

Lexical Polysemy of the Russian Language

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ABSTRACT

This article is about polysemy, which is one of the most popular subjects in linguistics. The goal of the study is to provide the most comprehensive explanation of the Russian language's lexical polysemy. We identify the tasks that will help us reach the goal: define the phenomenon, trace the history of word polysemy in the Russian language, describe the processes that lead to polysemy, and distinguish polysemy from other phenomena in the Russian language. An explanation of the reasons for the appearance of polysemy, a variation of the semantic structure of a term with polysemy, and the separation of types of semantic modifications are also included in the list of duties. It was also vital to show the variations between the tropes: metonymy, synecdoche, metaphor, litote, epithet, irony, symphora, hyperbole, and paraphrase, in order to demonstrate the many sorts of meaning transfer from one word to another. In practice, we'll be able to use what we've learned in classroom materials and as a theoretical knowledge base for future scientific papers. The work's importance is demonstrated by the topic's controversial nature in the scientific community, as well as the rising, and hence less investigated, stock of word meanings. It will also aid in the learning of many foreign language visuals.

KEYWORDS: *semasiology, polysemy, polysemy, semantics, synonyms, lexicography.*

The constraints of language and the boundlessness of things in the world explain multi meaning, or polysemy, as a common trait of natural languages. Furthermore, lexical ambiguity is determined by the concept of language economy, which states that even though a language has a great number of phonemes for a large number of combinations, this does not occur in reality due to a person's limited memory. Polysemy, in some form or another, continues to occupy the attention of linguists and is the subject of numerous debates.

Let's look at research into lexical meanings. "The lexical meaning of a word is commonly considered as its subject-material content, designed according to the laws of the grammar of a particular language and being an element of the general semantic system of the dictionary of this language," says academician V.V. Vinogradov [5, p. 162]. The most important element of lexical meaning is the enumeration of only the most significant or distinctive indicators in a row.

The sole distinction between single-valued and multi-valued nouns in Russian is their lexical meaning. Binoculars, noun, pizza, gastritis, Vladivostok, and other words have a single meaning, but go, head, model, dry, and other words have multiple meanings (they have two or more meanings). It's worth noting that, with the exception of numerals, all autonomous components of speech can exhibit polysemy. It's vital to remember that the context determines the exact meaning of a word, such as "tail" - "cat tail," "plane tail," and "queue tail."

In addition to the technique mentioned above, the lexical meaning of a word can be made concrete by:

- ✓ search for synonyms;

- ✓ words related by the root;
- ✓ Characteristics of specific features of an object, action, phenomenon.

We also note that exact and complete explanations of the lexical meanings of the word are described in explanatory dictionaries.

Let's take a look at how a word's lexical polysemy is formed. The shift of a designation from one item to another based on their likeness or contiguity, or the presence of strong meaning links between them, is a typical means of establishing polysemy. Associations that arise between an object that already has a name and an object that needs to be named are used to create a new nomination with a metaphorical meaning. For example, the figurative meanings of the words needle (pine needle - machine needle), similarity of shape; sole (the sole of the house - the sole of the shoe), the similarity of the location, etc. Transfer of this type is called *metaphorical*, it performs two functions: evaluative and nominative. Here are some instances of metaphorical names that generally refer to inanimate nature but figuratively allude to live organism properties: The water is concerned - so is the public; a cold floor - so is a cold person; silver dishes - so is a silver voice.

The next sort of polysemy is *metonymic* polysemy, which is distinguished by the fact that the meanings used to name the second thing are based on the similarity that occurs when the same word names the material and the object created from it, or the action and outcome gained from this activity.

Synecdoche is a type of metonymy in which the whole is called by the name of the portion, and vice versa. Let us take an example: the word "head" means "a section of a person's (or animal's) body that consists of a skull and a face (or muzzle of an animal)" [11, p. 135]. Many people use this word to mean "boss" or "leader" in a figurative sense. When proper names refer to objects or phenomena, metonymy can occur. For example, the surname Roentgen of the German inventor Roentgen today has two meanings: 1) "a gamma radiation dose unit"; 2) "X-ray transmission."

In addition to metonymy, synecdoche and metaphor, the following tropes are distinguished:

1. *Litota* is a trope denoting a deliberate understatement or mitigation: "Thumbelina girl", "Little man";
2. *An epithet* is a word or a whole expression that acquires some new meaning, which helps the word or expression become more saturated and colorful: "desire to forget", "fun noise";
3. *Irony* is a trope, the purpose of which is to evaluate a word or expression in order to make fun of it: "Well, you are brave!", "Smart-smart ..." The examples are used in a negative sense;
4. *Paraphrase* is, for example, when they say "night luminary" instead of "moon";
5. *Hyperbole* is a rhetorical figure of exaggeration or understatement of the truth, for example, "sweat rolled down in hail", "blood flowed in streams";
6. *Symphora* - this is the omission of an intermediate link, as a result of which a general sign is given that is characteristic of a phenomenon, action, object, for example, "this rain charged for a long time."

The ways of trope generation that we explore are not the only ones; there are also specific exceptions caused by the type of metaphor and metonymy used. These figurative meanings of words are not recorded in dictionaries, and their emergence can be explained by the inconsistency of their foundation as well as a lack of contextual and stylistic freedom.

Here are some examples:

- 1) the use of nouns with a quantitative-temporal meaning only as a temporary meaning: "The guys are discussing this film all the way";
- 2) the use of abbreviations or metonymic ellipses: "He likes to read Gogol";
- 3) for the name of the owner of the clothes or something else, the name of the clothes or the implied object is used: "The last visitors to the palace-museum passed in single file - sheepskin coats, stockings, wadded jackets" (A.N. Tolstoy);
- 4) through a location where people are busy with business, live or relax, they indicate a meeting of these people: "The audience did not pay attention to the professor's report";
- 5) The use of one object instead of a set to denote something: "And it was heard before dawn, how the Frenchman rejoiced" (M. Yu. Lermontov).

So far, we've looked at the various methods for constructing a word's lexical polysemy, ranging from frequent to unique instances of word usage. Let's get right to the point and look at the phenomenon of polysemy.

Polysemy is the ability of a word to have multiple lexical meanings. Consider an example from the dictionary of S.I. Ozhegov, where the interpretation of the word "earth" is given - 1) (in the terminological meaning – (3-Z) capitalized) the third planet from the Sun, rotating around its axis and around the sun (the Earth moves around the Sun); 2) land, earthly firmament (as opposed to water or air space); 3) soil, the upper layer of the crust of our planet, the surface (sit on the ground); 4) loose dark brown substance that is part of the crust of our planet; 5) country, state (Soviet land); 6) a territory with land that is in someone's possession, use (virgin lands). [11, p. 229].

The following causes of polysemy are distinguished:

1. Extra linguistic factors:

- ✓ the need for new names;
- ✓ the use of already familiar words in a different meaning of other social groups;
- ✓ the appearance of euphemisms in speech;

2. Intra-linguistic factors:

- ✓ paradigmatic relations;
- ✓ syntagmatic relations;
- ✓ Semantic analogy.

Intralinguistic influences are less explored than extra linguistic ones because they have a less visible impact on the language.

Let's move on to polysemantic words' semantic structure. There are links between all polysemantic terms, generating a complex semantic unity. These links represent the language's systemic nature, particularly in terms of vocabulary; thus, in order to fully comprehend lexical polysemy, we must first understand the semantic structure of polysemantic words.

In defining the lexico-semantic variant (hereafter LSV), we concur with N.G. Vladimirova: "this is a two-way sign, which is the unity of sound and meaning and keeps an intact lexical meaning inside its inherent paradigm and system of syntactic linkages" [6, p.130]. Scientists utilize the topological hypothesis to explain how polysemantic words are ordered, and the paradigm outlines three types of structure: *radial, chain, and radial-chain*.

The *radial structure* is defined by a network of meanings that connects all of a word's meanings to one central one. This style of construction is referred to as "water":

1. A clear, colorless liquid that is a pure chemical compound of hydrogen and oxygen.
2. Drink or infusion.
3. Water surface - river, lake, sea, etc., as well as its level.
4. The water area of a region.
5. Streams, jets, waves, water mass.
6. Mineral springs, resort with such springs.
7. About something meaningless and wordy.
8. Nutrient fluid that fills the protective shell of the fetus. [11, p. 89].

From the above interpretation, we can conclude that all subsequent values (2-6, 8) are associated with the first (1) through the common seme "liquid". And the figurative values (7) correlate with the main one through an associative link.

Let's look at the *chain structure*, which is characterized by each value of all being connected to only one of the values. One of the values is chosen as the main or prototype value in this structure, and all other values are derived from it. The main meaning, according to linguist E. Kurilovich, is the least context-dependent. Here's an example of how the word "tea" can be interpreted:

1. An evergreen tree or shrub whose dried leaves are used to make an aromatic drink.
2. Fragrant drink infused with these leaves.
3. Tea party.

Based on these data, we can say that the values 1 and 3 can only be related to each other through the value 2. The first value is recognized as the main or prototypical one, because logical and frequent in explanatory dictionaries is the order 'plant' and 'food product made from this plant'.

Often you have to deal with meanings that have more than three interpretations. The ambiguity here is of a mixed type, or *radial chain*. Let's go straight to an example. The word "table" has about 6 meanings with 5 additional "tones" of meanings. If all the values are combined into groups, then we get such categories as: 'furniture', 'food' and 'institutions'. The polysemy of this word contains a rather complex structure, which is based on adjacency and associative links.

Thus, we have considered three types of semantic structures. It should be noted that they do not fully reflect the picture of the construction of polysemic connections, because often the meanings of words are quite close, and it is difficult to trace the hierarchy of meanings.

Let us briefly list the types of semantic changes in polysemantic words:

- Metonymy. Containing → content: for example, an audience - 1) a room for lecturing, → 2) listeners;
- Synecdoche. Number - 1) ordinal number, → 2) a separate room in a hotel.

It's worth noting that the "main" meaning from which the rest are derived, as well as the type of connection used to produce the transfer of meaning, might differ depending on the language. The productivity of metonymic transfers varies as well, resulting in a diversity of linguistic worldviews among people from different countries.

To summarize everything that has been said thus far, we can say: 1. Polysemy - these are polysemantic words that have two or more meanings. 2. Polysemy in the language can be caused by a number of causes, including subjective, objective, and intralinguistic factors. 3. There are many theories for selecting semantic structures of polysemantic words, but we will use the topological one, which separates the radial, chain, and radial-chain structures; 4. You can determine which of the meanings is being updated in speech or text at the moment by looking at the context.

As a result, we were convinced of the need of studying polysemy, because the growing number of polysemantic words in Russian and other languages necessitates the development of an integrated approach to studying this feature of the language. All of this will aid in the study and comparison of distinct world language images.

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