Polysemy of Linguistic Terms in Different Language Systems

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ABSTRACT: The article deals with the issues based on polysemy of linguistic terms in different language systems. The fundamental property of the language is emphasized, its ability to "transmit the infinity of human experience by limited means", which is manifested precisely in its ambiguity. The main causes and origins that gave rise to polysemy in the language are analyzed. Specific examples of polysemantic words are given and the reasons for their use are explained. The essential role of the context for identifying the individual meanings of a polysemantic word is emphasized.

KEYWORD: polysemy, language, term, terminology, phenomenon.

INTRODUCTION

The problem of polysemy is the subject of controversy among philologists. Among the general language processes occurring in terminologies, polysemy occupies a special place. The issue of polysemy of terms is one of the fundamental issues of terminology. Some researchers (A. A. Reformat sky, D. S. Lotte, L. L.Kutina and others [8; 10; 12]) consider polysemy rather as a disadvantage and treat it sharply negatively. This is due to the fact that the unambiguous relationship of the term with the designated special concept provides the necessary accuracy of information in science, technology and other fields. Other authors (V. P. Danilenko, B. N. Golovin, N. Z. Kotelova, T. A. Chebotnikova and others [3; 4; 6; 14]) characterize polysemy as an inevitable and natural phenomenon. The possibility of terminological ambiguity is justified, in particular, by the fact that the term depends on the conceptual field in which it functions, which removes the problem of polysemy and contributes to its correct understanding [14, p. 39].

The language of the scientific style of presentation, which serves as a means of forming thoughts and is identified, first of all, with terminology, is genetically and ontologically connected with the general literary language. Terms are part of the entire lexical system of the language, so the general language regularity - one form is potentially capable of accommodating a number of contents - is also extrapolated to the continuum of the terminological tier: the terms are subject to the same lexicon-semantic processes as the words of a common language, in particular, polysemy (polysemy) is preserved and realized in the term.

Polysemy is the presence of one and the same word (a given unit of expression, characterized by all the formal features of the word) of several interconnected meanings, usually resulting from the modification and development of the original meaning of this word dyslexia, monosemia" [1: 335].

While comparing these dictionary definitions, it is easy to detect some blurring of the boundaries of the term "polysemy" itself, especially since for the concept denoting the presence of two meanings in a word, there is a linguistic term dysemia, however, according to our observations, in scientific usage the term "dysemia" in frequency use is inferior to the term "polysemy".

LITERATURE REVIEW

In the specialized literature for many years there has been a struggle for the unambiguity of the term [3]. However, the opposite has been observed in practice. So, V.N. Shevchuk shows that even within the same field, a technical term reveals ambiguity. From this, he concludes that "uniqueness is not a property of the term, but a requirement imposed on it" [4: 7].

The analysis of the sample of English terms of the law enforcement sublanguage allows us to speak about the presence of polysemy in this terminology. As an example, consider the English word officer. It is ambiguous, respectively, it is translated as 1. Official, official, employee; 2. Officer, pl. officers; 3. Policeman; 4. Captain on a merchant ship. In combination officer of the court - bailiff, bailiff; officers of the state - the highest dignitaries of the state; officer of health - sanitary inspector; returning officer - chairman of the election commission (in England); officer of the day billeting officer - lodger; first officer - senior assistant. It should be noted that this term is used in various fields of human activity, but at the same time it has its own specific shades of meaning. Most often it is used in law enforcement terminology in the sense of a law enforcement officer or command staff (Pl). For example: Thus in a modern democratic society the law enforcement officers are strictly to observe the principles of legality and protect the rights and interests of citizens. Thus, in a modern democratic society, law enforcement officers must strictly observe the principles of legality and protect the rights and interests of citizens [12, p. one hundred]. The great benefit from a college education of police officers is training future police workers to think. A big benefit of training officers in college is to teach future police officers to think [12, p. 164].

According to S. V. Grinev, the most reliable method for determining polysemy is the method of studying the features of the functioning of terms in special texts. As the study of English law enforcement terms shows, the difference in the meanings of the terms is reflected in the different terminological environment in the text. For example: How long does it take the police officer to get to the scene? The investigator examines the scene. Obviously, in the first example, the word scene means place, and in the second, the crime scene.

The presence of a certain context, as well as knowledge of the compatibility features of this polysemantic term, allows you to choose the necessary meaning of the term. For example: It means a search for the truth, for the offender, for witnesses who help to reconstruct the happening and will present evidence of it in the court. This means searching for the truth, the criminal, witnesses who will help restore what happened and will present evidence in court [12, p. 253]. He collects and protects evidence, interviews witnesses and details a number of other factors e.g. search of the premises and persons for discovery of stolen property and instruments of the crime. He collects and preserves evidence, interrogates and examines in detail a number of other factors, such as searching premises and persons in order to find stolen property and crime instruments.

As pointed out by A.V. Superanskaya, N.V. Podolskaya, N.V. Vasiliev, "not every newly constructed concept necessarily entails the emergence of a new word. To designate it, a word of similar meaning that already exists in a given language, as well as a combination of words or elements of a given language, can be used. In the first case, polysemy arises, in the second, a phrase or a compound word, one part of which is homonymous to the existing one, cf. massage and hydromassage" [5: 42]. An exemplification confirming this opinion, which is also true for linguistic terminology, can be the

following: vocabulary, lexicography, and lexicology; linguistics, metalinguistics, neolinguistics, intralinguistics, etc. The criterion for distinguishing polysemy and homonymy, as is known, is the presence or absence of a semantic connection between concepts, since the external form in both cases corresponds to two or more concepts.

The development of polysemy, characteristic of the general literary language, restrains the strict logical and semantic boundaries of the term; therefore, the terms are also characterized by specific types of polysemy associated with the development of scientific knowledge. In terminology, there are different characteristics of ambiguity - ambisemia and eurysemia. The first concept refers to the uncertainty of the content. "The ambisemia of a term is considered as its property to function in the language of a certain field of knowledge with an unequal amount of semantics. This property is due to the use of the term by scientists in different periods of the development of science. The unambiguity of an ambisemic term is relative, as it is limited in time - until the varying part of its semantics is formed as a constant, categorical value. Ambisemic terms, recorded in special dictionaries with several definitions, should be considered as relatively unambiguous also because in each specific time period, a representative of a particular school, direction, such a term is used in one meaning fixed in the definition" [6: 19].

In the modern system of knowledge, when each scientific field is differentiated into more specific scientific disciplines, the terminological fund is incremented not only due to the construction of new lexemes, but also, in particular, due to the use of existing lexical units to designate new concepts in related or contiguous fields of knowledge, for example, the term anticipation functions in syntax, style, phonology.

Usually, polysemy is understood as the presence of more than one meaning in a word - two or more [6, p. 382]. Polysemy is considered as one of the forms of variant relations in vocabulary, which is associated with the arbitrary nature of the linguistic sign, the absence of a conditional connection between the signifier and the signified. This allows each of the components of the lexical unit to vary autonomously without causing changes in the opposite direction. With polysemy, semantic variation of words occurs while the lexemes expressing their different meanings remain unchanged. The meaning of the word (sememe) is variant, and the lexeme is invariant. The idea of the meanings of a polysemantic word as variants of one word is reflected in the works of E. V. Kuznetsova. She writes that polysemy manifests itself "at the lexical level in that one lexeme can be connected by relations of semantic variation with several sememes represented by its separate meanings", while "a polysemantic word is, as it were, a bundle of several semantic variants, values, correlated with one lexeme. These variants or individual meanings form an intra-word semantic paradigm of the word, are semantically related to each other and are realized in various typical contexts" [7, p. 98-99].

Unlike the general literary language, in the terminologies "the implementation of the process of polysemy does not go through all possible channels. As a rule, terminological vocabulary excludes the possibility of developing meaning through metaphorical transfer. Although the terms themselves can be formed on the basis of a metaphorical transfer of the meaning of a common word (tank caterpillar, mountain foot, etc.). Nevertheless, terminological ambiguity can develop on the basis of metonymic transfer and synecdoche" [4, p. 66]. In addition, the results of studies of actually functioning terminologies prove cases of polysemy of terms, which also develops on the basis of metaphor, but most often metonymic and metaphorical meanings in terms are intertwined [9, p. 49].

In terminology, the category of polysemantic terms includes terms that function in the meanings of one industry, terms whose meanings are in a relationship of semantic derivativeness and are characterized by polydenotativity and categoriality of their semantics [13, p. 177]. For terminology,

first of all, a special type of polysemy is characteristic - categorical polysemy (terminological polysemy). It manifests itself in the fact that the content of the concept is made up of features belonging simultaneously to several categories (property and magnitude, process and magnitude, phenomenon and magnitude, process and phenomenon, etc.) [10, p. 40].

This phenomenon in the language is not accidental. It is a natural result of the development of a living human language and evidence of its richness, flexibility and imagery. "This is also a wonderful gift of generalization, which forms the basis of scientific knowledge; this is also the brilliance of metaphors with their figurative and poetic awareness of reality; it is also a bizarre play of thought, revealing more and more potential for expressiveness in the word." [4]

DISCUSSIONS

In the process of the historical development of the language, reflecting changes in society and nature, as a person cognizes it, our thinking is enriched with new concepts. Potentially, any word of the language can acquire a new meaning when the need arises, i.e., when this meaning becomes popular, used, fixed in explanatory dictionaries.

The volume of the dictionary of any language is limited, therefore the development of vocabulary occurs not only due to the creation of new words, but also as a result of an increase in the number of meanings of previously known ones, the death of some meanings and the emergence of new ones. This leads not only to quantitative, but also to qualitative changes in the language.

In the Russian language, for example, there are quite a lot of polysemantic words among the vocabulary of native Russian origin or long-term use (cf., ambiguous words house, land, field, star, bread, etc.).

Scientists have shown interest in the phenomenon of ambiguity since Antiquity. Aristotle in "Poetics" and in "Rhetoric" for the first time characterizes ambiguity, describing the connections of meanings within "words that have a double meaning."[5]

The main reason that gave rise to polysemy in a language is obvious, since a one-to-one correspondence between expression and content in a natural language would be extremely uneconomical and would make it difficult for native speakers to use it.

The origins of polysemy are in the discrepancy between the possibilities of the language and the mental content that is transmitted through the language. Among other reasons that cause the reuse of an already existing word, one can name external, that is, extra linguistic factors. This is knowledge about the world, opinions, attitudes, and goals of the speaker, which affect the selection of speech means, the likelihood of using certain lexemes, grammatical forms and structures in a particular communication situation.

Modern lexicology sees in the polysemy of words their ability to semantic variation, i.e., changing the meaning depending on the context.

S. Ulman: "No one will deny the decisive influence of the context in characterizing the meaning of the word."[6]

Through the context, words acquire new meanings, shades of meanings, as it were, refracted through the prism of this surrounding context.

Context is "a passage of written or oral speech that is relatively complete in terms of semantics, necessary to determine the meaning of its constituent words and phrases."[6]

There is no doubt that the word retains some dependence on the context. However, this dependence does not prevent the word from retaining its independence even outside the context, and most importantly, from having a basic meaning against which all other meanings or shades of meanings that arise in the process of language development are perceived.

The context for identifying the individual meanings of a polysemantic word plays an essential role. But one should not assume that these meanings arise only in the process of the speech use of words that in the language system there are only "main or general" meanings. Obviously, they are presented in the language system and are implemented within the situational or linguistic context.

V.V. Vinogradov wrote: "Context is the environment in which the lexical meaning of a word develops and in which, on the basis of a dialectical contradiction between the available semantic possibilities and specific communicative needs, new lexicon-semantic variants of words arise, therefore, their new actual meanings, enriching the structure of a polysemantic word."[7]

Due to the fact that languages, including Russian, are constantly being updated not only with new words, the meaning of existing ones is changing, there is a constant and continuous process of violation of norms and standards in the use of words and expressions.

For this reason, difficulties often arise when choosing Russian lexical units, not only among native speakers themselves, but also among those who study Russian. However, the presence of the phenomenon of polysemy in every language of the world to one degree or another helps.

Due to this fact, polysemy cannot be considered a hindrance for learners of a foreign language. On the contrary, it ensures, on the one hand, the economy and visibility of the language, and on the other hand, its flexibility and ability to serve all needs in designating the diversity of the world known to man.

Different meanings of the same word are easiest to identify and verify in the context, "in specific speech conditions, when there is an environment of other words and the current situation is available."

Undoubtedly, not only for a native speaker, but also for a foreigner studying Russian, it is easier to determine the meaning of a particular word in the context.

In polysemy, many scientists saw the paradox of ambiguity, the basis for denying the word as the main unit of the language, since the word does not exist out of context. Indeed, on the one hand, the word is one and independent, and on the other, it seems to fall apart into a number of separate meanings. However, this paradox is imaginary, since a person who is fluent in the language perfectly understands the expression of golden hands, which he perceives against the background of the literal meaning of the word golden. And this in no way violates the unity of the word, inherent in its very nature.

As already noted, there is some dependence on the context of the word. But this dependence does not prevent the word from retaining its independence even outside the context, and most importantly, from having a basic meaning against which all other meanings or shades of meanings that arise in the process of language development are perceived.

Consequently, the presence of polysemy of the word in the language indicates the fact that lexical units are constantly in a mobile state.

The correct, motivated use of a polysemantic word in the context indicates a good knowledge of the language, the ability to use its semantic resources. Comparisons with other languages allow a deeper

understanding of the subtlety of the expressive-stylistic nuance of the polysemantic word in these languages.

CONCLUSION

Polysemy cannot be considered a hindrance for learners of a foreign language. On the contrary, it ensures, on the one hand, the economy and visibility of the language, and on the other hand, its flexibility and ability to serve all needs in designating the diversity of the world known to man.

In addition, the study of a foreign language means penetration into the culture of native speakers of this language. And knowledge of the specific features of the nomination and differences in the secondary meanings of equivalent words is necessary for full communication in a foreign language environment.

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