

ENGLISH VOCABULARY AS A SYSTEM HOMONYMS. SYNONYMS. ANTONYMS.

Lecture 4



Lecture 4

- **HOMONYMS;**
- **SYNONYMS;**
- **ANTONYMS.**

Literature:

- "English Word" by Arnold.
- "English Lexicology" by Antrushina.
- "Practical Lexicology" by Kasheeva pp.70-73, ex. 1, 2; pp.76-77.
- "English Synonyms" by Potapova L.A.
- "Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms",
- Потапова И.А. Краткий словарь синонимов английского языка.

HOMONYMS

- Homonyms – are two or more words identical in sound and spelling but different in meaning, distribution and (in many cases) origin. The term is derived from Greek *homonymous* (*homos* ‘the same’ and *onoma* ‘name’).

HOMONYMS

- *“Is life worth living?” “It depends upon the liver.”*
- *“We eat what we can, and what we can’t eat we can.”*

HOMONYMS

- *homonyms proper* *back, ball, bark*
- *homophones* (*air :: heir, buy :: by, knight :: night, not :: knot*)
 - * *The play-wright on my right thinks it right that a conventional rite should symbolise the right of every man to write as he pleases*
 - * *The sons raise meat :: The sun's rays meet.*
- *homographs* *bow [bou] :: bow [bau];
lead [li:d] :: lead [led]; row [rou] :: row [rau].*

HOMONYMS: classification of homonyms proper

- *light* n :: *light* a
- *might* n :: *might* v
- *lie* — *lay* — *lain* and *lie* — *lied* — *lied*
- *for* prp *for* cj
- *spring* 1 :: *spring* 2 :: *spring* 3
- *before* prp :: *before* adv :: *before* cj
- *eye* n :: *eye* v
- *thought* n : *thought* v

HOMONYMS

- *convergent development of sound form,*
- *divergent development of meaning*

HOMONYMS

- *I think that this “that” is a conjunction but that that “that” that that man used was a pronoun.*

HOMONYMS

- *by, can, case, close, country, course, cross, direct, draw, drive, even, faint, flat, fly, for, game, general, hard, hide, hold, home, just, kind, last, leave, left, lie, light, like, little, lot, major, march, may, mean, might, mind, miss, part, plain, plane, plate, right, round, sharp, sound, spare, spell, spring, square, stage, stamp, try, type, volume, watch, well, will.*

Synonymy in English

- I.V. Arnold: "Synonyms - are two or more words of the same meaning, belonging to the same part of speech, possessing one or more identical meaning, interchangeable at least in some contexts without any considerable alteration in denotational meaning, but differing in morphemic composition, phonemic shape, shades of meaning, connotation, affective value, style, emotional colouring and valence peculiar to one of the elements in a synonymic group."

Synonymy in English

- fate
- destiny
- doom

Synonymy in English

- **friend,**
- **acquaintance,**
- **confidant**

Synonymy in English

- **Synonymic dominant** is the most general term of its kind potentially containing the specific features rendered by all the other members of the group.

Synonymy in English

- *To astonish — to surprise - to amaze — to astound.*
- *To yell — to bellow — to roar — to shout.*
- *To shine — to flash — to blaze — to gleam — to glisten — to sparkle — to glitter — to shimmer — to glimmer.*
- *To shiver — to tremble - to shudder — to shake.*
- *To make — to produce — to create — to fabricate — to manufacture.*

Synonymy in English

- Hyponymy is a semantic relationship of inclusion.
- Thus, e.g., **vehicle** includes **car**, **bus**, **taxi** and so on; **oak** implies **tree**;
- **horse** entails **animal**; **table** entails **furniture**.

Thus the hyponymic relationship may be viewed as the hierarchical relationship between the meaning of the general and the individual terms.

Synonymy in English

- 1. **Ideographic synonyms** - *to understand - to realize;*
• *to expect - to anticipate;*
• *healthy - wholesome - sound – sane.*
- 2. **Stylistic synonyms** *to begin - to commence - to high;*
• *to think - to deem;*
• *welkin - sky.*
- 3. **Absolute (perfect, complete) synonyms** .
• *pilot - airman — flyer – flyingman:*
• *screenwriter - scriptwriter – scripter.*
- 4. **Contextual synonyms.**
• *tasteless – dull; active – curious*

Synonymy in English

- 1 - Word-forming processes:
- Conversion *commandment* : : *command*; *laughter* : : *laugh*,
- compounding, shortening, shift of meaning,
- new combinations of verbs with postpositives and compound nouns formed from them: *continue* : : *go on*; *choose* : : *pick out*; *abandon* : : *give up*
- affixation: *anxiety* : : *anxiousness*, *await* : : *wait*

Synonymy in English

- 2 – Words borrowed from French, Latin, and Greek. Synonymic patterns of double scale:
- Adjectives: *bodily - corporal, inner - internal, learned - erudite, sharp - acute*.
- Nouns: *help - aid, wire - telegram, world – universe*.
- Synonymic patterns of triple scale:

NATIVE	FROM FRENCH	FROM LATIN
to ask	to question	to interrogate
Abdomen	belly	stomach
to end	finish	complete

Synonymy in English

- 3 - The infiltration of British English by Americanisms:
- *Leader - editorial; autumn - fall; government - administration; luggage - baggage; wireless - radio; lorry - truck; tin - can; long distance (telephone) call - trunk call; stone - rock; team - squad.*

Synonymy in English

- 4 – Euphemisms
 - A word of more or less pleasant or at least inoffensive connotation becomes synonymous to one that is harsh, obscene, indelicate or otherwise unpleasant by a shift of meaning

Synonymy in English

- lavatory : *powder room, washroom, restroom, retiring room, (public) comfort station, ladies' (room), gentlemen's (room), water-closet, w.c., public conveniences* and even *Windsor castle* (which is a comical phrase for "deciphering" w.c.).

Synonymy in English

- pregnant: *in an interesting condition, in a delicate condition, in the family way, with a baby coming, (big) with child, expecting.*
- To die - *to pass away, to be taken, to breathe one's last, to depart this life, to close one's eyes, to yield (give) up the ghost, to go the way of all flesh, to go West .*
- Drunk: *intoxicated , under the influence , tipsy, mellow, fresh, high, merry, flustered, overcome, full (coll.), drunk as a lord (coll.), drunk as an owl (coll.), boiled (sl.), fried (sl.).*

ANTONYMS

- Antonyms may be defined as two or more words of the same language belonging to the same part of speech and to the same semantic field, identical in style and nearly identical in distribution, associated and often used together so that their denotative meanings render contradictory or contrary notions.

ANTONYMS

- - ABSOLUTE
- DERIVATIONAL

*My only love sprang from my only hate
Too early seen unknown, and known too late!*

ANTONYMS

- A short story :: a long story
- A short man :: a tall man