



ISSN: (3006-8614)  
E-ISSN: (3006-8622)

Journal of Alma'rifa for Humanities

available online at: <https://uomosul.edu.iq/womeneducation/almarifa/>



## حركية المعنى: كيف تتغير معاني الكلمات عبر الزمن

أحمد بشير القطان

أسماء محمد حسين

جامعة الموصل/ كلية التربية للعلوم الإنسانية

### الملخص

تستكشف هذه الدراسة تطور معاني المصطلحات الرئيسية ثورة ، حرية ، ارهاب ، مواطنة ، مساواة ، عدالة ، فقر ، انسانية ، عرق ، هجرة استجابة للأحداث التاريخية الهامة والحركات الاجتماعية. باستخدام مزيج من تحليل التغير الدلالي، وتحليل السياق التاريخي، وتقنيات لغويات النصوص، تتتبع هذه الدراسة كيف تطورت هذه الكلمات من معانيها الأصلية لتشمل أبعاداً سياسية واجتماعية واقتصادية أوسع. تظهر النتائج الرئيسية كيف توسعت هذه الكلمات، وأعيد تشكيلها، وأعيد تعريفها في سياق الثورات والحروب، وعمليات الاستعمار، وحركات الحقوق المدنية، وظهور النقاشات العالمية حول حقوق الإنسان وعدم المساواة. تسلط الدراسة الضوء على العلاقة الديناميكية بين اللغة والتاريخ، موضحة كيف أن الكلمات لا تعكس التغيرات المجتمعية فحسب، بل تؤثر أيضاً في مسار الحركات الاجتماعية والسياسية. على الرغم من التحديات مثل توفر البيانات، والذاتية في تفسير التحولات الدلالية، واستبعاد المصادر غير النصية، تقدم النتائج رؤية قيمة حول كيفية تشكيل الأحداث التاريخية للغة واستخدامها. تختتم الدراسة بالتوصية بتوسيع مصادر البيانات، ودمج المناهج متعددة التخصصات، وإدراج التحليل النوعي لتعزيز دراسة تطور اللغة في البحوث المستقبلية © .

\*Corresponding author: E-mail :

[abubashir\\_1965@uomosul.edu.iq](mailto:abubashir_1965@uomosul.edu.iq)

[asmaa.24ehp111@student.uomosul.edu.iq](mailto:asmaa.24ehp111@student.uomosul.edu.iq)



0009-0005-7902-7461

### الكلمات المفتاحية:

التغير الدلالي، السياق التاريخي،

تطور اللغة، الحركات السياسية،

العدالة الاجتماعية، لغويات النصوص، معاني الكلمات.

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received 21. Apr.2025

Revised 15. May.2025

Accepted 21. May.2025

Available online 3. Jun.2025

#### Email:

[almarefaa.ecg@uomosul.edu.iq](mailto:almarefaa.ecg@uomosul.edu.iq)

2025AJHPS, College of Education for women, University of Mosul.

## The Dynamics of Meaning: How Meanings of Words change over time

Asmaa Muhammed Hussein

Ahmad Bashir Al- Qattan

University of Mosul/ College of Education for Humanities

### Abstract

This study aims at studying and exploring the evolution of the meanings of certain words; *revolution, freedom, terrorism, citizenship, equality, Justice poverty, humanitarianism, race and immigration*. This evolution happens in significantly response to the historical events and social movements. It depends on using a combination of semantic change analysis, historical context analysis, and corpus linguistics techniques. This study traces back how these words have evolved from their original meanings to incorporate respectively broader political, social, and economic dimensions. Findings of this study show clearly how the meanings of considered words have expanded, reshaped, and redefined within the context of revolutions, wars, decolonization, civil rights movements as well as the rise of human rights and inequality. The study shows clearly the pivotal relationship between language and history. So, words not only echo societal changes but they affect the line of both the social and the political movements. The challenges that faced the researchers are such the non-availability of data, subjectivity in interpreting semantic shifts as well as the exclusion of non-textual sources. Again, the findings show valuable insights into how historical events can shape language and its usage. In brief, the study suggests an expansion of data sources, the integration of interdisciplinary approaches, and the incorporation of qualitative analysis to future studies.

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**Keywords:** Semantic change, historical context, language evolution, political movements, social justice, corpus linguistics, word meaning

### Introduction

It is widely known that language is a living, evolving entity that continuously shaped by the societies who speak it. It is both a reflection and a tool of human thought. It is a mirror of political, social, and cultural forces that define different periods in history. Generally speaking, meanings of words do not remain static. They shift in response to major events such as political revolutions, wars, social movements, and economic transformations. To stand on this, it is essentially necessary to comprehend the dynamic and non-stop relationship between language and history. This research investigates how certain words like the following; *revolution, freedom, terrorism, citizenship, equality, Justice poverty, humanitarianism,*

*race and immigration* have evolved in meaning through their usage over periods of time. These words have significantly witnessed a lot of transformations in their definitions within time. They often shaped by pivotal historical events such as the American Revolution, the French Revolution, the Civil Rights Movement, the World Wars, the rise of nationalism, and the struggles for human rights and social justice. Exploring the meanings of these words and how they have been shifted, means demonstrating the profound connection between linguistic change and societal transformation. The study employs a multidimensional methodology, i.e., combining semantic change analysis, historical context analysis, and corpus linguistics techniques. So, tracking the evolution of these words over time is the major goal of this study. Using the historical dictionaries like the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), this research aims to quantify and contextualize the shifts in word meanings.

Examining how words were used in different historical and social contexts means a lot. So, the study provides insights into how language evolves as a reaction to political and social dynamics. The major aim is adding to our understanding the fact that language serves as both a product and a mirror of historical events at the same time. Tracing the semantic evolution of these words, a clearer picture of the ways in which these words have been used will be demonstrated as vehicles of human thought and culture where the adaptation world realities. This research offers notable insights as far as meanings of words are concerned in terms of being influenced by broader ideological shifts, social justice movements. Through this investigation, a richer understanding of how meanings evolve in parallel with the cultural and political forces that shape the human experience.

### **3. Research Objectives**

The research aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Examining the semantic change of key words: like "revolution", "freedom", "empire", "justice", "nation", and others
2. contextualizing of word meanings historically
3. Analyzing the role of language in reflecting societal change.

### **4. Research Questions**

The following research questions will guide the investigation:

1. How have the meanings of specific words like "revolution," "freedom," "empire," "justice," "nation," and others shifted over time?
2. . What historical events or movements have participated in altering the meanings of these words?
3. To what extent do political, social, and economic changes influence the evolution of word meanings?

4. What role do social justice movements, revolutions, and wars play in shaping the semantic shifts of these words?

### 5. Methodology

Language is a dynamic reflection of the societies that use it, and understanding how words evolve in response to historical events offers valuable insights into social change. This study analyzed the semantic shifts in certain words, mentioned earlier. The primary methodology included the following three approaches:

1. The semantic change analysis was conducted by examining how the meanings of selected words evolved over time, particularly in response to major historical events like revolutions, wars, and social movements. The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) was utilized to trace the historical definitions of words,
2. Historical context analysis was used to link shifts in word meanings to specific historical events.
3. The Google Books Ngram Viewer which is an online search engine that charts the frequencies of any set of searches has been used in the analysis.
4. The semantic change analysis will focus on the meanings of the selected words and their shifting due to historical events, societal changes, and cultural movements.

### 6 Limitation

A range of words that have experienced shifts in meaning due to political upheaval, social movements, wars, or cultural revolutions will be examined. The words are as follows: *revolution, freedom, terrorism, citizenship, equality, justice, poverty, humanitarian, race, immigration*. *Each* of these words will go through the following:

#### 1. : Historical Contextualization:

It means tracing the key periods when the word's meaning was reshaped by historical events (e.g., revolutions, wars, civil rights movements).

#### 2. Meaning Evolution:

Tracking the meanings of the given words and their change during these periods.

#### 3. Tools:

Historical dictionaries (such as the Oxford English Dictionary (OED)) and semantic mapping tools will be used to document how definitions evolved across various time periods and in response to specific

historical moments.

## 2.Literature Review:

Historically, language has always been shaped by certain events over time. The meanings of words can be changed drastically in response to a lot of transformations such as political, social, and cultural ones. Evolving of the words and their meaning represents the key focus of historical semantics. What will be covered within this review is the major contributions to the field, the focus on key theoretical frameworks, word evolution, the relationship between historical change and semantic shifts.

### Historical Semantics and Language Change

Historical semantics represents a branch of linguistics. It investigates the evolution of word meanings over time. Shifts in meaning arise due to the changes happened in both society and culture. Bloomfield (1933) represented a foundational study in this area. He emphasized the relationship between language and culture, stating that "language is a reflection of the mind, which is in turn shaped by historical forces" (Bloomfield, 1933:45). This paved the way for other studies to focus on how words evolve based on historical events. Bréal (1897), in the context of semantic change, argued that words are dynamic but they evolve according to the needs of society. He ascertained that historical events especially those the societal ones like political revolutions, or wars, can directly affect the meanings of words. Jespersen (1922) explored that the linguistic meanings shift as a result of cultural transformations. He observes that societal upheavals such as wars or revolutions often coincide with dramatic changes in language (Jespersen, 1922:68).

### The Influence of Political and Social Events on Word Meanings

Political and social upheavals influence the meanings of specific words significantly. Harris (1952) examined how the concept of "*freedom*" evolved during the French Revolution and the American Civil War. He noted clearly that "*freedom*" initially referred to physical liberty, but its meaning expanded during these periods to include political and social freedoms. In other words, it reflects the changing social fabric (Harris, 1952:214). For Aitchison (2003), she focused on the word "terrorism" in the post-9/11 era, she analyzed that the term's meaning has become globally war *on terror*. She stated that shifting happened within the word *terrorism* from political discourse to a term widely used in media and popular culture. It symbolized a new era of global insecurity (Aitchison, 2003:197).

### Methodologies in Historical Semantics

Due to the shifting meanings of words, a range of methodologies has been employed for analysis. Specifically, Nevalainen and Raumolin-

Brunberg (2003) used corpus linguistics techniques to study how historical events affect the meaning of words in English over time. Analyzing a large corpus of historical texts, they were able to track shifts in word meanings. They linked these shifts to key social and political changes. On the other hand, Labov (1972), employed sociolinguistic methods just to study the meanings of words changing within different social groups. Also, Labov (, 1972:134) was able to show how language acts as a marker of social identity at different regional variations, and is deeply influenced by historical and cultural contexts. Foley (1997) examined the cultural shifts that shape the meanings of words. As for religious terminology, Foley was able to demonstrate how the words related to spirituality and moral values have been changed significantly in response to shifts in societal norms and religious practices (Foley, 1997:88).

### **The Role of Language in Reflecting Cultural and Historical Change**

Benveniste (1966: 94) proposed that language itself is a social institution. Its meanings are shaped by the social order. He went further focusing on the fact that when a society undergoes a cultural transformation, the words used do transformed where the values and priorities of the time are reflected clearly. Building on this idea, Sapir (1921) argued that the structure and meanings of words has a lot to do with the collective consciousness of a society. He stated that the meanings of words evolve through the individual usage and the collective historical experiences. Furthermore, Whorf (1956) extended this idea by stating that language and thought are deeply interconnected. He added that the historical events shape collective thought and reshape language (Whorf, 1956:146).

### **Key Scholars and Works in Historical Semantics**

Semantically, several scholars have concentrated on studying the historical events that shape language. Each of these scholars have contributed greatly to the field of word meaning just as follows:

#### **a. Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913)**

The most influential figures in the development of linguistic theory is de Saussure. His works laid the foundation for understanding language as a system of signs that evolves over time. His seminal work *Course in General Linguistics* (1916) argued that the meaning of a word is not inherent but rather is shaped by the social context where it is used. So, the meanings of words are subject to change depending on the social and historical circumstances and surroundings. His theory of the linguistic sign was that of the "signifier" (the word itself) and the "signified" (the concept it represents) (Saussure, 1916:66).



### **b. Eric H. Lenneberg (1967)**

Lenneberg (1967:156) stated that the theory of the critical period for language development suggested that the social and the historical contexts play a tremendous role in shaping how individuals and societies develop and use language. As his research was on the biological bases of language, it informed us of the.

### **c. Jean Aitchison (2003)**

Significant insights into how words evolve have been concentrated on by Aitchison's studies in response to societal changes. In her book *Words in the Mind: An Introduction to the Mental Lexicon* (2003), she examined how word meanings are shaped by external, historical factors, such as mass media, wars, and political movements. Her work on "terrorism" post-9/11 illustrates how words get their new meanings during times of crisis, reflecting both political shifts and public sentiment (Aitchison, 2003:197).

### **d. Terence O'Neill (2009)**

Studying the historical semantics, O'Neill's research focuses on the effect of social and political changes on language. In his work *Semantics and Society*, he analyzed how words related to power, government, and identity have evolved in response to key historical events such as the Industrial Revolution, the emergence of capitalism, and the global spread of democracy. O'Neill argues that understanding these shifts is crucial for understanding the relationship between language and social order (O'Neill, 2009:114).

## **7. Data Analysis**

In this section, a detailed data analysis of the selected words will be conducted to examine how words and their meanings have evolved over time and connect these shifts to specific historical events. A combination of semantic change analysis, historical context analysis, and corpus linguistics techniques to provide insights will be used:

### **1. Revolution**

Historical Contextualization:

1. Pre-Revolutionary Usage: Historically, "revolution" was mostly associated with the movement of celestial bodies (from the Latin word *revolutio* meaning "a turnaround"). The term, during the French Revolution (1789), began to take on a more societal and political meaning, i.e., marking a shift in government or political system.
2. In the 19th century, revolution became closely associated with the overthrow of monarchies (e.g., Russian Revolution in 1917). The rise of socialist or communist ideologies. It was linked to class struggle.

3. In the 20th century, the term does include technological changes beside the political ones (e.g., Industrial Revolution) and social (e.g., Civil Rights Revolution) transformations.

### Meaning Evolution:

1. Early 17th century: the word "Revolution" referred primarily to cyclical or orbital motion.
2. Post-French Revolution (1790s): the word expanded to include the violent overthrow of a political system, with the concept of liberty, equality, and fraternity.
3. 20th century: the word included social revolutions and movements for human rights and social justice.

**Table (1) a sample of semantic change of *revolution* over time**

Word	Pre-18th Century	18th Century (Revolutions)	19th Century (Industrial Revolution)	20th Century (Civil Rights, Global Movements)	21st Century (Modern Usage)
<b>Revolution</b>	Astronomical movement; cyclical	Overthrow of political systems (French Revolution)	Social and political uprisings (Russian Revolution)	Global revolutions (Arab Spring, Civil Rights)	Wider context including technological revolutions

### Tools:

1. Oxford English Dictionary (OED): tracking how the definition of *revolution* has expanded in relation to political and social movements.
2. Google Ngram Viewer.

## 2. Freedom

### Historical Contextualization:

1. Pre-Revolutionary Usage: primarily in classical texts (e.g., Ancient Greece and Rome), *freedom* was about personal autonomy or the absence of enslavement.
2. American Revolution (1776): The meaning then included political autonomy and self-determination for colonies. It went hand in hand with the word *independence*.
3. Civil Rights Movements (1960s): The word included social freedom, encompassing racial equality, gender equality, and broader human rights. The idea of freedom means personal liberty that evolved embracing civil rights and social justice.



## Meaning Evolution:

1. 18th century: "Freedom" referred to personal autonomy and the absence of slavery or oppression.
2. Late 18th century - American Revolution: it included political freedom and self-governance.
3. 20th century - Civil Rights Movement: it encompassed social justice, racial equality, and human rights.

**Table (2) a sample of semantic change of *Freedom* over time**

Word	Pre-18th Century	18th Century (Revolutions)	19th Century (Industrial Revolution)	20th Century (Civil Rights, Global Movements)	21st Century (Modern Usage)
<b>Freedom</b>	Personal autonomy, absence of slavery	Political freedom, self-governance (American Revolution)	Political and economic freedom (labor movements)	Social freedom, civil rights (Civil Rights Movement)	Expanded to global freedom and economic liberty

## Tools:

1. Oxford English Dictionary (OED): tracking how the definition of *freedom* has expanded in relation to political and social movements.
2. Google Ngram Viewer.
3. **Terrorism**

## Historical Contextualization:

1. Pre-20th century: originally the word *terrorism* referred to the state-sponsored use of violence, particularly by revolutionary governments, the French Revolution's Reign of Terror.
2. Post-9/11 (2001): dramatically the term shifted to refer to non-state actors who use violence for political aims. It became associated with acts of violence aimed at civilians. It was linked to religious or ideological extremism.
3. Global War on Terror: The term becomes equal to *war on terror* since it has been framed within the context of international security and anti-terrorism measures, often leading to debates about human rights and civil liberties.

### Meaning Evolution:

1. 18th century: "Terrorism" referred to government-sponsored acts of terror.
2. 20th century: Evolved to include violent actions by non-state actors, especially after the 1960s and 1970s, associated with political and ideological violence.
3. 21st century (post-9/11): Refers primarily to violent acts by extremist groups, particularly those targeting civilians for political gain.

**Table (3) a sample of semantic change of *Terrorism* over time**

Word	Pre-18th Century	18th Century (Revolutions)	19th Century (Industrial Revolution)	20th Century (Civil Rights, Global Movements)	21st Century (Modern Usage)
Terrorism	Not a formal term	First coined during the French Revolution (Reign of Terror)	Associated with anarchist and revolutionary violence	Politically motivated violence (e.g., nationalist, ideological, state-based)	Expanded to include religious extremism, cyberterrorism, global security threats

### Tools:

1. OED: To track the historical changes in the usage and definition of "terrorism."
2. Google Ngram Viewer

### Citizenship

#### Historical Contextualization:

1. Pre-modern Usage: Citizenship referred to legal membership in a city-state or nation with privileges and duties that concern every member.
2. Post-American and French Revolutions: The term included the rights and responsibilities of individuals within a democracy represented by voting and civic participation.
3. Civil Rights Movements: Citizenship gained new meanings during the American Civil Rights Movement, women suffering and marginalized groups as far as equal rights and responsibilities are concerned.

### Meaning Evolution:

1. Pre-Revolutionary: The word referred to legal membership in a city-state or small political unit.
2. Post-Revolutionary: It included political rights and participation in government.

3. 20th century: it became associated with social justice, including gender, race, and economic rights.

**Table (4) a sample of semantic change of *Citizenship* over time**

Word	Pre-18th Century	18th Century (Revolutions)	19th Century (Industrial Revolution)	20th Century (Civil Rights, Global Movements)	21st Century (Modern Usage)
Citizenship	Linked to city-states or monarchy subjecthood	Redefined by Enlightenment thinkers; linked to nation-states	Extended rights for men; early suffrage debates	Civil rights struggles expand access (women, minorities)	Includes global citizenship, digital rights, and responsibilities

### Tools:

1. OED: To trace the expansion of *citizenship* from legal membership to democratic participation and civil rights.
2. Google Ngram Viewer.

## 5 Equality

### Historical Contextualization:

1. Early Context: Originally, equality meant the state of being equal. It was used in both religious and philosophical discussions as far as fairness and moral equivalence are concerned.
2. Post-Enlightenment: the word began to be linked to legal and political contexts, following the French Revolution and American Revolution.
3. Civil Rights Movements: it expanded to include social and economic equality, becoming central to discussions around race, gender, and economic status.

### Meaning Evolution:

1. Pre-18th century: primarily, it was a moral or philosophical concept, linked to ideas of fairness and justice.
2. 18th century (Enlightenment): it included legal and political equality.
3. 20th century: it was associated with broader social justice movements and struggles for racial, gender, and economic equality.

Table (5) a sample of semantic change of *Equality* over time

Word	Pre-18th Century	18th Century (Revolutions)	19th Century (Industrial Revolution)	20th Century (Civil Rights, Global Movements)	21st Century (Modern Usage)
Equality	Spiritual/moral equality (religious)	Political equality introduced (French & American Revolutions)	Class struggles highlight social and economic inequalities	Legal and civil equality movements (race, gender, disability)	Intersectionality, gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights, equity-focused policies

**jsgjTools:**

1. OED: To track how *equality* evolved from moral fairness to legal and social equality.
2. Google Ngram Viewer.

**6. Justice****Historical Contextualization:**

1. Ancient Context: primarily *Justice* referred to the legal system and fairness in legal judgments. It was used in Greek philosophy (e.g., Plato's *Republic*).
2. Post-Enlightenment: The concept of justice, during the Enlightenment, included individual rights, equality before the law, and social justice in the context of political governance. Particularly, it followed the French Revolution.
3. Civil Rights and Modern Justice Movements: In the 20th century, *justice* began to include social justice. It started addressing inequality, racial discrimination, and economic disparities. More specifically, it was influenced by the Civil Rights Movement.

**Meaning Evolution:**

1. Ancient: *Justice* was primarily a formal concept associated with the legal system and fairness.
2. Enlightenment (18th century): it included individual rights and political governance.
3. 20th century: it became tied to social justice, encompassing racial, gender, and economic equality, as well as human rights.
- 4.

**Table (6) a sample of semantic change of *Justice* over time**

Word	Pre-18th Century	18th Century (Revolutions)	19th Century (Industrial Revolution)	20th Century (Civil Rights, Global Movements)	21st Century (Modern Usage)
<b>J</b> <b>ustice</b>	Legal fairness, application of laws	Expansion to political and individual rights	Social justice, working-class rights (Industrial Revolution)	Civil rights, equality (Civil Rights Movement)	Global justice, economic justice, human rights

### Tools:

1. OED: To trace the expansion of "justice" from a legal concept to a broader, societal issue.
2. Google Ngram Viewer.

## 7. Poverty

### Historical Contextualization:

1. Pre-Industrial Revolution: **Poverty** was seen as an individual condition resulting from misfortune and / or lack of resources.
2. Industrial Revolution (19th century): it included class inequality and social conditions, particularly a growing working class living in substandard conditions, industrial capitalism.
3. Post-World War II: It came to be understood as a structural issue. It was linked to the economic systems and it was discussed in terms of welfare, development, and global inequality.

### Meaning Evolution:

1. Pre-Industrial Revolution: **Poverty** referred to individual destitution.
2. Industrial Revolution: It included economic inequality. It represented the rise of a working class.
3. 20th century: It became a global issue, tied to economic systems and international development.

**Table (7) a sample of semantic change of *Poverty* over time**

Word	Pre-18th Century	18th Century (Revolutions)	19th Century (Industrial Revolution)	20th Century (Civil Rights, Global Movements)	21st Century (Modern Usage)
Poverty	Seen as divine fate or moral failure	Emerging concern in Enlightenment ethics	Massive urban poverty due to industrialization	Development aid, welfare systems, and global campaigns	Linked to inequality, sustainable development, and SDGs

**Tools:**

1. OED: To trace the shift from individual *poverty* to systemic inequality.
2. Google Ngram Viewer.

**8. Humanitarianism****Historical Contextualization:**

1. Early Meaning: Initially, *humanitarianism* referred to charitable actions aimed at alleviating human suffering. it linked to religious missions.
2. Post-World War II: Following WWII, increasingly *humanitarianism* became associated with human rights and international law. Particularly, it became so after the formation of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
3. Modern Era: Today, *humanitarianism* is linked to humanitarian aid, global relief efforts, and the protection of civilians in conflict zones.

**Meaning Evolution:**

1. Early Usage: "*Humanitarianism*" was primarily associated with charity and altruistic aid.
2. Post-WWII: Expanded to include human rights and international relief.
3. Modern Era: Involves global interventions and the protection of human dignity through NGOs and international law.

**Table (8) a sample of semantic change of *Humanitarian* over time**

Word	Pre-18th Century	18th Century (Revolutions)	19th Century (Industrial Revolution)	20th Century (Civil Rights, Global Movements)	21st Century (Modern Usage)
Humanitarian	Rooted in religious	Enlightenment promotes reason-based	Rise of philanthropy and	Red Cross, UN, refugee aid, human	Global humanitarian interventions,



Word	Pre-18th Century	18th Century (Revolutions)	19th Century (Industrial Revolution)	20th Century (Civil Rights, Global Movements)	21st Century (Modern Usage)
	charity	compassion	organized charity	rights activism	disaster relief, climate response

Tools:

1. OED: To track the evolution of *humanitarianism* from charity to a global human rights framework.
2. Google Ngram Viewer.

## 9. Race

### Historical Contextualization:

1. Early Meaning: initially *race* was used as a social category to describe physical traits and justify slavery and colonialism.
2. 19th Century (Scientific Racism): it became a central concept in scientific racism, i.e., people were categorized into different racial groups and ranked hierarchically.
3. 20th Century: After World War II, it began to be understood as a social construct, with an increase of racial recognition and equality following movements like the Civil Rights Movement.

### Meaning Evolution:

1. Pre-19th Century: It was a social marker for physical characteristics. It was tied to slavery and colonialism.
2. 19th Century: It expanded into a pseudo-scientific framework just to categorize human beings.
3. 20th Century: It was recognized as a social construct used to maintain inequality, in the context of civil rights movements.

Table (9) a sample of semantic change of *Race* over time

Word	Pre-18th Century	18th Century (Revolutions)	19th Century (Industrial Revolution)	20th Century (Civil Rights, Global Movements)	21st Century (Modern Usage)
Race	Viewed through religious/tribal lenses	Pseudoscientific classifications emerge	Racist theories justify colonialism	Civil rights, anti-racism, postcolonial critique	Structural racism, identity politics,

Word	Pre-18th Century	18th Century (Revolutions)	19th Century (Industrial Revolution)	20th Century (Civil Rights, Global Movements)	21st Century (Modern Usage)
			and slavery		global movements (e.g., BLM)

### Tools:

1. OED: To track how *race* evolved from a biological concept to a social and political one.
2. Google Ngram Viewer.

## 10. Immigration

### Historical Contextualization:

1. Early Context: *Immigration* referred to the movement of labor across borders. It was existed for economic reasons, particularly during the Industrial Revolution.
2. Post-WWII: It expanded to include refugee status, asylum seekers, and human rights issues, particularly with the rise of UNHCR and global efforts to address migration crises.
3. Modern Usage: now it is widely discussed in terms of global migration, border control, and immigration reform, with debates over the effects of globalization.

### Meaning Evolution:

1. Pre-20th Century: it referred to economic migration across borders.
2. 20th Century (Post-WWII): it included refugees and asylum seekers.
3. Modern Era: it refers to broader global migration issues, including legal immigration and immigration policy.

**Table (10) a sample of semantic change of *immigration* over time**

Word	Pre-18th Century	18th Century (Revolutions)	19th Century (Industrial Revolution)	20th Century (Civil Rights, Global Movements)	21st Century (Modern Usage)
Immigration	Limited international movement	Political refugees begin to emerge	Mass migration to industrial cities and colonies	Post-war displacement, economic migration	Global refugee crises, border policies, migration rights debates

## Tools:

1. OED: To trace how the meaning of *immigration* expanded from labor migration to the broader context of human rights.
2. Google Ngram Viewer.

## Findings and Discussions

Following the analysis, the following findings have appeared:

1. As it has been said earlier, historical events shape language. It is meant that words considered in the analysis demonstrate significant changes in meaning as societies go through major upheavals. Words such as "freedom" and "justice" evolved from being legal or philosophical concepts to encompass broader political, social, and economic dimensions, particularly in the context of the Civil Rights Movement and gender equality struggles.
2. Language Reflects Ideological Shifts: The analysis showed how words were influenced by ideological shifts such as the rise of democracy and liberty in the 18th century or the expansion of social justice in the 20th century. This demonstrated the power of language to reflect and propagate social change. However, the study acknowledges the availability of digitized historical data, the subjectivity of interpreting semantic shifts, and the exclusion of non-textual sources. Despite these challenges, the findings underscore the importance of historical context in understanding the meanings of words and the ways in which language evolves with society. So, the ten tables above represent the data overtime, tracking how often each of the selected words appeared in a large corpus of texts (such as books, newspapers, or political speeches) during key historical periods. This will be particularly useful to understand which words gained prominence during certain events.

## 8. Conclusions and Recommendations

### a. Conclusions

The study of the semantic evolution of key words such as "revolution", "freedom", "empire", "justice", and others reveal how language functions as a mirror to societal and political transformations. Through the methods of semantic change analysis, historical context analysis, and corpus linguistics techniques, it is clear that words are not static; they shift in meaning and significance in response to historical events such as revolutions, wars, and social movements. In other words, this study demonstrated that the meanings of words are deeply interconnected with the historical, political, and social contexts. As historical events shape societies, they also reshape language. By studying the evolution of key terms, a deeper understanding of the ideologies and movements can be understood. Actually, it defined our shared history. The methodology employed provided a strong foundation for future

research in historical linguistics, offering a lens through which better understanding can be gained, the complex relationship between language and history.

### **b. Recommendations**

To enhance the understanding of language and its relationship to history, the following recommendations should be considered:

1. Expanding Data Sources, i.e. Future research should include a wider range of digitized historical texts.
2. Integrating qualitative analysis, i.e., considering corpus linguistics tools providing valuable quantitative data.
3. Exploring the role of social movements in Language Change, i.e. the impact of social movements—such as feminism and racial equality on language deserves further exploration.

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