



CLASSIFICATION OF SYNONYMS

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Abstract: *In this article, the opinions of linguists of different nationalities and countries about synonyms are presented and analyzed by comparison*

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Linguistic factors in the development of a literary language rely on the vocabulary of a particular language. The vocabulary of a language is determined by the breadth of synonyms. Factors that exist outside of language, i.e. non-linguistic factors (forms of social order, historical processes, economic, political, cultural and educational relations between peoples and nations, development of science, development of production and technology, social thinking, human psyche, emotions, such as laws and decrees regarding language and writing) also cause the expansion of the scope of synonyms.

It is known that the phenomenon of synonymy in languages is one of the most important problems in general linguistics. Synonymy is two or more linguistic units that have the same or similar meaning in a language, but are not similar in pronunciation, spelling or origin.

“Synonyms (Greek *synonymos* -one-named) -language units that have the same common meaning (the same denotative meaning) and are distinguished by additional (connotative) meaning (expressive, stylistic, etc. features) -word, phrase, syntactic unit and others.”¹

Some linguists comment on synonyms: "The grouping of language units (words, phrases, etc.) based on the fact that they have the same denotative meaning 1 Arnold I. V. (1986). *The English Word*. Moscow: Vysšaja škola. is called synonymy." It seems that we can call words that have the same common meaning as synonyms.

It is important to always determine the context of the words being compared, because due to the different meanings of the same word, it can fall into different semantic categories and be used as an analogue of different words.

English linguists are also asked, "How close in meaning does a word have to be to have a synonym?" question has always interested me.

Synonymous categories in English often allow us to trace the historical development of the English lexicon, especially the participation of different



languages in its evolution. In fact, the English lexicon contains a large number of synonyms, which is explained by a significant flow of borrowed words.

N.M. Raevskaya offers the following classification of synonyms:

ideographic synonyms and stylistic synonyms. He describes the former as synonyms, which "denote different signs of meaning or different degrees of a given quality." Ideographic synonyms are nearly equivalent in one or more denotative senses; so, they can be used at least in some contexts, e.g. different – various. On the contrary, stylistic synonyms differ in evaluative, emotional-expressive meanings.

It is known that the main criterion for determining the synonymy of lexical units is their general conceptual interdependence. Another criterion for determining the synonymy of certain lexical units is their interchangeability in the context. Synonyms usually differ in one or more ways, another of which may be a difference in meaning.

Synonymous phrases differ from each other according to subtlety of meaning, stylistic color, or both at the same time. In fact, languages, especially English and Uzbek, are extremely wide in terms of using synonyms to express speech. In communication, similes and definitions show that the phenomenon of synonymy is extremely rare. Beautiful similes through synonyms are one of the main principles of the field of philology.

"N.M. Raevskaya indicated the following sources of the emergence of synonyms:

1. Synonyms denoting different shades of denotative meaning from the native language: fast – speedy – swift; handsome – pretty – lovely.
2. Synonyms in different dialects and variants of the English language: radio (British English) – wireless (American English), long ago – langsyne (Scot.).
3. Synonyms borrowed from other languages: end (Native) – finish (French) – complete (Latin);
4. Similar synonyms in figurative use with expressive features: walk of life – occupation; star-gazer – dreamer.
5. Euphemisms are emotionally neutral words and phrases that are used instead of synonymous words and phrases that seem rude, polite: sweat – perspiration; drunkenness – intoxication; naked – in one's birthday suit; poor – unprivileged.

"In English, synonyms can be words and phrases that have the same meaning and perform similar functions. By applying the methodology of determining and studying semantic relations between words, it can be noted that the semantic structure of verbs has a common element, for example, "to think": "to believe", "to consider", "to suppose", "to imagine", "reckon", "to judge", «to regard», «to fancy», «to surmise», «to deem», «to guess», «to conceive», «to



opine», «to ween», «to presume», «to hold», «to assume», «to calculate», «to count», «to dream», «to expect»

It should be noted that the phenomenon of synonymy in languages has been and is being studied in a special monographic way not only in English, Uzbek and Russian linguistics, but also in the theory and practice of other languages.

"One of the remarkable conclusions of the scientist is that synonyms, at least in some contexts, are interchangeable with one or more of the same meaning, without significant change in denotative meaning, but differ in morphemic composition, phonemic form, meaning, connotation, affective meaning, style, emotional color. and valence is interpreted as characteristic of one of the elements of the synonymous group. English linguists put forward the following hypothesis about synonyms: "To call them absolute synonyms, they should have the same distribution of meanings, and there should be complete compatibility in all meanings and forms. Absolute synonymy would have the same semantic properties to exist. Unfortunately, synonyms cannot be used in all contexts, and perhaps no word has an absolute synonym. There are several factors that control and prevent the definition of synonyms in many settings and contexts. The meanings of words are constantly changing, and language tends to eliminate absolute synonyms. This situation, in turn, makes synonymy one of the most controversial issues in modern linguistics.

Thus, the appearance of synonyms in English and Uzbek depends on several factors, which include:

Firstly, synonyms appear due to a person's desire to look for new concepts in the representation of an object or a phenomenon of reality and to express them using words similar to existing concepts. Such words already exist in the language to denote certain things or events.

Secondly, synonyms can appear due to the influence of words that are similar in meaning in languages.

Thirdly, different styles of speech or phrases may use different names for the same object or event.

Fourthly, in some cases, an object, characteristic or event can be given a different emotional value

The conclusion is that it is important to always determine the context of the words being compared, because due to the different meanings of the same word, it can fall into different semantic categories and be used as an analogue of different words. Synonyms are words that have the same or nearly the same meaning in a particular context. They form an essential part of any language, as they enrich the expressive capacity of speech and help convey precise nuances of meaning. The study of synonyms is a significant area of linguistics, especially in semantics, stylistics, and lexicography. Understanding synonyms allows speakers and writers



to choose the most appropriate words for a given situation, enhancing both clarity and stylistic expressiveness.

The classification of synonyms is a method used by linguists to organize words based on their meaning, usage, and stylistic features. Generally, synonyms can be classified into several categories, such as full synonyms, partial synonyms, stylistic synonyms, and contextual synonyms. Full synonyms are words that can be used interchangeably in almost all contexts without changing the meaning of the sentence. For example, the words “begin” and “commence” in English can sometimes be full synonyms, although one may have a more formal tone. Partial synonyms, on the other hand, are words that share some meanings but not all, or they may be appropriate only in specific contexts. Stylistic synonyms refer to words that have similar meanings but differ in tone, formality, or emotional connotation. For instance, the words “child” and “kid” have the same denotative meaning, but “kid” is more informal. Contextual synonyms are words that become synonymous only in particular contexts. These synonyms are highly dependent on the situation and often cannot be replaced outside the specific context without altering the meaning.

Synonyms also vary in their semantic relationships. Some are based on generalization and specialization, where one word has a broader meaning and another a narrower one. For example, “vehicle” is a general term, while “car” is a more specific term. Other types include absolute synonyms, which are very rare, and relative synonyms, which can substitute each other with slight differences in meaning. The recognition and understanding of these types are crucial in both learning and teaching languages, as they help avoid redundancy and improve vocabulary precision. In addition to semantic classification, stylistic and functional features are also used to categorize synonyms. Stylistic classification considers the level of formality, literary or colloquial usage, and emotional coloring of words. Functional classification examines how words operate within a sentence and how they influence the tone or style of discourse. By studying synonyms from multiple perspectives, linguists and language learners can gain a deeper understanding of word choice, sentence variety, and effective communication.

Moreover, the classification of synonyms is especially important in translation studies and language education. Translators must understand the nuances between similar words to convey the original meaning accurately. Language teachers can use synonym classification to help learners expand their vocabulary, improve writing skills, and avoid repetitive expressions. In modern linguistics, computer-assisted methods and corpus linguistics have further enhanced the study of synonyms, allowing for quantitative analysis of word usage patterns across large texts. In conclusion, synonyms are not merely words with similar meanings; they are a complex linguistic phenomenon with semantic, stylistic, and functional dimensions.



Their classification helps in understanding the subtle differences between words, improving language proficiency, and enriching communication. Studying synonyms is essential for linguists, translators, teachers, and language learners, as it enables precise expression, stylistic variety, and effective communication in both spoken and written language.

