THE FUNCTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF POLYSEMY IN THE ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract. *This article explores the functional characteristics of polysemy and the mechanisms of semantic derivation within the English and Uzbek languages. The research focuses on how specialized terms and lexical units acquire multiple meanings through functional shifts and contextual application. By analyzing the structural and semantic properties of terms in both languages, the study highlights how polysemy serves as a tool for linguistic economy and cognitive development. The findings demonstrate that while polysemantic units may pose challenges for translation, they reflect the dynamic evolution of modern terminological systems in diverse cultural contexts.*

Keywords: *polysemy, functional characteristics, semantic derivation, English terminology, Uzbek terminology, lexical unit, contextual meaning.*

It is mostly stated that a polysemy is the ability of a word to possess several meanings or lexico-semantic variants (LSV), usually related by contiguity of meaning within a semantic field. Hurford defines polysemy this way: a case of polysemy is one where a word has several very closely related senses. In other words, native speaker of the language has clear intuitions that in different senses are related to each other in some way. Example: "mouth" mouth of a person and a mouth of river, here they both mean "an opening of from the interior of some solid mass to the outside". If one consider the varieties of polysemy, it is known that polysemous senses have motivated relationship among each another. There are different ways to sort out these relations. For example, according to D. Alan Cruse's point of view, we can differentiate two relations: linear (or vertical) and non-linear relations between polysemes [1, 110-111]. These relations have also their subgroups that are illustrated below in the graph:
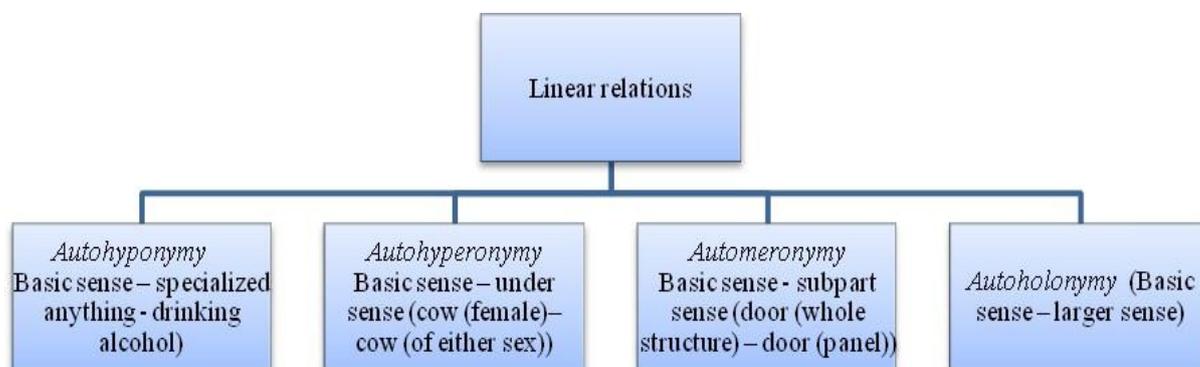

Fig. 1. Linear relations between polysemous senses

Senses have a linear relation if one is a specialization of the other (which of course entails that the latter is a generalization of the former). We can distinguish specialization from generalization if we recognize one of the senses as more basic than the other: if A is more basic than B, and B is more specialized than A, then B is a specialization of A [1, 110].
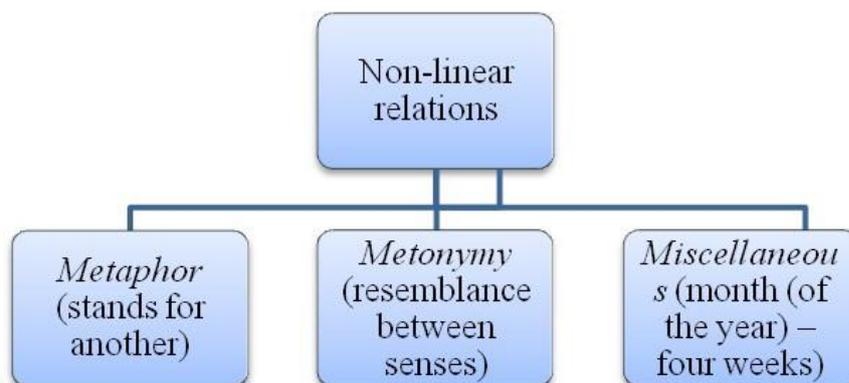

Fig. 2. Non-linear relations between polysemous senses

The need to justify the differences of meaning postulated within a polysemous lexeme is a general requirement on any semantic theory, but it is especially pressing for any conceptualist interpretation of metaphor and metonymy, such as the one characteristic of 'standard' cognitive linguistics [2, 116].

Metaphor is based on the affinity or interplay of two meanings of a word – direct and contextual and its usage will be analyzed as follows:

- "Besides Della has beautiful golden hair", here the word combination "golden hair" means the girls hair is beautiful or the colour of her hair is looks like a golden. And in this sentence, author expresses the meaning by the word "golden" itself.

There are other examples like this:

- "It reached below her knees and covered her like a cloak";
- "The next two hours were like a happy dream".

In the third sentence "dream" is described by "happy" and here its meaning changes to contextual meaning rather than the usage of direct one, if we translate it into Uzbek, we may see the differences also:

- "So'nggi ikki soat xuddi shirin tush kabi o'tdi".

In the sentence, we translate "happy" into Uzbek like "shirin", and we have observed that the meaning also changes metaphorically while translating the combination into second language. While translating metaphor we should pay attention three aspects of metaphor, they are demonstrated below:

a) the aspect of the degree of expressiveness;
b) the aspect of the structure of polysemous senses;
c) the aspect of the function of polysemous senses.

We can see the samples of the usage of metaphor in the Uzbek language itself:

- "Endi "J" ga keldingizmi?" – dedi san'atkor jahli chiqib. (A. Kahhor).
- "Niso buvi qizlari tufayli necha marta qo'ydi-chiqdi bo'lib qoldi". (A. Kahhor).

- "Usta Abdurahmon ko'pdan beri Niso buviga: "Mehrini Faxriddinga qilamiz", - deb yurar edi". (A. Kahhor).

Metonymy is characterized as figurative use based on association and considered as a rich source of polysemous variation. As well as, in Uzbek there are also these kinds of features of polysemantic words and the words change its meaning according to the context with different words. Metonymical examples are given below in Uzbek are similar when we translate them into English:

- Ko'p og'izni boqishim kerak. There are too many mouths to feed.
- Og'zingni to'latib gapirma. Don't talk with your mouth full.
- Bu ajoyib yubka ekan. That's a nice bit of skirt. U qizil yubka kiygan edi. She wore a red skirt.
- Jonning o'z mashinasi bor. John has his own wheels.
- G'ildiraklardan biri tushib ketdi. One of the wheels fell off.
- Jeyn "kattakon"ga turmushga chiqdi. Jane married a large bank account.
- Jeynning bank hisob raqami bor. Jane has a bank account.

As we can see that, some sentences are translated also metonymically into Uzbek, while some others are translated by using different word but not changing the meaning of the context, here are the examples of metonymical words in the Uzbek language:

- Juvon xodimlarga qaradi va so'radi: "Shu mahallalikmisizlar?"
- Anavi mo'ylov kim?
- Qalam orqasidan ro'zg'or tebratyapti.
- Uning og'zini yopdi (jim qildi).

We can see the metonymically translation into English in those sentences:

- The woman looked at the staff and asked: "Are you in this neighborhood?"
- Who is the moustache? (Who is the man?)
- He is living by the pen. (by writing)
- She kept his mouth shut.

The study of polysemy is, of course, based on the intrinsic nature of the languages and each language has its specific features in the field. Whereas, a more comprehensive study of peculiarities of the phenomenon like polysemy, the ability of words to have more than one meaning, can give a broader atmosphere and a good chance for an in-depth analysis of similar and various features of different systematic languages.

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