

Enantiosemy of A Phraseological Unit (In the Example of the Uzbek Language)

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Received: January 31, 2014 Accepted: February 19, 2014 Published: March 23, 2014

doi:10.5296/ijl.v6i2.5344 URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5296/ijl.v6i2.5344>

Abstract

This article is about enantiosemy, a particular and complicated phenomenon of Lexicology. It is known that enantiosemy is based on the existence of the two opposite meanings in one word and appear in the circle of a language unit. Enantiosemy exists not only in a word, but also in a phraseological unit. The existence of enantiosemy in each type of the two units is certainly distinctive. In this article the ways and types of appearance of enantiosemy in lexical and phraseological units are defined. Accordingly, the type of lexical and phraseological enantiosemy is the same. But in the semantic structure of the enantiosemic expressions the picturesqueness, subjective influence and expressiveness are main, and also, based on the figurative meanings. It distinguishes phraseological enantiosemy from lexical enantiosemy.

Phraseological enantiosemy is separated into symmetric and asymmetric, nominative and with subjective evaluation, synchronic and diachronic enantiosemy. Symmetric and asymmetric enantiosemy is indicated according to the character and volume of contradiction in the meaning of the phrase. The equality of the opposite meanings according to their character and volume performs the symmetric enantiosemy and the inappropriateness of the character and volume of the opposite meanings performs the asymmetric enantiosemy.

The appearance of the contradiction in the meaning of phraseological unit according to usual and occasional meanings indicates that the phraseological enantiosemy is nominative or with subjective evaluation. The usual phraseological opposite meaning exists in nominative enantiosemy, and the occasional phraseological opposite meaning exists in the enantiosemy with subjective evaluation.

Phraseological enantiosemy is separated into synchronic and diachronic enantiosemy according to its relationship to the present time of the language, synchronic and diachronic enantiosemy are distinguished. The contradiction in meaning appeared in a phrase in one period of the language progress implements the synchronic enantiosemy, and the opposite meanings appeared in the semantics of a phrase in the two periods of the language progress implement the diachronic enantiosemy.

The opposite meanings in the semantic structure of the phraseological unit can be more exact when defining on the basis of componential analysis.

Keywords: Enantiosemy, Phraseology, Semantic evolution of the phraseological unit, Typology of enantiosemy in phraseology

1. Introduction

Enantiosemy can appear not only in the lexical units, but also in the phraseological units. But the appearance of enantiosemy in the phraseologisms is particular according to being based on a certain situation and being a secondary nomination. Although some researches about the appearance of enantiosemy in a phraseology have been made in the linguistics, we cannot say it has been done enough. The reason why the problem of enantiosemy in the phraseological units hasn't been scientifically solved up to now reflects in the dictionaries of different fields. In the dictionaries of the existed fields while the particular features are added in the definition of this or that lexical unit, the contradictory meaning is not put in the definition of phraseological units. Determining this and other questions the above problems have found their salvation and with this a certain perfection will be achieved in the dictionaries.

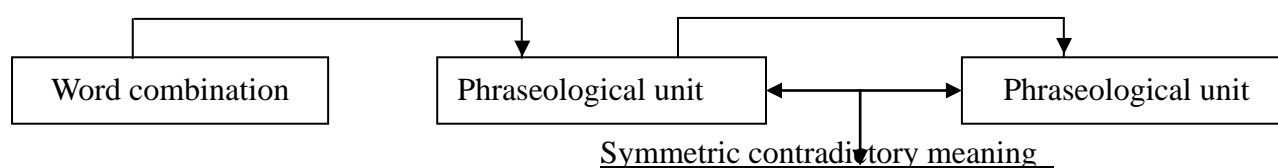
The enantiosemy in the phraseological units are rather complicated than the enantiosemy in the lexical units, these phraseological units are clarified with their structure and semantic peculiarities. The semantic peculiarities of phraseological units are that the nominative function in their semantics moves to the secondary plan, and even can be archaic, therefore, no matter how many things they might name, all the same they serve to express the certain subjective relationship. The linguists V. Teliya and V. Maslova gave their opinions like this: "No matter the phraseological units may appear to describe and clarify the objective universe, all the same they express the evaluation of the very universe and the subjective relationship to it" [Телия В.Н., 10; Махмутова Л.П., 69]. Therefore, the subjective impact in them is the first level. Despite the fact that these linguists are true, the enantiosemic nature of the phraseological units are alike with the enantiosemic nature of lexical units. For example, the likeness of the typology of enantiosemy in the phraseological units, the appearance of the word between nominative and positive and negative assessments are included in it. However, there are general aspects of the contradiction in these units.

Below we will have a look at the enantiosemy dividing into symmetric and asymmetric, nominative and subjective assessment, synchronic and diachronic enantiosemy.

As there exists in lexical units, in phraseological units "According to the scale of contradictory meanings in phraseological units they can be divided into symmetric and asymmetric enantiosemic units" [Телия В.Н., 20]. In order to reflect the symmetric enantiosemy in any phraseological unit, first of all, contradiction must be appropriate at every point, in the semantic structure of the phraseological unit there mustn't be any other meaning besides its contradictory meanings and this aspect shows the obvious appearance of contradiction. Such symmetric enantiosemy can be met in the sphere of the three types of the phraseological units such as phraseological expression, phraseological absoluteness and phraseological mixture.

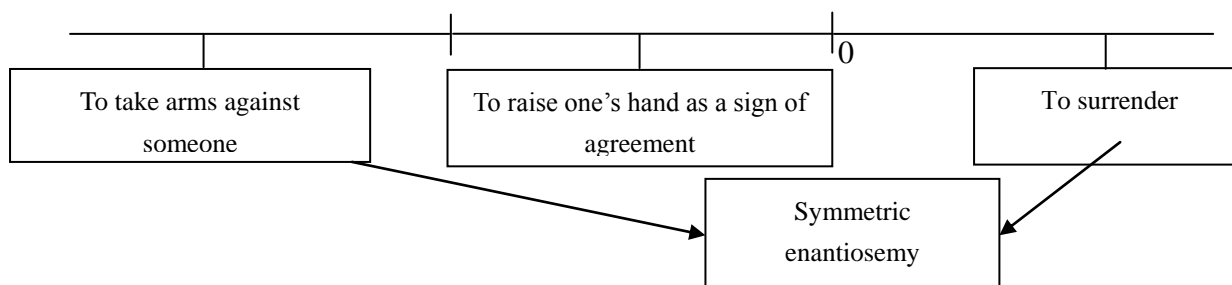
First of all, let's see the aspects of expressing the symmetric contradiction of the phraseological expressions [Вознесенская М.М.]. It is known that a large part of such phraseological units consist of somatic phraseologisms. For example, the phraseologism "Bosh irg'amoq" (to nod or to shake the head) can be in a row of such phraseologisms. This phraseologism was built on the root of the word "bosh" (head), by moving this part of the

body in a certain direction the meaning of “confirmation” or “refusal” can be expressed. These meanings of “confirmation” and “refusal” show the symmetric contradiction. Being symmetric enantiosemey of this contradiction is that, the contradictory meanings in it are extensively equal, and this can be explained by inexistence of additional meanings in the semantic structure of the same phraseologism. Compare: *Қарзга вино олиб ичганингни отанг билса, менинг жонимни сузуриб олади, – деди. Толик бу гапни маъқуллаб бош ирғади* (Ш.Бўтаев, “Қарз”) – (“If your father knows that you have drunk wine borrowing money, he will kill me, he said. Tolik confirmed by shaking his head); – *Ким ёзибди чакувни, билсам бўладими?... Ректор бош ирғади. – Буни ошкор қилолмайман* (Ғ. Каримий, “Баҳор соғинчи”) (“Who has written this rumour, can I know?”... the Rector shook his head . “I can’t tell”). One of the somatic phraseologisms “*қўли боғланиб қолди*” (to have/keep one’s hands busy) also shows the symmetric enantiosemey with the meanings of “to be busy with something” and “to be free” [Толковый словарь узбекского языка., 354]. *Сен бу ернинг қаҳратонларидаги қирқ даражали изғиринларини, шимолдан келадиган шамолу бўронларини биласанми? У кранларни, юксакдаги пайвандчиларни, бетон ишларини хавф остида қолдириб, қишда ойлаб қўлни боғлайди* (А.Мухтор, “Бўронларда бордек ҳаловат”) – (Do you know the severe colds with 40 degree and the winds and storms here? It makes the cranes, the welders and concrete works to be left in danger and keeps the hands busy for months). In the semantic structure of this phraseologism there are no other meanings except the same opposite meanings. The prototype of this expression is originally a word combination, it is supposed to have the meaning “to have one’s hands busy with something because of a lot of work” and then the meaning “to be free, to be without any work to do” have come out of it. Because the meaning “to be busy” in the expression “to have one’s hands busy with something because of a lot of work” is close to the meaning in the word combination. But in Modern Uzbek both meanings have become the ingredients of the phraseologism. It can be expressed by the following scheme below:



Asymmetric phraseological enantiosemey like asymmetric lexical enantiosemey is also based on the inappropriate relationship of the contradictory meanings, that is, in one of the opposite meanings in the both sides of the semantic structure of the phraseological unit there can be found one or several meanings of the same phraseological unit. Also, one of the contradictory meanings would be settled closer or farther to the semantic centre of the phraseological unit than the second one. We shall study asymmetric enantiosemey phraseological unit dividing into phraseological expression, phraseological unit and phraseological combination. At first, we begin with somatic phraseological unit that is considered to be a phraseological expression. In the Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language, three meanings of the phraseological unit “raise one’s hand, threaten (somebody

with something)” which mean “to raise one’s hand in order to agree with something or to wish something”, “to surrender” and “to take up arms against somebody”. As stated above, there is contradiction between the second and the third meanings of the phraseological unit. “to surrender” ↔ “to take up arms against somebody”. The first meaning of the phraseological unit (“raise one’s hand, threaten somebody with something”) takes place in one of the opposite poles according to the context. As a result of this, inequality can be observed in the meanings of these opposite poles as there are two sememes in one of the opposite poles whereas there is only one sememe in other one. Compare: *Қуршовда қолган душман қисми қаршиликни тўхтатиб, қўл кўтардилар* – A unit of the enemy forces stopped resistance being encircled and surrendered (ЎТИЛ); *Улар қўл кўтаргандан кейин қўл кўтарсак, кеч қоламиз, оғайнилар – деди у. Орқаларидан қувиб бориб бирданига солдирмасак бўлмайди* – If we raise our hands after they have done so, we shall be late, friends- said he. We have to beat them chasing after them (Чўлпон, “Кеча ва кундуз”). It can be seen in this table:



As it is seen from the table, the sememe “to surrender” is far from the semantic centre of the phraseological unit. Additional meanings – figurativeness, emotional sensitiveness, expressiveness in the semantic structure of the phraseological units and being settled down of the meanings of phraseologies in the figurative ones distinguish the enantiosemy of the phraseological units from the enantiosemy of the lexical units and this arises several complications in defining the enantiosemic features of these units and separating into many groups. So, we have to approach each type of enantiosemic phraseological units according to the demands put on these types. For instance, in order to define the manifestation of symmetric or asymmetric enantiosemy of phraseology we have to pay attention to the capacity of the semantic opposition it manifests and that it is in one semantic aspect, but to define the fact that the phraseological unit is based on the subjective and objective evaluation we have to consider the fact of on what semantic basis its opposition is accomplished. It is worth mentioning that figurativeness can be found in nominative phraseological enantiosemy and phraseological enantiosemy with subjective evaluation being a inseparable part of the phraseological unit. So, figurativeness is appeared as a common feature for nominative and subjective evaluative phraseological enantiosemy. As a matter of fact, figurativeness mainly serves as an expression of a certain notion that is a nominative function whether it is a word or a phraseological unit. This very nominative side of the phraseological units can also be found in the subjective evaluative type of the phraseological enantiosemy. Enantiosemic relation is revealed in return for the connotative meanings of the phraseological units, in

general, on account of modal relation, but in return for its nominative meaning. Some linguists think that connotative meanings of the phraseological units are revealed in the nominative phraseological units in phraseology distinct from lexicology. For us it is not true. We try to prove our conclusion with the help of two phraseological units. For instance, the phraseological unit қўл силкимоқ “to wave one’s hand” gives a notion about a certain movement of the hand with its meanings “to say goodbye to” and “to greet”. It is its nominative function. The very nominative function of the phraseological unit reveals a semantic opposition and in it the speaker’s subjective attitude to the object of speech is not felt. So the aspect of this semantic opposition can be considered as a nominative opposite aspect. In dividing enantiosemy into nominative and subjective evaluative enantiosemy a Russian linguist M. Voznesenskaya states that emotional- expressiveness is revealed as a nominative sign in phraseological units and reasons the fact that emotional-expressiveness is specific to all phraseologies even in a neutral position [1]. As we think, it is not true to include it in the nominative side of phraseologies. In fact, although phraseological units are built on the basis of figurative meaning they show linguistic and speech peculiarities.

As well, in subjective evaluative enantiosemic phraseology both opposite meanings of phraseological units are not equally with a nominative meaning or either with a figurative one, but one with a nominative meaning and the other with a figurative one and this shows that this type of enantiosemy is based on a asymmetric relation. While speaking about enantiosemy with respect to speech, some linguists mostly consider this to cause various emotional aspects on behalf of a speaker, reflexing dynamic characteristics of human mind and its two opposite tendencies in the development of language. Of course, a certain phenomenon, positive or critical evaluation of any sign or state is a result of a subjective relation of a speaker and it can be understood depending on a speaker’s position at that particular time. For instance, if the phrase “хунар кўрсатмоқ” (to show one’s skill) is connected with a positive subjective aspect by the speaker, it gives a positive meaning; otherwise it gives a negative meaning. Compare: *Лекин энди кўрғазмага томоша қилгани эмас, хунаримни кўрсатгани бораман. Ғалати пайвандлар қилганман* – Now I shall go there not to admire the fair, but to show my skill (А. Қахҳор, “Танланган асарлар”); *Собиқ горисполком раиси роса “хунар кўрсатган” экан. Савдо бошқармасининг бошлиғи – жияни. Обшепит мудури – қайнсинглиси... Қўша-қўша участкалар* – Former city executive “was very cunning”. The head of the Trade Administration was his cousin. Food service manager was his sister-in-law... Several cottages (Ў. Хошимов, “Икки эшик ораси”). These phraseologies of whose prototype is a word combination and which are revealed on the basis of their prototype have a possibility to reveal an opposite, emotional or subjective evaluation. Then, these phraseologies can reveal a positive meaning in one case and a negative meaning in other case. Enantiosemy of phraseological units have synchronic and diachronic features like those of enantiosemy of lexical units. Difficulties may arise in studying enantiosemic phraseology on the basis of this approach and in the course of time changes may occur in phraseological units. While approaching this problem synchronically it would be better to study these phraseological units as phraseology but not as homonyms or doublet expressions.

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Glossary

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