

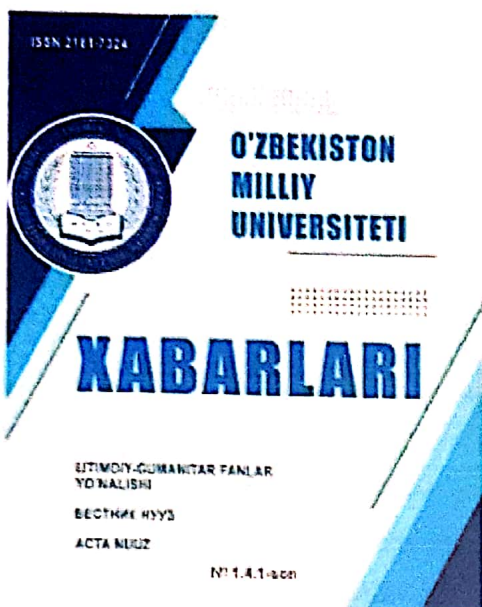


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LEXICAL SYNONYMY: TRADITIONAL AND COGNITIVE VISION OF THE PROBLEM

Abstract

The article highlights the main stages in the development of the theory of synonymy in the traditional paradigm. A new vision of synonymy and synonymic relations from the standpoint of cognitivism, based on the results of a linguistic experiment, is presented.

Key words: synonymy, nomination, semantic proximity, categorization, natural category.

ЛЕКСИК СИНОНИМИЯ: МУАММОНИ АН'АНАВИЙ ВА КОГНИТИВ ТУШУНЧА

Abstrakt

Maqolada an'anaviy paradigmada sinonimiya nazariyasi rivojlanishining asosiy bosqichlari yoritilgan. Lingvistik eksperiment natijalariga ko'ra kognitivizm nuqtai nazaridan sinonimiya va sinonimik munosabatlarning yangi ko'rinishi taqdim etiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: sinonimiya, nominatsiya, semantik yaqinlik, turkumlashirish, natural kategoriya.

ЛЕКСИЧЕСКАЯ СИНОНИМИЯ: ТРАДИЦИОННО-КОГНИТИВНОЕ ВИДЕНИЕ ПРОБЛЕМЫ

Абстракт

В статье выделены основные этапы развития теории синонимии в традиционной парадигме. Представлено новое видение синонимии и синонимических отношений с позиций когнитивизма, основанное на результатах лингвистического эксперимента.

Ключевые слова: синонимия, номинация, семантическая близость, категоризация, природная категория.

Introduction. Despite the fact that the problem of synonymy was at the center of structural and systemic research, it has remained debatable, and at the present stage, in a new scientific paradigm, researchers again and again return to the analysis of synonymous relations.

Analysis. This is due to the fact that "synonymy is the philosophical side of the language, without which it is impossible to comprehend its spirit or achieve solid knowledge"¹, and the achievements of modern science make it possible, through the phenomenon of synonymy, to reveal the features of the verbal and cognitive activity of the individual.

The problem of lexical synonymy of the English language initially found a place for itself in "rhetorics", later it was one of the first lexicological problems, as well as one of the main problems of speech style. This can be observed in the works of M. V. Lomonosov, D. N. Fonvizin, A. Kalaidovich, A. I. Galich. I. I. Davydova et al. Questions of lexical synonyms, as well as problems of lexicology in general, were of little interest to linguists during the second half of the 19th and first half of the 20th centuries, but they become relevant by the middle of the 20th century. After the approval of semantics as a separate scientific discipline, researchers delved into the study of the linguistic nature of synonymy, "putting more and more indefinite content into this concept".

When considering synonymy, starting from the end of the 18th century, the main question is the presence in the language of two or more words to denote the same concept. Considering the stylistic, expressive, emotional variety of synonyms, the authors (N. M. Ibragimov, S. G. Salarev, P. S. Kondyrev, P. F. Kalaidovich, A. I. Galich, I. I. Davydov, etc.) claim that the same there can be no words that are significant in meaning (single-meaning). They characterize synonyms as words "similar", "similar in meaning". From the very first observations of synonyms, philologists dwell on the

differences between them and deny the possibility of the presence in the language of two words that are completely identical in meaning and use. Almost all studies of synonymy in a language come down to the assertion that synonyms are words of adjacent, almost the same meaning, that it is the differences between synonyms that determine their life in the language.

Structural-system linguistics seeks to identify clear criteria when defining a particular linguistic phenomenon, which is practically impossible to do when identifying criteria for synonymy. If we take into account that until now there is no unambiguous definition of lexical meaning, then it is hardly possible to give a consistent definition of the proximity of meaning.

Discussion. Naturally, researchers disagree on the concept of "proximity" and "identity" of meaning, as well as:

- in establishing criteria for highlighting the synonymy of words: some take into account the correlation with the subject of speech⁵, others - correlate synonymy with the unity of the expressed concept⁶, others - consider the expression of different, but similar in meaning, concepts to be the main one. Despite a large number of studies on lexical synonymy, understanding the essence and boundaries of this phenomenon remains unclear. The variety of definitions of synonymy is explained by the peculiarities of the very subject of consideration, the presence of various types of semantic similarities and differences, which, accordingly, is reflected in various approaches.

Thus, despite the close attention of structural-systemic linguistics to the problems of synonymy, there is no unambiguous answer to the questions about which units of the language are synonymous, what criteria are the basis for identifying synonymous rows and which word is considered dominant in a synonymous row - does not exist. Due to the fact that structural-system linguistics did not consider

synonymy as a mental-linguistic category, but only as a purely linguistic phenomenon, studying synonyms in a language as a frozen system, an adequate definition of synonymy was not formulated that would correspond to their natural functioning in speech.

The objectivist theory of knowledge assumes thinking with abstract symbols that get their meaning through correlation with entities and categories in the world, knowledge is presented as a correct, clear categorization and conceptualization of things and a reflection of the objective connections between these things. At the same time, the world is completely independent of the subject who knows it, it exists independently, regardless of human knowledge. Linguistic meanings are based on the correspondence between words and the world, either directly referring to the objects of reality, or through concepts as symbols used in thinking.

Such an idea of the relationship between language and the world explains the attempt of linguists to create an ideal category, absolute, not allowing discrepancies, not allowing synonymy. The desire to present a language as a set of algorithmic rules and schemes, without resorting to any cognitive ability, seems implausible, since the language cannot ignore the general cognitive apparatus, and the mind and language cannot use different types of categorization. Therefore, the classical theory of categories is recognized as untenable, first of all, in the study of natural language, and mainly in the study of mental and linguistic activity.

At the basis of synonymy, as well as at the basis of human cognition of the world, there is a process of categorization, since it is natural for a person to compare everything with everything, respectively, the similarity and difference between objects is established in the process of comparison. In the process of nominative activity of one or another object of reality, a person identifies certain properties and signs in it, while comparing with other objects already known to him, i.e., trying to attribute him to some category.

In speech, words that are close in meaning appear on the basis of the categorization process, and, according to S. V. Lebedeva, one can speak both of collective categorization, carried out on the basis of highlighting more significant features developed by public consciousness, and of individual - highlighting signs that are significant for each individual person. "In the human lexicon, there is undoubtedly a specific scale of commonality and difference, which differs from the usual understanding from the point of view of the language system". This explains the discrepancy between the members of the synonymic series, fixed by the dictionary, and the selection of words as synonymous in the mind of the individual. For example, the synonymic row for the word *lazy* in Evgeniev's dictionary: *sloth, loafer, couch potato, bobak, loafer*, and the individual, taken from our experiment, looks like this: *mattress, loafer, amoeba, blockhead, loafer, inert, lack of initiative, slob, parasitic*.

Synonymous connections arise in the area of intersection of several categories, in the zone of semantic proximity. Thanks to the main cognitive mechanisms for the generation and perception of knowledge, including the processes of categorization, lexicalization (linking concepts with verbal means of expression and fixing in memory the results obtained through the categorization process) and the actualization process (retrieving the right words, meanings and knowledge from memory), the word is able to not only replace or represent real objects, create associations, but also analyze the properties of an object, introduce them into a system of complex relationships.

Highlighting the corresponding properties of the designated object, the word refers them to already known categories. "Such a distracting or abstracting, generalizing and analyzing function of the word we call categorical meaning".

So, for example, the words *thin, tall, skinny, overscraper, strawberry, gaunt, dry-fly, emaciated, attenuate*, denoting a thin person, are built on the basis of associations of various categories. These words will intersect according to the features underlying the nomination: in form, in quality, in the properties of the characterized object, and which category this feature will be associated with depends on the characteristics of the individual's consciousness.

In speech, we do not operate with the meanings of words as a stable system of generalized meanings that are the same for all people of a certain nation, but use "meaning" as an individual meaning of a word that is related to the moment of speech, to a certain situation. L. Wittgenstein's theory of the organization of natural categories according to the principle of "family resemblance" allows us to conclude that the concept of language and its reality is a fiction. Language activity in any natural area resembles a game, which in different situations is built according to different rules. "Language games" mainly use the same language, but to achieve a variety of subjective goals, therefore they differ on the basis of lexical meanings (lexical meanings acquire different meanings depending on the situation and context), but at the same time they are built according to the general grammatical laws of a particular language. Speech can narrow down to a microspace (social, age, territorial, professional, etc.), where there will be its own synonymy. Within this space, both new linguistic forms and new meanings can appear. In this regard, we are dealing with the value orientation of a person, since it is the concept of value that is at the heart of the categorization process. For example, to the question: "What can you call a bachelor?", nominations are clearly distinguished by gender factor. Boys mainly gave the following nominations: *free, single, boy, unengaged, unringed*, and girls- *unmarried, loner, bean, biryuk, widower, monk, egoist*.

The establishment of similarity is influenced not only by subjective perception, but also by the cultural and social space that surrounds the native speaker (here, both microspace and the national cultural background as a whole can be distinguished): for example, in the minds of the largest number of recipients there are groups of words that are perceived as identical, but we are not allowed to recognize them as absolute synonyms by the fact that there are subjects who find a difference between these units, perceiving them as close in meaning.

The distinction between such words as *pier* and *wharf* is connected not simply with ideas about these objects, but rather with the presence of individual experience, i.e., the difference was established by those subjects who either lived near the coast or visited this place. A pier is understood as "a special place for ships", "where ships stay for a long time" or "a specially equipped place for boarding passengers", "the size of the pier is larger than the pier", "you can walk along the pier". The berth is perceived as "a convenient place for a ship to approach the shore", "not specially equipped", "a place where they moor".

The main purpose of synonymy is not to create semantic doublets, not to create words that are identical in content, but different in their linguistic expression, but in the same semantic shade, in highlighting some feature in the designated phenomenon that is not represented by another synonymous form. Thus, the difference against the background of semantic similarity causes the appearance of synonyms in the language. In addition, in modern research there is an opinion that in language, as in life, there are no absolutely identical phenomena: each identity initially contains distinctive features. "As a result, any identity formed in the language, "burdened" with a set of systemic connections peculiar only to it, initially contains differential features, which, having reached, under certain systemically specified

conditions, in excess of the maximum quantity for a given identity, determine the destruction of this identity by forming qualitatively new units, modifying language system as a whole".

Conclusion. The process of creating a new word form depends on the inner feelings of the speaker, on the created

image and associations that give rise to this image in a certain situation, which is the basis for categorizing this image (sometimes a connection is established with completely unrelated, at first glance, categories). The process of creating an image and assigning it to any category occurs simultaneously in the human mind.

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