

THE DISCOURSE OF "UNITY" AND ITS SEMANTIC LIMITS IN THE OFFICIAL SPEECHES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES**Sadikova Dilrabo Baxtiyor kizi,**

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Abstract

This article analyzes the formation of the discourse of “unity” in the official speeches of the Turkic States Organization (TSO) and its semantic boundaries. The research is conducted on the basis of discourse theory, and summit speeches, strategic documents and official declarations of the Turkic States Organization were studied as empirical material. In the process of research, the manifestation of the discourse of “unity” in historical, cultural and political-strategic semantic fields is determined. Also, this article analyzes the geopolitical, cultural and political boundaries of this discourse, as well as the balance between sovereignty and integration.

Keywords

discourse, unity, political communication, identity, semantic boundaries.

Introduction. The Turkic States Organization (TSO) is an intergovernmental organization aimed at developing comprehensive cooperation among the Turkic states. The organization was established in 2009 with the signing of the Nakhchivan Agreement. The TSO has Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and Uzbekistan as members. It also granted observer status to Hungary, Turkmenistan, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the Economic Cooperation Organization.¹ Today, because of the geopolitical changes taking place in Central Asia and the Caucasus region, the importance of the TSO is increasing. The TSO is emerging as an important regional institution aimed at strengthening political, economic and cultural cooperation among the Turkic states. In the official communication carried out within the organization, the concept of “unity” appears as a central discursive concept. This concept acts not only as a term expressing cooperation, but also as an ideological tool for shaping political identity. Therefore, the analysis of the discourse of "unity" in the official speeches of the Turkic States and the determination of its semantic boundaries is a relevant scientific issue. The purpose of this article is to analyze the discourse of "unity" and its semantic boundaries in the official speeches of the Turkic States.

Results and discussion. The Organization of Turkic States is gaining more and more prestige among world organizations. The discourse of unity in the Organization of Turkic States is closely related to historical processes and consists mainly of three stages. The summits of the heads of Turkic states in 1992-2009 played an important role in the evolution of this organization. At that time, unity was more of a cultural and symbolic nature. The second stage was the establishment of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States (Turkic Council) in 2009-2021 with the Nakhchivan Agreement, and during this period, unity became an institutional form. The next stage was the change of the name of the organization to the Organization of Turkic States at the summit held in Istanbul from 2021 to the present². This has greatly contributed to

¹ Organization of Turkic States <https://www.turkicstates.org/uz/organization-chart>

² Organization of Turkic states <https://www.turkicstates.org/uz/presidential-summits>



the transformation of the discourse of unity into an international legal and geopolitical subject. The main forms of the discourse of "unity" in the official speeches of the TSO are the discourse of historical, cultural-linguistic and political-strategic unity.

Discourse of historical unity. In the official discourses of the TDT, the discourse of "unity" is often grounded in historical memory. Phrases such as "common history," "peoples descended from one root," and "great Turkic civilization" portray the Turkic peoples as a single historical subject. Through this discourse, current political integration is interpreted as a historical necessity and legitimized as a natural process. The discourse of historical unity is particularly ideologically powerful, as it links current political projects to the past, making them appear to be "natural" rather than "artificial."

Discourse of cultural-linguistic unity. The second main direction is cultural and linguistic unity. Unity is expressed as a cultural identity through concepts such as "Turkic world", "common values", "one language family". This discourse allows us to interpret the TUT not only as a political organization, but also as a cultural space.

The discourse of cultural-linguistic unity plays an important role in identity construction, because it puts forward commonality, not interstate differences.

Discourse of political-strategic unity. The third direction is related to political pragmatism, in which unity is expressed through terms such as "strategic cooperation", "integration", "common interests". In this discourse, unity is not ideological, but instrumental in nature, promoting economic and geopolitical interests.

In the official discourses of the Organization of Turkic States, the concept of "unity" has a wide and positive semantic field, but the discourse has clear political and institutional boundaries. "Unity" in official discourses has a discursive nature, it does not reach the level of political integration. In the declaration adopted by the Organization of Turkic States, the concept of "unity" appears as a central discursive unit.

As a result of the semantic analysis of this declaration, it can be seen that this discourse of "unity" is limited by clear institutional and legal boundaries. First, in official discourses within the framework of the TPT, the concept of "unity" is constantly used with expressions that limit unity, such as "sovereignty", "national interests" and "independent foreign policy". This indicates that the "unity" discourse is not a federative structure, but a type of independent interstate cooperation. Second, while the expressions "common decisions" and "joint actions" are often used in discourses, there is no mention of a single center or a single legislation. This means that "unity" has a diplomatic, rather than an institutional, nature. Third, the "unity" discourse is often expressed through cultural and historical symbols, such as "common roots", "brotherly peoples". These semantic units serve to form a collective identity rather than political integration. Therefore, although the discourse of "unity" in the official speeches of the TDT is semantically broad, its boundaries are limited by sovereignty and national interests, and this discourse appears more as a means of legitimization and diplomatic communication.

Conclusion. The Organization of Turkic States (OTS) is an intergovernmental organization whose main goal is to develop cooperation among Turkic states in all aspects. The discourse of "unity" in the official discourses of the TTS has a complex semantic structure, which, on the one hand, evokes a sense of common Turkic identity, and on the other hand, defines clear institutional and political boundaries. "Unity" in the official discourses refers to cooperation based on mutual interests between states, but does not imply a military or political alliance. Thus, the concept of "unity" in the TTS reflects a balance between historical, cultural and linguistic proximity and economic and limited political cooperation.



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