The syntactic and semantic features of synonyms in English and Uzbek languages

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Abstract: Syntax is the study of sentence formation; it is a system of categories and rules that allow words to form sentences. Grammatical sentences: the native speakers of a language them as possible utterances. Syntax is the grammatical structure of words and phrases to create coherent sentences. The format in which words and phrases are arranged to create sentences is called syntax. Examples of syntax in a sentence.

Key words: The boy jumped happily, *The girl sang beautifully.*

Introduction: Syntax is the study of sentence formation; it is a system of categories and rules that allow words to form sentences. Grammatical sentences: the native speakers of a language them as possible utterances. Syntax is the grammatical structure of words and phrases to create coherent sentences. The format in which words and phrases are arranged to create sentences is called syntax. Examples of syntax in a sentence:

The boy jumped happily.

The boy happily jumped.

By rearranging just one word in the sentence, a varied syntax is formed. Each is grammatically correct and acceptable English language form. Words and phrases must follow English rules for correct arrangement and coherent sentences. Syntax and diction are different concepts in grammar and in literature. The following examples have similar syntax but different diction:

The boy jumped happily.

The girl sang beautifully.

The dog barked loudly.

Each of these sentences has the same syntax. Each sentence follows the structure of subject-verb-adverb. However, each sentence uses different diction (word choice).

The following examples have similar diction but different syntax.

The boy jumped happily.

The boy happily

Happily, the boy jumped.

Syntactic and semantic features play important roles in understanding and distinguishing synonyms in both English and Uzbek languages. Synonyms in both languages often belong to the same part of speech, allowing for interchangeability in sentence structures. For example, in English, *run* and *sprint* are both verbs, while *big* and *large* are both adjectives. In Uzbek, yugurmoq and chopmoq are both verbs meaning *to run*. Synonyms generally maintain the same word order within a sentence. For instance, in English, *bright sun* and *shining sun* both follow the pattern of adjective + noun. Similarly, in Uzbek,

katta uy and *shinam uy* both follow the pattern of adjective + noun, meaning *big house* and *comfortable house,* respectively. Synonyms may exhibit different prepositional patterns, affecting the choice of prepositions used with them. For example, in English, the verb depend is often followed by the preposition *on,* while the verb rely is typically followed by the preposition *upon.* These verbs are synonyms but have different prepositional usage patterns. English example: *I depend on her support.* vs. *I rely upon her support.* Synonyms can have different patterns of verb complementation, meaning they take different types of complements or clauses after them. For instance, in English, the verbs *like* and *enjoy* are synonyms, but they have different patterns of verb complementation. English example: I *like* swimming. vs I *enjoy* swimming. Synonyms may vary in terms of their transitivity, that is, whether they require an object or not. Some verbs or adjectives may be synonymous, but one may be transitive while the other is intransitive. This difference affects their usage in sentences. English example: *She broke the glass.* (transitive) vs. *The glass broke.* (intransitive). Synonyms can have different preferences for sentence structures or syntactic constructions. Certain synonyms may be more commonly used in specific sentence patterns or structures, resulting in slight differences in meaning or emphasis. English example: *I have a car.* vs. *I possess a car.*

The study of semantics, also known as semasiology, is within the umbrella of linguistics. The concerns that are of particular relevance in this connection are with what exactly is that branch of linguistics concerned, and in what ways does it see a distinction between itself and the semantic problems that may be found in contemporary logic. The task of defining synonymy is a somewhat challenging one. The fundamental issue with synonymy is that defining it is not as straightforward as it may initially appear to be. The idea that synonymy is founded on a comparable meaning or that synonyms are either identical or similar in meaning is a point that is shared by all of the definitions. The concept of synonymy refers to the way in which the meanings of two or more words are comparable to one another while also emphasising the differences between those words. The goal of the study that is most pertinent to the topic at hand is to investigate the distinctions between two synonyms and how the occurrence of each is determined by one of two distinct functional styles.

Cruse offers us a more sophisticated definition. He says that synonyms "are words whose semantic similarities are more salient than their differences".[1]

According to Cruse, there are four degrees of synonymy:
- absolute synonymy
- propositional synonymy
- near-synonymy
-clusters

a) Absolute synonymy

As mentioned above, absolute synonyms are identical in meaning and interchangeable in all contexts. Two synonyms fit perfectly in any given context or it is not possible to use any of them. In both Uzbek and English languages, absolute synonyms are words or phrases that have exactly the same meaning and can be used interchangeably in all contexts without any discernible difference in connotation, usage, or register. Absolute synonyms in Uzbek language are relatively rare, as words often have subtle distinctions or varying usage patterns. However, there are a few examples of absolute synonyms in Uzbek: *bola* and *farzand*: Both words mean *child* and can be used interchangeably to refer to a young human being. *Yaxshi* and *a'lo:* Both words mean *good* and can be used interchangeably to

[1] Cruse, A. 2000. *Meaning in Language. An introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics*.Oxford: Oxford University Press

express positive qualities or attributes. *Zangori* and *ko'k:* Both words mean *blue* and can be used interchangeably to describe the color blue. Similarly, in English, *big* and *large* are absolute synonyms when used to describe size. It is important to note that even with absolute synonyms, the choice of word may depend on personal preference, regional variations, or specific stylistic considerations.

b) Propositional synonymy

The term "proposition" is a term for the logical-truthful content of the sentence. Propositional synonymy occurs when two synonyms are interchangeable without any change of truth-conditional properties, i.e. by usage of a synonym the logical-truthful condition of the content does not change. It is a question of style, not a question of the logical structure of sentences. The truth-conditional properties have the main function for the hearer to encode the message in a direct way. However, they vary in one or more aspect of the meaning. Propositional synonyms have shared aspect, which is a semantic mode, and a different aspect, typically the expressive mode, but it is not a requirement. Differences in the meanings of propositional synonyms, by definition, necessarily involve one or more aspects of non-propositional meaning, the most important being (a) differences in expressive meaning, (b) differences of stylistic level (on the colloquial-formal dimension), and (c) differences of presupposed field of discourse. While they may be used interchangeably in some contexts, there are slight differences that make them more suitable or appropriate in specific situations. Here are some examples of partial synonyms in Uzbek:*Qizil* and *ol:* Both words mean *red,* but *qizil* is generally used to describe a deeper, more intense shade of red, while "alvon" typically refers to a lighter or brighter shade of red. *Kechgi* and *tungi:* Both words mean *night*, but *kechgi* often refers to the period after sunset when it starts to get dark, while *tungi* typically denotes the full night or. In English, *begin* and *commence* are partial synonyms with similar meanings, but *commence* is typically used in more formal or technical contexts.

c) Near-synonymy

This type is very close to propositional synonymy, but also to non-synonymy. The line is very fuzzy. It is generally very hard to classify to which category some words belong. Differences between near-synonyms are minor or they hide in the background.

Determining the category is difficult with regard to the minor differences or differences hiding in the background. Minor differences can consist of differences in the intensity scale (*good-awesome, small-tiny, run-speed*), adverbial specialization of verbs (*gaze-stare*), aspectual distinctions *(rude-coarse)* or difference of prototype centre (*mature-advanced*). Background differences consist of some kind of contrastive matter, for example gender, distinction as in *beautiful-handsome.* They are often used interchangeably but may carry subtle nuances that make them more suitable for specific contexts. For example, in Uzbek, *yaxshi* (good) and *a'lo* (excellent) are near synonyms, with *a'lo* conveying a higher degree of excellence or quality. In English, *anger* and *fury* are near synonyms, both indicating a state of anger, but *fury* suggests a stronger or more intense level of anger.

d) Clusters

One other special type is called clusters of synonyms. The clusters express the complexity of the group. They are divided into centred and non-centred clusters. The first mentioned type expresses the same object by many words on different levels of style and they are circled around one stylistically unmarked item. Cruse illustrates it by the example of *die* which can be expressed also as *pass away, kick the bucket*, etc. The second type has no core item because all the expressions may overlap each other and between members of the group there are slight differences, e.g. *look, stare, gaze, observe, watch, see, regard* or another cluster of *strange, unknown, unfamiliar.*

The English language is particularly rich in synonymy since many words are loan words. Loan words are a significant source of synonyms. The English language has borrowed many words from Latin, French and Greek over the course of time.

Native	from French	from Latin
to ask	to question	to interrogate
belly	stomach	abdomen
to end	to finish	to complete
to gather	to assemble	to collect
to rise	to mount	to ascent
teaching	guidance	instruction

Crystal[2] states list of kinds of synonyms according to their points of difference. It is simple and clear although it should be included as an addition to propositional synonymy. Standing by itself the distribution could be misleading, and, for this reason, it is not sufficient distribution. Cruse's distribution is simpler and without these differences, but more complete. It is more appropriate to deal with Cruse's distribution and take into account Leech's distribution of seven kinds of meaning[3].

a) Synonyms which differ in dialect are the first type. Dialect difference is typical for words used for a small area, frequently one word with different grammar or pronunciation. For example, the word *mother* is pronounced differently in London and in the southwest of Britain.

b) There is also stylistic difference usually for formal and informal synonyms or common and technical expression, e.g. *thanks* and *thank you.*

c) Collocational difference is characterized by each of the synonyms being typically associated with specific words. For example, *severe* and *heavy* are synonymous, but we always say *severe weather* and *heavy rain,* not vice versa.

d) Difference in emotional feelings or connotation depends if the speaker wants to express pleasant or unpleasant emotions to the hearer and according to that the speaker chooses the apt synonym.

e) Stylistic synonyms are synonyms which have stylistic or emotional colouring while having the same denotation (the same general sense). The connotation is based on colouring, attitude and emotions. An example is the words *child* and *baby*. The expression *baby* has a more subtle connotation.

f) Ideographic synonyms (or near, relative synonyms) are the group of synonyms which other linguists call "partial" synonyms, as mentioned by Kvetko[4]. The group consists of synonyms which differ in intensity and degree of what they express. For example, *large* and *enormous* both express size but *enormous* is bigger than large.

g) Synonymic pairs and series include several subgroups and in each group one word is more general, more neutral than the other words and they appear in different grammatical classes.

Words in the vocabulary have to adapt to the needs of communication and other needs of the world, i.e. social, scientific or technological progress of society. First, words have to adapt to time, thus vocabulary changes and renews. It is a never-ending process because time is constantly passing and during this process the world, including vocabulary, adapts. New words arise from other languages or can be derived from older expressions. It takes some time before the general public absorbs a new word

[2] Crystal, D. 2010. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

[3] Geoffrey Leech. 1981. *Semantics. The Study of Meaning*. London: Penguin Books.

[4]Pavol Kvetko. *English Lexicology in Theory and Practice.* 2019. P.74

as it spreads constantly until it is accepted. During this process the word is called neologism. For example, *laptop* used to be a neologism but is now in the active vocabulary of the majority of the population. A big wave of neologisms came with the technological innovations in the 1990s[5]. New synonyms are also created due to word-formation and semantic change. Concerning word-formation, things gain supplementary names on account of compounds, shortening, derivations (suffixation, affixations), or conversion. This happens based on the current needs of society.

Used literature

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