



SOME SEMANTIC-FUNCTIONAL FEATURES OF ENGLISH ANTONYMS

Submission Date: February 18, 2023, **Accepted Date:** February 23, 2023,

Published Date: February 28, 2023

Crossref doi: <https://doi.org/10.37547/history-crjh-04-02-05>

Journal Website:
<https://masterjournals.com/index.php/crjh>

Copyright: Original content from this work may be used under the terms of the creative commons attributes 4.0 licence.

Malika Muslimova

Ma At The Tashkent State Pedagogical University Named After Nizami, Uzbekistan

M.Kh.Alimova

Scientific Supervisor, Phd, Associate Prof, Tashkent State Pedagogical University Named After Nizami, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

The article deals with some peculiarities of English antonyms. The author describes 5 types of antonyms and their functions: auto-antonyms, complementary antonyms, converse antonyms, gradual antonyms, and contextual antonyms.

KEYWORDS

Semantic association, phraseological units, opposite meaning, lexico-semantic system, non-modelled, contrasted words, figurative meaning.

INTRODUCTION

English has a rich vocabulary to describe our feelings, objects and phenomena of the world around us, and state our requirements. Therefore, we use various lexical and semantic associations in our speech: synonymic series, antonymic expressions and stable phraseological units.

Antonym is one of the most important linguistic universals, one of the essential dimensions of the lexico-semantic system of various languages.

Antonyms are not possible for all words in the language, since not every concept has another concept that correlates and contrasts with it. For example, the names of specific items do not have antonyms: hand, face, nose, chair, table.

By contrast, the association is one of the most important associations indicating the close connection of words-antonyms in the lexico-semantic system of the language. Psycholinguistic tests repeatedly



conducted by various scientists serve as confirmation of this idea. For example, X. X. Clark studied the tendency for respondents to name an association word in response to a given stimulus word. Clark noted that "if the stimulus word has a generally accepted antonym, then respondents will most often name it. Such answers are the most frequent in lexical association tests" [Clark 1970: 275].

Antonyms are characteristic of words containing quality in their meaning, whether it is a noun (light – darkness), verbs (to freeze – to thaw), adjectives or adverbs (full – empty, slowly – quickly); quality adjectives are especially rich in antonyms, for example: beautiful – ugly, big – small, bitter – sweet, bright – dim, good – bad, old – young.

For nouns, antonymic pairs are especially inherent in words:

1. denoting the feelings, moods and properties of a person: love – hatred, respect – scorn, joy – sorrow;
2. denoting a person's condition or state: work – rest, health – illness, life – death
3. denoting time: day – night, summer – winter, beginning – end.

Some lexicologists consider only words different in root as antonyms, that is, they do not consider words formed from the same root using affixes as antonyms, such as: happy – unhappy, useful – useless, order – disorder.

However, in the practice of teaching languages and in some dictionaries, such a distinction is not made, since sometimes in word formation exercises it is convenient to require, for example, to form words with the help of affixes of the opposite meaning, but with the same root.

In modern lexicology, there are concepts of lexical and phraseological antonymy. Lexical antonyms are words that sound different and have directly opposite meanings: truth – lie, kind – unkind, young – old. Antonyms, as a rule, refer to one part of speech and form pairs.

Phraseological antonyms are primarily phraseological units. A phraseological unit is a stable combination of words with a fully or partially reinterpreted meaning.

Antonyms can be root and affixal, formed according to word-formation models (equal – unequal, equally – unequally, dark - light, darken – lighten).

Phraseological units-antonyms are structurally semantic non-modeled formations, their integral meaning is due to a certain, single structure of education with interdependent, non-replaceable components for expressing this meaning (closed shop – open shop, ass in grain - nobody's fool).

The difference in structure leads to a difference in usage. Antonyms are characterized by five types of common use in context. Such usage is not typical for phraseological units-antonyms

The general trend in the use of actualized antonyms is as follows: lexical antonyms are very common in fiction, journalistic and scientific literature. In fiction, antonyms are very often contrasted-words with figurative meanings. The number of such oppositions in the press is significant. Fiction means an imaginary story. In such stories antonyms are productively used to make the text emotional, to attract the reader's attention to the fact: You forget what you want to remember and remember what you want to forget. The words forget and remember are opposites to one another. He is impatient man, although looks like patient person. They irresponsible people, fortunately we are too responsible.



We can demonstrate the following types of antonyms:

1. Auto-antonyms: These antonyms are the words which have two meanings, including one with an opposite meaning. It has several different names, including contronym and Janus word. These antonyms include bound, dust, consult, fast and etc: 1.He dusted the cookie with a fine layer of powdered sugar. 2.She dusted the fireplace mantle. One definition means to lightly cover with fine particles, the other means to clean away light debris.

2. Complementary antonyms: They are known as direct antonyms or contradictory antonyms which exist independently from one another, they are related words, and they are absolute: opposites: night and day, inhale and exhale: 1.The boy crossed the street. 2. The girl walked to the curb: These are sentences with complementary antonyms. The subject of both sentences are independent: The boy doesn't exist as a condition of the girl.

3. Converse antonyms or relational antonyms which are closely related words that can't exist without each other: near/far. Here the object can't be near without measuring it with something far away: The pan was warm and The pan was cool to the touch show how converse antonyms are relational opposites. The pan can't be cool unless it's first hot and then warm.

4. Graded antonyms show variations or grades between words with similar meanings: pleased/gratified/overjoyed/content. These words have a relational connection to happy, where each has a different definition: The results varied from pleasant and upbeat to joyous and remarkable. These terms mean good but differ in scale: pleasant is not the same as remarkable, though both are positive words.

5. Contextual antonyms which are defined proceeding from the meaning of the surroundings: It was the best

of times, it was the worst of times; It was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair (Ch.Dickens. A Tale of Two Cities).

- Antonymic connections are characteristic of phraseological units-word combinations, the meaning of which implies the existence of a logical opposition of concepts: a) phraseological units denoting some single objects, a phenomenon of nature, surrounding reality; b) phraseological units denoting proper names or names of certain places; c) many phraseological units of a terminological nature are the names of various branches of knowledge, production, profession.

Words-antonyms and antonyms-phraseological units have both similarities and differences, which is explained by the fact that words and phraseological units are completely different, although correlated by structural and semantic formations.

Despite the fact that antonyms are linked with opposite features, the phraseological antonymy is linked with both the opposite sign and contradictory sign. When a phraseological combination is created opposite meaning is created as well: to keep one's temper/to lose one's temper, to keep one's head/to lose one's head, to keep an appointment/ to break an appointment; to keep within the law/ to go beyond the law.

The analysis of the given above examples show that antonyms are used to differentiate meanings of sentences, their structures and a source of new means of communication, expression of emotional color as well. Understanding of antonyms' usage helps students increase their vocabulary, better describe, and follow directions.



REFERENCES

1. Алехина А.И. Идеоматика современного английского языка . Минск, 1982.
2. Смирницкий А.И. Лексикология английского языка . Москва, 1966.
3. Yespersen Otto. Философия грамматики . Москва,1958.
4. Palmer F.R. Semantics. Cambridge University Press. 1976.
5. Ismatullaeva, N. R. (2020). Methods Of Elimination Of Lexical Gaps In Translation (on example of Chinese and Uzbek languages). Scientific Bulletin of Namangan State University, 2(10), 305-314.

