POLYSEMY OF ENGLISH TERMS

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Introduction. The problem of terms' polysemy was the subject of great attention of many linguists. The study of development of technical terms and the study of the problems of translation are of great interst for linguists. In modern terminology a great attention is paid to the questions of terms' functioning in speech. Most words in English are ambiguous with different interpretations; words can mean different things in different contexts, especially concerning technical terms. Complex analysis of terms' system functioning in the special context is very important.

The topicality of the study of the ways and problems of terms translation is stipulated by wide cooperation of different countries and increasing volume of communication in technology. The necessary condition of interlanguage communication is equivalence of terms which construct information in the technical text.

The subject of the research is polysemantic terms of the modern English language, the structure of which is spread on many branches of science and industry. Studying polysemy of English terms will help in understanding technical texts.

The aim of the research is to identify the special layer of lexis of the modern English language, that is inter-branch polysemantic words and single out their linguistic phenomena.

Polysemy from Greek: πολυ-, poly-, "many" and σῆμα, sêma, "sign") is the capacity for a sign (such as a word, phrase, or symbol) to have multiple meanings (that is, multiple semes or sememes and thus multiple senses), usually related by contiguity of meaning within a semantic field. It is thus usually regarded as distinct from homonymy, in which the multiple meanings of a word may be unconnected or unrelated. [6]

Polysemy is a pivotal concept within disciplines such as media studies and linguistics. The analysis of polysemy, synonymy, and hyponymy and hypernymy is vital to taxonomy and ontology in the information-science senses of those terms. It

has applications in machine learning, because they rely on word-sense disambiguation and schemas. For example,

Bank – 1) financial institution; 2) the building where a financial institution offers services; 3) a synonym for 'rely upon' (e.g. "I'm your friend, you can bank on me"). However: a river bank is a homonym to 1 and 2, as they do not share etymologies. It is a completely different meaning. River bed, though, is polysemous with the beds on which people sleep.

Book – 1) a bound collection of pages; 2) a text reproduced and distributed (thus, someone who has read the same text on a computer has read the same book as someone who had the actual paper volume); 3) to make an action or event a matter of record (e.g. *Unable to book a hotel room, a man sneaked into a nearby private residence where police arrested him and later booked him for unlawful entry*.).

Newspaper – 1) a company that publishes written news; 2) a single physical item published by the company; 3) the newspaper as an edited work in a specific format (e.g. "They changed the layout of the newspaper's front page"). The different meanings can be combined in a single sentence, e.g. "John used to work for the newspaper that you are reading."

Wood – 1) a piece of a tree; 2) a geographical area with many trees.

Crane – 1) a bird; 2) a type of construction equipment; 3) to strain out one's neck.

Polysemy is inherent in the very nature of words and concepts as every object and every notion has many features and a concept reflected in a word always contains a generalisation of several traits of the object. A word which has more than one meaning is called polysemantic. Different meanings of a polysemantic word may come together due to the proximity of notions which they express e.g. the word *"blanket"* has the following meanings: a woolen covering used on beds, a covering for keeping a horse warm, a covering of any kind (a blanket of snow), covering all or most cases used attributively, e.g. we can say "a blanket insurance policy". There are some words in the language which are monosemantic, such as most terms, synonym, some pronouns (this, my, both), numerals. There are two processes of the semantic

development of a word: radiation and concatenation. In cases of radiation the primary meaning stands in the centre and the secondary meanings proceed out of it like rays. Each secondary meaning can be traced to the primary meaning. E.g. in the word *"face"* the primary meaning denotes "the front part of the human head"connected with the front position the meanings: the front part of a watch, the front part of a building, the front part of a playing card were formed. Connected with the word *"face"* itself the meanings: expression of the face, outward appearance are formed. In cases of concatenation secondary meanings of a word develop like a chain. In such cases it is difficult to trace some meanings to the primary one.

Polysemy implies that a word may retain its previous meaning or meanings and at the same time acquire one or several new ones. Then the problem of interrelation and interdependence of individual meanings of a polysemantic word may be formulated as if the word always possess all its meanings or some of them appear earlier than the others.

Semantic changes result as a rule in a new meanings being added to the ones already existing in the semantic structure of the word. Some of the old meanings may become obsolete or even disappear, but the bulk of English words tend to increase in a number of meanings. This refers to technical term as well.

The phenomenon of polysemy exists not in the speech but in the language. Problem of polysemy is mainly the problem of interrelation and interdependence of the various meanings of the same word. It is impossible to speak about the role of the meaning without understanding the word, the basic unit of language that unites meaning and form. The context is observed. Attention should be paid to the sentence, it must be translated, for example from English into Ukrainian or Russian. It is preferable to have knowledge of the subject that is translated, i.e. the sphere of engineering. During the whole studying a student is taught by teachers to understand the sentence and then to translate it with the help of the context. We choose the necessary meaning intuitively. But the observing context types explains a lot, for example the choice of the necessary meaning. Sometimes you don't know all the meanings of the translated words, and you guess by context. Context is the minimal

stretch of speech necessary to find out individual meanings. Most English words are polysemantic. It should be noticedd that the range of representative resources of a language largely depends on the extent to which polysemy has developed in the language.

Despite the recognition of polysemy development of terminological vocabulary by linguists, there are still many unexplored issues related to the development of terminological ambiguity. Practical meaning is in the results of the research that can be used in training of students of technical universities.

In line with the general trend of the language polysemous terms borrowed at first only in one of its meanings. In the process of borrowing can change their semantics. Assimilated, they are able to develop values, thus becoming, interbranch polysemantic words-terms. Realisation of technical names is a powerful source of technical terminology development.

Material of the research is technical terms obtained in the result of typical selection of sources, namely, technical instructions and texts of technical subjects. In the process of study the method of definitional analysis was used which allowed to set up notion-stipulated bonds between Eglish and Russian terms. Also the method of contextual analysis was used, as the definition doesn't always allow getting full image of the term's meaning. In this case we need analysis of narrow or broad context. Method of comparison and opposition of notions is used in determination of terms, and also the method of complete selection.

According to A.A. Reformatorsky terms (from Latin "border", "limit") are special words which are defined by their special meaning, the words which aim to be unambiguous, well-defined as an accurate expression of the meaning and name of the thiings. It is necessary in technique, diplomacy etc. Terms exist not only in the language, but in the structure of definite terminology. If in a common languae they can be polysemantic in terminology they acquire unambiguity.[5: 62]

Technical terms are units of any concrete natural or artificial languate, words or word-combinations, abbreviation, symbols, combination of words or letters or figures possessing special terminological meaning appeared as a result of

spontaneous existing or special conscious collective agreement which can be expressed in a word form reflecting the main signs of the existing notion on the definite level of science and technology development. Term is a word which correlates with a specific unit of the corresponding logical-conceptual system in terms of content.

So what is the linguistic nature of terms? Firstly, term is an inherent organic part of lexical system of the language. Secnodly, terms differ from other catergories of words by their wide informative intensity. Technical terms give the most accurate, concentrated definition of scientific or technical concepts. The main demand to terms is its unambiguity. There are two categories of terms: 1) general scientific and general technical terms and 2) special (nomenclature) terms. General scientific terms express general notions of science and technology. They exist in the structure of definite terminology. According to A.A. Reformatorsky, terminology is the system of concepts of definite science embodied in the appropriate verbal expression. The specifics of the terms as a special category of lexical words is that they are in the process of production and research activities and, therefore, function only with people who have the relevant scientific and industrial realities, that is macrocontext. Therefore, in contrast to usual words, the uniqueness of which is provided in the speech communication situation or linguistic context, the uniqueness of the term is regulated by linguistic or extralinguistic macrocontext or linguistic microcontext. The term does not require a context as a common word, so it is a member of a specific terminology that supersedes the context; it can be used separately, for example, in texts of registers or orders in technique, and that should be unambiguous in the limits of certain terminology. Within the limits of the lexical system of language terms exhibit the same properties as the other words, i.e. polysemy is typical for them. For example, term "valve" in machinebuilding means – «клапан», but in radio – «электронная лампа», in hydraulics – «затвор»; term «power» in phisics – «мощность», «энергия», in mathematics – «степень», in optics – «сила увеличения линзы».

Terms-phrases are created by adding a term that refers to a generic term, specifying the signs in order to obtain specific concepts directly related to the source. Such terms are actually determinations leading this concept under the more general and at the same time indicating its specific feature. Thus, peculiar terminological units appear covering numerous varieties referred to the phenomenon of the defined notion. For example: term *valve* means клапан; вентиль; золотник; затвор; in botany – створка", in autonomy – клапан сердца.

Deceleration valve – тормозной клапан;

deceleration flow control valve – регулятор, обеспечивающийплавное замедление движения потока;

deck drain valve – мор. клапан сточной системы;

delivery valve – нагнетательный клапан;

depress valve – клапан сброса давления;

diaphragm valve – мембранный клапан; мембранный вентиль;

diaphragm seating action valve – гидро- или пневмоаппарат с мембранным клапаном;

defferential pressure control valve – клапан разности давления;

to valve off a line — перекрывать трубопровод задвижкой;

Terms are complex words; they penetrate into English scientific literature, as the meaning of the complex word is always accurately specialized than the meaning of the proper word-combination. For example, *allweather fighter* – всепогодный истребитель, i.e. the type of an aircraft which is designed for both day and night for any weather.

The first thing is to determine which lexical-semantic category includes the components of a compound word, i.e what they mean: objects, actions, properties. Terms consisting of complex words are both components that mean subjects (i.e. machines, mechanisms, devices, etc); they are translated differently depending on their coorelation given by the objects.

A special challenge for translation are multicomponent complex words. First of all it is necessary to disclose the value of the main component. A major role in this,

of course, plays the context. Then, as a part of a multi-component compound word, the term should find internal terms, if any, with the associated words. The following examples illustrate the sequence of multi-translation of terms. For example, *access* – досуп (common meaning), but in some context it can be translated as – люк; *adjustment access* – люк для регулировки; 2) *control-surface cable* – трос руля управления. The meaning of the whole term 'control-surface cable adjustment' is – люк для регулировки тросами руля управления.

Another example, the words *measurement* – измерение (common meaning), radio wave speed measurement (speed measurement – измерение скорости, radio wave – радиоволна). The meaning of the whole term is – измерение скорости радиоволны.

Conclusion. To conclude we may say that, polysemy viewed diachronically is a historical change in the semantic structure of the word resulting in new meanings being added to the ones already existing and in the rearrangement of these meanings in its semantic structure. As the semantic structure is never static the relationship between the diachronic and synchronic evaluation of individual meanings of the same word may be different in different periods of historical development of the language. We should take into account all variety of terms' polysemy to translate technical texts correctly. Undoubtedly, engineers of specific branch knowing the language can translate better technical texts because they know the subject of translation that is their major and they understand the technological process so they can interprete it in a proper way. Nethertheless, the knowledge of polisemantic terms will help cope with the task of translation.

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