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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

STRUCTURAL-SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMONYMS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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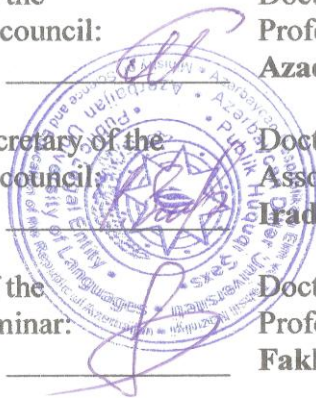
GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK

Relevance of the topic and degree of development. Language intricately intertwines with the labor and social dynamics of human civilization. Every societal evolution manifests itself within language, leading to the creation of novel words and concepts. These emergent linguistic elements undergo linguistic scrutiny, conforming to established grammatical norms before assimilating into the lexicon. Consequently, the vocabulary of each language undergoes perpetual renewal and enrichment as it accommodates these additions.

The word is the object of research not only in linguistics, but also in fields of science such as logic, psychology, sociology, neurology, philosophy, etc. In the past six decades, the field of linguistics has seen the emergence of several new research domains, including sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, ethnolinguistics, and cognitive linguistics, among others. These disciplines examine language and speech from an extralinguistic perspective, signifying that language has become a focal point of investigation for scholars from various scientific fields. Consequently, despite the extensive scholarly inquiries within linguistics, issues pertaining to language and speech remain persistently pertinent. The evolution of new words within a language, considering their structural-semantic, grammatical, and phonetic dimensions, is transitioning from traditional linguistic frameworks towards more unconventional linguistic paradigms. Notably, the intriguing aspect lies not only in the structure of the newly coined terms but also in their functional application. The advent of novel research trajectories and methodologies in linguistics underscores the ongoing significance of language studies in contemporary scholarship.

If morphology examines the grammatical rules governing a language, and phonetics analyzes language as segments and suprasegments, then lexicology explores the lexical system of a language along with the innovations within this system. Lexicology categorizes words and their meanings into different groups based on their formal and semantic properties. Homonyms, which are words

that share the same formal appearance but lack any semantic connection, are a key focus of study within lexicology.

The complexity of the issue of homonymy in linguistics is evident in its resemblance to polysemy. This similarity arises because certain homonyms develop from polysemy. Specifically, this process occurs when one of the meanings of a polysemous word evolves, eventually transforming from its primary sense into a completely independent word.

In linguistics, homonyms are words that possess different meanings, may be grammatically similar or distinct, but are phonetically identical. The phenomenon of homonymy has an ancient history, with homonymous units being formed according to the lexical system of each language. In English, as in other languages, homonymy is evident at all linguistic levels. Linguists approach the identification and definition of homonyms from various perspectives, leading to divergent and sometimes contradictory opinions on these word groups. Consequently, identifying homonyms in English remains a significant challenge within both Azerbaijani and English linguistics. The existence of such conflicting views has necessitated the study of homonyms within the scope of this dissertation. Each linguistic problem investigated within Azerbaijani linguistics contributes to its development, while research involving materials from different languages fosters the growth of interlingual communication. This study, based on English language materials, underscores the relevance of the problem.

To comprehensively determine the semantic nature of homonyms, it is essential to group them accurately. Although providing precise definitions and correct classifications of homonyms is a longstanding interest for linguists, many gaps remain in the study of these words. Nonetheless, substantial research has been conducted on homonymy across languages, resulting in the publication of monographs, textbooks, and articles. Prominent American and Western European linguists such as R.J.Menner, W.W.Skeat, R.Bridges, and L.Bloomfield, as well as Russian scholars including V.V.Vinogradov, L.V.Shcherba, A.I.Smirnitsky, O.S.Akhmanova, Y.S.Maslov, L.A.Bulakhovsky, L.A.Novikov,

A.Y.Shaykevich and A.Y.Anikin, and Azerbaijani researchers such as A.M.Demirchizade, M.I.Adilov, Z.N.Verdieva, F.M.Aghayeva, H.A.Hasanov, S.A.Jafarov, A.M.Gurbanov, F.Y.Veysalli, T.A.Efendiyeva, B.A.Khalilov, X.S.Asgarova, E.Sh.Abishov, Sh.M.Kerimova, M.A.Gojayeva have examined the issue of homonyms from various angles. These and other studies have addressed a wide range of problems related to homonymy, such as the classification of homonyms, their representation in dictionaries, their nuances in literature, their use in dialects, and their role in anthroponymy and toponymy.

This dissertation provides a comprehensive and detailed examination of the structural and semantic features of homonyms in the English language. It differentiates homonyms from other linguistic units, explores their actualization in context, and discusses phraseological homonyms, thereby contributing significantly to the understanding of homonymy.

The object and subject of the research. The object of this study is on homonyms, which hold a unique position within the lexical system of a language and contribute to the formation of a complex, multifaceted system.

Subject of the research is the emergence of homonyms in the English language, focusing on their structural and semantic features, the characteristics that distinguish homonyms from other lexical units, and their actualization within various contexts.

Purpose and tasks of the research. The purpose of this research work is to elucidate the structural and semantic features of homonyms in the English language, highlighting their distinct meanings compared to other linguistic units, and to determine and classify their characteristics and frequency of use in artistic style and context. Additionally, this research aims to uncover the emergence and development of suffixes with lexical meaning. To achieve this goal, it is essential to address various related issues. To this end, we have undertaken the following tasks:

– critical interpretation of approaches to the problem of homonymy in linguistics, including German studies and English linguistics, which is its branch;

– determination of structural features of homonyms;

– defining the boundaries between homonymy and polysemy, polysemy and conversion;

– determination of stylistic features of homonyms;

– determination of the frequency of use of homonyms;

– interpretation of cases of collision of homonyms in context.

Research methods. Method of linguistic description, contextual and semantic analysis, as well as the method of structural analysis and contrastive analysis to distinguish between homonymy and polysemy have been used in the research.

The main provisions for defense:

– The meanings of homonyms are determined in lexical-semantic relations and relations within the text.

– Homonymy is necessarily universal and is determined by the presence in the language of the categories of symmetry and asymmetry.

– To clarify the nature of homonymy, it is necessary to determine the semantic relationships of words.

– The semantic load carried by homonyms in the text can change depending on the situation and create ambiguity.

– The polysemy of homonyms in a language arises as a result of parallel metaphors.

Scientific novelty of research. The theoretical significance of this study lies in its potential to serve as a comprehensive and valuable theoretical resource for future research endeavors, including the writing of monographs or textbooks. The foundational insights provided in this dissertation can contribute significantly to the exploration of homonymy within lexicology, encompassing various aspects relevant to the English language and beyond.

Theoretical and practical significance of research. The theoretical significance of the research lies in its potential to serve as a comprehensive and insightful theoretical source for future research endeavors, the writing of monographs, or textbooks. The key findings of the dissertation can be utilized in studying the issue of homonymy in lexicology, including various aspects of homonymy in the English language.

The practical significance of the research is evident in its potential application towards the preparation of relevant teaching materials for students of philology faculties in higher educational institutions. This includes specialized courses in lexicology, elective subjects, and lecture texts in the field of linguistics.

Approbation and application. The main content of the dissertation has been presented at scientific seminars of the Department of English Lexicology and Stylistics-1 at Azerbaijan University of Languages, as well as at international and national scientific conferences. The research topic has been comprehensively covered in 10 published articles across various journals (including 2 articles outside Azerbaijan) and 3 conference proceedings or abstracts (including 1 outside Azerbaijan).

Name of the organization where the dissertation is fulfilled. The work was performed at the Department of English Lexicology and Stylistics-1 under the Education-1 Faculty of Azerbaijan University of Languages.

The total volume of the dissertation with reference to the volume of the structural parts of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction, 3 chapters, a conclusion, a list of used literature and a list of abbreviations. Introduction – 5 pages, 8998 characters, chapter I – 46 pages, 82882 characters, chapter II – 38 pages, 68543 characters, chapter III – 30 pages, 55118 characters, conclusion – 2 pages, 2143 characters. The total volume of the dissertation is 217684 characters, excluding the list of references used.

MAIN CONTENT OF THE WORK

In the "Introduction" part of the dissertation, the relevance of the research is justified, the scientific innovation of the work is shown, the theoretical and practical significance is highlighted, the object and subject of the research, goals and tasks, methods and references are determined, the main provisions presented for the defense and the approbation and structure of the dissertation are given.

The first chapter of the dissertation is entitled **"The Problem of Homonyms in the English Language"** and consists of four paragraphs. The first paragraph of the chapter is devoted to *"Homonyms in linguistics, their reasons and types."*

Homonyms are linguistic units that have their place in the lexical system of a language. The Encyclopedia of Linguistics explains homonyms as follows: *"Words that have the same form as a result of a certain phonetic change, but have different meanings. That is, the relationship between words that are the same in form, but different in meaning"*[1].

Homonyms are a group of words that are structurally diverse and multifaceted. The phenomenon of homonymy is observed in most languages. This phenomenon has been studied to varying degrees from different angles using materials from different languages. In German studies, including English linguistics, a lot of research has been written about homonymy. Western linguists J.Lyons, W.W.Skeat, G.N.Leech, S.Ullman, O.Jespersen, Ch.Cooper, I.V.Arnold and others studied homonyms from different angles.

There are different views on whether homonyms, as linguistic units whose meanings are not related to each other, but are phonetically or graphically identical, play both a positive and negative role in the development and improvement of language. For example, F.I.Mauler argues that the phenomenon of homonymy has a positive effect on language. In his opinion, *homonymy introduces brevity into the language.*[2] I.S.Tishler considers homonyms to be a disease of the language and writes that it is necessary to fight against it. According to him, *"identity of linguistic units leads to their inability to exist side by side for a long time and as a result some words are lost in the language"*[3].

In Azerbaijani linguistics, scientists use homonymy, polysemy,

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[1] Encyclopedia of Linguistics. Textbook. / Ed. by Prof. F.Y.Veysalli. – Baku: Mutarjim, – II Vol. – 2008. – p. 34

[2] Mauler, F.I. Grammatical homonymy in the dictionary of Modern English. / F.I.Mailer. – Rostov, – 1983. – p.7

[3] Tishler, I.S. Homonymy in the modern English language. / I.S.Tishler. – Saratov, – 1988. – p.98.

phraseological homonyms, syntactic homonyms, compound words, polysemantic words, etc. They approach linguistic units from different sides. H.A.Hasanov's doctoral dissertation "Homonyms in the Azerbaijani language" (1981) and "Dictionary of homonyms of the Azerbaijani language" are interesting works in this field.[4]

A.Gurbanov expresses his opinion about homonyms as follows: *"In addition to the fact that individual root words are homonyms in the language, sometimes in the speech process words with different meanings sound the same. This is also considered homonymy. In linguistics, homonyms are interpreted as phonetic homonyms (homophone), morphological homonyms (homoform) and lexical homonyms"* [5].

One of the most prominent research works in Azerbaijani linguistics in recent years is M.A.Gojayeva's work called "Structural semantics of syntactic homonymy", where linguistic factors of homonymy in the language as well as extralinguistic factors are extensively analyzed. She notes: *"Homonymity is a phenomenon that manifests itself in different lexical-semantic environments in the language. Complete lexical, lexical-grammatical homonyms are the historical-social word layer, which reflects the logical judgment of the people to which the language belongs, scientific-technical, material-spiritual development levels, acquired as a result of the development of the language over thousands of years"*[6].

One of the most discussed issues is the definition of homonyms. A.A.Reformatsky considers homonyms as words that are the same in terms of sound, but different in meaning, and gives examples of this from different languages: science. Lied 'song' – Lied 'eyelid', French. nu 'naked' – nue 'cloud', Eng. fair: "beautiful" – "just, equitable".[7]

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[4] Hasanov, H.A. Dictionary of homonyms of the Azerbaijani language / H.A.Hasanov. – Baku: "East-West", – 2007. – 168 p.

[5] Gurbanov, A.M. Modern Azerbaijani literary language. Volume I. / A.M.Gurbanov. – Baku: Nurlan, – 2003. – p. 295

[6] Gojayeva, M.A. The structural semantics of syntactic homonymy. / M.A.Gojayeva. – Baku: ASPU, – 2023. – p.16

[7] Reformatsky, A.A. Introduction to language education / Ed. V.A.Vinogradov. – M.: Aspect Press, –1996. – p.134.

The category of homonyms includes not only words that are the sum of all its forms, but also separate word forms of different words. Some Western linguists, for example Sh.Balli, give a different definition to homonyms: *"Homonyms are two signs that have the same and different signs"*[8]. With this definition, even words that differ only in their contextual meaning can be generalized as homonyms. In this way, homonymy and polysemy can be distinguished. According to A.I.Shaykevich, this situation makes the definition given by Sh.Bally practically useless.[9]

One of the controversial issues related to homonyms is the issue of their classification, and during the classification of homonyms, the synchronic aspect was mainly taken into account, while the diachronic aspect was neglected. Whether or not there is a genetic connection in homonyms is considered in the diachronic plan, and the compatibility according to the phonetic composition and pronunciation is considered in the synchronic plan.

A.I.Smirnitsky distinguished complete and incomplete, lexical and lexical-grammatical types of homonymy in English.[10] We believe that when classifying homonyms, the sameness of words according to pronunciation and spelling, diversity of meaning and belonging to parts of speech should be taken as a basis.

There are conflicting points in the opinions of world linguists about the role of homonyms in language. Some linguists argue that homonymy is a natural phenomenon and does not hinder the development of language at all, while others think that it is an accidental and even harmful phenomenon and will become obsolete over time.[11] According to V.Vinogradov, B.Passek, I.Tishler, and

[8] Balli, Sh. Language and Life: [Trans. from French. I.I.Chelysheva, E.A. Velme zova Intro. Art. V.G.Gack]. / Sh. Bally. – Moscow: Editorial URSS, – 2003. – p.24

[9] Shaykevich, A.I. On principles of classification of homonyms // Processes of development in language. – M., – 1959. – p.127

[10] Smirnitsky, A.I. Lexicology of the English language. / A.I.Smirnitsky. – M.: – 1956. – p.98

[11] Vinogradov, V.V. About homonymy and related phenomena // – M.: Questions of linguistics, – 1960. No 5, – p. 3-17; Passek, V.V. On the homonymy of inflectional suffixes (endings) in the English language // Questions of linguistics,– 1960. No 5, – p.80-84; Tyshler, I.S. About the structure, semantics and frequency

other linguists natural homonymy is not accidental but rather a natural linguistic phenomenon.

As is well known, most homonyms in the English language emerged during the transition from Old English to Middle English in the 14th and 15th centuries. In subsequent periods, the number of homonyms in English has steadily increased for various reasons. In language, homonyms are divided into lexical and grammatical types. By classifying homonyms within lexical-grammatical categories and in terms of their relation to parts of speech, we can elucidate their main characteristics:

Noun homonyms, as a rule, are used in the common case of the noun, quantitatively correspond to the singular form, and thereby fully form as lexical homonyms. For example, *scale [skeɪl]* 'measure, volume' – *scales [skeɪlz]* 'fish scales' – scales 'weighing device' – among the members of the homonymic series, only one is used in the singular form of the noun, while the second member can be used in both cases.

Verbal homonyms correspond to the infinitive forms and become fully lexical homonyms that are grammatically consistent across all other similar forms. For example, *blow [bloʊ]* 'to puff' – *blow [bloʊ]* 'to bloom'.

Cases where each member of a homonym pair belongs to different parts of speech are more common. In such instances, grammatical differences are added to their semantic differences. The main part of lexical-grammatical homonyms consists of *noun-verb, noun-adjective*, and *verb-adjective pairs*.

In the second paragraph of Chapter I, ***"The formation of Historical and New Homonyms in the English Language"*** is discussed. The etymological heterogeneity of homonyms in modern English is explained precisely as a result of lexical borrowings from other languages. It is evident from the obtained results that direct or indirect borrowings from Latin and French have played a significant role in the formation of homonyms in English.

An analysis of homonyms in modern English reveals that *they*

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of homonyms. / I.S.Tyshler. – Saratov, –1967. – 319 p.; Tyshler, I.S. Homonymy in modern English. / I.S. Tyshler. – Saratov, –1988. –196 p.

are primarily heterogeneous in origin[12]. Out of 4780 homonyms selected through a comprehensive sampling method by V.V.Skitin for analysis, 2167 are heterogeneous. Among them, 1825 (45.3%) are of Germanic origin, 287 (38.2%) are Latin-Romance, 88 (6%) are Greek, and 26 (1.84%) are of Celtic origin. Additionally, 6 homonyms (0.54%) are words from the ancient and modern languages of the Indian subcontinent [13]. Furthermore, 1% of homonyms have arisen due to borrowings from other languages. For the remaining 338 homonyms (7.1%), there is no information on their origin in the lexical material sources used during the research[14].

Statistical research and the analysis of linguistic facts provide grounds for advancing several hypotheses regarding the main factors leading to homonymy in the English language and the causes generating homonymy:

1. The primary factor contributing to the emergence of homonyms in English has been the historical processes undergone by the language. For instance, the borrowing of words from other languages has resulted in words of different origins coinciding in form or pronunciation, thereby creating homonyms. The borrowed words that have caused homonymy are mainly of Germanic, Romance, Celtic, Greek, Indian, and Slavic origin. In linguistic literature, homonyms that have arisen due to borrowings are referred to as etymological homonyms[15].

2. A significant portion of homonyms has arisen as a result of conversion, which does not cause changes in the morphological and phonetic composition of words. Conversion is more commonly observed in texts from the Middle English period.

3. Changes in the *graphic* and *phonetic structure* of words that lead to homonymy have been documented to occur throughout

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[12] Ivanova, I.P. About Historical Consideration of Homonymy // I.P.Ivanova. / Problems of Comparative Philology. – L., – 1964. – p. 38
[13] Skeat, W.W. A Concise Etymological Dictionary of the English Language. / W.W.Skeat. – Oxford, – 1963. – p. 237
[14] Voloshin, E.P. Abbreviations in the Lexical System of the English Language: / PhD Dissertation in Philological Sciences./ – M.: 1966. – p. 94-98.
[15] Novikov, L.A. On the Problem of Homonymy // L.A.Novikov / Lexicographic Collection. – M., Issue IV. – 1960. – p. 84

almost all stages of the history of the English language.

4. Another factor contributing to the emergence of homonyms in English is morphological word formation.

5. Throughout the historical development of a language, specific changes in word semantics can occur, such as the processes of meaning narrowing and meaning broadening. The process of meaning narrowing predominantly affects polysemous words. In this process, the semantic connection between the meanings of a polysemous word is lost, resulting in the word maintaining its form while splitting into independent words with distinct meanings, thus creating homonyms.

These factors contributing to homonymy have been identified within the historical framework of the English language and continue to persist. The potential for the creation of homonyms in modern English is even greater, leading to the observation of an increasing number of homonyms. Wordplay has a significant role in the emergence of new homonyms[16]. Let us examine a few examples of such homonyms:

1) ***Facebook*** *(noun) 'Facebook' (name of a social network) – **to facebook** (verb) 'to use Facebook, to communicate via Facebook, to maintain contact'*:

*More and more people are using **Facebook** nowadays.*

To be on Facebook: Are you on Facebook?

*To publish information on **Facebook**.*

2) ***Twitter*** *(verb) 'to chatter; to speak quickly and often in an exaggerated or frivolous manner about matters of little importance or interest' – **Twitter** (noun) 'Twitter' (name of a social network):*

*I was woken up by a bird **twittering** just outside my window.*

*I always read her column, and I follow her on **Twitter**[17].*

The words *Facebook* and *Twitter* belong to the group of grammatical homonyms.

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[16] Homonyms in English and their specific features: [Electronic resource]. URL: http://revolution.allbest.ru/languages/00092048_1.htm

[17] Types of homonyms. Sources of homonymy. – "System" and "structure" in modern linguistics. Language levels: [Electronic resource]. URL: http://www.filolog.ru

In the third paragraph, the discourse focuses on the classification of homonyms into categories such as *"Complete, incomplete, lexical, and lexical-grammatical homonyms."*

Complete homonyms in language are characterized by their identical forms while representing diverse subjects and events. V.V.Vinogradov classifies lexical units that maintain identical pronunciation across all grammatical forms as homonyms. According to his analysis, the majority of such words fall under the category of incomplete homonyms [18]. In contrast, A.I.Smirnitsky diverges from Vinogradov's approach by assigning only specific words to the category of incomplete homonyms based on their identical pronunciation. For instance, examples include: *lie* 'to recline' – *lie* 'to tell a falsehood', *lying* 'reclining' – *lying* 'telling falsehoods'.

In both pairs, the distinct forms are considered homonyms. V.V.Vinogradov's research terms this phenomenon as homophony, whereas A.I.Smirnitsky classifies it as lexical-grammatical homonymy. For example, *find* 'to discover' – *finds, found, finding; found* 'to establish' – *founds, founded, founding*[19].

Based on the compatibility of grammatical forms, two types of homonyms are distinguished: complete and incomplete. Complete homonyms belong to the same part of speech and coincide in form entirely. For example, *goose* 'bird' – *goose* 'garment iron'; *run* 'to manage' – *run* 'to move swiftly'; *too* 'excessively' – *too* 'also'.

Incomplete homonyms belong to different parts of speech, coincide in form due to their roots, and differentiate later in adopted formal markers. For example: *spring /sprɪŋ/* 'season' – *spring /sprɪŋ/* 'to leap'; *board /bɔːrd/* 'panel' – *board /bɔːrd/* 'to get on'; *father /faːðər/* 'parent' – *father /faːðər/* 'to found'.

In modern English linguistics, when classifying homonyms on a synchronic level, scholars generally agree to divide them into two categories: pure and impure. It is important to note that pure

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[18] Vinogradov, V.V. About Homonymy and Related Phenomena // – Moscow: Issues in Linguistics, – 1960. No. 5. – p.12

[19] Smirnitsky, A.I. Homonyms in English. / A.I.Smirnitsky. – Moscow: – 1977. – p. 90

homonyms are further subdivided into lexical and lexical-grammatical groups.

Lexical homonyms pertain to homonyms that belong to the same part of speech. They are typically older in historical origin compared to other types of homonyms. Lexical homonyms are distinguished solely by their semantics without undergoing phonetic changes or adopting any grammatical elements. Generally, lexical homonymy arises due to phonetic convergence of different words with the same phonological and morphological structure, or historically from semantic divergence of a single word. The difference lies solely in their meanings. For example: *bough* 'branch' – *bow* 'to bend in respect', *die* 'to cease living' – *dye* 'to color', *light* 'bright' – *light* 'not heavy'. Lexical homonyms are consistent across all grammatical forms.

Homonyms that differ in both lexical and grammatical meanings across various parts of speech are classified as *lexical-grammatical homonyms.* Although their components belong to different parts of speech, they share identical pronunciation. They exhibit differences both in meanings and grammatical forms. For example: *sea [siː]* 'body of water' – *see [siː]* 'to perceive', but *seas [siːz]* 'bodies of water' – *seize [siːz]* 'to grasp'; *die [daɪ]* 'to cease living' – *dye [daɪ]* 'to color', *light [laɪt]* 'illumination' – *light [laɪt]* 'not heavy', *idol [ˈaɪdəl]* 'idol' – *idle [ˈaɪdəl]* 'lazy'.[20]

In modern English, there exist numerous instances of mixed homonyms, which can be categorized into lexical and lexical-grammatical homonyms. While these homonyms may share grammatical aspects, their conformity exists only in specific forms.

In the fourth paragraph of Chapter I titled ***"The Phenomenon of Homonymy in Language,"*** it is noted that homonymy is not restricted solely to identical root words; words that share identical forms across their entire structure due to pronunciation also create homonymy. In English, such words that exhibit homonymy based on pronunciation include the following types:

1) Words that are identical in pronunciation – homophones,

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[20] English Pronunciation Dictionary (17th edition) / By Daniel Jones. – Cambridge University Press, – 2006. – 576 p.

2) Words that are identical in spelling – homographs,

3) Words that are identical in phonetic and graphic aspects – homoforms,

4) Words that are similar in pronunciation but differ in spelling – paronyms,

5) Words that are identical in spelling and pronunciation but have opposite meanings (enantiosemy).[21]

As evident from the section, R.J.Menner includes enantiosemy within the manifestations of homonymy. However, it is important to note that enantiosemy is not strictly homonymy but rather intra-morphemic or intra-word antonymy. It is sometimes also referred to as contronymy (contradiction).

According to D.E.Rosental and V.V.Vinogradov, homoforms, homographs, and homophones are phenomena closely related to homonymy due to their grammatical, phonetic, and graphic levels within language. Serious differentiation of language phenomena requires distinguishing homoforms, homophones, and homographs from lexical homonymy.[22]

Homophones in English are words that, despite having various morphological structures, share identical pronunciation but differ in spelling and meaning. They hold a significant place in the lexicon of the English language. For example:

*bred [bred] (*past tense of 'to breed'*) – bread [bred] (*a type of food*);*

whether [weðə] (conditional conjunction) – weather [weðə] (atmospheric conditions)*, by 'through'* (preposition) *– buy* 'to purchase'.

Homophones not only consider word roots but also emphasize word forms, typically comprising units with one component found in two words or a word and its grammatical form. For instance:

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[21] Menner, R.J. The Conflict of Homonyms in English // Language, – 1936. 12, – p.238

[22] Vinogradov, V.V. About Grammatical Homonymy in Modern Russian (1940) // – Moscow: Nauka, Selected Works. Studies in Russian Grammar, – 1975. – p. 13-32; Rosental, D.E. Dictionary-Reference of Linguistic Terms. / D.E.Rosental, M.A.Telenkova. – Moscow: Prosveshchenie, – 1976. – 543 p.

pause /pɔːz/ (temporary stop) – *paws* (animal's feet);

rose (type of flower) – *rows* (lines arranged in a straight line);

by 'through' (preposition) – *buy* 'to purchase'.

Homographs, despite sharing identical spelling, exhibit variations in pronunciation and meaning. Essentially, homographs are words that coincide in their written form but differ in how they are pronounced. In other words, a homograph is the overlapping of differently pronounced words in their written form:

Staff [staf] (a group of employees) – *staff [staf]* (a long stick) – *staff* (an ornamental rod).

Spring [sprɪŋ] (season) – *spring [sprɪŋ]* (water source) – *spring* (coil or jump) – *spring* (to originate or propel).

We can indicate the following characteristics characteristic of homoforms: 1) Homoforms are similar forms and the forms on which they are developed, which bring them closer to each other; 2) One series of homoforms is lexical, and the other is grammatical; 3) Homoforms have different roots and grammatical signs; 4) Both components of the homoform series are arranged by grammatical means; 5) Homoforms may differ from each other in sound; 6) Homoforms in English refer only to different parts of speech and mainly include nouns and verbs.

According to T.I.Arbekova, homoforms can be used as morpheme-morpheme, word-morpheme, compound word-word pair and word-sentence pairs.[23]

Whether homonyms or homoforms, words that express different meanings based on their phonetic structure appear similar to each other. However, while homonyms are lexical units (phonetically identical but differing in meaning), homoforms acquire different meanings after accepting various grammatical markers. For homographs, the fundamental condition is the emergence of similarity due to grammatical changes.

The second chapter of the dissertation, titled **"Semantic Characteristics of Homonyms in Linguistics,"** consists of four

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[23] Arbekovaya, T.I. Lexicology of the English Language [Text]: Practical Course: Textbook for Students in 2-3 Courses of Institutes and Faculties of Foreign Languages / T.I. Arbekovaya. – M.: Higher School, – 1977. – p.138

paragraphs. The first paragraph, ***"A Diachronic View of Homonyms in English Linguistics",*** discusses that according to scholars engaged in the study of English language history, certain vowel sounds [a], [ɔ], [v], and [i] gradually underwent significant changes, initially losing prominence before eventually neutralizing to [ə] as a central vowel sound. This process first began in northern dialects, with some sources dating the neutralization process to the 13th century[24], while others place it in the 14th century[25]. In southern regions, this transition occurred later. Stressed vowels initially shifted to a schwa sound at the end of three-syllable words, later in two-syllable words, and eventually disappeared altogether. This phonetic phenomenon played a significant role in shaping the evolution of the English language.

The etymological-semantic investigation of homonyms allows for tracing their formation and evolution. For instance, the analysis of the words *story/stɔ:rı/* meaning 'narrative' and *storey/stɔ:rı/* meaning 'floor of a building' reveals that their homonymy did not arise coincidentally from two distinct words. Both words trace their origins back to the Latin word *historia*, meaning 'narrative, history.' Introduced into English through the French language (where it existed as "estoire" in Old French), this word entered Middle English as *story*, initially denoting 'a narrative or tale,' and coexisted alongside *history* over several centuries. While both words share a semantic connection, they have diverged in form. Presently, the word *story* encompasses meanings such as 'narrative, tale, fiction,' among others[26].

Words in English that result from complex semantic developments, despite having different spellings, are strengthened by sharing the same pronunciation and possessing distinct meanings, thus affirming their status as homonym pairs. The analysis of the origins of homonyms in English based on etymology shows that the

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[24] Brunner, K. History of the English Language. / K.Brunner. – M.: – 1956. – p.263

[25] Ilyish, V.A. History of the English Language. / V.A.Ilyish. – M.: Higher School, – 1968. – p.288

[26] Ogato, H. Dictionary of English Homonyms Pronouncing and Explanatory. / H.Ogato, A.F.Inglott. – Tokio, – 1943. – p.142-143

pathways to their formation are influenced by the intricate semantic evolution of the same word. In cases where a word exhibits polysemy, where multiple meanings compete, one of these meanings may become restricted. However, this does not necessarily imply that the meanings in contention will inevitably become archaic or lost. According to R.J.Menner, *"the loss of the original meaning may also result from the disappearance of the object"*[27].

According to A.Rudscoger, *"the displacement of meaning in competition between meanings is not necessarily inevitable"*[28]. Some homonyms in English, despite belonging to the same linguistic category, differ in terms of countability, singular or plural form, presence or absence of grammatical markers, and so on. For example:

peace /piːs/ 'tranquility, calmness' – *piece /piːs/* bit, lump

feat /fiːt/ 'heroism' – *feet /fiːt/* legs

cruise /kruːz/ 'voyage' – *crews /kruːz/* a group of people who work on and operate a ship, aircraft, etc.

seam /siːm/ – join, fasten, or repair (something) by making stitches with a needle and thread or a sewing machine – *seem /siːm/*- give the impression of being something or having a particular quality.

dye /daɪ/ 'to colour' – *die /daɪ/* 'to cease living'[29].

Linguistic phenomena such as nominalization of verbs, adverbialization of nouns, adjectivization of verbs, and the transition of main words to auxiliary words contribute to the creation of lexical-grammatical homonyms. Various categorical words undergo semantic differentiation to evolve into homonyms.

In the second paragraph of Chapter II titled ***"Homonyms, Polysemous Words, and Ambiguity,"*** it is noted that the semantic structure and meaning of polysemous words are sometimes interpreted as having identical senses. However, they actually represent distinct meanings.

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[27] Menner, R.J. The Conflict of Homonyms in English // Language, – 1936. 12, – p.230

[28] Rudscoger, A. Fair, Foul, Nice, Proper. A Contribution to the Study of Polysemy. / A.Rudscoger. – Stockholm, – 1962. – p.479

[29] Homonym: [Electronic resource]. URL : www.oxford.com/homonym/

"Words with the same phonetic structure and denotations but different connotations are referred to in linguistics as polysemous or polysemantic words"[30].

A.Gurbanov distinguishes homonyms from polysemous words by stating: *"Homonyms resemble polysemous words in their superficial aspect. The difference between homonyms and polysemy lies in the fact that homonymy constitutes independent meanings within a word, whereas polysemy consists of various meaning variants of a single word"*[31].

Unlike homonyms, polysemous words maintain a coherent structure and retain a common semantic core.

Homonymy in words typically arises from historical phonetic changes, whereas polysemy emerges when a single semantic framework acquires additional meanings.

According to F.Veyselli, *"The principle of one-word-one-meaning does not universally apply. Distinguishing between polysemy and homonymy can be challenging. Linguists often turn to etymology for differentiation. Words that have historically evolved to encompass diverse meanings are categorized as polysemous"*[32].

The boundary between homonyms and polysemous words has not been precisely defined. As known, semantic independence allows a word's meaning to narrow or broaden. These processes contribute to a word acquiring polysemy and thereby giving rise to polysemous words.

According to V.V.Vinogradov, *"In distinguishing polysemy from homonymy, the fundamental unit of measure should be the principle of morphological word formation"*[33]. This principle is based on both the similar and different aspects of a word's

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[30] Akhundov, A.A. General Linguistics. Textbook for Higher Education Institutions. / A.A Akhundov,. – Baku: Maarif, – 1988. – p.165

[31] Gurbanov, A.M. General Linguistics [in two volumes]. / A.M. Gurbanov – Baku: Nurlan, – Vol. I. – 2004. – p.229

[32] Veyselli, F.Y. Fundamentals of Linguistics. Studiya Philologica. VI. / F.Y.Veyselli. – Baku: Mutarjim, – 2013. – p.234

[33] Vinogradov, V.V. Russian Language. The Grammatical Doctrine of the Word. / – Moscow: Moscow State University named after M.V.Lomonosov, State Educational-Pedagogical Publishing House, – 1947. – p 231

morphological elements. Such an approach may seem inappropriate in modern linguistic relations because while the reasons for words being homonymous or polysemous may vary, the result remains the same. Hence, their lexical meanings do not overlap. Compare: *Flower/flaue(r)/ bloom – flour /flaue(r)/ 'flour', knight /naɪt/ 'knight' – night /naɪt/ 'night', cord /kɔ:d/ 'rope , garden ' – cored /kɔ:d/ 'cut out, took out; cut, extract' (past and perfect form of the verb to core 'to the core'), rough 'rude, uneducated' – course 'course, flow'.*

Similar aspects between polysemous words and homonyms include: 1) Both consist of units with identical form; 2) Both homonyms and polysemous words are expressed with the same phonetic complex; 3) There may be differences in both the spelling and pronunciation of both homonyms and polysemous words.

Homonyms and polysemous words exhibit distinct characteristics in linguistic analysis. Homonyms are differentiated based on the objects and events they denote, as well as their divergent meanings within a set. Each member of a homonym set carries separate meanings that may vary significantly.

Polysyllabic words also express different meanings, but the proximity and connection between their meanings is preserved in a certain way and is felt: *face/feis/* 'face' – *face/feis/* 'surface' – *face/feis/* 'to the face'. If you can feel an associative connection between the meanings of a word, intermediate aspects, then the word is polysemantic, and if this is impossible, then it is homonymous.

Homonyms disrupt the communicative clarity of language by introducing ambiguity. This ambiguity is viewed negatively in linguistic discourse, as it fails to contribute positively to language functionality[34]. In modern linguistic studies, ambiguity is recognized as a pervasive phenomenon. The English language, whether spoken or written, is particularly noted for its significant degree of ambiguity. Ambiguity in spoken discourse often arises from the phonetic structure of sentences, where a homonymous word can simultaneously convey multiple denotative meanings. This multiplicity of meanings results in uncertainty during the interpretation of words and sentences. Ambiguity stemming from

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[34] Ullmann, S. The Principles of Semantics. / S.Ulmann. – Glasgow, – 1951. – p.165

phonetic or formal similarity, known as homonymic or homophonic confusion, further complicates understanding.

In broader terms, homonymy contributes to confusion in discerning the intended meaning, thereby introducing uncertainty and ambiguity into both spoken and written language contexts.

For instance, consider the sentence *I'll meet you **by the bank**.* Here, the word *bank* introduces ambiguity regarding its intended meaning. However, clarity can be achieved through contextual specification, such as in the sentence *I'll meet you by the bank to have some cash,* where *bank* specifically refers to a financial institution.

The distinction between homonymy and ambiguity lies in the fact that homonymy involves words sharing the same form or pronunciation while maintaining invariant meanings, whereas ambiguity refers to contextual, contextual, interpretive, and explanation-based ambiguity that can be eliminated.

The third paragraph of Chapter II is entitled ***"Homonymy and the phenomenon of conversion."***

Traditionally, conversion, derived from the Latin conversiō meaning 'turning around', is regarded as a word formation process whereby a new word is created through the shift of one part of speech to another without the addition of affixes. This method of lexical innovation is particularly notable in languages characterized by the prevalence of zero morphemes, as observed in English.

Conversion in the works of many researchers is equated to homonymy. A.I.Smirnitsky perceives conversion as a means of correcting a word, where the only means of correcting a word is the grammatical paradigm of the word. However, A.I.Smirnitsky classifies the transformation as lexico-grammatical homonyms. He also shows that the words *love* (noun) and *love* (verb) do not have the same rights as the lexical and grammatical homonyms *sea* and *see*.[35] V.V.Vinogradov tried to prove that conversion and homonymy are

[35] Smirnitsky, A.I. Lexicology of the English language. / A.I.Smirnitsky. – M.: – 1956. – p.172-173

different phenomena.[36]

The semantics of converted words do not always allow them to be classified within the realm of lexical-grammatical homonyms. It is essential to distinguish semantic relationships for both lexical and lexical-grammatical homonyms. For instance, words like *spring/sprıŋ/* can denote 'season of the year,' 'source of water,' or 'to move suddenly upward.' Similarly, *eye/aı/* can mean 'organ of sight' or 'the first person singular pronoun *I*'. Another example includes *fellow/feləu/*, which can refer to 'companion,' 'a sudden burst of wind,' or 'brotherhood.' These diverse meanings within homonymous sets created by the conversion of the same word do not necessarily maintain semantic connections with each other, thus challenging the notion of them being considered as the same linguistic phenomenon.

The fourth paragraph of Chapter II, entitled "***Phraseological homonyms in the English language,***" states that phraseological homonyms in the English language can be formed as a result of splitting polysemantic phraseological units or overlapping their components. However, the presence of homonyms in phraseological units is a very rare phenomenon and is associated with the lexical secondary nature of phraseological units and the scarcity of polysemantic phraseological units, as well as the rather complex composition of phraseological units. This reduces the importance of phraseological units and the possibility of duplication in their pronunciation.

In linguistic literature, fixed word combinations that exhibit multiple meanings across different texts are referred to as phraseological homonyms. They coincide in their initial form, possess identical grammatical characteristics, and diverge in meaning. For example:

the golden calf can refer to 'a golden idol' (a free word combination) or 'wealth and materialism' (a phraseological unit; literally 'a golden figure in the shape of a calf').

a dead dog may mean 'a deceased dog' (a free word combination) or 'something useless or unnecessary' (a phraseological unit).

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[36] Vinogradov, V.V. About Homonymy and Related Phenomena // – Moscow: Issues in Linguistics, – 1960. No. 5, – p. 12

Research indicates that phraseological homonyms expressing negative sentiments are more prevalent compared to those conveying positive meanings. For instance:

sick at heart: 1) 'to feel deeply distressed or sorrowful': *He is sick at heart after her daughter's passing away*; 2) 'to become saddened or depressed': *I became sick at heart just looking at all the homeless children.*

These examples illustrate how phraseological homonyms operate within the framework of linguistic analysis, demonstrating their semantic variability and contextual adaptability in discourse.

In the field of linguistics, phraseological combinations are classified into two types of homonymy: 1) external homonymy and 2) internal homonymy. External homonymy occurs when phraseological combinations phonetically coincide with free word combinations in terms of their nominative content. Internal homonymy, on the other hand, arises within various types of phraseological units, including phraseological compounds and collocations[37].

Scholarly literature observes that not all forms of homonymy are uniformly distributed among phraseological units. However, empirical linguistic data indicate that homographs are more commonly found within this domain.

Homonymy among phraseological units is recognized strictly within synchronous linguistic contexts. This implies that for homonymy to be applicable to phraseological units, they must function concurrently within the same linguistic timeframe.

The dissertation's third chapter is titled **"Homonyms in Literary Style."** The first paragraph of this chapter examines *"Homonymy as a Stylistic Device in Language."*

In literary discourse, homonyms hold a distinctive place and exhibit particular characteristics. They are extensively employed in literary works, especially in brief humorous and satirical writings. Homonyms strengthen the meaning in literary texts and direct the reader's attention towards the expressed ideas.

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[37] Bulakhovsky, L.A. Polysemy of words. / L.A.Bulakhovsky. – M., –1958. – p.330-342.

To identify the specific features of homonyms used in literary and artistic texts, one must explore them within their contexts and examine their occurrences within the text itself. Authors of literary works meticulously analyze the placement and phonetic aspects of words during composition, ensuring that these works adhere to all literary standards. In oral discourse, however, individuals typically do not contemplate homonyms or the coherence of words.

The usage characteristics of homonyms in literary style can be illustrated through examples. For instance, the words *light*, meaning 'not heavy' and 'illuminated,' have historically functioned as homonyms in the ancient English language period. This coherence persists across all forms of these attributes. For example, *lighter* meaning 'less heavy,' and *lighter*, meaning 'more illuminated,' exemplify lexical homonyms. However, their adverbial forms differ: *lightly,* meaning 'not heavily,' contrasts with *light,* meaning 'illuminated.' Consider the following examples:

*"I suggested to stay where we were till it was **light**"*[38].

*"We just slept and continued our way when it was **light**"[39].*

In English literary literature, as well as in everyday conversational language, firmly established homonyms can also be encountered, such as:

the sole of her foot (the bottom of the foot)

the pupil of the eye (the center of the eye)

the Isle of Man (referring to the island in the Irish Sea)

the Isle of Wight (referring to the island off the south coast of England)

the right-hand corner (referring to the corner on the right side).

There exists a notion that homonyms in literary texts predominantly involve puns or witticisms. However, complete agreement on this idea is not warranted, as such an interpretation would significantly narrow the scope of homonym usage. It is essential to note that puns and jokes may involve not only homonyms but also polysemous words.

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[38] Galsworthy, J. End of the Chapter. Over the River. / J.Galsworthy. – Moscow, – 1960. – p.143

[39] Ibid, – p.52

The second paragraph of the third chapter titled ***"The Relevance of Homonyms in Context"*** emphasizes that it is precisely the context that specifies the meaning of a homonymous word. Homonyms function as a semantic category among the linguistic phenomena that express language.

There are diverse opinions regarding the positioning of synonymous words within a text. For instance, according to R.J.Menner, the confluence of the adjectives "light" (/laɪt/) meaning 'not heavy' and "light" (/laɪt/) meaning 'illuminated' results in a gradual restriction and narrowing of the meaning of "light" (/laɪt/) as 'illuminated.' This word had a broader range of meanings in earlier periods of the English language than it does today[40]. R.J.Menner draws from approximately 5000 pages of material from modern English literary literature, noting that instances of *light* /laɪt/ meaning 'illuminated' are relatively rare, while occurrences of *light* /laɪt/ meaning 'not heavy' are more frequent in literary discourse.

However, R.Bridges advocated for exploring homonyms beyond their contextual confines. He presents readers with an extensive list of selected words from Shakespeare's works, noting that these words have now become archaisms: *"These words have become obsolete; some have even fallen out of use, and the sole reason for this is homonymy"*[41]. Bridges asserts that even after Shakespeare's era, numerous words have become archaic, viewing this as a "sin" solely attributable to homonymy, although he does not provide conclusive evidence to support his assertion.

The usage of a homonymous word in specific contexts can evoke unintended associations. For instance, during the early modern period of the English language, the words *queen* /kwiːn/ meaning 'a reigning female monarch' and *quean* /kwiːn/ meaning 'a young woman' were homophones. The evolution of the meaning of *quean* /kwiːn/ to denote a "disreputable woman" led to discomfort with these two words sharing the same pronunciation, eventually resulting

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[40] Menner, R.J. The Conflict of Homonyms in English // Language, – 1936. 12, – p.235

[41] Bridges, R. On English Homophones, Society for Pure English. / R.Bridges. – Oxford, – Vol. 1. – 1950. – p.27

in the gradual obsolescence of the word *quean*. This process of archaization took approximately two centuries. Despite this, the word *quean* has been included in many contemporary English dictionaries. It is noteworthy that in English literary literature, the term *quean* ('disreputable woman') has not been observed, and due to its meaning and emotional-tone nuances, it has been replaced by various synonyms such as *hussy, jade, impudent girl, brazen woman,* and *ill-behaved girl*[42].

Research consistently affirms that homonyms, besides being a semantic category in linguistic discourse, also serve as expressive literary tools. The role of homonyms as a stylistic device is particularly evident in context. In literary discourse, they appear predominantly as general and contextual homonyms, manifesting in two primary forms.

The third paragraph of Chapter III is dedicated to *"Phonetic and Grammatical Characteristics of Homonyms in the English Language."*

To characterize the phonetic and grammatical changes that occur in homonyms in the English language, E.Buyssens suggests considering the following historical rules:

1) Creation of homonymous words through the loss of one of the vowels in the root word:

The form changes while the lexical-grammatical meaning remains unchanged despite the loss of vowel(s) in the root word.

Both form and meaning change.

2) Creation of homonymous words by adding a specific vowel sound to the root word.

3) Creation of homonymous words through changes, loss, and addition of vowel sounds in the root word[43].

Several phonetic events that began in the 15th century have notably contributed to the formation of homonyms, particularly through significant vowel changes. During Middle English, the [e]

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[42] Konetskaya, V.P. Characteristics of Lexical Homonyms and Ways of Their Formation in English. / V.P.Konetskaya. – Moscow, – 1961. – p.122

[43] Buyssens, E. Linguistique historique. Homonymie Stylistique – Semantique – Changements phonetiques. Brussels-Paris: P.U.B., 1965:121

vowel sound from Old English and the [æ] vowel sound from the Wessex dialect evolved into the unified [i] sound, leading to the formation of homonyms such as:

week [wiːk] 'a week' – *weak [wiːk]* 'lacking strength',

meet [miːt] 'to meet' – *meat [miːt]* 'flesh',

feet [fiːt] 'feet' – *feat [fiːt]* 'feat',

reed [riːd] 'reed' – *read [riːd]* 'to read', and so on.

In modern English, vowel sounds have undergone significant changes, particularly influenced by the insertion of the [r] sound in post-position. This influence has mitigated the tendency towards vowel contraction. When the [r] sound is pronounced as a vowel in pre-position and auslaut, it forms a diphthong with the preceding long vowel and lengthens the short vowel when combined.

As a result of these processes, new phonemes [əː] and [oː] have emerged. The transition of [r] to a vowel sound has led to the homonymization of a large number of words. For example:

With the diphthong [iə]: hear [hɪə] 'to hear' – heren 'here', dear 'beloved' – deer 'stag';

With the diphthong [eə]: bear [beə] 'bear' – bear 'to carry' – bare 'naked', their 'belonging to them' – there 'in that place', mare 'female horse' – mayor 'city official';

With the [əː] sound: fur [fəː] 'animal fur' – fir [fəː] 'fir tree', herd 'group of animals' – heard 'heard';

With the [oː] sound: saw [sɔː] 'tool for cutting' – saw 'to see' – saw 'past tense of see' – sore 'painful', maw 'stomach' – more [mɔː] 'additional', horse 'animal' – hoarse 'rough-sounding'[44].

In the newly developed consonant system, other changes include the elision of the initial consonant [k] in the preposition of the initial consonant [n] and the initial consonant [w] in the preposition of the initial consonant [r]. Consequently, this has led to the creation of numerous homonyms: *no*/nou/ 'no' – *know*/nou/ 'to know', *nose*/nouz/ 'nose' – *knows*/nouz/, *new*/njuː/ – *knew*/njuː/ 'knew', *not*/not/ – *knot*/not/, *night*/naɪt/ – *knight*/naɪt/, *rest*/rest/ – *wrest*/rest/, *right*/raɪt/ – *write*/raɪt/ – *wright*/raɪt/ , *rye*/raɪ/ – *wry*/raɪ/,

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[44] English Pronunciation Dictionary (17th edition) / By Daniel Jones. – Cambridge University Press, – 2006. – 576 p.

rick/rɪk/ 'stack' – *wrick*/rɪk/ 'muscle strain', *rap*/ræp/ 'light blow' – wrap/ræp/.

One of the primary considerations when examining the grammatical structure of homonyms is identifying which part of speech they belong to. The development of *adjectives* as homonyms has been relatively limited.

Noun homonyms are more frequently found in the common case of the noun, often appearing in their plural forms. In other words, noun homonyms are predominantly full lexical-grammatical homonyms. For example: *scale*/skeɪl/ 'measure, size' – *scale*/skeɪl/ 'fish scales' – *scales*/skeɪls/ 'weighing scales'.

Verbal homonyms correspond to the infinitive form and maintain uniformity across all other grammatical forms. In other words, they are complete lexical homonyms. For instance: *blow*/blou/ 'to thrill, tremble' – *blow/blou/* 'to bloom'.

Orthography has played a significant role in the formation of homonyms. Throughout the history of the English language, the spelling of many words has undergone substantial changes. During periods when a significant portion of the population was illiterate, the different spellings of homophones had no impact on this segment of society. However, as the number of educated individuals increased, the orthography of homophones began to hold substantial significance in society [45]. The implementation of rules and the stabilization of orthography have led to the creation of numerous homonyms.

In the fourth paragraph of Chapter III, ***"Abbreviated Homonyms in the English Language"*** are discussed. The increase in the number of abbreviations has led to an expansion of the ways in which homonymy is created. The abbreviated components of homonym pairs are represented by acronyms that coincide with primary words. For example: *car* 'automobile' – *CAR* / Canadian Association of Radiologists, *cat* 'feline' – *CAT* / Civil Air Transport, man 'human; male' – *MAN* / Military Aviation Notice (an order ensuring the flight safety of military aircraft), 'mass; crowd' – *MASS*

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[45] Jespersen, O. Growth and Structure of the English Language. / O. Jespersen. – New York: – 1938. – 244 p

/ Modern Army Supply System (the new supply system of the U.S. Army).

In the English language, some words are also used in their abbreviated forms, many of which create homonymy. For instance:

flu(e) (from influenza) – 'common cold'; *flue* –'chimney'; *flue* – 'fur'; *flue* – 'fishing net,' and *hip* (from hypochondria) – 'melancholy, dejected; *hip* – 'hip joint'; *hip* – 'rosehip fruit.'

The abbreviated forms of auxiliary verbs combined with personal pronouns can also create homonymy. For example, *I'll* [aıl] (from I + shall or will) 'I + future tense of the verb' – *isle* [ail] 'island' – aisle [ail] 'passage (between rows),' and *I'd* (from I + had, I + would, or should) – *eyed* (past tense and past participle form of the verb eye 'to observe, watch').

There are instances where an abbreviated word creates homonymy with another abbreviated word. For example, *gin* (from engine) 'trap; to trap' – *gin* (from geneva) 'juniper berry extract,' and *spec* (from speculation) 'speculation' – *speck* (from speckle) 'spot, to spot.'

There are also cases where the abbreviation of a word is presented differently, often reflected in the use of uppercase or lowercase letters: *USA* / The United States of America; *USA* / The United States Army; *Jew/* / Jewish – *jew.* / jewelry, the craft of making jewelry,' and so on.

Abbreviations are more characteristic of the written form of the language. Their formation occurs in accordance with the laws of the language, and while they may create certain decoding problems through the creation of homonymy, they also contribute to the semantic enrichment of the language by adhering to the principle of economy.

In the **"Conclusion"** section of the dissertation, the findings obtained during the research are summarized as follows:

1. Homonymy, in addition to being a result of diachronic phenomena, is a semasiological category and a synchronic phenomenon characterized by the categorical relationship of words unrelated in meaning. Homonyms are a historical category.

2. The presence of homonyms in the English language is lawful and universal. Homonyms in English are conditioned by the universal categories of symmetry and asymmetry characteristic of dynamic systems. Homonyms possess individual aspects in terms of signs and are characterized by their organization in both symmetric and asymmetric forms.

3. In the English language, homonymic terms are special lexical units where the primary sema is fragmented, but the secondary semas overlap.

4. The semantic independence of homonyms is ensured by the absence of common elements in their semantics and the presence of a distinct semantic center in each. Homonyms are distinguished from other linguistic units in semantic terms.

5. The differentiation of meanings in homonyms is determined by their use in contexts that arise from the homogeneity of syntactic relations during the substitution of associated elements.

6. Polysemy and homonymy cannot be equated. In polysemy, the different meanings of a word are semantically related, whereas homonyms have no semantic connection. Homonyms that arise from the semantic fragmentation of a polysemous word are explained by the fact that they have become entirely new words.

7. Homonyms can be realized at both lexical and semantic levels. Lexical puns are based on the substitution of one meaning for another within a polysemous word, while lexical-semantic puns involve the superimposition of one meaning over another.

8. The number of homonyms present in the language and used in speech exceeds those recorded in the dictionaries of the literary language.

9. The frequency of usage of homonyms is closely related to their semantics. As the number of words within a homonym group increases, their ability to express multiple meanings decreases. Homonyms with high usage frequency tend to have more lexical meanings.

10. Phraseological homonyms occur through various processes: the metaphorization of different variable word combinations, the repeated metaphorization of words within the same variable

combination, the semantic fragmentation of a polysemous phraseological unit, and the repeated metaphorization of an existing phraseological unit. Among these, the most productive is the semantic fragmentation of a polysemous phraseological unit.

The main provisions of the dissertation are reflected in the author's following published works:

1. Identification of Homonyms in the English Language // "Actual Problems of Teaching Foreign Languages" Republican Scientific Practical Conference. – Baku: Azerbaijan University of Languages, – May 5-6, – 2016, – p. 8-10.
2. Lexical and Lexical-Grammatical Homonyms in the English Language // "Actual Problems of Cognitive and Applied Linguistics" International Scientific Conference. – Baku: Azerbaijan University of Languages, – October 20-21, – 2016, – p. 13-15.
3. The difference between Homonyms and Conversion in the English Language // – Baku: ANAS, Institute of Manuscripts named after M.Fuzuli, Philological Issues, – 2017. №15, – p.237-241.
4. The Impact of Phraseological Homonymy on Polysemy // – – Baku: ANAS, Institute of Manuscripts named after M.Fuzuli, Philological Issues, – 2017. №16, – p. 292-304.
5. The Difference between Homonyms and Polysemous Words // – Baku: Baku Slavic University, Actual Problems of the Study of Humanities, – 2018. №2, – p. 3-8.
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