fls.v6i4.6986>
3. *Linguosynergetic Approach to Modeling the Concept of “Snake”* // Forum for Linguistic Studies. – 2025. – Vol. 7, Iss. 3. – pp. 580–596. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30564/fls.v7i3.8530>

4. *Effective methods for studying word combinations with regard to semantic parameters* // Web of Conferences. – 2023. – Vol. 449. – pp. 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202344907004>

Publications in national journals recommended by CQASHE:

1. *Semantic markup is one of the components of the national language corpus* // Bulletin of Abylai Khan KazUIR&WL. Series: Philological Sciences. – 2022. – No. 1 (64). – pp. 9–20. <https://doi.org/10.48371/PHILS.2022.64.1.001>

2. *Semantic combinability of the word “Tuiye” and methods of automation in the national corpus* // TILTANYM Journal. – 2023. – No. 3 (91). – pp. 200–210. <https://doi.org/10.55491/2411-6076-2023-3-200-209>

3. *Lexico-semantic compatibility of words in Kazakh* // Bulletin of KazNU. Series: Philology. – 2022. – No. 3 (187). – pp. 18–28.

4. *Ways to develop a subcorpus of the writer’s text: structure and functions of meta-markup* // Bulletin of KazNU. Series: Philology. – 2024. – No. 1 (193). – pp. 13–24.

5. *Effective use of online resources through the case-study method* // Bulletin of the National Academy of Sciences. – 2022. – No. 2. – pp. 30–43. <https://doi.org/10.32014/2022.2518-1467.270>

**Structure of the dissertation.** The dissertation consists of an introduction, three main chapters, a conclusion, a list of references, and an appendix.