

On The Investigation Of Homonyms From The Structural-Semantic Point Of View In English

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ABSTRACT

Language is considered to be the main indicator of each nation's material and spiritual culture. It is directly related to the labor and social activities of people's. The developing and changing things that are seen in the world are immediately reflected in the language. The lexical layer of the language is constantly increasing and developing; new notions, and new names are need in the language day by day. The word is not considered to be only the source of investigation of linguistics, but also logic, psychology or philosophy. The word is dealt with in linguistics from the point of view of phonetics, lexis, etymology, word building, morphological, syntactical and stylistics. The words as the members of the language system are related to one another. There are also some inner relations among them in the sentences. The words and their meanings are connected in different groups, and these connections base on similarity and meaning. The changing of meanings of words depend on the inner laws of the languages, and the specific features of the language structure. Each language's dictionary content cover some layers of words relating to homonyms. The homonymy is meant to the a historical category and is considered to play a crucial role in the development of languages. It was derived due to the nature of the language; it has a long way of history and it has its own place in each language. Like the other categories of lexics, the meanings of homonyms which have a very important place in the semantic system of languages, can be clarified inside the sentences, texts, discourses, etc. The difficulties of homonyms are explained due to the fact that they have some similarities with the polysemy. It is a known fact that some homonyms have been derived from the polysemy. This process is observed to be realized relating to the fact that one meanings of the words of polysemy has been developing and being far away from its main meaning and becomes an independent word. The homonyms are used to occupy the places that reject each other. Because of this, the main function of homonyms such as different in meaning but similar in pronunciation are noticed.

Key words: homonymy, word, lexicology, meaning, context

INTRODUCTION

It is a known fact that the homonyms in each language can be distinguished from different points of view. To investigate the process of homonymy demands widely and detailed analyzes. It is noteworthy to state that the theory of homonymy in the languages of English, Russian, and Azerbaijan has its ancient process of being formed.

In modern linguistics the homonymy has been investigated by the linguists such as L.A.Bulachovski, S.O.Karsevcki, L.V.Sherba, A.I.Smirnitcki, O.S.Axmanova, N.M.Shanski, Y.S.Maslov, L.A.Novikov, M.I.Formina and others.

The process of homonymy has been accepted by the universe as the case of absolutely universal. It has been found its acceptance that the existence of homonymy in the language is considered to be definite and natural. It is necessary to underline that in some cases grammatical all forms of homonyms correspond to one another [Damirchizade 1962, p.12]. For instance: *scale (pul (bahqda), scale (nərdivan)*, etc. But in some cases the forms of homonyms

do nor correspond with each other such as *lie* (uzanmaq), *lie* (yalan danışmaq), *sea* (dəniz), *see* (görmək), etc.

According to its structure, the variation of homonyms creates demand for forming the classification of them. For the classification of homonyms it is necessary to define the semantic meanings of the words that are in the lexics system of the language. It is necessary to noteworthy that to perceive the meanings of some words and phrases in English, it is not sufficient to know their lexical meanings as well as to know their structures, but it is obligatory to know the semantic relationship among them [Arnold 1959, p.89]. While investigations it becomes clear that there are many materials due to the homonymy of words in English. The classification of homonyms has not been analyzed in those sources. In connection to this, the dictionaries dealing with homonyms in English published in England, Germany, Japan, etc. the classification of homonyms have not been touched upon and they have been compiled like the following [Krasikova 1994, p.100]:

<i>Know (bilmək)</i>	<i>no (yox, xeyir)</i>
<i>knows (bilir)</i>	<i>nose (burun)</i>
<i>knew (bilirdi)</i>	<i>new (təzə)</i>
<i>light (ışıq)</i>	<i>light (yüngül)</i>
<i>die (ölmək)</i>	<i>die (oyun zəri)</i>
<i>loaf (çörək çömbə)</i>	<i>loaf (avaraçılıq)</i>
<i>one (bir)</i>	<i>won (qalib gəldi)</i>
<i>I (mən)</i>	<i>eye (göz)</i>
<i>your (sənin)</i>	<i>yow (atın çapması), yore (ta qədim zamanlarda)</i>

As it is observed, the structure of homonyms in the dictionaries may be considered to be unsystematic.

The classification of English homonyms has been carried out by A.S.Smirnitiski basing on the materials of English. He distinguished the kinds of homonyms in English such as fully, partially, lexical, lexical-grammatical homonyms [Smirnitisky 1977, p.37].

This is crucial to highlight that the synchron aspect should be taken into account while classification of them. The diachronic aspect should not be forgotten either. In the diachronic plan, there is a lack of genetic connection in the ammonia, and the phonetic composition and pronounced eligibility in the synchronous phase, as a result of the changing words.

The similarity of pronunciation of words and their writings, variation of meanings and the belonging to the parts of speech must be considered to be crucial while classifying the homonyms [Ullmann 1951, p. 67]. The development of homonyms and the polysemy are related to different factors. The ways of their formation may be general and specific. The general factor refers to all languages. The specific factor refers to the inside rules of the languages. The homonyms are formed basing on the inside opportunities of the languages, but the process of homonymy should be observed with the connection of borrowings of words from other languages.

ANALYZES

The homonyms in English can be divided according to the homonymy characteristics of language units, the degree of completeness of homonym units, their origins, their morphological structures, and meanings [Menner 1986, p.11].

According to the ways of formation, homonyms can be parted like the following: 1) *According to their origin*.

It is necessary to state that homonyms are divided into two parts according to their origin:

- 1) the homonyms derived from one root;
- 2) the homonyms derived from various roots.

The homonyms derived from one root are called etiological-semantic homonyms, the latter is called historical homonyms. Etiological homonyms are observed to have different origins, the second one is considered to have some phonetic changing, and they have the same kind of pronunciation as well as they have the same graphic forms [Vinogradov 1975, p.57]. For instance: *Cotton* (pambıq) – *cotton* (razılaşmaq); *toast* (qızartmaq) – *toast* (sağlıq demək).

The semantic homonyms are derived as a result of having one or two meaning of one word separating from the main meaning and having an independent meaning separation. For instance: *wage* (zəhmət haqqı) – *wage* (döyüşə çağırış); *trust* (inam, etibar) – *trust* (etibar etmək); *kind* (cins, növ) – *kind* (məhriban), etc.

The next division of homonyms is considered to be according to *their ways of formation*. The homonyms are divided into two parts in this division. The first one is the homonyms which have been formed due to the inside opportunities of the language such as *long* (uzun) – *long* (asta, darıxdırıcı) – *long* (darıxmaq); *miss* (ötürmək) – *miss* (darıxmaq) and others. The second one covers the homonyms which have been formed through the words borrowed from other languages. The following can be given as examples: *staff* (taxta, çomaq) – *staff* (heyət); *iron* (ütü) – *iron* (zəncir, qandal); *air* (nəğmə) – *air* (hava) and others.

According to their structure, homonyms are distinguished like the following: *simple, derivative and compound*. The simple homonyms are formed either on the results of phonetic factors or on the result of the objective development of one word [Vinogradov 1975, p.44]. These are the words of the target language as well as the borrowings. For instance:

spring (bahar) – *spring* (bulaq), *air* (hava) – *air* (musiqi, nəğmə), *iron* (ütü) – *iron* (dəmir) – *iron* (qandal), etc.

The homonyms which have been formed from simple word formation are observed to be separated into two parts too [Menner 1986, p.12]. They are the following:

- 1) the words which are added to the end of simple word roots and they are used to develop the polysemy of these words and can have some independent meanings;
- 2) the words which have been homonymed due to adding to the roots of simple word roots.

The following examples can illustrate the first division such as *draw* - 1) daşımaq, dartmaq, 2) davam gətirmək, tablaşmaq, 3) şəkil çəkmək - *drawer* (stolun və ya komodun hərəkət qutusu), etc.

The examples of the second division such as *fair* 1) yarmarka, 2) xoşməramlı bazar, 3) sərgi - *fair* 1) gediş haqqı, 2) sərnəşin, 3) qida, azuqə, etc.

It is necessary to underline that the homonyms which are formed by adding to the simple word forms are small in number than the second division. The homonyms are derived from other words either in English or in Azerbaijan. These kinds of homonyms have some characteristics:

- a) the homonyms being formed by taking suffixes to the same word root. Forming these kinds of homonyms the suffixes are added to the same word root and they express the meanings which are not related to each other. The formed homonyms are easy to be

distinguished as they do not demand any careful historical investigation. They are formed on the results of word forming process. For instance: *earnest* (beh) – *earnest* (ciddi); *irons* (ütülər) - *irons* (müxtəlif dəmirələr), *mind* (ağıl) - *mined* (minalanmış), etc. [Galpern 1958, p. 78]

The compound homonyms are limited in number in comparison with simple and derivative ones. It shows their less usage in communication. For instance, the word *light* (yüngül) is used ordinary household lexics. Samples: *light armed*, *light face*, *light fingered*, *light foot* and others [Branys 1938, p.11].

The word *light* has its scientific and technical character though there is no reason to say that the literal meaning of this word has gone out of usage. It has a really small application area, but it is freely used in the design function and the name part of the news. For example: *light eyes*, *light blue*, *light blue eyes*, *light brown*, *light brown hair*, *light colored car*, *light grey eyes*, *light brown suit*, *dark suit with a little light line* and others [Baugh 1957, p.34].

Examples in sentences:

Though its skin was light in color, but it was known by everybody. (;
I suggested we should stay where we were till it was light;
We just slept and went on up when it was litght;
Each word she said was light;
Upstairs it was warm and light.

As it is seen in examples, these homonyms do not express the colors of eyes, hair, and the color of clothes. It has a wider meaning.

It attracts more attention to the complex compounds combined with clothing names. For example: *light grey suit* [Alekbərov 1985, 120] can express some misunderstanding. It does not help to understand which of these coherent words often comes from giving the word combination as a *light gray suit*, as well as *grassy*. For instance:

He wore a light grey suit that was travel wrinkled and stained \$. He carried the jacket over his shoulder.
His white shirt was open at the collar permitted so by pulling down the knot of his pale paisley tie.

DISCUSSIONS

As it has been mentioned above, the homonym words are the words which have various lexical meanings, yet their grammatical meanings are sometimes identical as well as different. Besides, they have the same phonetic constructions, they do not differ from their pronunciation and spelling.

A.Damirchizade gives such kind of definition to the homonyms. He writes: “they are the words which have the same voice pronunciation, but they are different from the meaning [Damirchizade 1962, p.12]. We consider it necessary to mention that the following definition for the homonyms may be more suitable than the above mentioned one: “Homonyms are words which are similar according to their phono-morphological aspect, yet they do not any relationship according to their lexical-semantic meanings” [Damirchizade 1962, p.12]. A.C. Baugh is known to be the one who stated some important news about the formation of homonyms, their kinds, and their signs in the Azerbaijan language [Baugh 1957, p. 211]. She is the author of the article named as “The ways of forming lexical homonyms in the Azerbaijan language”. The article highlights the opinions of great scientists about the homonymy such as

L.A.Bulachovski, V.V.Vinogradov, A.I.Smirnitski, A.A.Reformatski, R.A.Budagov, J.M.Galkina-Fedoruk and others. Most of the examples in this article are words that are not doubtful. It seems to us that the part of the speech can not be a sign of lexical harmony as the speech part is not a lexical category, it is a categorical-grammatical concept [Arnold 1959, p.59].

It seems to us that the part of the speech can not be a sign of lexical homonymy as the speech part is not a lexical category, it is a categorical-grammatical concept.

It is noteworthy to stress that in some languages the investigation of homonymy needs some kind of fully research. The homonyms are meant to be the smallest word groups in linguistic literature. According to the opinion of S.A.Abdullayev the homonyms mean the non-symmetric, non-conformable sense of word forms, they show more precisely, and inaccuracies in form [Alekberov 1985, p.88].

The term *homonymy* derived from two words 'homos', and 'onoma'. *Homos* means 'identical', *onoma* means 'name'. There are some kind of words in modern English they may be either an adverb, a preposition, a conjunction, or an adjective in the same form. For example: *in, on, by, after, before, since, all, only, but, just, about, above, below, down, neither* and others. The following may illustrate the homonymy of particles:

Parts of speech	Examples
The adverb	<i>simply</i> 'sadəcə' <i>exactly</i> 'dəqiqliklə' <i>too</i> 'olduqca' <i>but</i> 'yalnız' <i>just</i> 'ancaq' <i>never</i> 'heç'
The adjective	<i>only</i> 'yalnız' <i>just</i> 'sadə, təzəcə, yenicə' <i>even</i> 'hətta' <i>right</i> 'dəqiq, düz'
The pronoun	<i>either</i> 'hər, istənilən' <i>but</i> 'yalnız, ancaq'
The noun	<i>but</i> 'məhz, həmin'
The verb	<i>still</i> 'sakit dayanmaq'
The interjection	<i>never</i> 'heç'
The statives	<i>alone</i> 'yalnız, təkçə'
The conjunction	<i>but</i> 'lakin, amma, ancaq'
The preposition	<i>but</i> 'başqa'

Now let us observe some of them in the sentences:

1) Particles and adverbs:

- He simply does not understand us. (particle) 'O, sadəcə olaraq bizi başa düşmür'.*
I moved there quite simply. (adverb) 'Mən tamamilə sakit şəkildə oraya getdim'.
She behaved exactly how we told her. (particle) 'O, biz ona necə tapşırırdıq o cür hərəkət etdi'.
I knew exactly what I thought about them. (adverb) 'Mən onun barəsində nə düşündüyümü dəqiq bildim'.
My little son is lazy too. (particle) 'Mən balaca oğlum da tənbəldir'.
He is too lazy. (adverb) 'O, olduqca tənbəldir'.

She is but a child. (particle) 'O, sadəcə uşaqdır'.
Stay but and wait. (particle) 'Sadəcə dayan və gözlə'.
He is just the man I want to marry. (particle) 'O, sadəcə mənim evlənmək istədiyim kişidir'.
They have just left the room. (adverb) 'Onlar təzəcə otaqdan çıxıblar'.
He never came back. (particle) 'O, heç geri qayıtmadı'.
He has never been to London. (adverb) 'O, heç vaxt Londonda olmayıb'.
That will never be done (particle). 'Bu heç yerinə yetirilməyəcək'.

2) Particles and adjectives:

He has only two letters to send. (particle). 'Onun göndərmək üçün yalnız iki məktubu var'.
My little sister is the only child in our family (adjective). 'Mənim balaca bacım ailəmizdə yeganə uşaqdır'.
He is just about to leave (particle). 'O, sadəcə olaraq yola düşmək üzrədir'.
She is just a cook (adjective). 'O, sadəcə aşbazdır'.
She cannot even fry any potatoes (particle). 'O, hətta kartof belə qızartmağı bacarmır'.
He could not remember these even numbers on the door (adjective). 'O, qapının üzərindəki hətta bu yeni nömrələri belə yadında saxlamağı bacarmadı'.
He is facing it all (particle). 'O, onların hamısı ilə üzləşir'.
I am right (adjective). 'Mən haqlıyam'.
It is not simply terrible (particle). 'Bu sadəcə olaraq dəhşətli deyildir'.
There is still more good news (particle). 'Hələ də daha yaxşı xəbərlər vardır'.
He knows French too (particle). 'O, da fransız dilini bilir'.
The problem is too difficult (adverb). 'Problem olduqca çətinidir'.
That will never be done (particle). 'Bu heç yerinə yetirilməyəcək'.
I have never been here (adverb). 'Mən heç vaxt burada olmamışam'.
They are living simply and honestly (adverb). 'Onlar sadə və şərəfli yaşayırlar'.
Does he still live in this hotel? (adverb) 'O, hələ də bu mehmanxanada yaşayır?'
It is my duty to behave so, that is why we have no buts about you (noun). 'Belə davranmaq mənim borcumdur, bu səbəbdən də bizim sənə barəndə heç bir lakinlərimiz yoxdur'.
He can but try again (adverb). 'O, yenidən lakin bir dəfə də cəhd edə bilər'.
He looked at me carefully, but he said no word to me (conjunction). 'O, diqqətlə mənə baxdı, lakin mənə heç bir kəlmə də etmədi'.
He has but one problem (particle). 'Onun yalnız bir problemi var'.
I have nothing but trouble with you (preposition). 'Mənim sənənlə problemdən başqa heç bir işim yoxdur'.

3) Particles and pronouns:

Give me a pencil or a pen. Either will do (pronoun).
You must not go to the party, either (particle). 'Sən də məclisə getməməlisən'.
She is but eight years old (particle). 'Onun sadəcə səkkiz yaşı var'.
There is no one but heard it (pronoun). 'Bu barədə eşidən kimsə yoxdur'.

4) Particles, nouns:

I am but a teacher (particle). 'Mən sadəcə müəlliməm'.
Do not use these ifs and buts, please (noun). 'Zəhmət olmasa bu əgərləri və lakinləri istifadə etmə'.

5) Particle, Verb:

Today we will work with still greater energy (particle). 'Bugün də biz hələ daha güclü enerji ilə işləyəcəyik'.

She cannot still the baby (verb). 'O, uşağı sakitləşdirməyi bacarmır'.

6) Particle, Interjection:

I will say never a sentence (particle). 'Mən heç bir cümlə belə deməyəcəyəm'.

He will eat the whole plate of cakes! - Never! (nida). 'O, bütöv bir boşqab keksi yeyəcək! - Əsla!'

7) Particle, stative:

He alone will he help us (particle). 'O, təkə bizə kömək edəcək'.

Will you do it alone? (stative) 'Sən bunu tək edəcəksən?'

8) Particle, conjunction:

He is but a man (particle). 'O, sadəcə adamdır'.

He was there, but he did not look at me (conjunction). "O, orada idi, lakin mənə baxmadı.

9) Particle, preposition:

He said but one letter of the sentence (particle). 'O, cümlənin yalnız bir hərfini dedi'.

The shop is open but Sunday (preposition). 'Mağaza bazar dünündən başqa hər gün açıq olur'.

Each of these words in the sentences used as different parts of speech such as as an adverb, a particle, an adjective, a conjunction, an interjection, a noun, a verb, etc. depend on their usage in the sentence and their syntactic functions. For instance, the word *after* can be used as an adjective, an adverb, a preposition, and a conjunction depending on the situation in the sentences. Let us see the following examples:

- 1) After leaving secondary school the pupils can either go to work or enter the university (preposition);
- 2) That was in 1995. Soon after, we heard that he had already died. After dinner I sat down and waited for my daughter (preposition);
- 3) After you have finished with this work ring me up (conjunction);
- 4) You speak first; I'll speak after (adverb).

Though homonyms are very similar to one another there is not any close sense of proximity in their meanings. They *denote* the meanings which are considered to be unrelated and they are used as different parts of speech in the sentences depending on the context. That is why homonyms are observed to be difficult for non-native speakers.

CONCLUSION

The homonyms are words which can be meant to be the same according to their voice construction and pronunciation, yet they are different in their meanings. The homonyms are also meant to be words which are different from their lexical meanings, though they are identical according to their grammatical meanings. They are different but include the same phonetic structure; they do not differ from their pronunciation and spelling. The lexical homonymy refers to all kinds of languages over the world. The lexical homonymy of words can be explained as the result of psychological associations. These associations are pointed out by human beings in the same environment as things in the environment, and humans try to reflect this environment as well as this identity in his/her speech, or communication. English experts

refer to the traditional meaning of the homonyms and call the words that are appropriate for their meaning, and the words that are exactly the same as their pronunciation. The words are meant to be full homonyms which are identical due to their spelling as well as their pronunciation. While investigating it was obvious that some linguists refer the homonyms to the layer of homonyms, and consider them as lexical-grammatical homonymy. But our opinion is that the homonyms must be taken as a separate word group. There are some abbreviations that can form homonyms and most of them form military terms. These kinds of terms are often used in the military documents of USA. The homonymy captures most parts of English lexicology, and their usage systematically is necessary. It is necessary to stress that the number of homonyms that differ from their stress cannot be found much. They differ only from their pronunciation.

There are four kinds of homonyms. They are: lexical, lexical-grammatical, grammatical, and mixed.

The lexical homonyms can be defined according to their nominative meaning and syntactic signs. They are the occurrences formed by the occurrence of sound forms by chance as a result of the historical development of words of different origin which are not related to one another, and the origin of one of the most common words. The words which can be used as different parts of speech and differ from one another due to their grammatical meanings are used as lexical-grammatical homonyms.

The lexical-grammatical homonyms are identical due to their pronunciation and spelling though their components refer to different parts of speech. They have general signs, but they also carry their own formal aspects too. The lexical-grammatical homonymy of the various parts of speeches is related not only to the formalities they mean, but also to the uniformity of the form, to the diversity of roots, etc.

Homonyms may be fully and partially. The fully homonyms refer to the same part of speech and they are identical in all forms. The partially homonyms refer to different parts of speech, and they have the same roots, but they differ from the signs that are added to them later. In other words, the fully homonyms are the words that have half of the words or most of the forms of the word correspond to one another.

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