

Comparative Analysis Of Polysemy And Homonymy In English

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Abstract

The study analyzes the semantic nature of polysemy, mechanisms of meaning development, and the role of metaphorical and contextual changes in expanding word meanings. It also investigates the types and formation of English homonyms from phonetic, historical, and morphological perspectives. The comparative analysis reveals the similarities and differences between polysemy and homonymy and highlights their functional role in communication and language economy. The research shows that both phenomena enrich the English lexical system and increase expressive possibilities in speech.

Keywords: lexicology, English language, semantic relations, polysemy, homonymy, lexical meaning, semantic analysis, vocabulary system.

Among the modern directions of linguistics, lexicology occupies an important place, because it studies the lexicon, the most active, most changing and most comprehensive layer of the language. The vocabulary of the language is a complex system closely related to the social development, culture, economic development, level of science and information exchange of the society. Lexicon is the most dynamic section of all units in the language. Because people use the most words in everyday communication, scientific process, technological fields, political and cultural spheres. Lexicology is not just a process of collecting words or compiling a dictionary, but a deep scientific direction that studies the origin, meaning, semantic structure, interaction, use in context, functional properties, and how words change over time. The vocabulary of the language is formed and changed in the historical process. The political, economic, cultural, scientific and technical processes taking place in social life directly affect the lexicon, as a result of which new words appear, some become obsolete, and some of them become meaning-expanding. Lexicology explains these processes and analyzes their internal mechanism. Lexicology is divided into general and private types. General lexicology studies general processes characteristic of all languages, for example, phenomena such as the semantic structure of the word, the transfer of meaning, the formation of polysemy, homonymy, synonymy, antonymy. Private lexicology studies the specific lexical system of a particular language. Lexicology in English focuses on processes specific to English: Germanic roots, romanic loanwords, neologisms, abbreviations, and new units related to the internet language. Another important area of lexicology is etymology, which studies the origin of words. Each word has its own history. In English, for example, conquests in historical stages, loanwords from Latin and French, words with Germanic roots are lexical layer shows complexity. Etymological studies are the basis for fully understanding the current meaning of the word and analyzing the process of its development. An important structural branch of lexicology is semasiology, which studies the meaning of words. Semasiology analyzes the meaning structure of words, methods of meaning transfer, connotative meaning, stylistic coloring and pragmatic aspects. The transfer of meaning causes the language to become richer, the formation of polysemy, and the words to change depending on the context. In English, the meaning of words in context is often determined based on the situation, not their grammatical form. This increases the importance of semantic analysis in language learning. In lexicology, the word has a dual essence: it is a unit of form and meaning. A form is a phonetic or graphic form, and a meaning is a concept,

idea, or image it represents. In English one form can express many meanings, as a result of which we face polysemy. In other cases, there are words that have the same form, but the meaning is completely different - this is a phenomenon of homonymy. Lexicology deals with the differentiation and interpretation of these complex semantic processes. Synonymy, antonymy, and paronymy also play an important role in the study of the vocabulary of a language. Synonyms are words that are close in meaning and increase the expressiveness of speech. Antonyms are units with opposite meanings, they clarify the idea and strengthen imagery. Paronyms are similar in form but have different meanings, which are especially confusing for learners. Lexicology systematically studies the interaction of these units. Vocabulary science is also important for understanding the internal structure of the lexical layer. He studies the theory and practice of lexicography, or lexicography, and the creation of dictionaries. Homonyms in English also actively participate in grammatical structures. The same spelling of verbs, nouns, adjectives or adverbs allows them to perform different tasks in the syntactic system. For example, in the process of conversion, the form is preserved when the noun becomes a verb or the verb becomes a noun, but the meaning and grammatical function change. This creates the appearance of formal homonymy. For example "bat - animal, baseball bat", "match - game, match". "At the night, a bat flew across the field just as the player picked up his bat to start the baseball game." "After the football match, he lit a match to see his way home in the dark." Since English is grammatically analytic, the lack of morphological distinguishing affixes causes such phenomena to become widespread. The content of the text may change or the artistic influence may be lost. From a linguistic point of view, homonyms also correspond to the principle of the economy of language. Instead of the appearance of redundant formal units in the language, creating different meanings from existing forms simplifies the speech process. English makes this principle very clear. Shape economy, phonetic contractions, and morphological traditions make language accessible for dynamic and global communication. A stylistic device common through homonyms - pun (word game) is very widely used in English. Advertising, comedy, dramaturgy, and even public political speeches contain jokes or ambiguous expressions based on homonyms. "Nothing runs like a Deere." under the - heading there is a comparison between animal's type and machine. Or "I used to be a baker, but I couldn't make enough dough." the comedy method was effectively used in homonymy. As an addition "Ask for me tomorrow, and you shall find me a grave man." the phrase has a mixed meaning of tragedy + comedy. Again "We must bridge the gap." the idea of solving the problem is put forward in the phrase used in public speech. Newspaper headlines often create short but attention-grabbing phrases through homonyms. For example: "Wealthy Widow Wins \$4 Million on Wheel of Fortune"

"fortune" = wealth and *popular TV show

"Local High School Dropouts Lower Enrollment" dropouts= dropout and student dropout. It increases the communicative efficiency of the language and attracts the audience. As the language continues to develop, new homonymous forms are emerging based on new technologies, social networks, and Internet culture. Also, simplification of pronunciation, new abbreviations are also causing the formation of new homonymous pairs. In the lexical system of language, polysemy and homonymy are close but content-different phenomena. While their overlap is due to the generality of the form, their differentiation relies on whether or not a semantic link exists. Therefore, the process of comparative analysis is carried out not only from the point of view of lexicology, but also from the basis of cognitive and psycholinguistic approaches. Polysemy is a natural result of the semantic richness and development of the language, in which different meanings of the same word have a semantic relationship with each other. In homonymy, however, the correspondence of form is random, and there is no semantic bond between meanings. This main difference clearly defines their linguistic nature and functional characteristics. "glass – eyewear, drinking vessel." "charge – to rush forward, price of goods." Polysemy is based on the processes of language economy, semantic expansion, metaphorical and metonymic migration. The meaning of a word expands in different

contexts to form an additional layer of meaning. This process corresponds to the natural development process of the language. Therefore, in the phenomenon of polysemy, the semantic network between meanings is clearly visible. The meanings of the words complement each other, they have a logical and historical connection with each other. In the phenomenon of homonymy, the meanings of words with the same form are developed independently. For example, the word “bank” comes from Spanish in the sense of financial institution, while “bank” in the sense of river bank comes from German. The form-equalization of these two words is caused by phonetic changes, and there is no semantic connection between them. Therefore, homonyms are considered as separate lexical units. In many meanings, meanings are studied as an internal organizational system of one word. In linguistics, this difference is usually determined by the etymological method. A comparative analysis between polysemy and homonymy also sheds light on the mechanisms of their semantic branching. In the process of polysemy, the main meaning of the word lives as a central theme, and additional meanings develop from this basis.

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