

TYPES OF SEMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN WORDS (AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE PHENOMENON OF SYNONYMY)

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10605206>

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Abstract

This article discusses the phenomenon of synonymy from the types of semantic relations between words, and issues of its classification.

Key words

Synonymy, denotative meaning, absolute synonyms, semantic synonyms, ideographic synonyms, emotional-expressive synonyms, stylistic synonyms, emphatic, passive synonyms, dominant, nominative seme, task seme.

The word is the basic unit of language, which has its own meaning and form. When a word is created, it has its own sound structure and a specific meaning. A.Xojiyev writes: "A word is a minimal basic unit of speech (language) that has its own sound form and can express various grammatical meanings and functions, as well as convey the concept of objective things or phenomena, their interrelationships or mutual relations."¹¹⁸

In reality, the form of a word consists of speech sounds or a complex of speech sounds. The concept or situation, action or state, or a sign is first formed, and then a complex of sounds is chosen to express it. This sound complex, in the form of a word, can convey the meaning of that word.

Words have two types of relationships with each other: paradigmatic and syntagmatic. In paradigmatic relationships, when viewed from a certain topic, words are divided into groups within the subject domain based on their lexical meanings. For example, verbs are divided into groups such as movement-action, observation, interaction, perception, imitation, and depiction.

In terms of lexical meanings, words are classified into groups based on their semantic similarity and opposition in linguistic analysis within the paradigmatic relationship.

¹¹⁸ Xojiyev. Lingvistik terminlarning izohli lug'ati. – T. : 1985. – B.81.

When words have the same meaning, it is called synonymy, and when they have opposite meanings, it is called antonymy. Synonymy, derived from the Greek word "synonimia," refers to having the same name. Units of language (words, expressions) having the same denotative meaning are considered synonyms¹¹⁹. Synonymy arises in the relationship between more than one word in terms of their lexical meanings. Synonyms are different words that have the same denotative meaning, connotative meaning (additional shades of meaning, stylistic nuances), and other characteristics.

For example, in English: **beautiful**, handsome, pretty, good-looking; big, large, huge;

In Uzbek: **yuz**, aft, bashara, chehra, oraz, jamol, ruxsor.

- She is so **beautiful** girl I need.

- She is not beautiful, but she is **attractive**.

In the above example, "beautiful" and "attractive" are synonymous, with "beautiful" being a neutral word and "attractive" having a stronger stylistic connotation. The connotative level of meaning is more powerful in the word "attractive" compared to "beautiful."

Synonyms can be characterized by having the same or similar meanings in the language. They can be classified into two categories:

1. Absolute synonyms
2. Semantic synonyms

Absolute synonyms refer to words that are exactly the same in every aspect. In some cases, synonyms based on the same meaning relationship are referred to as absolute synonyms, while in other cases, they are called semantic synonyms.

For example, in English: **big** and **large**

In Uzbek: **checha** and **qadoq**

Semantic synonyms are characterized by having more than one meaning relationship based on the same similarity. They are not considered absolute synonyms in linguistic studies, and in order to differentiate them from absolute synonyms, they are referred to as "closely related words with similar meanings." This is because in semantic synonyms, the words are not exactly the same in terms of their lexical meanings. These lexical meanings differ in terms of emotional-expressive nuances and their suitability for different styles.

For example, the adjective "beautiful" in English has the following words considered as synonyms: nice, sweet, attractive, lovely, bright, fair, pretty,

¹¹⁹ A.Xojiyev. Lingvistik terminlarning izohli lug'ati. – T. : 1985. – B.75.

handsome, comely, fine, elegant, graceful, brilliant, magnificent, picturesque, angelic, pure, ideal, heavenly, unearthly, paradisiac, glorified, good-looking¹²⁰

Synonymous words form a semantic series. However, this semantic series cannot be considered as a complete synonymic series. A group of two or more words that have the same meaning based on the core meanings is called a synonymous series, and they are considered as variations of the same lexical meanings.

It is important to emphasize that there are certain conditions for two or more words to be considered synonymous. One of these conditions is that the different pronunciations or phonetic structures of the words should be present¹²¹.

Semantic synonyms can be categorized into several types based on their distinguishing characteristics:

1. Ideographic synonyms: These are semantic synonyms in which the lexical meaning of the words in their composition differs in terms of expressive volume. For example, the words **barg** and **yaproq** both have the lexical meaning of a plant's respiratory organ. However, the lexical meaning of "yaproq" is used specifically for larger, perennial plants, while the lexical meaning of "barg" is used for all plants. Therefore, "terak yaprog'i" and "terak bargi" are synonymous, but "rayhon bargi" is not equivalent to "rayhon yaprog'i."¹²² The lexical meaning of "yaproq" has a broader expressive volume compared to "barg."

2. Emotive-expressive synonyms: These synonyms have exactly the same lexical core meaning but differ in their pragmatic or emotive-expressive meaning.

For example, in English, **laugh** and **smile**, in Uzbek, words like **jilmaymoq**, **iljaymoq**, **ishshaymoq**, **irshaymoq**, **tirjaymoq** can be part of a semantic synonym series.

3. Stylistic synonyms: These synonyms have the same lexical core meaning but differ in their association with a specific social context.

For example, **yashirin**, **maxfiy**, **pinhon**, **xufiya**, **bekitiqcha**, and **yopiq** form a synonymic series that is associated with different social registers. They are adjectives that belong to a specific lexical meaning and are considered synonyms based on their "unknown and undisclosed" meaning.

- **Yashirin** is a general term that applies to all aspects of the lexical meaning.

- **Maxfiy** is used only in formal and official speech.

¹²⁰ A.Haydarov, "Beautiful" sifatini tushuntirishda yangi pedagogik texnologiyalardan foydalanish usullari. // Tilshunoslik va metodika masalalari. – T. "Muharrir". 2005. – B.112-115.

¹²¹ Haydarov A. Konnotativ ma'noning fonetik vositalarda ifodalanishi. Nomzodlik dissertatsiyasi avtoreferati. – T. : 2009. – B.14.

¹²² M.Mirtojiyev. O'zbek tili semasiologiyasi. – T. : "Mumtoz so'z". 2010. – B.46.

- **Pinhon** is a word specific to literary literature.
- **Xufiya** is a word belonging to the lexicon of secret circles.
- **Bekitiqcha** is used only in lively language and is not used in literary or formal language.
- **Yopiq** is a word that is used with the same lexical meaning but is specifically used in simple and straightforward language or lively speech.

In addition to the aforementioned synonyms, there are also emphasized and rare synonyms.

Semantic synonyms with emphasis are exactly the same in terms of the lexical core meaning but differ in the emphasis placed on a specific core meaning. The words in the synonymic series in terms of the lexical core meaning are characterized by the same core meaning, but the emphasis placed on those core meanings varies.

For example, in English: "to look," "to stare," "to glance," "to peep"

In Uzbek: "boqmoq," "qaramoq," "ko'rmoq"

These words in the synonymic series have the lexical core meaning of "directing one's gaze towards an object," "holding," "perceiving."

Rare synonyms are exactly the same in terms of the lexical core meaning, but a specific word in the synonym differs due to a certain reason. The main reason is related to the obsolescence or dialectal usage of the word.

For example, the synonyms for the word "piyoz" in usage are "so'g'on" and for the word "nerv" it is "asab."

In addition to this, synonyms in terms of lexical items have the same core meanings, but differ in expressive meanings.

For example, in the lexical items "yuz", "aft", "bashara", "turq", the core meanings are the same: "the front part of a person's head," "from the forehead to the chin." But the expressive meanings are specific to each lexical item. In other words, the visual perspective is different in each lexical item.

In summary, the expressive meanings of lexical items vary. Some of them are:

- 1) Positive or negative evaluation or attitudinal meanings;
- 2) Semantic meanings indicating the period of usage: "old," "new," "very new," "archaic," "historical";
- 3) Semantic meanings indicating the scope of usage: "specific to poetry," "specific to conversation," "literary," "colloquial," and others.

When analyzing the corresponding semantic series in both languages, one of them becomes the dominant lexical item. Its characteristics are as follows:

1. The content of the dominant lexical item is more encompassing compared to other lexical items.

For comparison: In Uzbek, "chiroyli," "go'zal," and "suluv";

In English, "beautiful," "attractive," and "pretty" are synonyms.

In the Uzbek language, the lexical item **chiroyli** does not have the same degree of intensity as the lexical items "go'zal" and "suluv". Similarly, in English, it is difficult to find an equivalent for the degree of intensity found in "beautiful" within the synonyms "attractive" or "pretty."

2. The dominant lexical item is used more widely and frequently in comparison to other synonymous lexical items.

For example, in the synonymic series such as "terrible," "awful," "horrible," "horried," "horror," the dominant lexical item **terrible** stands out in terms of its wide and frequent usage.

3. Due to its possession of an unspecified expressive meaning, the dominant lexical item can be substituted with its synonyms at any time.

4. Only the dominant lexical item enters the paradigm of a larger system to which the semantic series belongs. For example, in the lexical group "body parts," the dominant lexical item "yuz" forms a paradigm with other lexical items such as **quloq, burun, lab, qosh, peshona**. Other lexical items with specified expressive meanings cannot enter the higher paradigm because they lack neutrality. It is worth noting that the paradigm of semantic series is always open.

In conclusion, the analyses indicate that semantic synonyms can be categorized into five types. Ideographic synonyms differ in their breadth of expression compared to the first or second lexical item, emotive-expressive synonyms differ in their emotional or expressive meanings, stylistic synonyms differ in their suitability for different styles of speech, emphatic synonyms differ in their emphasis on various aspects of meaning, and rare synonyms differ from each other due to archaic or dialectal usage. One of the lexical items in the semantic series becomes the dominant lexical item in the group, and its main characteristic is its ability to be substituted with any synonym within the synonymous series.

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