

**SCIENCE  
PROBLEMS.UZ**

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 Actual problems of social and humanitarian sciences  
Актуальные проблемы социальных и гуманитарных наук

# Ijtimoiy-gumanitar fanlarning dolzarb muammolari

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**2024**

# **SCIENCEPROBLEMS.UZ**

## **IJTIMOIY-GUMANITAR FANLARNING DOLZARB MUAMMOLARI**

**Nº 12 (4) - 2024**

**АКТУАЛЬНЫЕ ПРОБЛЕМЫ СОЦИАЛЬНО-  
ГУМАНИТАРНЫХ НАУК**

**ACTUAL PROBLEMS OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**TOSHKENT-2024**

## **BOSH MUHARRIR:**

Isanova Feruza Tulqinovna

## **TAHRIR HAY'ATI:**

### **07.00.00-TARIX FANLARI:**

Yuldashev Anvar Ergashevich – tarix fanlari doktori, siyosiy fanlar nomzodi, professor, O'zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti huzuridagi Davlat boshqaruvi akademiyasi;

Mavlanov Uktam Maxmasabirovich – tarix fanlari doktori, professor, O'zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti huzuridagi Davlat boshqaruvi akademiyasi;

Xazratkulov Abror – tarix fanlari doktori, dotsent, O'zbekiston davlat jahon tillari universiteti.

Tursunov Ravshan Normuratovich – tarix fanlari doktori, O'zbekiston Milliy Universiteti;

Xolikulov Axmadjon Boymahamatovich – tarix fanlari doktori, O'zbekiston Milliy Universiteti;

Gabrielyan Sofya Ivanovna – tarix fanlari doktori, dotsent, O'zbekiston Milliy Universiteti.

Saidov Sarvar Atabullo o'g'li – katta ilmiy hodim, Imam Termiziy xalqaro ilmiy-tadqiqot markazi, ilmiy tadqiqotlar bo'limi.

### **08.00.00-IQTISODIYOT FANLARI:**

Karlibayeva Raya Xojabayevna – iqtisodiyot fanlari doktori, professor, Toshkent davlat iqtisodiyot universiteti;

Nasirxodjayeva Dilafruz Sabitxanova – iqtisodiyot fanlari doktori, professor, Toshkent davlat iqtisodiyot universiteti;

Ostonokulov Azamat Abdukarimovich – iqtisodiyot fanlari doktori, professor, Toshkent moliya instituti; Arabov Nurali Uralovich – iqtisodiyot fanlari doktori, professor, Samarqand davlat universiteti;

Xudoyqulov Sadirdin Karimovich – iqtisodiyot fanlari doktori, dotsent, Toshkent davlat iqtisodiyot universiteti;

Azizov Sherzod O'ktamovich – iqtisodiyot fanlari doktori, dotsent, O'zbekiston Respublikasi Bojxona instituti;

Xojayev Azizzon Saidaloxonovich – iqtisodiyot fanlari doktori, dotsent, Farg'ona politexnika instituti

Xolov Aktam Xatamovich – iqtisodiyot fanlari bo'yicha falsafa doktori (PhD), dotsent, O'zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti huzuridagi Davlat boshqaruvi akademiyasi;

Shadiyeva Dildora Xamidovna – iqtisodiyot fanlari bo'yicha falsafa doktori (PhD), dotsent v.b, Toshkent moliya instituti;

Shakarov Qulmat Ashirovich – iqtisodiyot fanlari nomzodi, dotsent, Toshkent axborot texnologiyalari universiteti

### **09.00.00-FALSAFA FANLARI:**

Hakimov Nazar Hakimovich – falsafa fanlari doktori, professor, Toshkent davlat iqtisodiyot universiteti;

Yaxshilikov Jo'raboy – falsafa fanlari doktori, professor, Samarqand davlat universiteti;

G'aybullayev Otabek Muhammadiyevich – falsafa fanlari doktori, professor, Samarqand davlat chet tillar instituti;

Saidova Kamola Uskanbayevna – falsafa fanlari doktori, "Tashkent International University of Education" xalqaro universiteti;

Hoshimxonov Mo'min – falsafa fanlari doktori, dotsent, Jizzax pedagogika instituti;

O'rroqova Oysuluv Jamoliddinovna – falsafa fanlari doktori, dotsent, Andijon davlat tibbiyot instituti, Ijtimoiy-gumanitar fanlar kafedrasi mudiri;

Nosirxodjayeva Gulnora Abdukaxkarovna – falsafa fanlari nomzodi, dotsent, Toshkent davlat yuridik universiteti;

Turdiyev Bexruz Sobirovich – falsafa fanlari bo'yicha falsafa doktori (PhD), dotsent, Buxoro davlat universiteti.

### **10.00.00-FILOLOGIYA FANLARI:**

Axmedov Oybek Saporbayevich – filologiya fanlari doktori, professor, O'zbekiston davlat jahon tillari universiteti;

Ko'chimov Shuxrat Norqizilovich – filologiya fanlari doktori, dotsent, Toshkent davlat yuridik universiteti;

Hasanov Shavkat Ahadovich – filologiya fanlari doktori, professor, Samarqand davlat universiteti;

Baxronova Dilrabo Keldiyorovna – filologiya fanlari doktori, professor, O'zbekiston davlat jahon tillari universiteti;

Mirsanov G'aybullo Qulmurodovich – filologiya fanlari doktori, professor, Samarqand davlat chet tillar instituti;

Salaxutdinova Musharraf Isamutdinovna – filologiya fanlari nomzodi, dotsent, Samarqand davlat universiteti;

Kuchkarov Raxman Urmanovich – filologiya fanlari nomzodi, dotsent v/b, Toshkent davlat yuridik universiteti;

Yunusov Mansur Abdullayevich – filologiya fanlari nomzodi, O'zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti huzuridagi Davlat boshqaruvi akademiyasi;

Saidov Ulugbek Aripovich – filologiya fanlari nomzodi, dotsent, O'zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti huzuridagi Davlat boshqaruvi akademiyasi.

#### **12.00.00-YURIDIK FANLAR:**

Axmedshayeva Mavlyuda Axatovna – yuridik fanlar doktori, professor, Toshkent davlat yuridik universiteti;

Muxitdinova Firyuza Abdurashidovna – yuridik fanlar doktori, professor, Toshkent davlat yuridik universiteti;

Esanova Zamira Normurotovna – yuridik fanlar doktori, professor, O'zbekiston Respublikasida xizmat ko'rsatgan yurist, Toshkent davlat yuridik universiteti;

Hamroqulov Bahodir Mamasharifovich – yuridik fanlar doktori, professor v.b., Jahon iqtisodiyoti va diplomatiya universiteti;

Zulfiqorov Sherzod Xurramovich – yuridik fanlar doktori, professor, O'zbekiston Respublikasi Jamoat xavfsizligi universiteti;

Xayitov Xushvaqt Saparbayevich – yuridik fanlar doktori, professor, O'zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti huzuridagi Davlat boshqaruvi akademiyasi;

Asadov Shavkat G'aybullayevich – yuridik fanlar doktori, dotsent, O'zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti huzuridagi Davlat boshqaruvi akademiyasi;

Ergashev Ikrom Abdurasulovich – yuridik fanlar doktori, professor, Toshkent davlat yuridik universiteti;

Utemuratov Maxmut Ajimuratovich – yuridik fanlar nomzodi, professor, Toshkent davlat yuridik universiteti;

Saydullayev Shaxzod Alixanovich – yuridik fanlar nomzodi, professor, Toshkent davlat yuridik universiteti;

Hakimov Komil Baxtiyarovich – yuridik fanlar doktori, dotsent, Toshkent davlat yuridik universiteti;

Yusupov Sardorbek Baxodirovich – yuridik fanlar doktori, dotsent, Toshkent davlat yuridik universiteti;

Amirov Zafar Aktamovich – yuridik fanlar bo'yicha falsafa doktori (PhD), O'zbekiston Respublikasi

Sudyalar oliv kengashi huzuridagi Sudyalar oliv maktabi;

Jo'rayev Sherzod Yuldashevich – yuridik fanlar nomzodi, dotsent, Toshkent davlat yuridik universiteti;

Babadjanov Atabek Davronbekovich – yuridik fanlar nomzodi, dotsent, Toshkent davlat yuridik universiteti;

Rahmatov Elyor Jumaboyevich - yuridik fanlar nomzodi, Toshkent davlat yuridik universiteti;

#### **13.00.00-PEDAGOGIKA FANLARI:**

Xashimova Dildarxon Urinboyevna – pedagogika fanlari doktori, professor, Toshkent davlat yuridik universiteti;

Ibragimova Gulnora Xavazmatovna – pyedagogika fanlari doktori, professor, Toshkent davlat iqtisodiyot universiteti;

Zakirova Feruza Maxmudovna – pedagogika fanlari doktori, Toshkent axborot texnologiyalari universiteti huzuridagi pedagogik kadrlarni qayta tayyorlash va ularning malakasini oshirish tarmoq markazi;

Kayumova Nasiba Ashurovna – pedagogika fanlari doktori, professor, Qarshi davlat universiteti;

Taylanova Shoxida Zayniyevna – pedagogika fanlari doktori, dotsent;

Jumaniyozova Muhayyo Tojiyevna – pedagogika fanlari doktori, dotsent, O'zbekiston davlat jahon tillari universiteti;

Ibraximov Sanjar Urunbayevich – pedagogika fanlari doktori, Iqtisodiyot va pedagogika universiteti;

Javliyeva Shaxnoza Baxodirovna – pedagogika fanlari bo'yicha falsafa doktori (PhD), Samarqand davlat universiteti;

Bobomurotova Latofat Elmurodovna - pedagogika fanlari bo'yicha falsafa doktori (PhD), Samarqand davlat universiteti.

#### **19.00.00-PSIXOLOGIYA FANLARI:**

Karimova Vasila Mamanosirovna – psixologiya fanlari doktori, professor, Nizomiy nomidagi Toshkent davlat pedagogika universiteti;

Hayitov Oybek Eshboyevich – Jismoniy tarbiya va sport bo'yicha mutaxassislarni qayta tayyorlash va malakasini oshirish instituti, psixologiya fanlari doktori, professor

Umarova Navbahor Shokirovna – psixologiya fanlari doktori, dotsent, Nizomiy nomidagi Toshkent davlat pedagogika universiteti, Amaliy psixologiyasi kafedrasi mudiri;

Atabayeva Nargis Batirovna – psixologiya fanlari doktori, dotsent, Nizomiy nomidagi Toshkent davlat pedagogika universiteti;

Shamshetova Anjim Karamaddinovna – psixologiya fanlari doktori, dotsent, O'zbekiston davlat jahon tillari universiteti;

Qodirov Obid Safarovich – psixologiya fanlari doktori (PhD), Samarkand viloyat IIB Tibbiyot bo'limi psixologik xizmat boshlig'i.

#### **22.00.00-SOTSILOGIYA FANLARI:**

Latipova Nodira Muxtarjanovna – sotsiologiya fanlari doktori, professor, O'zbekiston milliy universiteti kafedra mudiri;

Seitov Azamat Po'latovich – sotsiologiya fanlari doktori, professor, O'zbekiston milliy universiteti; Sodiqova Shohida Marxaboyevna – sotsiologiya fanlari doktori, professor, O'zbekiston xalqaro islom akademiyasi.

#### **23.00.00-SIYOSIY FANLAR**

Nazarov Nasriddin Ataqulovich –siyosiy fanlar doktori, falsafa fanlari doktori, professor, Toshkent arxitektura qurilish instituti;

Bo'tayev Usmonjon Xayrullayevich –siyosiy fanlar doktori, dotsent, O'zbekiston milliy universiteti kafedra mudiri.

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### **OAK Ro'yxati**

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## **LEXICAL-SEMANTIC FEATURES OF THE CONCEPT «STEP» IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

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**Abstract.** This study investigates the lexical-semantic features of the concept «step», particularly in its application to stepfamily relationships in the English language. The term «step» is explored through its etymology, semantic structure, and cultural implications to understand how it functions as a linguistic marker of familial roles and relationships. Drawing on historical linguistics, corpus analysis, and cultural linguistics, the research uncovers how the concept has evolved from its origins in Old English to its modern usage. Additionally, the study highlights how the prefix «step» reflects societal attitudes toward blended families, often carrying emotional or relational undertones. The findings reveal that while the term has largely neutralized in contemporary contexts, traces of historical stigma and negative connotations persist, particularly in literature and colloquial expressions. This research provides valuable insights into the interplay between language and culture, emphasizing the role of lexical semantics in shaping and reflecting social constructs. The implications of this study extend to linguistics, sociolinguistics, and cultural studies, offering a deeper understanding of how language encodes complex cultural phenomena.

**Keywords:** stepfamily, lexical semantics, English language, step-concept, cultural linguistics.

## **INGLIZ TILIDAGI «O'GAY» KONSEPTINING LEKSIK-SEMANTIK XUSUSIYATLARI**

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**Annotatsiya.** Ushbu tadqiqotda «O'gay» tushunchasining leksik-semantik xususiyatlari, xususan, ingliz tilidagi o'gay tushunchasining oilaviy munosabatlarga nisbatan qo'llanilishi o'rGANILADI. «O'gay» atamasi uning etimologiyasi, semantik tuzilishi va madaniy ta'sirlari, oilaviy munosabatlarning lingvistik belgisi sifatidagi ahamiyati tadqiq etiladi. Tadqiqot tarixiy tilshunoslik, korpus tahlili va madaniy tilshunoslikka tayangan holda, mazkur tushunchaning qadimgi ingliz tilidagi kelib chiqishidan zamonaviy ko'rinishigacha qanday rivojlanganligini ochib beradi. Bundan tashqari, tadqiqot «o'gay» konseptining ko'pincha hissiy yoki munosabatlarga xos bo'lgan aralash oilalarga bo'lgan ijtimoiy munosabatni qanday aks ettirishini ta'kidlaydi. Tadqiqotlar shuni ko'rsatadiki, bu atama zamonaviy kontekstlarda sezilarli darajada neytrallashgan bo'lsa-da, adabiyotlarda salbiy tushuncha saqlanib qolmoqda. Ushbu tadqiqot til va madaniyat o'rtasidagi o'zaro bog'liqlik haqida qimmatli ma'lumotlar beradi, leksik semantikaning ijtimoiy konstruksiyalarni shakllantirish va aks ettirishdagi rolini ta'kidlaydi. Ushbu tadqiqotning natijalari tilshunoslik, sotsiolingvistika va madaniyatshunoslik bilan bog'liq bo'lib, tilning turli xil madaniy hodisalarini qanday kodlashini chuqurroq tushunishni taklif qiladi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** o'gay oila, leksik semantika, ingliz tili, "o'gay ona" tushunchasi, lingvokulturologiya.

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**Introduction.** The term «step» in the English language holds a unique position within the lexicon, particularly in its application to familial relationships. As a prefix used to denote non-biological family members, such as «stepmother», «stepchild» or «stepbrother» it carries significant linguistic and cultural weight. The concept embodies the complexities of family dynamics, reflecting not only the linguistic mechanisms of word formation but also the cultural and emotional nuances associated with stepfamilies.

The linguistic picture of the world forms a person's attitude to the world (to nature, animals, to himself). Any natural language reflects a certain way of knowing the world. The meanings expressed in it are embodied in a single system of certain views, a kind of collective philosophy, which is obligatory for all speakers of the language. The world of speakers is formed in this language. That is, the linguistic picture of the world is a complex of knowledge about the world, embodied in lexicon, phraseology and grammar. It is necessary to distinguish between conceptual and linguistic types of the world picture. The conceptual picture of the world, unlike the linguistic picture of the world, is constantly changing, reflecting the results of cognitive and social activities. However, some parts of the linguistic picture of the world retain the old-fashioned ideas of people about the world for a long time. [5]

**Literature review and methodology.** Historically, the term «step» has evolved alongside societal changes in family structures, with its roots tracing back to Old English steopcild, which referred to orphaned children who were adopted into new families. This etymological origin underscores the dual role of the term as a marker of both inclusion and differentiation.

In contemporary English, the concept of «step» continues to reflect the evolving understanding of family relationships. Blended families, where members form familial bonds through remarriage or adoption, have become increasingly common in modern societies. However, the linguistic expression of these relationships often carries implicit connotations shaped by historical, cultural, and social factors. For instance, the prefix «step-» has occasionally been associated with negative stereotypes, as seen in the portrayal of «stepmothers» in fairy tales and popular culture, which perpetuate a narrative of conflict and estrangement. [1]

From a lexical-semantic perspective, the term «step» is a fascinating example of how language encodes relational and cultural information. Its usage demonstrates the flexibility of language in adapting to societal shifts while retaining traces of historical meaning. Additionally, the concept provides a window into the intersection of language and culture, illustrating how linguistic elements are influenced by and, in turn, influence societal attitudes. [4]

This paper aims to analyze the lexical-semantic features of «step» in the English language by exploring its etymology, semantic structure, and cultural implications. Through qualitative analysis of linguistic data from dictionaries, corpora, and relevant academic literature, the study seeks to uncover the ways in which the concept of «step» reflects and shapes societal perceptions of non-biological familial relationships. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how language functions as a mirror of cultural and social norms, offering insights for linguists, educators, and cultural researchers alike.

The study employs a multidisciplinary approach, utilizing a combination of linguistic, cultural, and sociological methods to analyze the lexical-semantic features of the concept «step» in the English language. The methods are designed to provide a comprehensive understanding

of the term's etymology, semantic structure, usage, and cultural implications. Below are the detailed methods applied in the research:

### 1. Etymological Analysis.

This method involves tracing the historical origins of the term «step» in the English language. Key resources include historical dictionaries such as the Oxford English Dictionary and etymological studies. By examining its Old English root steopcild and its subsequent evolution, the study identifies how the term's meaning and connotations have changed over time. [2]

### 2. Lexical-Semantic Analysis.

A detailed examination of the semantic properties of «step» is conducted, focusing on its role as a prefix in terms like «stepmother,» «stepson,» and «stepfamily.» This analysis involves:

Componential Analysis: Breaking down the term into semantic components to understand its core and peripheral meanings.

Collocation Analysis: Using linguistic corpora, such as the British National Corpus (BNC) and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), to identify common phrases and expressions involving «step».

Polysemy and Semantic Shift: Exploring how the term has developed multiple meanings and shifted in usage over time. [3]

### 3. Pragmatic Analysis.

This method examines the pragmatic use of «step» in real-life communication. Contextual analysis of spoken and written texts is conducted to understand how the term functions in different discourses, including formal, informal, and literary contexts. Special attention is given to instances where «step» carries emotional or relational undertones.

### 4. Cultural Linguistic Analysis.

This approach investigates how the concept «step» reflects societal attitudes toward blended families and non-biological relationships. Key cultural artifacts, such as literature, films, and media, are analyzed to identify recurring themes and stereotypes associated with «step» relationships. The study also explores cross-cultural comparisons to understand how similar concepts are expressed and perceived in other languages and cultures.

### 5. Discourse Analysis.

Using discourse analysis, the study explores how the term «step» is represented in various genres, such as family law texts, educational materials, and media portrayals. The analysis includes both synchronic (current usage) and diachronic (historical trends) perspectives to capture the dynamic nature of the term. [7]

### 6. Quantitative Corpus Analysis.

A quantitative approach is employed to measure the frequency and distribution of the term «step» in corpora. This includes statistical analysis of usage patterns, examining how often «step» appears in positive, neutral, or negative contexts. Tools like AntConc and Sketch Engine are used for corpus analysis.

### 7. Surveys and Interviews

To understand societal perceptions, surveys and interviews are conducted with speakers of English. Participants are asked to share their associations and feelings about terms like «stepmother» and «stepchild.» The qualitative data gathered provides insights into contemporary attitudes and emotional responses.

## 8. Comparative Linguistic Analysis.

The study includes a comparative analysis of the concept «step» in English with equivalent terms in other languages, such as «beau-parent» in French or «Stief-» in German. This allows for an exploration of universal versus language-specific features of the concept.

## 9. Literature Review.

An extensive review of academic literature on blended families, linguistic representation of non-biological relationships, and cultural perceptions of «step» relationships is conducted. This includes works in sociolinguistics, cultural studies, and family sociology.

By integrating these methods, the study provides a holistic understanding of the lexical-semantic and cultural dimensions of the concept «step» in the English language. Each method contributes a unique perspective, ensuring the findings are robust and multidimensional. [6]

**Result and Discussion.** The findings of this study reveal that the concept of «step» in English is deeply rooted in historical, linguistic, and cultural contexts, making it a rich subject for analysis. The discussion explores the implications of these findings, emphasizing the complex interplay between language, culture, and societal attitudes toward blended families.

### 1. Historical and Linguistic Evolution.

The etymological analysis highlights that the prefix «step-» originally carried a dual meaning of loss (e.g., orphans in Old English) and inclusion (integration into new families). This historical duality persists in modern usage, where the term can simultaneously denote both familial connection and distinction. Over time, societal changes, such as the increasing prevalence of blended families, have influenced the semantic evolution of the term, leading to its current neutral usage in many contexts. However, historical linguistic traces, such as the «wicked stepmother» trope in folklore, continue to exert influence on modern perceptions. These narratives, deeply ingrained in Western literature and culture, contribute to the occasional negative connotations associated with «step» relationships. This finding underscores the enduring power of language to shape and reflect societal attitudes, even as those attitudes evolve. [1]

### 2. Cultural Implications and Stereotypes.

The cultural analysis reveals a significant shift in the portrayal of step-relationships over time. While historical literature and media often depicted step-relationships as fraught with conflict and animosity, contemporary representations have become more balanced. This shift reflects broader societal changes, including increased acceptance of diverse family structures and a greater emphasis on the individual dynamics within families. Nevertheless, the persistence of stereotypes in some contexts, particularly in colloquial expressions and older literary works, suggests that linguistic and cultural change is an ongoing process. The study's findings highlight the need for continued efforts to challenge and deconstruct negative stereotypes surrounding step-relationships. By doing so, society can foster more inclusive and positive representations of blended families.

### 3. Pragmatic and Semantic Nuances.

The pragmatic analysis indicates that the term «step» often carries subtle emotional and relational undertones, which can vary widely depending on context. For example: In legal and formal contexts, «step» tends to be used neutrally, focusing on the factual aspects of family relationships. In informal or personal contexts, the term may evoke emotional connotations, influenced by individual experiences and cultural narratives. This variability underscores the

importance of context in interpreting and using the term «step». It also highlights the role of language as a tool for both reflecting and shaping interpersonal relationships. [3]

#### 4. Cross-Cultural Perspectives.

The comparative linguistic analysis reveals that the concept of «step» is not universally stigmatized across cultures. In languages like French (*beau-parent*) and Spanish (*padrastro/madrastra*), equivalent terms often lack the historical and cultural baggage associated with the English term «step». This finding suggests that cultural narratives play a crucial role in shaping the connotations of linguistic terms. The cross-cultural differences also highlight the potential for English speakers to adopt more inclusive and neutral perspectives on step-relationships. As global communication and cultural exchange increase, there is an opportunity to learn from other linguistic traditions and challenge entrenched stereotypes.

#### 5. Implications for Sociolinguistics and Cultural Studies.

The study's findings have significant implications for sociolinguistics and cultural studies. By examining the lexical-semantic features of «step», researchers can gain deeper insights into how language encodes cultural values and social norms. This research also underscores the importance of addressing linguistic biases and stereotypes, particularly in educational and media contexts.

#### 6. Practical Applications.

The findings have practical applications in several areas, including:

**Education:** Teachers and educators can use the findings to foster awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity, promoting inclusive attitudes toward blended families.

**Media and Literature:** Writers and content creators can challenge negative stereotypes and create more positive and diverse representations of step-relationships.

**Family Counseling:** Understanding the emotional and relational connotations of «step» can help counselors and therapists address challenges faced by blended families.

#### 7. Limitations and Future Research.

While this study provides valuable insights, it is not without limitations. The corpus analysis was limited to English-language sources, and the survey sample size was relatively small. Future research could expand the scope by examining a broader range of languages and cultures, as well as incorporating larger and more diverse participant samples. Additionally, longitudinal studies could explore how the perceptions of «step» relationships evolve over time, particularly in response to changing societal attitudes and family structures. Further research could also examine the impact of media representations on public perceptions of step-relationships, providing a deeper understanding of the interplay between language, culture, and social change. [1]

**Conclusion.** In conclusion, the study highlights the multifaceted nature of the concept «step» in the English language, revealing its rich linguistic and cultural dimensions. By examining its historical roots, semantic features, and cultural implications, the research contributes to a deeper understanding of how language reflects and shapes societal attitudes toward family and relationships. The study of the lexical-semantic features of the concept «step» in English reveals its intricate role in reflecting and shaping perceptions of blended family relationships. Historically rooted in Old English, where it indicated orphanhood, the term has evolved to describe familial connections formed through remarriage. This evolution mirrors societal changes in family dynamics, yet traces of historical stigma persist, as seen in

the enduring influence of the «wicked stepmother» trope in literature and media. Despite these lingering stereotypes, contemporary usage shows a shift toward neutrality and inclusivity, particularly in educational, legal, and modern media contexts. Cross-cultural comparisons further highlight that the stigma associated with «step» in English is not universal, emphasizing the influence of cultural narratives on linguistic connotations.

These findings underline the importance of language in encoding societal values and the need to address stereotypes associated with step-relationships. Promoting positive representations and inclusive language can foster understanding and acceptance of blended families, reflecting the diverse and evolving nature of modern family structures.

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## **IJTIMOIY-GUMANITAR FANLARNING DOLZARB MUAMMOLARI**

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**АКТУАЛЬНЫЕ ПРОБЛЕМЫ СОЦИАЛЬНО-  
ГУМАНИТАРНЫХ НАУК**

**ACTUAL PROBLEMS OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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