

## THE FEATURES OF POLYSEMANTIC VERBS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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### ABSTRACT

This article discusses the peculiarities of polysemantic verbs in the language and gives some examples for it. Furthermore, it discusses the benefits of the polysemantic verbs.

**Keywords:** Polysemy, verb, language, linguistic feature

### INTRODUCTION

Language is defined as a human system of communication that uses various signals, such as voice, sounds, gestures, or written symbols. Frankly speaking, language is far too complicated, intriguing, and mysterious to be adequately explained by a brief definition. The main function of the language is to carry meaning. Most of the problems in linguistic science are intimately bound to question of semasiology and call for scientific analysis of communication in words.

We have the full ground to approve that many linguists have added their invaluable contribution to studying the various properties of polysemantic words used in the language with great frequency. (For more detail see: A. I. Smirnitsky, I.V. Arnold, V.G. Gak, O. S.Akhmanova, R.S Ginsburg, S. S. Khidekel, G. Yu. Knyazeva, A. N. Ivanov, A. N. Koonin, N.N. Belyaevskaya, N. D. Arutyunova, Y. D. Apresyan, Ye. S. Kublyakova, D.U. Ashurova, M. I. Rasulova, J. Lyons, J. Lakoff, R. Lakoff, J. Palmer, M. Baker, S. Levinson, W. Chafe and many others.) Their researches have created important theoretical preconditions for the analyses of the semantic structure of the words in the modern English.

### LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

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 different words have different meanings; 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 of English are polysemantic. Highly developed polysemy is one of the characteristic features of the English language system. 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, in actual fact, 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.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Lexical transformations are also caused by necessity to concretize polysemantic word while translating. It is characteristic to English language the availability of polysemantic words with wide spread 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 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. 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 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 development of new meanings. First is the historical one: different kinds of changes in a nation's social life, in its culture, knowledge, technology, 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. 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 of synonyms.

## CONCLUSION

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. It's also important to take into consideration the significance of the context, linguistic or non-linguistic; 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, and 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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