



**SPECIFIC FEATURES OF POLYSEMANTIC WORDS IN
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND THEIR VERBALIZATION IN
THE CONTEXT**

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Abstract: *The article is about Specific features of polysemantic words in the English language and their verbalization in the context. The importance of studying the phenomenon of polysemy is obvious because it is the object of confusion and provides a quantitative and qualitative growth of the language's expressive resources. It is extremely important to investigate the semantic changes in the system of meanings in the English language*

Keywords: *Lexicology, scientific definition of meaning, transference of meaning, linguistics, semantic change, semantic meaning, polysemantic word*

Аннотация: *Статья посвящена специфическим особенностям полисемантических слов в английском языке и их вербализации в контексте. Важность изучения феномена полисемии очевидна, так как она является источником лексической неоднозначности и играет ключевую роль в количественном и качественном обогащении выразительных средств языка. Чрезвычайно важно исследовать семантические изменения в системе значений английского языка.*

Ключевые слова: *лексикология, научное определение значения, перенос значения, лингвистика, семантическое изменение, семантическое значение, полисемантическое слово.*

INTRODUCTION



There are plenty of languages in the world. There are a lot of words in the language, and almost every (except scientific) word has 2 or more meanings. At the same time, context appeared. Only with the help of the context do we know which of the meanings is more suitable in that situation or text where we are or have. That is why it is necessary to study the polysemy and more importantly to know so many meanings of one word as it is possible. Definition Lexicology deals with words, word-forming morphemes (derivational affixes), and word-groups or phrases.

All these linguistic units may be said to have meaning of some kind: they are all significant and therefore must be investigated both as to form and meaning. The branch of lexicology that is devoted to the study of meaning is known as Semasiology. Words, however, play such a crucial part in the structure of language that when we speak of Semasiology without any qualification, we usually refer to the study of word meaning proper, although it is very common to explore the semantics of other elements, such as suffixes, prefixes, etc. is one of the most controversial terms in the theory of language.

METHODS

At first sight, the understanding of this term seems to present no difficulty at all - it is freely used in teaching, interpreting, and translation. The scientific definition of meaning however just as the definition of some other basic linguistic terms, such as word, sentence, etc., has been the issue of interminable discussions. Since there is no universally accepted definition of meaning we shall confine ourselves to a brief survey of the problem as it is viewed in modern linguistics both in our country and elsewhere.

The systems of meanings of polysemantic words evolve gradually. The older a word is, the better developed is its semantic structure. The normal pattern of a word's semantic development is from monosemy to a simple semantic structure encompassing only two or three meanings, with a further movement to an increasingly more complex semantic structure are two causes of the development of new meanings. First is the historical one: different kinds of changes in a nation's social life, in its culture, knowledge, technology, and arts lead to gaps appearing in



the vocabulary that beg to be filled. Newly created objects, new concepts, and phenomena must be named: word-building and borrowing foreign ones. New meanings can also be developed due to linguistic factors - the second cause. Linguistically speaking, the development of new meanings, and also a complete change of meaning, may be caused by the influence of other words, mostly synonyms process of development of a new meaning (or a change of meaning) is traditionally termed transference.

Some scholars mistakenly use the term “transference of meaning” which is a serious mistake. It is very important to note that in any case of semantic change, it is not the meaning but the word that is being transferred from one referent into another (from a horse-drawn vehicle into a railway car). The result of such a transference is the appearance of new meanings are two types of transference based on resemblance and contiguity type of transference is also referred to as linguistic metaphor. A new meaning appears as a result of associating two objects (phenomena, qualities, etc) due to their outward similarity. The noun eye, for instance, has for one of its meanings ‘hole in the end of a needle’ which also developed through transference based on resemblance meanings formed through this type of transference are frequently found in the informal strata of the vocabulary, especially in slang. A red-headed boy is almost certain to be nicknamed carrot or ginner by his schoolmates, and the one who is given to spying and sneaking gets the derogatory nickname of rat.

Both these meanings are metaphorical, though, of course, the children using them are quite unconscious of this fact type is linguistic metonymy. The association is based upon subtle psychological links between different objects and phenomena, sometimes traced and identified with much difficulty. The two objects may be associated together because they often appear in common situations, and so the image of one is easily accompanied by the image of the other; or they may be associated on the principle of cause and effect, of common function, of some material and an object which is made of it, etc. The Old English adjective glad meant “bright, shining” (it was applied to the sun, to gold and precious stones, to shining armor, etc.). the later



(and more modern) meaning “joyful” developed on the basis of the usual association (which is reflected in most languages) of light with joy.

The importance of studying the phenomenon of polysemy is obvious because it is the object of confusion and in order to provide a quantitative and qualitative growth of the language’s expressive resources. It is extremely important to investigate the semantic changes in the system of meanings in the English language. Theoretical problems of linguistic form and meaning relating to the progressive development of language have been attracted by scholars, philosophers and grammarians since the times of Plato and Aristotle. From those times sameness of meaning was not very easy to deal with but there seemed nothing inherently difficult about difference of meaning.

The situation is the same at present. Not only do different words have different meanings; but it’s also the case that the same word may have a set of meanings. This phenomenon is called polysemy. Polysemy is the ability of words to have more than one meaning and the words having several meanings are called polysemantic. Most words in English are polysemantic. Highly developed polysemy is one of the characteristic features of the English language system.

RESULTS

It should be mentioned that the wealth of expressive resources of a language largely depends on the degree to which polysemy has developed in the language. Sometimes people who are not fully informed in linguistic matters claim that a language is lacking in words if the need arises for the same word to be applied to several different phenomena. However, it is exactly the opposite: if each word is found to be capable of conveying at least two concepts instead of one, the expressive potential of the whole vocabulary increases two fold. Hence, a well-developed polysemy is a great advantage in a language.[1]

Lexical transformations are also caused by the necessity to concretize polysemantic words while translating. It is characteristic to the English language the availability of polysemantic words with widespread meaning. They can be nouns, adjectives and verbs, for example: thing, point, stiff; nice, fine, bad; to say, to go, to



come, to get. The term context comprises both the narrow or micro context and the wide or macro context. The narrow context implies a sentence or even a word combination, e.g.: bright star- very light star, bright day – shiny day, bright reply – clever answer; a bright boy – smart child. The following examples illustrate the importance of the context in translation. [5]

The example can be the verb “keep”. The first meaning is “to save” while another is “to continue”, keep speaking” means “continue speaking”. Another English word is “book”. a text reproduced and distributed (thus, someone who has read the same text on a computer has read the same book as someone who had the actual paper volume) to make an action or even a matter of record (e.g. "Unable to book a hotel room, a man sneaked into a nearby private residence where police arrested him and later booked him for unlawful entry.")

On the other hand, it should be pointed out that the number of sound combinations which human speech organs can produce is limited. Therefore, at a certain stage of language development, the production of new words by morphological means is limited as well, and polysemy becomes increasingly important for enriching the vocabulary. From this point, it must be clear that the process of enriching the vocabulary does not only consist merely of adding new words to it but also in the constant development of polysemy. The system of meanings of any polysemantic word develops gradually, mostly over the centuries, as more and more new meanings are added to old ones, or out some of them. So the complicated processes of polysemy development involve both the appearance of new meanings and the loss of old ones. Yet, the general tendency with the English vocabulary system at the modern stage of their history is to increase the total number of its meanings and in this way to provide for a quantitative and qualitative growth of the language's expressive resources. There are two causes of the development of new meanings.

First is the historical one: different kinds of changes in a nation's social life, in its culture, knowledge, technology, and arts lead to gaps appearing in the vocabularies which beg to be filled Newly created objects, new concepts, and



phenomena must be named: word building and borrowing foreign ones.[6] New meanings can also be developed due to linguistic factors - the second cause. Linguistically speaking, the development of new meanings, and also a complete change of meaning, may be caused through the influence of other words, mostly synonyms.

DISCUSSION

The process of development of a new meaning is traditionally termed transference. Some scholars mistakenly use the term "transference of meaning" which is a serious mistake. It is very important to note that in any case of semantic change, it is not the meaning but the word that is being transferred from one referent into another (from a horse-drawn vehicle into a railway car). The result of such transference is the appearance of new meaning.

Words often sign not of one but of several things. The linguistic mechanism works naturally in many ways to prevent ambiguity and provide the clue to distinguish the necessary meaning.[8] It's also important to take into consideration the significance of the context, linguistic or nonlinguistic; many ambiguities are never noticed because the various possible meanings are excluded by the situation. Important observations in this area of the vocabulary have been made by contextual, distributional and transformational analysis. The majority of the contributors have rightly appreciated the importance of a huge database in the form of meaning in the whole process of sense disambiguation of polysemantic words. In general, both English and Uzbek linguists examined polysemy, contrasted a range of approaches, and highlighted many unresolved problems in the theoretical understanding of polysemy and the present computational challenges. In essence, their works will be highly useful for those who are working in the area of polysemy and word sense disambiguation.

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