



THE SOURCES OF HOMONYMS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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ABSTRACT

The article provides information on the derivation of homonyms in English and Uzbek languages

Almost every language in the world has always been trying to enrich their dictionary. Therefore, the development of every language is reflected in its word treasure. The semantical and grammatical structure of lexis, its general and specific features, origin and current use are studied in **lexicology**. The literal meaning of the term lexicology is 'the study of the word' (made of by joining two ancient Greek lexemes: lexis – 'word, phrase' and logos – 'learning, knowledge' [3, 7]). Words are lexically and semantically related to each other in different ways. The term that is used to describe this concept is **lexical relationship**. The common types of lexical relationships are: synonymy, antonymy, homonymy and polysemy. In this article, homonyms are investigated in the base of English and Uzbek languages to distinguish their certain similarities and disparate features.

According to Kazan philology Davletbayeva **homonyms** are words which are identical in form but distinctive in meaning. She emphasized that three main aspects must be taken into consideration: sound features,

graphic form and meaning. It means that without studying these phases of homonyms, this can be holding still abstract ideas. [2, 31]. The research shows that modern English is exceedingly richer in homonymous lexical items than Uzbek language. In fact, "Oxford English Dictionary" (2nd edit. 1989) 2540 listed homonyms [2, 30], while in homonymy dictionary of Uzbek language – "O'zbek tili omonimlarining izohli lug'ati" (Sh.Rahmatullayev. 1984) it has been registered 497 homonym words.

When analyzing the origin of homonymy, there are various linguistic points of view in both languages. Linguists of Moscow state university suggest that, there are mainly **five sources** of homonymous words in English: *phonetic changes, borrowings, sound imitation and conversion*. [5, 69].

1. Phonetic changes. Etymological investigations of some homonymous words reveal that the words that were historically pronounced differently might develop similar sound-forms as a result of later changes in phonetics, and so they become homonyms. For



example, *ic* and *eeze* were not homonyms in Old English, these words have become the same in pronunciation I-eye [ai]. It leads to the idea that converging sound development is the most influential factor in the creation of homonymous words.

2. Borrowing. Most of linguists agree that Latin and French borrowings are important for the research of English word relations because of their potential influence. Majority of borrowed words were adopted to English pronunciation norms and this procedure caused the formation of new homonyms in the language. For instance, *post n.* (a vertical stick or pole fixed into the ground, usually to support something or show a position) and *post n.* (letters and parcels that are delivered to homes or places of work). Originally first lexeme was borrowed from Latin '*postis*' and the second lexeme from French '*poste*'.

3. Sound-imitation. Onomatopoeic words can be alike sometimes with other available words in the language that makes new homonym. Even words made by sound-imitation can also duplicate with the other parts of speech, like *a ring n.* (the sound a bell makes) – *a ring n.* (a circle of any material, or any group of things or people in a circular shape or arrangement) – *to ring v.* (to make a telephone call to someone).

4. Conversion is the most essential way of enriching English language with homonyms. According to Ginzburg 'conversion' is characterized as the phonetic identity of two words belonging to different parts of speech unless they have the same form [3, 127], and it appears in everyday vocabulary: *work* – *to work*; *paper* – *to paper*, *love* – *to love*. As such group of words are very numerous in English lexis, it is clear that, it highly affects to the growth of homonymy.

5. Shortening, to put in another way, monosyllabism. According to some linguists *monosyllabism*, loss of inflections and shortening, significantly increased the number

of one-syllable homonyms in English [2, 31]. To give an instance, *fan n.* – 'an enthusiastic admirer of something or someone' is shortened from *adj. fanatic* and duplicate in form Latin borrowing *fan v.* which means 'waving lightly to produce a cool current of air'. There is no doubt that, shortening is another productive source of homonymy, after conversion. In fact, almost 89% of homonyms that is registered in "Oxford English Dictionary" (2nd edit.1989), which have been stated, are one-syllable, 9,1% – two-syllable and 1,9% of them three and more syllable words. [2, 30] Compared with the above-mentioned "O'zbek tili omonimlarining izohli lug'ati" (Sh.Rahmatullayev. 1984) – Uzbek homonymy dictionary, of which monosyllabic homonyms are less than two-syllable ones – 44,3% and 45% respectively, while, three and more syllable lexical items are also quite distinct from English with 10,7% according to our observing, one could easily find the huge difference between them.

As regards the homonyms in Uzbek language, it includes *four main sources* [1, 44-45]. Needless to say, first two of them totally correspond to the first two bases in English:

1. Phonetic changes. The pairs *oq adj.* (white) – *oq v.* (to flow) was pronounced completely different way in history: *a:q adj.* (long *a*) – *aq v.* (short *a*), however, after consecutively changes in phonetics, they are homonyms in modern Uzbek language.

2. Borrowings. As for borrowing duplication, usually it happens with Russian borrowings: *tok n.* (a grapevine) – native, *tok n.* (electricity) – borrowed; or *tom n.* (a roof) – native, *tom n.* (a volume) – borrowed.

3. Word building. Normally in Uzbek, it is added suffixes or affixes to the certain lexeme in order to form another new one. Consequently, it may cause to homonymy too. Look at the table below and it would be understandable how it happens:



<i>ochmoq</i> v. – to open + <i>-iq</i> suf.	<i>ochiq</i> adj. – open
<i>och</i> adj. – hungry + <i>-iq</i> suf.	<i>ochiqmoq</i> v. – get hungry

4. Homonymy may arise from **polysemy** when semantic connection between polysemantic words breaks up and has not any logical association. Here, it should be noted that, it is considered as an additional basis of homonymy in English lexicology, and typically called **split polysemy** [5, 70] In order to consider it in more detail we found out a couple of examples like in Uzbek [1, 44]: *ko* 'k – 1) adj. colour blue; 2) n. the sky; *gap* – 1) n. a sentence, a talk; 2) n. a little party of close friends or colleagues; or in English [2, 31]: *to bear* – 1) v. to bravely accept a painful, difficult situation, 2) to give a birth; *plant* – 1) n. a living thing, 2) n. a factory. Originally, they used to be different meanings of one word, but now it is no longer polysemy.

In accordance with above, we can conclude that, although there are wide range of capabilities of language, they are not boundless. Uzbek linguist Sh.Rahmatullayev

suggest that the appearing of homonymy is explained with own features of language: firstly, due to the sounds in any language are limited, sound combinations are not endless too. Secondly, according to phonetic and semantic forms all lexical items in the vocabulary are continuously changeable [4, 44]. It means that homonymy should be accepted as a natural phenomenon in the linguistics. Moreover, one of the most urgent linguistic necessity – expressing lexical meaning leads to form homonyms in the language, and even foreign borrowings sometimes may duplicate in form either native words, or another borrowing. However, the main bases of English homonymy – conversion and shortening, do not exist in Uzbek language, the derivation of homonymous lexemes in both languages is nearly the same.

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