

Semantic Change of Some Sanskrit Words in Hindi

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Especially pertaining to semantic change, there have been some works (Dwiwedi 2014, and in some traditional grammar books) in South Asian Languages by theoretical linguists. However, it is remarkable that in current research trend cognitive linguistics is also approaching to inquire in the depth that how words change their meaning. Here, my topic is to understand the semantic change in words used in Hindi that are coming from Sanskrit. These words can be divided into two categories. 1. **Tatsama** - That do not change in the orthographic form, however phonological change may be there because of language particular phonetic constraints. 2. **Tadbhava** - that go through the change of different stages of Language development.

In this paper, I am interested in the change of meaning of Tatsama words borrowed in Hindi especially with the application of Prototype Theory. Here, Hindi is the borrowing language and Sanskrit is lender language. Purpose of this paper is to understand about semantic change of Tatsama words coming to New Indo Aryan Language Hindi with Cognitive approach. Semantic change is a process which directly involves cognitive thinking.

When I witnessed semantic change of Sanskrit words in Hindi in a few cases. I started searching for usages, so that I can understand the process of semantic change in a better way. I found some usages of Sanskrit words in Shrimadbhagavatgita, Padyebhukhandam, Abhigyanashakuntalam and in many literary texts. For some words I checked some old dictionaries created by famous Sanskrit Scholars like Amarsimha, Jatadhar, Hemchand etc. For Hindi usage, I took help of internet and searched for the usages of those words.

As I can observe that in most of the cases, the domain of borrowed words were more in Sanskrit as compared to their domain in today's Hindi. For eg. Meaning of Kavi in Sanskrit - Intelligent, clever, thoughtful, thinker, poet.
Meaning of Kavi in Hindi – poet.

But it is not the case that the meaning of expressions are always narrowed when coming from Sanskrit to Hindi. In some cases you may find that the word's meanings are extended too.

For eg. Meaning of 'Gambhir' in Sanskrit - Deep, Intense.

Meaning of 'Gambhir' in Hindi - Serious, Critical, Intense, Deep.

In some cases you may find that meanings are degenerated such as the word 'Daridra', which means poor, got degenerated in Hindi and now it is used as slang.

In few cases, meanings are elevated too for eg. Meaning of उत्कंठा (utkanthaa) in Sanskrit was 'Anxiety' but in Hindi it took positive connotation and it means 'Curiosity'.

As prototype theory for semantic change suggests I found that most of the centralized meanings of Sanskrit words either got eliminated or became peripheral meaning in Hindi.

Summarizing this paper I can state that meaning of tatsama words in Hindi has gone into different changes such as Narrowing, Widening, Degeneration and Elevation. But in most of the cases meanings are narrowed because of various defined and undefined reasons.

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