



USAGE OF SYNONYMS IN COMMUNICATION

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ABSTRACT

The article deals with the classification and differentiations of synonyms. This article includes information of synonyms, and their structures. In lexicology, synonyms are words or phrases with similar meanings. They are an integral part of language and play a significant role in enriching vocabulary, enabling diverse expression, and facilitating effective communication.

Key words: Synonyms, synonymic dominant, interchangeability, denotational and connotational components of synonyms.

English word-stock is extremely rich in synonyms which can be largely accounted for by abundant borrowing. Quite a number of words in synonymic sets are usually of Latin or French origin. For instance, out of thirteen words making up the set see, behold, descry, espy, view, survey, contemplate, observe, notice, remark, note, discern, perceive only see and behold can be traced back to Old English (OE. seon and behealdan), all others are either French or Latin borrowings. Thus a characteristic pattern of English synonymic sets is the pattern including the native and the borrowed words. Among the best investigated are the so-called double-scale patterns: native versus Latin (e.g. bodily — corporal, brotherly — fraternal); native versus Greek or French (e.g. answer — reply, fiddle — violin). In most cases the synonyms differ in their stylistic reference, too. The native word is usually colloquial (e.g. bodily, brotherly), whereas the borrowed word may as a rule be described as bookish or highly literary (e.g. corporal, fraternal).

Synonymy is the coincidence in the essential meaning of words which usually preserve their differences in connotations and stylistic characteristics. Synonyms are two or more words belonging to the same part of speech and possessing one or more identical or nearly identical denotational meanings, interchangeable in some contexts. These words are distinguished by different shades of meaning, connotations and stylistic features.

The synonymic dominant is the most general term potentially containing the specific features rendered by all the other members of the group. The words face,



visage, countenance have a common denotational meaning "the front of the head" which makes them close synonyms. Face is the dominant, the most general word; countenance is the same part of the head with reference to the expression it bears; visage is a formal word, chiefly literary, for face or countenance. In the series leave, depart, quit, retire, clear out the verb leave, being general and most neutral term can stand for each of the other four terms. One must bear in mind that the majority of frequent words are polysemantic and it is precisely the frequent words that have many synonyms. The result is that a polysemantic word may belong in its various meanings to several different synonymic groups. Kharitonchic Z. gives the example of 9 synonymic groups the word part enters as the result of a very wide polysemy: 1) piece, parcel, section, segment, fragment, etc; 2) member, organ, constituent, element, component, etc; 3) share, portion, lot; 4) concern, interest, participation; 5) allotment, lot, dividend, apportionment; 6) business, charge, duty, office, function, work; 7) side, party, interest, concern, faction; 8) character, role, cue, lines; 9) portion, passage, clause, paragraph.

The semantic structures of two polysemantic words sometimes coincide in more than one meaning, but never completely. L. Bloomfield and E. Nida suppose even that there are no actual synonyms, i.e. forms which have identical meanings. In a great number of cases the semantic difference between two or more synonyms is supported by the difference in valency. An example of this is offered by the verbs win and gain both may be used in combination with the noun victory: to win a victory, to gain a victory. But with the word war only win is possible: to win a war.

Criteria of synonymy is interchangeability. It should be pointed out that neither the traditional definition of synonyms nor the new version provide for any objective criterion of similarity of meaning. It is solely based on the linguistic intuition of the analyst.

Recently there has been introduced into the definition of synonymy the criterion of interchangeability in linguistic contexts that is synonyms are supposed to be words which can replace each other in a given context without the slightest alteration either in the denotational or connotational meaning. But this is possible only in some contexts, in others their meanings may not coincide, e.g. the comparison of the sentences "the rainfall in April was abnormal" and "the rainfall in April was exceptional" may give us grounds for assuming that exceptional and abnormal are synonyms. The same adjectives in a different context are by no means synonymous, as we may see by comparing "my son is exceptional" and "my son is abnormal" (B. Quirk, the Use of English, London 1962, p. 129) Peace and tranquillity are ordinarily



listed as synonyms, but they are far from being identical in meaning. One may speak of a peace conference, but not tranquillity conference. (E.Nida, The Descriptive analysis of words).

Using synonyms in communication.

Here's a simple dialogue using synonyms:

Amy: Hi, Tom! How was your day?

Tom: It was **great**, Amy! I had a **fantastic** day exploring the city.

Amy: That sounds **wonderful**! Did you visit any **interesting** places?

Tom: Yes, I went to the museum, and it was absolutely **fascinating**. There were so many **captivating** exhibits.

Amy: I've heard that the museum is really **engaging**. Did you see any **remarkable** artifacts?

Tom: Definitely! I saw some **extraordinary** relics from ancient civilizations. It was truly **captivating**.

Amy: It sounds like you had an **amazing** time. Maybe I'll join you next time.

Biz bu dialogni o'zbek tiliga tarjima qilganimizda mana bunday ko'rinishda bo'ladi:

Amy: Salom, Tom! Kuningiz qanday o'tdi?

Tom: Ajoyib bo'ldi, Amy! Men shaharni o'rganib chiqdim va ajoyib kun o'tkazdim.

Amy: Bu juda ajoyib! Siz qiziqarli joylarga bordingizmi?

Tom: Ha, men muzeyga bordim va juda qiziqarli bo'ldi. Bu yerda ajoyib ko'rgazmalar bor edi.

Amy: Men bu muzey juda qiziqarli ekanligini eshitgandim. Siz qiziqarli qimmatbaho narsalarni ko'rdingizmi?

Tom: Albatta! Men qadimgi rivojlanishdagi g'ayrioddiy ko'rgazmalarni ko'rdim. Bu haqiqatan ham jazibador edi.

Amy: Sizning vaqtingiz judayam ajoyib o'tibdi. Ertaga men ham balkim sizga qo'shilarman.

Classification of Synonyms

According to whether the difference is in denotational or connotational component synonyms are classified into ideographic and stylistic. Ideographic synonyms denote different shades of meaning or different degrees of a given quality. They are nearly identical in one or more denotational meanings and interchangeable at least in some contexts, e.g. beautiful - fine - handsome -pretty Beautiful conveys, for instance, the strongest meaning; it marks the possession of that quality in its



fullest extent, while the other terms denote the possession of it in part only. Fineness, handsomeness and prettiness are to beauty as parts to a whole. In the synonymic group choose, select, opt, elect, pick the word choose has the most general meaning, the others are characterised by differences clearly statable: select implies a wide choice of possibilities (select a Christmas present for a child), opt implies an alternative (either this, or that as in Fewer students are opting for science courses nowadays); pick often implies collecting and keeping for future use (pick new words), elect implies choosing by vote (elect a president; elect smb (to be) chairman).

Stylistic synonyms differ not so much in denotational as in emotive value or stylistic sphere of application. Literary language often uses poetic words, archaisms as stylistic alternatives of neutral words, e.g. maid for girl, bliss for happiness, steed for horse, quit for leave. Calling and vocation in the synonymic group occupation, calling, vocation, business are high-flown as compared to occupation and business. In many cases a stylistic synonym has an element of elevation in its meaning, e.g. face - visage, girl - maiden. Along with elevation of meaning there is the reverse process of degradation: to begin - to fire away, to eat - to devour, to steal - to pinch, face - muzzle. According to the criterion of interchangeability in context synonyms are classified into total, relative and contextual.

Total synonyms are those members of a synonymic group which can replace each other in any given context, without the slightest alteration in denotative meaning or emotional meaning and connotations. They are very rare. Examples can be found mostly in special literature among technical terms and others, e.g. fatherland motherland, suslik - gopher, noun - substantive, functional affix - flexion, inflection, scarlet fever - scarlatina

Relative Synonyms. Some authors class groups like ask - beg - implore, or like - love - adore, gift - talent - genius, famous - celebrated - eminent as relative synonyms, as they denote different degree of the same notion or different shades of meanings and can be substituted only in some contexts. Contextual or context - dependent synonyms are similar in meaning only under some specific distributional conditions. It may happen that the difference between the meanings of two words is contextually neutralised, E.g. buy and get would not generally be taken as synonymous, but they are synonyms in the following examples: I'll go to the shop and buy some bread. I'll go to the shop and get some bread. The verbs bear, suffer, stand are semantically different and not interchangeable except when used in the negative form: I can't stand it, I can't bear it. One of the sources of synonymy is borrowing. Synonymy has its characteristic patterns in each language. Its peculiar



feature in English is the contrast between simple native words stylistically neutral, literary words borrowed from French and learned words of Greco-Latin origin. Native English: to ask, to end, to rise, teaching, belly. French Borrowings: to question, to finish, to mount, guidance, stomach. Latin borrowings: to interrogate, to complete, to ascend, instruction, abdomen. There are also words that came from dialects, in the last hundred years, from American English, in particular, e.g. long distance call AE - trunk call BE, radio AE - wireless BE.

In conclusion, synonyms in lexicology play a vital role in language and communication. They help us express ourselves more precisely, providing alternative words to convey similar meanings. Learning about synonyms expands our vocabulary and enables us to choose the best words for different contexts. Understanding synonyms allows us to avoid repetition, making our writing and speech more engaging and varied. It also enhances our comprehension by exposing us to multiple ways of expressing an idea. Utilizing synonyms demonstrates our command of language and adds depth to our expression. Exploring and becoming familiar with synonyms can be an enjoyable and enriching experience. Recognizing synonyms contributes to effective communication, empowering us to articulate our thoughts with nuance. In summary, synonyms are valuable linguistic tools that amplify the expressiveness and effectiveness of our language use.

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ГОУ ВПО «Татарский государственный гуманитарно-педагогический университет»английского языка. Учебное пособие для студентов иностранных языков. —

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