

## Theoretical Foundations of Studying the Phenomenon of Polysemy

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### ABSTRACT

*Words in a language can be mono- and polysemantic, i.e. mono- and polysemic. Monosemy is a linguistic phenomenon in which a word has only one meaning. Polysemy is the presence of different lexical meanings for the same word depending on different contexts. Separate lexical meanings of a word are called lexical-semantic variants. A word always appears with one meaning, which is called primary. The primary meaning is direct; it directly names the designated object. The polysemy of a word develops on the basis of the transfer of the name from one object to another.*

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Polysemy (from the Greek πολύσημος — polysemantic) (polysemy) — the presence of more than one meaning in a language unit — two or more. For example, the 2nd person singular can be used not only in a proper-personal sense, but also in a generalized- personal sense (cf. “Well, you’ll out-argue everyone” and “You won’t out-argue you”, as well as “You won’t understand anything here”, etc.). The 3rd person plural appears in indefinite-personal sentences: “The doorbell rang”, “You don’t count your chickens before they hatch”, etc. In such cases, we can talk about grammatical polysemy. Often, when talking about polysemy, they mean first of all the polysemy of words as units of vocabulary.

Lexical polysemy is the ability of one word to serve to designate different objects and phenomena of reality. For example, the noun "field" has the following lexical meanings: 1) treeless space; 2) land cultivated for sowing; 3) a flat area specially equipped for something; 4) a space within which the action of some forces is manifested (specialist); 5) (plural) a clean strip along the edge of a book, manuscript; 6) (plural) the brim of a hat. The lexical meaning in which a word appears is determined by its compatibility with other words: "to pick flowers in a field"; "rye field"; "football field"; "electromagnetic field"; "notes in the margins"; "hat with wide brim", etc. The implementation of one or another meaning of a word is also carried out by a broader context or situation, the general theme of speech; Thus, when talking about agricultural work, the phrase "everyone went out to the field" clearly refers to a cultivated field, in a report on a football match "a wet field" cannot be perceived as anything other than a football field, etc. Just as the context determines the specific meaning of a polysemantic word, under certain conditions it can create semantic diffuseness, i.e. the compatibility of individual lexical meanings when their distinction is not made (and does not seem necessary); for example, in the phrase "Around the village there were fields and forests" - the first and second of the above-mentioned meanings of the word "field" are not distinguished. Some meanings appear only in combination with a defining word ("fields of a hat"); in some combinations, the meaning of a polysemantic word is presented as phraseologically related (see Phraseology), for example "field of vision". In many cases, derivatives are correlative only with individual meanings of polysemantic words, cf.: "polyushko", "polyana", "polevod". Derivatives whose meanings deviate to a greater extent from the general semantics of the word-formation family are especially distinguished, for example, “to work through” (colloquial: in the meaning of ‘to criticize’), “sparkling”, “playful”; “stronghold”, “to repeat”, etc. Not only lexical compatibility and word-formation features characterize the various meanings of words, but also, in a number of cases, features of

grammatical compatibility; cf. verbal control, for example, “to look at something”, “to look at something”, etc.

Polysemy is the presence of several interconnected meanings in one and the same word. The opposite of this phenomenon is monosemy, i.e. the existence of one meaning in a lexical unit, it is not typical for many words. In terminology, where unambiguity is more widespread and where it is specially supported, its position is not so strong. Terms also become polysemantic in the era of scientific and technological revolution, often in the same terminological system, that is, not only because the same-sounding term is used in different sciences.

The existence of several meanings in one lexical unit can be perceived as the sum of its semantic variants. Some more commonly used words have a huge number of meanings that are constantly used in speech. The reason for the emergence of a new meaning in a word should usually be sought not in the language system, but in an extralinguistic impulse, in the need of communicators to name a new object or shade of thought. However, a new meaning of a word cannot arise without relying on one of the meanings that the word already has. It appears as a result of its modification, development. This is, most often, a long process. A person's imagination plays a significant role in the development of polysemy, since a new meaning appears on the basis of rethinking, metaphorization of the old, already existing one.

The name of one object, similar or contrasting in some way with the object that needs to be nominated, is transferred to the latter. Such figurative use begins to be reproduced in speech acts and finally adapts to the lexical and grammatical system of the language. As a result, the use of a particular word moves from the sphere of speech to the sphere of language and is considered as a neologism meaning. Over time, the feeling of novelty is erased, and this meaning of the word is perceived as ordinary.

Polysemy is a phenomenon in linguistics that means that a term has several concepts. Unlike homonymy, where each meaning has its own lexical unit, a polysemic word has a common root for all meanings. This makes polysemy more complex and interesting to study. One of the main functions of this paradigm is to save speech resources. Using one phrase with several meanings allows speakers to convey more information in less time and effort. For example, the category "bank" can mean a container for storing liquids or a financial institution. Depending on the context, only one meaning is used, which avoids repetition and makes the statement more concise.

Similarities and differences between homonymy, polysemy and synonymy Homonymy, polysemy and synonymy are phenomena associated with the polysemy of categories. They have some common features, but differ from each other. Homonymy is a phenomenon in which different terms sound the same or very similar. These expressions have different origins and different meanings. Examples of homonymous expressions are "bank" (a financial institution and a river bank), "table" (a piece of furniture and a writing surface). Polysemy is a phenomenon when one word has several meanings. Moreover, each meaning is associated with the main or original meaning of the word. For example, "onion" can be interpreted as a pungent smell (leeks) or as a weapon for archery. Synonymy is a phenomenon in which two or more terms replace each other in a certain context without changing the meaning of the concept expressed. Synonyms can be absolute (that is, completely equivalent in meaning) or partial (having similar meanings, but with shades or contextual differences). For example, "large" and "great" are partial synonyms. Homonymy and polysemy have the same feature - they both represent cases of polysemy. However, they also have their differences. Unlike homonymy, polysemy assumes the presence of several designations for one word, with each one of them is related to the original meaning of the expression. In the case of homonymy, different categories sound similar, but have different origins and meanings. Synonymy has a different nature - it is the replacement of some words by others in a certain context without changing the meaning of the expressed concept. Synonymous words can be absolutely equivalent or have slight differences in meaning or stylistic nuances. In conclusion, it can be said that homonymy and polysemy are types of polysemy of words, although they have their own differences. Synonymy is the phenomenon of replacing some terms with others in certain contexts. Understanding these phenomena will help you better understand polysemy and use phrases more accurately in speech and writing.

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