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## INGLIZ TILIDAGI FRAZELOGIK BIRLIKLARNING ANTONIMIYASI BILAN BOG'LIQ AYRIM MASALALAR

### НЕКОТОРЫЕ АСПЕКТЫ АНТОНИМИИ ФРАЗЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ ЕДИНИЦ В АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

### SOME ISSUES IN THE ANTONYMY OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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#### Abstract

*This article seeks to define the scope of phraseology as an autonomous branch of linguistics distinct from its individual constituents. The article deals with the topic of phraseological antonymy, namely root and affixal antonymy. Five contexts of modern English that constitute opposition are examined in order to find systematic regularities of contrast. It also analyzes phraseological units with antonyms where two types of oppositions are distinguished: one where the opposition is internal within the unit and the other where the opposition is external and only appears in certain phrases. The methodological basis is the study of phraseological antonyms from the point of view of translation, which analyzes the relations of various types of lexical integration and substitution of constituents in antonymous units. The results clarify that the phraseological units that are regularly used in contexts with antonymy concentration are the ones that need extra focus.*

#### Аннотация

*В данной статье предпринимается попытка определить объем фразеологии как самостоятельной отрасли лингвистики, отличной от ее отдельных составляющих. В статье рассматривается тема фразеологической антонимии, а именно корневой и аффиксальной антонимии. Исследуются пять контекстов современного английского языка, в которых проявляется противопоставление, с целью выявления системных закономерностей контраста. Также анализируются фразеологические единицы с антонимами, где выделяются два типа противопоставления: одно, при котором оппозиция является внутренней внутри единицы, и другое, при котором оппозиция внешняя и проявляется только в определенных фразах. Методологической основой исследования является изучение фразеологических антонимов с точки зрения перевода, что позволяет анализировать отношения различных типов лексической интеграции и замещения составляющих в антонимичных единицах. Результаты уточняют, что именно фразеологические единицы, регулярно используемые в контекстах с высокой концентрацией антонимии, требуют особого внимания.*

#### Annotatsiya

*Ushbu maqola frazeologiyani uning alohida tarkibiy qismlaridan farqli ravishda mustaqil lingvistik yo'nalish sifatida aniqlashga harakat qiladi. Maqolada frazeologik antonimiya, ya'ni ildiz va affiksial antonimiya mavzusi ko'rib chiqiladi. Zamonaviy ingliz tilida qarama-qarshilikni tashkil qiluvchi beshta kontekst tizimli qarama-qarshilik qonuniyatlarini aniqlash maqsadida tahlil qilinadi. Shuningdek, antonimlarga ega frazeologik birliklar tahlil qilinib, ikkita qarama-qarshilik turi ajratiladi: biri – birlik ichida ichki qarama-qarshilik, ikkinchisi esa tashqi bo'lib, faqat ma'lum iboralarda namoyon bo'ladi. Tadqiqotning metodologik asosi frazeologik antonimlarni tarjima nuqtayi nazaridan o'rganish bo'lib, bu antonimik birliklardagi turli xil leksik integratsiya va tarkibiy qismlarning almashtirilishi munosabatlarini tahlil qilish imkonini beradi. Natijalar shuni ko'rsatadiki, antonimiya yuqori darajada jamlangan kontekstlarda muntazam qo'llaniladigan frazeologik birliklarga alohida e'tibor qaratish lozim.*

**Key words:** Phraseological unit, integral idiomatic meaning, semantic universal, antonymy, affixal antonymy, lexical integration, lexical compatibility, lexical-semantic level.

**Ключевые слова:** фразеологическая единица, целостное идиоматическое значение, семантическая универсалия, антонимия, аффиксальная антонимия, лексическая интеграция, лексическая сочетаемость, лексико-семантический уровень.

**Kalit so'zlar:** frazeologik birlik, yaxlit idiomatik ma'no, semantik universal, antonimiya, affiksial antonimiya, leksik integratsiya, leksik moslashuvchanlik, leksik-semantik daraja.

## INTRODUCTION

Currently, the view of phraseology as an independent linguistic discipline is widely accepted. This perspective arises from the unique nature of the phraseological unit—an entity qualitatively different from words, not equivalent to a word but rather correlated with it.

Phraseology is an independent linguistic discipline. The combinability of words in each language is unique. Adjectives combine with different nouns in various languages. Nouns, in turn, influence the semantics of adjectives. [2]. However, the fundamental question of the scope of phraseology remains a subject of debate: *"...as early as the 1920s, the question was raised: should phraseology be understood in a broad or narrow sense?"* [4].

## LITERATURE REVIEW AND RESEARCH METHODS

V. L. Arkhangel'sky includes all stable word combinations within phraseology [4]. According to N. M. Shansky, phraseology should encompass all reproducible units without exception (both nominative and communicative) [8]. N. N. Amosova believes that phraseology should only study non-patterned word combinations with reinterpreted meanings and partially predicative constructions [3]. For example, L. A. Vvedenskaya, L. A. Gryaznova, and E. A. Oliver consider the object of phraseology to be the regularities of word combinations in general. In contrast, others focus on fixed, stable word combinations that possess an integral idiomatic meaning.

According to L. L. Nelyubin's definition, *"a phraseological unit is a word combination in which semantic monolithicity (the integrity of nomination) prevails over the structural separateness of its components, as a result of which it functions within a sentence as the equivalent of a single word"* [5].

Antonymic relationships permeate and are present in virtually all areas of language. Not only words and individual phrases can be antonymous, but also entire sentences, proverbs, sayings, and idioms. The issue of phraseological antonymy has been explored by A. G. Gyulmagomedov, L. P. Zimina, E. N. Miller, M. I. Sidorenko, I. I. Chernysheva, and V. I. Ubiiko. For instance, L. A. Novikov believes that *"antonymy can be considered one of the important linguistic universals at the lexical-semantic level of language"* [6].

The methodological basis of the study comprises various translation approaches to phraseological antonyms, which enable a highly reliable analysis of how knowledge about the surrounding world and the lexicons of different peoples are represented.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Antonymy is a semantic universal. [6]. It is inherent in all languages. However, each language represents a particular fact using its means, resources, and methods. Two groups of words in the English language will be considered in this article, and the phenomenon of antonymies and their antonyms will be identified:

1. hot - cold, long - short
2. polite - impolite, selfish - unselfish

In the first set of words, the contrast is inherent in the core meaning of the word itself and is not conveyed through any distinct morphological markers. These types of antonyms are known as root antonyms. The second category of English antonyms includes words where the use of negative affixes indicates opposition. As a result, they are classified as affixal antonyms. Each of these antonym groups follows specific linguistic criteria for antonymy. The presence of an antonymic characteristic in the meaning of root antonyms is linguistically detected through the following two features:

- a) Regular use in antonymous contexts
- b) Common lexical combinability

An antonymic characteristic can be assigned to the meaning of a root antonym only if the word is regularly used in speech to express opposition. The first typical context is characterized by the meaning of generality (*all A and (or) B*). The opposing words are used as homogeneous sentence elements connected either by coordinating or disjunctive conjunctions:

*"If you've obeyed all the rules, good and bad, and you still come out at the dirty end, then I say the rules are no good."* [13].

The second standard scenario is characterized by direct contrast (A is not B, but C). The contrast words are employed as homogeneous members joined by adversative conjunctions:

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*"He was alive, not dead."* [10].

The third typical case is one of alternativeness (A or B). The opposite words are used as undifferentiated wholes connected by disjunctive conjunctions:

*"You'll see if you were right or wrong."* [9].

The fourth typical environment has a background of contrast (A is B, whereas C, on the other hand, is D). The contrasting words are used as the same sentence item in two similar structures:

*"The whole was big, oneself was little."* [11].

The fifth typical context is characterized by simple joint usage without a defined formula. The opposing words are used as different elements within one or two semantically related sentences:

*"In its great presence, our small sorrows creep away, ashamed."* [12].

A unique form of the fifth typical context is the joint usage of two mutually reversed actions as homogeneous sentence elements. For example:

*"I've lost and won more lawsuits than any man in England."* [14].

There is a significant number of phraseological units in the English language that are based on the opposition of two words, such as:

- *the long and the short of it*
- *to search high and low*

Such phraseological units usually include words that function as antonyms outside the phraseological unit: *long - short, high - low*.

Nonetheless, there are instances in which two words' meanings are only opposed inside the specified phraseological unit, as in the following example:

- *to play fast and loose*
- *to sink or swim*

In these situations, the opposite meanings in the phrase don't always stand out clearly. But since this phrase shows a kind of contrast and usually reflects the opposing meanings of its words, we should see these words as a unique kind of phraseological antonym.

Every set of antonyms is usually used in one or more typical contexts that are associated with each other in a particular way. Individual pairs of antonyms differ in both the amount of their relative identified contexts and the volume of their application in such contexts. The greater the number of types of contexts utilized in relation to opposition meaning, the more prominently the meaning is highlighted.

#### Guidelines to Root Antonyms

1. The criterion of systematic employment of contrasting contexts is the leading one in determining conclusively the existence of antonyms in the language.

2. The second criterion of antonymy is the existence of lexical combinability at some level in the members of a given antonymic pair. Antonyms, in most cases, have nearly the same spheres of lexical combinability which makes their frequent joint use in contexts of opposition possible.

For example, the antonyms *high* and *low* in their primary nominative meanings freely combine with the names of any objects having vertical extension.

However, neither of these adjectives is used to describe human height. In modern English, a tall person is a *tall man*, not a *high man*, while a short person is a *short man*, not a *low man*.

However, neither of these adjectives is used to describe a person's height. In modern English, a tall person is referred to as "a tall man," but not "a high man," and a short person is called "a short man," but not "a low man."

The antonymous adjectives *warm* and *cold* in their literal meanings freely combine with the names of specific objects. Both words are particularly common in combinations with body parts such as *hand, limb, leg, feet, face, cheek, nose* and with the names of food and beverages such as *meat, potato, egg, pie, turkey, beer, coffee, tea, lemonade*.

In their literal sense, both adjectives also combine with place and time-related words.

The shared lexical compatibility of antonyms serves as a prerequisite for their use in typical antonymic contexts and also reinforces the antonymic characteristic of a word. As a result, in most

cases where one antonym is used in speech, it can be directly replaced by its opposite, yielding the exact opposite meaning of the phrase. This possibility of substitution serves as an additional criterion for antonymy.

Generally speaking, the concurrence of lexical compatibility between antonyms is not total. Each of the words might have its own distinctive features of usage. Such habitual divergence does not impinge on the general opposition of the stated pair of senses, as long as the opposition between their antonyms holds in other contexts. At times, the shared opposition of two antonyms is so manifestly clear that a word can be used in fixed phrases or collocations, where normally only its antonym appears.

Examples of this can be found in English literature, such as:

*"...she did not cry again, or indeed, throw any water, warm or cold, on him who sold balloons..."* [11].

Such cases undoubtedly demonstrate the strong semantic connection between antonyms.

### CONCLUSION

It is apparent that two linguistic criteria identify a language's root antonyms. But are these criteria of equal value? The first criterion—regular occurrence in antonymic contexts—qualifies as proof that at the very least, a word pair can be considered an antonym. A second criterion where the words have similar lexical relations and can be substituted is helpful in eliminating antonymy: completely different lexical relations means those two words cannot be antonyms.

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