PROBLEMS OF THE TRANSLATION OF ENGLISH HOMONYMS

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Abstract: This article examines homonyms in the English language, their differences and difficulties of translation. Despite the fact that there are significantly more homonyms in English than in Russian, their collision in the text occurs relatively rarely. For high-quality translation, it represents the phenomenon of lexical homonymy, primarily because the translator himself often does not always grasp the dual meaning that has appeared in the text.

Key words: Homonyms of the English language, translation, lexical-semantic system of the language, form formation, genetically related, differentiation, polysemantic.

Introduction

Studying a foreign language in our time is one of the paramount tasks, since the current course of life is based on international interaction, both of small companies and entire states. That is why it is necessary to understand all the subtleties of the target language: phonetic, grammatical, lexical.

One of the phenomena inherent in all languages and characterizing the lexico-semantic system of each language is homonymy. Due to the fact that this phenomenon is widespread in many languages and is of great importance for the characteristics of the lexical-semantic system of the language, the problem of homonymy attracts the attention of both domestic and foreign linguists.

Interest in the study of homonyms, their origin and development in individual languages, as well as in families and groups of related languages, in the study of the functions of homonyms, their types and conditions for their preservation and use in a particular language flared up, then weakened and even faded away in different periods of the history of the science of language [2].

II.Literature reivew

Modern English is quite rich in homonyms. According to the calculations of linguists, today homonyms in the English language make up approximately 16-18% of the total vocabulary fund. This is much more than in Russian. And their number in the process of the historical development of the English language is increasing every year [8].

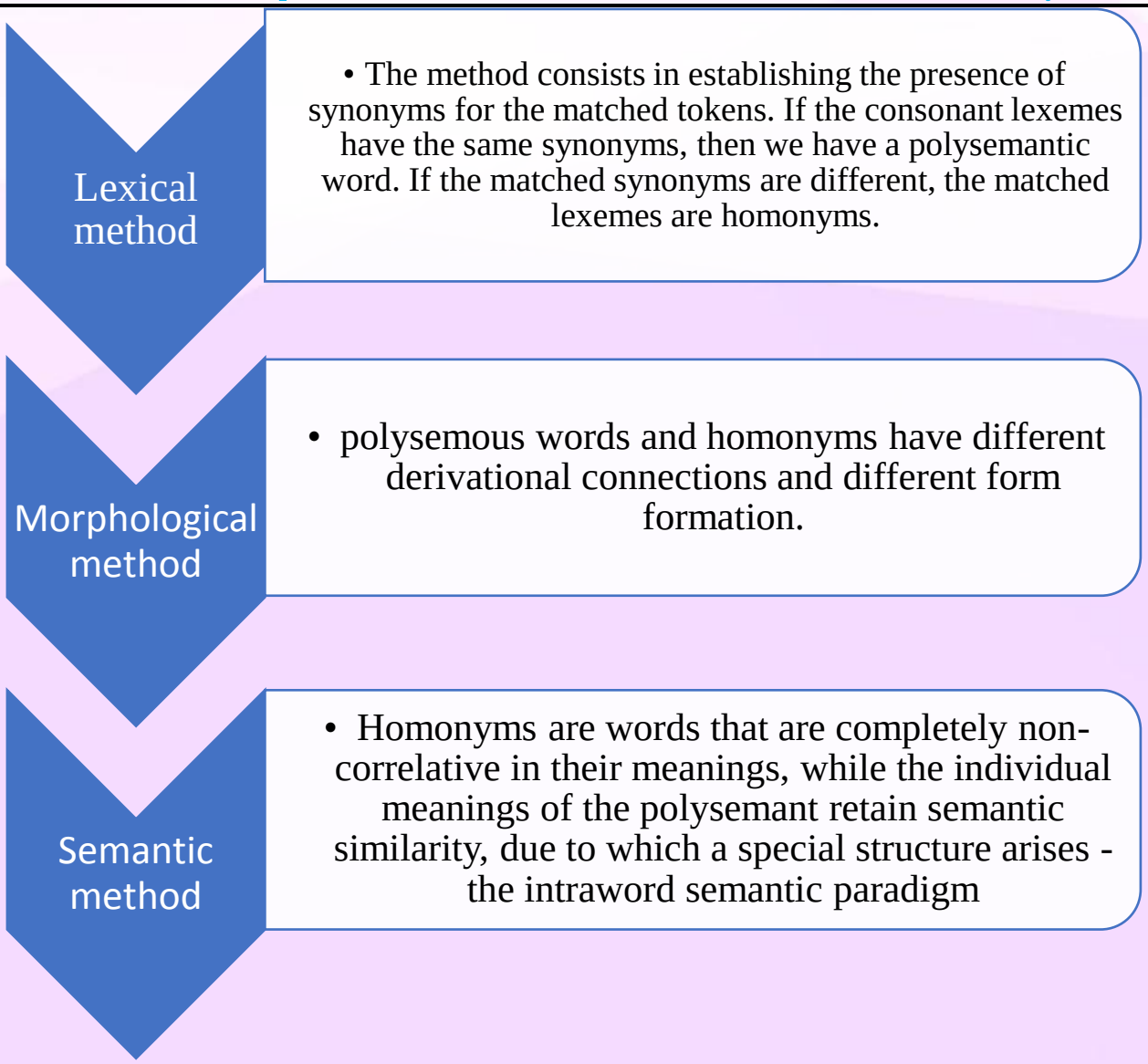
So, despite the fact that there are significantly more homonyms in English than in Russian, their collision in the text occurs relatively rarely. This is due to the fact that in the process of speech implementation, homonymy, fixed at the level of the language system, is removed as a result of shaping. For example, most English verbs that are homonymous to each other in the infinitive form do not coincide in other forms. In the form of an infinitive, they are used only in certain cases, for example, if they stand in Present Indefinite Tense or Future Indefinite Tense, coinciding in sound and writing with the forms of the 1st and 2nd person singular and plural and 3rd person plural [1].

Another, more common in English than in Russian, through the emergence of homonyms is the "splitting of polysemy". As an illustration of a similar process, I.V. Arnold cites the word capital (main), the lexical and semantic variation of which led to the emergence of three homonyms: capital (the city or town that functions as the seat of government and administrative centre of a country or region), capital (capital letter of the alphabet), capital (wealth in the form of money or other assets owned by a person or organization or available for a purpose such as starting a company or investing). At the same time, the author points out the controversial nature of the issue of referring such cases to homonymy as such: “They object to referring cases of splitting of meanings to homonymy on the

grounds that it opens the way for a very subjective solution of the issue [7]. The homonyms of this group are difficult to distinguish from polysemantic words, which makes some authors recognize as true homonyms only those that are not really genetically related. Such an approach, however, transfers the whole problem of homonymy to the plane of historical lexicology, to the plane of diachrony and complicates the synchronic description of the modern language, for which the coincidence in sound of different words with different lexical and lexical-grammatical meanings is very typical" [9]. The problem of differentiating polysemy and homonymy, as noted above, generates intralingual interference. The need to distinguish between homonymy and polysemy arises, as a rule, exclusively with a paradigmatic approach to the study of language, i.e. manifests itself in the study of the vocabulary of the English language. In speech as such (i.e., with a syntagmatic approach), this problem does not arise [6].

III.Analysis

Nevertheless, the task of an English teacher is to convey to the consciousness of students the criteria for distinguishing between homonymy and polysemy, which, from our point of view, can be represented in the form of the following diagram (Fig. 1.)



1. Criteria for distinguishing homonymy and polysemy

Taking into account the controversial nature of the issue of the boundaries between homonymy and polysemy, in each specific case of comparison, the stated criteria should be applied in aggregate, complementing and certifying the results of the application of the other two. Applying just one of these criteria in isolation is fraught with misleading conclusions. In addition, it is recommended to compare the results of the analysis with the data of the language dictionaries, in which homonyms are described in separate articles, and individual meanings of a polysemantic word in one article [3].

The problem of homonymy from the point of view of translation studies is considered in several aspects [10]:

Homonymy

a) as the cause of translation errors (homonymy and translator) and

b) as an excuse for the unfaithful, leading away from the mainstream of associations (homonymy and the reader of the translation).

Homonymy

a) in the plane of one language (intralingual),

b) in the plane of a pair of languages and

c) in the plane of several languages (interlanguage).
Homonymy
a) between realities
b) between realities and ordinary words.
Homonymy in the plane
a) closely related languages
b) multi-system languages [4].

IV.Discussion

Translation is one of the most important manifestations of interethnic and interliterary existence, therefore its main function is mediation. The word "translation" is one of the well-known and generally understood, but it, as a designation of a special type of human activity and its result, requires clarification and terminological definition. It means: 1) a process that takes place in the form of a mental act and consists in the fact that a speech work (text or oral utterance), which arose in one - the original - language (FL), is recreated in another - translating - language (TL); 2) the result of this process, ie, a new speech product (text or oral utterance) in the translating language [11].

There are numerous theories of translation, which to one degree or another affect the problem of its adequacy. Thus, Jackson Matthews writes about high-quality literary translation: “The translation as a whole must follow the content exactly and in form it must follow the original; moreover, something of his own should appear in him, namely, the voice of the translator” [8].

There are four basic requirements for a translation that must:
1) convey meaning;
2) convey the spirit and style of the original;
3) have ease and naturalness of presentation;
4) create an equivalent impression

The phenomenon of lexical homonymy is quite dangerous for a high-quality translation, primarily because the translator himself often does not always grasp the dual meaning that has appeared in the text. In the process of translation, the main assistant is the dictionary. When difficulties arise on the path of the translator, in connection with the disclosure of the meaning of a word or phrase, the translator first of all turns to the dictionary. It should be noted that the skill of using a dictionary is very important for the work of a translator [5]. The purpose of translation is to establish an equivalence relationship between the original and the translated text (so that both texts carry the same meaning). At the same time, there are differences between written translation, which consists in the written transfer of meaning from one language to another, and oral translation, which consists in transferring meaning orally or in the form of gestures (in the case of sign language) from one language to another [12]. Translation is complex as an activity in itself. Moreover, in practice, the translator must overcome obstacles that further complicate the translation process. Homonymy is one such obstacle. The most commonly used in the English language are lexical homophones and in dictionaries only homonyms are presented that are different in spelling, but the same in sound, that is, phonetic homonyms.

V.Conclusion

Thus, we can say that the main function of translation is an intermediary, and the main assistant is a dictionary. It can be concluded that the most common are lexical and grammatical homonyms in the sound version of the language. The translator must know many meanings of homonyms to understand speech, and only then it is possible to convey the correct interpretation of the statements.

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