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Theoretical Foundations of Polysemy and its Types

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Abstract. There are many more polysemantic English words than Russian ones. Here, depending on the context and the lexical environment, most words of the common vocabulary can change their meaning, semantics. In this article we discuss theoretical foundations of polysemy and place in linguistic texts.

Key words: polysemy, lexical polysemy, grammatical polysemy.

Polysemy is the presence of more than one meaning in a language unit, provided there is a semantic connection between them or the transfer of common or related features or functions from one word to another. Polysemy can be both grammatical and lexical. Lexical polysemy can be defined as "the ability of one word to serve to designate different objects and phenomena of reality." Polysemy is a linguistic universal in the system of European languages. It is based on the asymmetry of the linguistic sign and reflects the principle of saving formal means while conveying the maximum semantic volume.

A large number of metaphors in the language of science is explained by the scooping up of ordinary language resources to name new scientific objects, when commonly used words acquire new terminological meanings. Or, already known terms are used to name new objects. In both cases, the semantic connection between the main and derived meanings remains. A striking example here is the "tail", the back part, which served as the basis for a number of terminological nominations, thereby forming a large group of cross-industry polysemantics. "Polysemantics are different meanings of one lexical unit" [3, p. 126].

Their main difference is that, initially appearing in the utterance, metaphorical and antonymic transfers of the first type, as a result of frequent use, become facts of the language and must be assimilated by people who study the language, while figurative speech techniques - metaphorical and metonymic transfers - remain facts of speech. , creating a special expressiveness, imagery and influencing the artistic perception of the listener or reader.

It is also important to note that polysemy differs from homonymy, which occurs when the spelling or sound of words with different meanings coincide. But there is a small part of homonyms, in English there are about 6% of them [2, p.164], which arise as a result of

polysemy. This is the development of lexico-semantic variants of one word, when, for various reasons, the semantic structure of the word is branched. This type of development of homonymy is called "split polysemy".

The semantic structure of a polysemantic word is a system within which its constituent values are interconnected through logical connections or associations. In most cases, all lexico-semantic variants of a word are connected by one specific meaning, which is called "invariant".

As for the meaning, which is an invariant, as a result of changes in the language over time, it is able to leave the semantic structure of the word, which, in turn, leads to a violation of the logical connections between the lexico-semantic variants of the word. "As a result, the semantic structure of the word loses its unity and is divided into two or more parts, which are then perceived as separate, independent lexical units" [2, P.72]. An example is the word spring (vegetation period in plants, spring and spring), which has three unrelated meanings that once had a close semantic connection.

Semantic changes serve a dual function. On the one hand, they act as a factor ensuring the continuity and constancy of the lexical composition of the language. On the other hand, they are an effective means of creating secondary meanings and ultimately lead to the emergence of polysemy of lexical units.

In addition, polysemy performs certain functions in the text, depending on what is the source of polysemy: metaphor, metonymy or synecdoche.

Metaphorization and metonymy perform several significant functions:

Nominative - a metaphorical word, on the one hand, differentiates meanings, but on the other hand, integrates them due to the unity of sound. This function of metaphorical transfer helps to achieve expression in the text.

Epistemological - metaphorical and metonymic meanings are often used to create a new meaning and organize an integral semantic space. Most often, this function contributes to the creation of a hidden implicit meaning.

Evaluative - in a metaphor, evaluation is closely related to two types of evaluation activities: on the one hand, reliance on sensory perception, on the other hand, it is always the result of rational thinking. This is the most important function for expressing expression.

Thus, the expression of expression with the help of polysemic structures in text or speech is achieved due to the functions that these structures perform. Particularly important for achieving a certain level of expression are such variants of polysemy as metaphor and metonymy, as well as the function of transfer and synecdoche. Due to these polysemic structures, the figurativeness of speech is achieved, its emotional coloring becomes brighter.

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