

CLASSIFICATION OF HOMONYMS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the homonyms of the English language and their classification considered by different scientists. Many famous foreign linguists, such as Arakin, Kabanov I. N., Arnold, Lyons, Skeet, Smirnitsky and others tried to define homonymy and classify homonyms in English language. Homonyms of the English language have different grammatical forms, and may also have the same sound or spelling.

Keywords: Homonymy, homonymous morphemes, terminology, English language, full and partial homonyms, linguistic terms, parts of speech, graphic form, grammatical meaning, lexical meaning, classification of homonyms, historical meaning.

INTRODUCTION

In modern English language, the phenomenon of homonymy is widely developed. This phenomenon attracts many linguists to study its problems and attempt to classify homonyms in the English language. But, despite the fact that the study of homonymy has been conducted for a long time, there is still neither generally accepted definition of homonyms, nor established terminology in this area.

The study of homonymy is especially important for understanding a foreign language, since in it different grammatical forms may have the same sound or spelling. In Russian language, this is usually not paid attention. Also, the knowing of homonyms is simply necessary in the practice of the English language, in which their number is much higher than in the Russian language. Homonymy presents itself a certain hindrance in the process of communication, when it is necessary to determine what exactly the meaning of the word corresponds to the context of speech. Also, words-homonyms are a problem for the speaker, who is forced to choose words in order to unambiguously understand his statements. The study of homonyms is extremely interesting in terms of tracking the historical meaning of the word and its changes in the process of language development.

Modern English is characterized by a fairly significant number of homonyms, compared to other languages.

In different languages, homonyms are always specific and no analogy between homonymous groups due to their random nature does not happen and cannot be.

An important place in the linguistic description of homonyms is occupied by the problem of their classification.

Materials and methods

Many famous linguists, such as Arakin, Arnold, Lyons, Skeet, Smirnitsky, have tried to define and classify homonyms in English language. Each of them had their own individual view of

this concept. The most complete classifications of homonyms were proposed by Smirnitsky A. I. and Arnold I. V. Smirnitsky, dividing homonyms into full and partial, identifies three subgroups of partial homonyms. Arnold in his classification considers 12 classes of homonyms. It is worth noting that the opinions of scientists in the question of understanding the language form differed slightly. Some of them rely on the sound side of the word and associate the concept of homonymy with it, others consider this concept much wider: they combine the sound and graphic forms of the word. That is why in the dictionary-reference of linguistic terms Rosenthal can be found homonyms lexical, grammatical, graphic, absolute, homophones and homoforms.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

I. W. Arnold divides all homonyms on exactly homonyms, homophones and homographs, but, for more full classifications exactly homonyms, offers dividing them on the next 12 classes:

1. Partial homonyms having the same initial form but different paradigms (light, n., a flame - light, adj., easy);
2. Partial homonyms, which have the same individual word forms, but not the original (might - n. potency, power; might - Past Tense from may);
3. Words belonging to the same part of speech, different in their original form, but coinciding in some other form. This case is quite rare. (Axe - axes, axis — axes);
4. Different lexical meaning at the same original form, same grammatical meaning at different paradigms. (lay — lain and lie — lied— lied);
5. Words that differ in lexical and grammatical meaning, but not in paradigm, as they are immutable service words (for – prep. for – conj.);
6. The most typical type of full homonymy is a different lexical meaning, but homonyms belong to the same part of speech (spring – jump, spring – source, spring – season);
7. The presence of a common component in the lexical meaning of homonyms (before-prep., before – adv., before – conj.);
8. Word pairs that have maximum identity. Can be considered as variants of one polysemantic word.
9. Homonyms, obtained by conversion of (eye – noun, eye - verb). About the meaning of a derived word can be guessed if the meaning of the original word is known.
10. Words belonging to different parts of speech and coinciding in one of their forms. Their similarity is based on a common root (thought – noun, thought - verb);
11. Similarity of both lexical and grammatical meaning in combination with difference in form.
12. A small group of words, consisting mainly of nouns having double plural, slightly different in meaning (brother — brothers, brother - brethren).[1]

In the classification of I. V. Arnold, all aspects of the classification, as well as all kinds of cases of homonymy, even quite rare, are considered in detail.

Kabanov I. N. on degree of identity, allocates three types of coincidence of a sound and letter form of different words-full homonyms and incomplete homonyms (homophones and homographs).

Full homonyms are words that coincide in both their sound and written forms, but differ in meaning. Such words are, for example, *back*, n "part of the body" :: *back*, adv "away from the front" :: *back*, v "go back"; *ball*, n "a round object used in games" :: *ball*, n "a gathering of people for dancing"; *bark*, n "the noise made by a dog" :: *bark*, v "to utter sharp explosive cries" :: *bark*, n "the skin of a tree" :: *bark*, n "a sailing ship"; *base*, n "bottom" :: *base*, v "build

a place upon" :: base, a "mean"; bay, n "part of the sea or lake filling wide-mouth opening of land" :: bay, n "recess in a house or a room" :: bay, v "bark" :: bay, n "the European laurel".

Homophones are units that are similar in sound, but differ in their spelling and meaning, for example: *air :: heir; buy :: by; him :: hymn; knight :: night; not :: knot; or :: oar; peace :: piece; rain :: reign; steel :: steal; storey :: story; write :: right.*

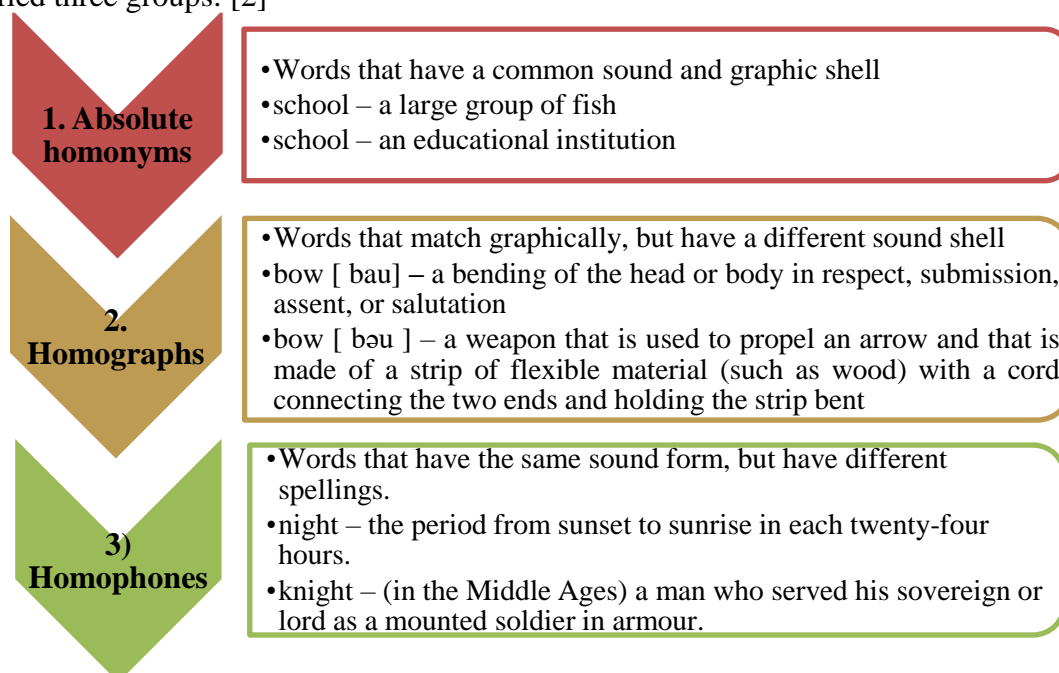
Homographs are words that are identical in spelling, but different in meaning and pronunciation (both in terms of sound composition and the place of stress in the word), for example: *bow[bou] :: bow[bau]; lead[li:d] :: lead [led]; row[rou]:: row[rau]; sewer [sou] :: sewer[sju]; wind [wind] :: wind [waind].*

Different forms of words that coincide in sound appearance are called **homofoms** (saw "jig-saw" and saw past form of the verb to see).

D. Lyons gives his own classification of homonyms, which is very similar to the classical one: "Let's start,.. with the introduction of the concept of absolute homonymy. Absolute homonyms must respond to the following three conditions (in addition to the necessary minimum condition of all types of homonymy-the identity of at least one of the forms):

- (1) they must be unrelated in meaning;
- (2) all their forms must be identical;
- (3) identical forms must be grammatically equivalent.

Walter Skeet classified homonyms based on their graphic and sound shell. based on this, he identified three groups: [2]



A. I. Smirnitsky divided homonyms into two large classes: full homonyms and partial homonyms. Full lexical homonyms are words that belong to the same part of speech and have the same paradigms (match-match). Partial homonyms according to A. I. Smirnitsky are divided into three subgroups: [4]

a) simple lexico-grammatical (one part of speech whose paradigms have one form): to found-found;

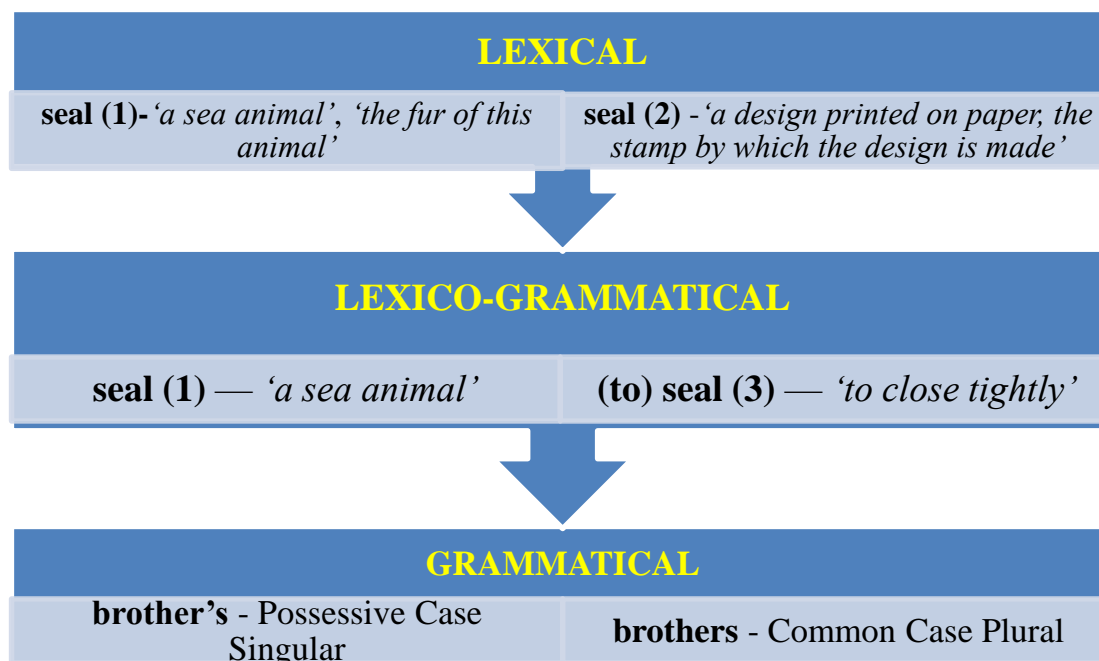
b) complex lexico-grammatical (units belonging to different parts of speech and having the same form in their paradigms): maid-made, bean-been;

C) lexical (words of one part of speech and the same only in the initial form): to can-can.

Ginsburg R. S. considers homonyms below as follows. Homonyms may be also classified by the type of meaning into **lexical**, **lexico-grammatical** and **grammatical** homonyms. The difference is confined to the lexical meaning only: seal (1) denotes 'a sea animal', 'the fur of this animal', etc., seal (2) — 'a design printed on paper, the stamp by which the design is made', etc. So, we can say that seal (2) and seal (1) are **lexical homonyms** because they differ in lexical meaning.

But, if we compare seal (1) — 'a sea animal', and (to) seal (3) — 'to close tightly', we shall observe not only a difference in the lexical meaning of their homonymous word-forms but a difference in their grammatical meanings as well. Identical sound-forms, i.e. seals [si:lz] (Common Case Plural of the noun) and (he) seals [si:lz] (third person Singular of the verb) possess each of them different grammatical meanings. As both grammatical and lexical meanings differ we describe these homonymous wordforms as **lexico-grammatical**.

Modern English abounds in homonymic word-forms differing in grammatical meaning only. In the paradigms of the majority of verbs the form of the Past Tense is homonymous with the form of Participle II, e.g. asked [a:skt] — asked [a:skt]; in the paradigm of nouns we usually find homonymous forms of the Possessive Case Singular and the Common Case Plural, e.g. brother's ['brʌðə] — brothers ['brʌðə]. It may be easily observed that **grammatical** homonymy is the homonymy of different word-forms of one and the same word. [3]



CONCLUSION

Summing up, it should be emphasized that a single definition of homonyms, recognized by all linguists, has not yet been developed.

There are different approaches to classifying homonyms that can be successfully applied to describe homonyms of different languages, in particular English. In the process of language

communication, the phenomenon of homonymy can cause certain difficulties, which, however, are removed when considering the context of communication.

In the English language throughout the history of its development, there have been and continue to be language changes associated with the phenomenon of homonymy.

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