

Functional Characteristics of Synonyms in English and Uzbek Languages

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ABSTRACT

This article defines the concept of synonymy and lists the views and theories of various linguists. Functional characteristics of synonyms in Uzbek and English were analyzed and conclusions were drawn based on them.

In dealing with the problems of synonymy, Uzbek linguistics has gained a lot of experience, and various volumes of research have been created in this regard. The first views on the phenomenon of synonymy in the Uzbek language and the mutual meaning relations between the linguistic units that occur during this phenomenon are devoted to the illumination of the field of lexicology of the Uzbek language and the textbook created for use at various stages of education and expressed in manuals.

Synonyms are traditionally described as words different in sound-form but identical or similar in meaning. This definition has been severely criticised on many points. Firstly, it seems impossible to speak of identical or similar meaning of words as such as this part of the definition cannot be applied to polysemantic words. It is inconceivable that polysemantic words could be synonymous in all their meanings. The verb *look*, e.g., is usually treated as a synonym of *see*, *watch*, *observe*, etc., but in another of its meanings it is not synonymous with this group of words but rather with the verbs *seem*, *appear* (cf. *to look at smb* and *to look pale*). The number of synonymic sets of a polysemantic word tends as a rule to be equal to the number of individual meanings the word possesses.¹

In Uzbek language, synonymy is considered the grouping of lexemes with the same meaning: *yelka, kift, o'miz* (first group); *in, uya, oshyon* (second group); *nur, shu'la, yog'du, ziyo* (third group) and others. Such groups are known as synonym group in linguistics. In each synonym groups:

a) the denotative meaning of the lexemes is the same, the expression sememes (different meanings, stylistic colors, subjective evaluation, scope of use) are different. For example,

¹ Ginzburg R. S. et al. A course in modern English lexicology. – Higher School Publishing House, 1966.

lexemes **ozod**, **erkin**, **hur**, **sarbast** refer to one denotation - "*o'z erki, haq-huquqiga egalik*", but they also have mutually different expressions. In particular, the lexeme of **erkin** has a somewhat neutral meaning, the lexeme of **ozod** expresses a high spirit, the lexeme of **hur** is characterized by an artistic style, and the lexeme of **sarbast** is outdated and bookish.

Compare: 1) *Erkin* nafas olmoq. 2) Toki, bizdan olis avlodlarga *ozod* va obod vatan qolsin! 3) Yashnagan el tillarda doston, Qutlug' nomi *hur* O'zbekiston. 4) Podshohning nikohida bo'lgan xotinlari posbonlar bilan uncha hisoblashmay, ko'pincha ularni qo'lga olib, *sarbast* yashaydilar;

b) expressions are sometimes graded: all the lexemes **yuz**, **bet**, **aft**, **bashara**, **turq** (except "**yuz**") have negative connotations, but the level of expression of the negative connotation is different in these sememes: it increases from "**bet**" to "**turq**" and becomes stronger.

Compare: 1) U *be'lari* yumdalangan, oppoq sochlari yulingan bu telba xotinni o'zining qirq yillik umr yo'ldoshiga o'xshata olmadi. 2) Sherbekning ko'ziga Xo'jabekovning *afidan* nahs tomayotgandek jirkanch bo'lib ko'rinib ketdi. 3) U bir ko'ngli, borib, muttaham qozining tumshug'iga tushirgisi yo iflos *basharasiga* tupurgisi keldi. 4) Devor ustida turgan o'n ikki yoshlardagi bir qiz devordan kesak ko 'chirib olib, Mulla Norqo'ziga o'xtaldi: «Xu o'l, *turqing* qursin!»;

d) lexemes with neutral meaning without expression sememes are considered the dominant of the synonym group. For example, **yuz**, **bet**, **aft**, **bashara**, **turq** (dominant - **yuz**); **nur**, **shu'la**, **yog'du**, **ziyo** (dominant - **nur**); **yolg'iz**, **yakka**, **tanho** (dominanta - **yolg'iz**). Among them, **yuz** (in the first line), **nur** (in the second line) and **yolg'iz** (in the third line) have a neutral meaning;

e) lexemes have the same category meaning, which requires combining synonyms into the same parts of speech: such as **bahor va ko'klam** (noun), **chiroyli va go'zal** (adjective), **so'zlamq va gapirmoq** (verb).

Based on the above features, especially the variety of expressions, lexical synonyms are divided into the following types:²

1. Semantic synonyms (ideographic synonyms). Such synonyms differ in meaning. For example, the lexemes **achchiqlanmoq**, **g'azablanmoq**, **qahrilanmoq** are combined into one synonym group with the meaning of "*g'azabi kelmoq*", but the degree of expression of this meaning is not the same in them, it is from "achchiqlanmoq" to "g'azablanmoq", " and from "g'azablanmoq" to "qahrilanmoq" gets stronger.
2. Stylistic synonyms. The lexical meaning of such synonyms is covered with positive or negative colors (stylistic sememes), and these stylistic sememes determine the value of synonyms as a stylistic tool. For example, the lexemes **jilmaymoq**, **iljaymoq**, **irjaymoq**, **tirjaymoq**, **ishshaymoq** and **irshaymoq** all have one lexical meaning - to name the phenomenon of "*ovoz chiqarmay miyig'ida kulish*", but this meaning is slightly positive in the lexeme **jilmaymoq**, and slightly negative in the lexeme **iljaymoq**, this negative color is further increased in the lexemes of **irjaymoq**, **tirjaymoq**, **ishshaymoq** and **irshaymoq**.
3. Verbal synonyms are synonyms that are distinguished by their characteristic of one or another type of speech. For example, while the lexeme "**ozgina**" in the line "**ozgina, picha, sal, xiyol, jinday, qittay, jichcha**" can be used in all forms of speech (both in literary speech and colloquial speech), **picha, sal, xiyol, jinday, qittay, jichcha** lexemes are characteristic only of colloquial speech.

The majority of people who have studied synonymy in the past have been cultivating both lines of research without strictly separating them, and they have primarily concentrated on the significant role of foreign loan words in English synonymy, such as *freedom:: liberty* or *heaven::*

² Jamolxonov H. Hozirgi o 'zbek adabiy tili //Toshkent-2007. – 2005.

sky, where the first elements are native and the second, French and Scandinavian, respectively. Because of the warring and settlement of Britons, Romans, Saxons, Danes, and Normans on the British Isles, many people, like O. Jespersen, used to emphasize that the English language is unusually rich in synonyms. Greek and Latin were studied by British intellectuals, who for centuries communicated on academic subjects in Latin.

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.³

This leads to a kind of triple "keyboard" that is conditioned by style, as seen by the examples below:

Native English words	Words borrowed from French	Words borrowed from Latin
<i>to ask</i>	<i>to question</i>	<i>to interrogate</i>
<i>belly</i>	<i>stomach</i>	<i>abdomen</i>
<i>to gather</i>	<i>to assemble</i>	<i>to collect</i>
<i>empty</i>	<i>devoid</i>	<i>vacuous</i>
<i>to end</i>	<i>to finish</i>	<i>to complete</i>
<i>to rise</i>	<i>to mount</i>	<i>to ascend</i>
<i>teaching</i>	<i>guidance</i>	<i>instruction</i>

English also uses many pairs of synonymous derivatives, the one Hellenic and the other Romance, e. g. *periphery* : : *circumference*; *hypothesis* : : *supposition*; *sympathy* : : *compassion*; *synthesis* : : *composition*.

The pattern of stylistic relationship represented in the above table, although typical, is by no means universal. For example, the native words *dale*, *deed*, *fair* are the poetic equivalents of their much more frequent borrowed synonyms *valley*, *act* or the hybrid *beautiful*.

This subject of stylistic differentiation has been one of much controversy in recent years. It is universally accepted, however, that semantic and stylistic properties may change and synonyms which at one time formed a stylistic opposition only may in the course of time become ideographically cognitively contrasted as well, and vice versa.

In English also, all (or, at least, most) synonymic groups have a "central" word of this kind whose meaning is equal to the denotation common to the entire synonymic group. This word is called the dominant synonym.⁴

Here are examples of some dominant synonyms with their groups:

To tremble – to shiver – to shudder – to shake.

To make – to produce – to create – to fabricate – to manufacture.

Angry – furious – enraged.

The dominant synonym expresses the notion common to all synonyms of the group in the most general way, without contributing any additional information as to manner, intensity, duration or any attending feature of the referent. Its meaning, which is broad and generalized, more or less

³ Arnold I. V. Lexicology of modern English //Moscow: High school.-1973.-302 p. – 1959.

⁴ Антрушина Г. Б., Афанасьева О. В., Морозова Н. Н. Лексикология английского языка. – Общество с ограниченной ответственностью Издательство ЮРАЙТ, 2015. – С. 287-287.

“covers” the meanings of the rest of the synonyms, so that it may be substituted for any of them. It seems that here the idea of interchangeability of synonyms comes into its own. And yet, each such substitution would mean an irreparable loss of the additional information supplied by connotative components of each synonym. So, using *to look* instead of *to glare*, *to stare*, *to peep* we preserve the general sense of the utterance but lose a great deal of precision, expressiveness and colour.⁵

Summing up what has been said, the following characteristic features of the dominant synonym can be underlined:

1. High frequency of usage.
2. Broad combinability, i.e. ability to be used in combinations with various classes of words.
3. Broad general meaning.
4. Lack of connotations. (This goes for stylistic connotations as well, so that neutrality as to style is also a typical feature of the dominant synonym).

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⁵ Смирницкий А. И. Лексикология английского языка (English lexicology). – 1959.