The Meanings of Word '*Didan*' in *Dari Language*: An Analysis of Natural Semantic Metalanguage

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Abstract
This study aims to analyze words in Dari that have the same semantic prime: See using Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM). This research was conducted using a descriptive qualitative approach.This reaserch used a theory by Goddard and Wierzbicka about NSM. The data found in this study are connected words that are associated with the prima semantic See/Didan in Dari language. The sources of this data are 5 informants who are original prosecutors from Kabul which is the capital of Afghanistan. Data was collected using interview guidelines, recording equipment, and writing instruments. The interactive data analysis model was used to analyze the data. From the data collected and analyzed, there are a total of 11 words related to the semantic prime of Seeing: Negah, Naqel, Tamasha, Barasi, Mulaqat, Tashkhis, Arzyabi, Dark, Tasawer, Shunakhtan, Mu'ayena. These words are similar but not exactly the same so it will create misunderstanding in the diction.

Key words: *Didan*, *Dari* language, NSM, semantic primitives, verb

A. INTRODUCTION

Linguistics is the study of language or scientific language investigation (Kridalaksana, 2009: 144). The definition of linguistics has also been expressed by Tarigan (1986) who defined linguistics as a set of knowledge obtained by applying scientific methods to language phenomena. When humans communicate each other, there is a reciprocal relationship between the two. The reciprocal relationship is talking and understanding. When someone talks, the other person will understand the utterances. This is due to the meaning of what someone said.

Meaning in linguistics is formally studied in semantics. Studying meaning in semantics can be done by using different approaches or theories, the one which is using Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) Theory. Natural Semantics Metalanguage is a theory that combines a philosophical logical tradition in the study of meaning with a typological approach to studying language, and with broad-based cross-linguistic inquiry (Wierzbicka, 1996b: 23). Moreover, according to Goddard and Peeters (2008: 13), NSM is a theory used to give an explanation on semantically complex words in any language in the world.

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In NSM, semantic primes are needed to decode the meaning of words in all languages in the world. Goddard & Wierzbicka (2014) stated that, in that semantic primes are units of word-meaning that cannot be furthermore elaborated (p. 11). According to the statement, it can be conducted that semantic primes are units that can no longer be deciphered because it is the root of the meaning of the words. The decipherment of word and phrase is no longer needed while using semantic primes as a tool to figure out the core meaning of word and phrase.

As can be seen in table 2.1 the semantic primes that have been categorized into several related categories:

Table 2.1 Related categories of semantic primes
(Goddard & Wierzbicka, 2014: 14)

Related categories	Semantic Primes
Substantives	I-me, you, someone, something-thing, people, body
relational substantives	kind, parts
Determiners	this, the same, other-else
Quantifiers	one, two, some, all, much-many, little-few
Evaluators	good, bad
Descriptors	big, small
mental predicates	know, think, want, don't want, feel, see, hear
speech	say, words, true
actions, events, movement, contact	do, happen, move, touch
location, existence, possession, specification	be (somewhere), there is, be (someone)'s, be (someone/something)
life and death	live, die
Time	When-time, now, before, after, a long time, a short time, for some time, moment
Space	Where-place, here, above, below, far, near, side, inside
logical concepts	not, maybe, can, because, if
Augmentor	very, more intensifier,
Similarity	Like-way-as

From table 2.1, it can be seen that 16 related categories that exist in all languages. Each category contains several semantic primes that are the core meanings or concepts of all the words of all languages in the world. From the table 2.1, it can also be concluded that there are several semantic primes that shared the same categories. This results in synonyms or similar words.

Polysemy can be considered the central phenomenon of semantics. In NSM theory, polysemy is situation when one word is used to express two different semantic primes (Goddard & Wierzbicka, 2014: 13). And allolexy is a situation that there are multiple vocabulary realizations of a single prime number (Goddard, 2008). Allolexy, furthermore, is a concept by Wierzbicka in 1980, stating that the meaning of words is not unchanged but dynamic.

Verb is a class of words that usually serve as a predicate; in some other languages, verbs have morphological characteristics such as chronology, aspect, person, or number. Most of the verbs represent semantic elements of actions, circumstances, or processes (Kridalaksana, 2009: 254). According to the previous explanation, in *Dari* language several words have plural meanings such as the word "didan". The word "didan" has the similar meaning as "Negahkardan", "Mushaheda", "Tamasha", etc, which have the similar meaning as "seeing", however the words do not have the similar meaning exactly. Based on this example, it can be assumed that the verb "didan" in *Dari* language may have other possible synonyms. NSM analysis is one of the solutions to examine these possible synonyms.

Previous scientists have focused on different words and different languages, the scientists did several studies of semantic meaning using NSM theory. Farese (2016) explored the meaning of Japanese Emotion Terms 'haji' and 'hazukashii', thus, Saputra, Budirasa, Dhanawaty, and Putra (2016) studied the meaning of verb "eat" in Balinese language. In addition,, Aso (2017) did a study on verb "sound" in Muna language, one of the local languages in South East Sulawesi. Then, Levisen (2018) explored the meaning of word "violence" in Danish language. Moreover, Rosa (2018) analyzed the meaning of verb "see" in Minangkabaunese language. Then, Rannas and Rosa (2020) did a study on Minangkabaunese verbs connected to the semantic prime "touch". Those previous studies indicate that studying the meaning of words using NSM theory is always useful due to the existences of other words in other languages which meanings need to be explored using NSM theory.

Based on the description before, there are several reasons why the researcher is intrested in conducting research about the verb "didan" in *Dari* language with NSM theory. First, the researcher has been looking for similar studies on semantic "didan" verb that have been carried out by other researchers in which they used the theory of semantic stereotype and polysemy theory, but no one has applied the theory of NSM in studying the verb "didan" of Dari language. Second, the variation of the word "didan" turned out to be more than one based on the result of some previous research. The variation the verb "didan" are: "tamasha", "mushaheda", "negah" etc. Because of those reasons the researcher analyzed each word that related to semantic prime SEE/Didan to diminish ambiguities and mishaps when someone is expressing the verb SEE in Dari . This study is important because the study highlights the different meanings of the Dari verbs which are connected with the semantic prime SEE/Didan reduces the number fallacy and errors in choosing the right word to express the meaning.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This research was conducted by using a descriptive qualitative method. This method was used due to this research analyzed the data by using words, not in numbers. The data of this research were obtained from the five informants by asking the list of words related to the meaning of the act of seeing "didan" in *Dari* language. The informants were the native speakers of *Dari* language. There were five informants that researcher contacted directly by using video call. Some the criteria suggested by (Martha & Kresno, 2016) for selecting the informants are:

1.The informants should be an active participant in the group, 2. The informants should engage in the "current" researched culture. 3. The informants should have sufficient time. 4. The informants should convey information in their own language (natural). Researcher collected the data based on the following steps: First, The researcher used the following resources, such as an interview guideline to assist the interview in answering questions and the word list to elicit explanations from the informants. Second the researcher listened to the informants who are native speakers of the *Dari language*. The next technique was taking notes. The final technique was transcription.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

There are a lot of words formed similar but are actually different in Dari language, even though the words share one semantic prime: "SEE"/"DIDAN". This suggests that ambiguity and incorrect diction can be common in Dari speaking of words that use "SEE"/"DIDAN" prime semantics as their core meaning. After analyzing the data, the following are the words found in the Dari language which are connected to the "SEE"/"*DIDAN*" semantic prima found in *Dari Language*. it can be seen that there are eleven words in Dari language that are connected with the "SEE"/"DIDAN" semantic prime. This means that there are eleven words that are the allolexy of semantic prime "SEE"/"DIDAN". These eleven words, as seen above, are *NEGAH, NAQEL, TAMASHA, BARASI, MULAQAT, TASHKHIS, ARZYABI, DARK, TASAWER, SHUNAKHTAN, MU'AYENA*. These eleven words are also polysemy of five sets of semantic prime numbers, namely SEE/KNOW, SEE/KNOW/THINK, SEE/THINK, SEE/THINK/MOVE/SAY, SEE/SAY.

There first polysemies is SEE/KNOW: *Negah*, *Tamasha*, *Arzyabi* Both of them expresses the act of seeing something while also knowing about it. They are not identical, despite the fact that they are very similar. They are different in the way they perceive the object and the purpose in which they perform the act of seeing something.

(1) Negah

X sees at something for a moment (i)

X wants to know about the thing (ii)

Because X thinks like this: (iii)

X wants to know what is happening to the thing (iv)

X sees Y like this (v)

(2) Tamasha
X sees Y for a moment (i)

Because X wants know somthing like this (ii)

Somthing happen with Y now (iii)

I want to know (iv)

I don't want to be like other people who don't do this now (v)

X sees Y like this (vi)

(3) Arzyabi
X sees Y for a moment (i)

Because X wants to know somthing about all part of Y correctly (ii)

X sees Y like this(iii)

All those words above: "*Negah, Tamasha, Arzyabi*" are the allolexy of semantic prime *Didan* (SEE). All of the words have the same core meaning as "SEE", yet with the different semantic prime meaning based on its function. The word "*Negah*", as can be seen in (1i) to (1ii), a person looks at other people's activities, which in this case called as something/thing, for a while and wants to know what is happening to thing. From the paraphrase in (2) it can be seen that the meaning of "*Tamasha*" is the act of watching which is done to find out what is happening at that time as in line (2iii) and this action is done to find out the activities that exist at that time. "*Arzyabi*", from lines (3i) to (3ii), compared to the word "*Tamasha*" and "*Negah*", this action is carried out to see someone by paying attention to the activity that is being done correctly. In other words, the action of seeing only done for the sake of good intention because Y has done something good.

The second polysemy is SEE/KNOW/THINK, this is the action of seeing something while thingking about the something/ someone after that knowing about the condition. The words that were found were: *Mu'ayena, Barasi",* and *"Tashkhis.*

(4) Mu'ayena
X sees Y for a moment (i)

X wants know all part of Y like this (ii)

Something is happening to Y(iii)

I want to know(iv)

If I don't do this something bad will happen to Y (v)

X sees Y like this (vi)

(5) Barasi
X sees someone for somethime (i)

X know something Y do (ii)

X think about something Y do (iii)

I want to know everything on Y (iv)

Because X wants something good from Y (v)

X want something be good (vi)

(6) Tashkhis
X sees Y for a moment (i)

X wants to know good thing about Y (ii)

Because X think like this (iii)

I feel somthing good happen to Y (iv)

I want to know this (v)

X sees Y like this (vi)

"*Mu'ayena*" was done by examining something or someone in order to find the thing happening to the person or Y, "*Barasi*" is also to pay attention at particular thing yet in different intention which is to make sure the things happening is good or not. "*Tashkis*", in other word, is a medical term which means a process of finding the root cause of organizational problems used. But "*Tashkhis*" can be used as well apart from the world of medicine.

The third polysemy is SEE/THINK, this is the action of seeing something while thingking with the intention of getting benefits for ourself only. The words that were found were: *Naqel* and *Tasawer*.

(7) Naqel
X sees Y for a moment (i)

Because X think like this (ii)

Y doing something good (iii)

I want to know this (iv)

I do'nt want Y know this (v)

If I don't do this something bad happend to me (vi)

X sees Y like this (vii)

(8) Tasawer
X sees Y like this (i)

X don't see clearly (ii)

Because X don't see with part of body (iii)

X think for somthing sometime (iv)

Naqel (7) shows that this action done by secretly looking at the work done by Y by thinking that the people around him are doing the right thing, something X cannot do alone. If he does not see Y, something bad will happen to X in the future. *Tasawer* action has a conceptual meaning, seeing where X thinks about something at a different time and has a positive connotation because he cannot harm himself or others.

The fourth polysemy is SEE/THINK/MOVE/SAY, this is the action of seeing something while thingking, moving becouse of wanting to say someting to someone. The words that were found were: *Mulaqat.*

(9) *Mulaqat*
X sees Y like this (i)

X move from some place to another (ii)

Because X wants to see someone (iii)

X see someone for say something (iv)

X think something about Y (v)

From lines (9i) to (9v) showed that "*Mulaqat*" is the act of seeing which causes a person to think, move, and say something at the same time. This means that this word is done when someone wants to meet another person by moving to another place to meet as seen in line (9ii).

The last polysemy is SEE/SAY, this is the action of seeing something while say something with the intention of making someone feel good. The words that were found were: *Dark* and *Shunakhtan.*

(10)   Dark
X sees Y for a moment (i)

X say somthing like this (ii)

I feel what happend to you (iii)

I want doing somthing good for you (iv)

X sees Y like this (v)

(11)   Shunakhtan
X sees Y for a moment (i)

Because X want say something to Y like this (ii)

I know somthing all about you (iii)

X sees Y like this (iv)

Dark with the conceptual meaning of seeing is seeing someone with the intention of announcing someone's existence to the recipient and understanding the recipient's condition well. *Shunakhtan* is a word with the connotation of seeing by saying something to someone after seeing it.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Many words sound similar but actually have different meanings, therefore NSM is a bridge to find these meanings. Because NSM is a theory that focuses on deconstructing the meaning of words until the core meanings are found. In *Dari* language there are a lot of words with similar semantic prime "SEE"/"DIDAN" found, none of them are identically the same. It can be seen that even those which have the highly identical set of semantic prime, there are a few things that differentiate the core meaning of words. It can also be concluded that there are several factors that can be used to distinguish each word that shares the semantic prime "SEE".

This study focuses on the "SEE/*DIDAN*" semantic prime of words in *Dari language*. According to this research, it can be stated that *Dari Language* is a language that rich in synonyms that can be used as data to be analyzed using NSM theory. Therefore, the researcher recommended for further researchers to analyze words in any language not only in *Dari Language*, but using another langueges by using NSM because of the richness of the meanings. There are several researches that have been studying with focus on "SEE" and "TOUCH", it is recommended that further researches to be more focused on other sensory words. It also highlights the actual meaning of words in the language used in daily life. Due to the words that are used contain a lot of synonyms that have not been analyzed by the researchers.

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