



ISOMORPHIC AND ALLOMORPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF ANTONYMS IN THE SEMANTIC AND STYLISTIC SYSTEM OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Yusupova Nargis Ochilovna

Trainee-teacher of Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

nargisyusupova97@gmail.com

Abstract: This article analyzes the isomorphic and allomorphic features of antonyms in the semantic and stylistic system of the English language. In the course of the research, the types of semantic opposition of antonyms, their morphological formation, and stylistic functions performed in various speech contexts are considered. Also, the gradational, complementary, and relational types of antonyms are highlighted on the basis of examples, and their role in increasing the expressiveness and effectiveness of speech is scientifically substantiated. The research results contribute to a deeper understanding of the functional possibilities of antonyms in the lexico-semantic system of the English language.

Keywords: antonymy, antonyms, isomorphic features, allomorphic features, semantic system, stylistic functions.

In the language system, the phenomenon of semantic opposition is one of the important linguistic categories. This phenomenon is manifested through antonyms that express the semantically opposite relationship of language units. Antonymy occupies an important place in the lexico-semantic system of language and performs such tasks as increasing the level of expressiveness of speech, conveying thoughts clearly and effectively, and creating stylistic contrast. Especially in English, antonyms are actively used not only as a unit expressing semantic relations, but also as an important tool in the stylistic construction of the text. In modern linguistics, the phenomenon of antonymy is studied from different points of view. In particular, the role and functions of antonyms in the language system have been widely studied through semantic, stylistic, pragmatic, and comparative-typological approaches. Especially in comparative linguistics, the identification of isomorphic and allomorphic features plays an important role in revealing the common and specific aspects of language units. If isomorphic features express similar and common aspects of different language units or semantic phenomena, then allomorphic features express their differences and peculiarities. From this point of view, the identification of isomorphic and allomorphic features of antonyms in the semantic and stylistic system serves a deeper understanding of the



lexico-semantic system of the English language.

In English, antonyms are actively used not only at the level of lexical meaning, but also at the contextual and stylistic levels. The use of antonyms in fiction, journalistic texts, scientific style, and everyday speech contributes to the effective conveyance of thought, the comparison of opposing concepts, and the strengthening of the emotional and expressive impact of the text. For example, antonymic pairs such as life - death, light - darkness, hope - despair not only express semantic opposition, but also enhance the stylistic expressiveness of the text. Therefore, the study of the place of antonyms in the semantic and stylistic system and their typological features is one of the important scientific issues. In linguistics, the phenomenon of antonymy is one of the important elements of the lexico-semantic system. Antonyms are lexical units with opposite meanings, which are formed on the basis of semantic opposition in the language system. In English, antonyms are actively used not only at the lexical level, but also at the stylistic and contextual levels. Therefore, the study of the isomorphic and allomorphic features of antonyms allows for a clearer understanding of their role in the semantic and stylistic system.

In the language system, the isomorphic features of antonyms are manifested in their general semantic structure. Isomorphism expresses similarities between different language units. Antonyms in English often express opposite sides of concepts belonging to the same semantic field. For example, antonymic pairs such as hot - cold, big - small, young - old belong to the category of adjectives and express opposite meanings located in the same semantic field. Such antonyms create a balanced opposition in the semantic system, and they are often described as gradational antonyms⁹³. In addition, there are complementary antonyms in the English language, which express opposite meanings in absolute terms. For example, there is no intermediate meaning between such units as alive - dead, true - false, legal - illegal. Such antonyms sharply express semantic contrast in the language system and ensure logical clarity in speech⁹⁴. The isomorphic feature of antonyms of this type is that they are formed as semantically mutually exclusive units. Another important type of antonyms are relational (or conversive) antonyms. Antonyms of this type express the opposite relation from a bilateral point of view. For example, pairs such as buy - sell, teacher - student, parent - child are semantically related to each other and reflect different aspects of the relationship. Such antonyms play an important role in the logical and semantic system of language, as they allow expressing opposing social or functional

⁹³ Lyons, J. *Linguistic Semantics: An Introduction*. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995

⁹⁴ Cruse, D. A. *Lexical Semantics*. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.



relations in various communicative situations⁹⁵.

The allomorphic features of antonyms are manifested in the peculiarities of their formation and use. Allomorphy refers to the different aspects of language units that manifest themselves in different structures or contexts. In English, antonyms are often formed with the help of affixes. For example, in such pairs as happy - unhappy, possible - impossible, regular - irregular, the antonymic meaning is formed by prefixes. This process is one of the important ways of creating antonymy in the morphological system of the English language⁹⁶. Also, antonyms can manifest themselves in various forms at the contextual level. In some cases, the relationship of antonymy arises only in a certain context. For example, in the sentence He is rich in experience but poor in patience, the words rich and poor express not material wealth, but a metaphorical meaning, creating contextual antonymy. This circumstance expands the stylistic possibilities of antonyms and increases the expressiveness of speech⁹⁷.

Antonyms also play an important role in the stylistic system of the English language. In literary texts, antonyms are widely used in the creation of stylistic devices such as contrast, antithesis, and parallelism. For example, in English literature, strong artistic influence is often created through opposing concepts. In the famous English writer Charles Dickens's sentence "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," a sharp stylistic contrast is created through the antonyms best and worst. This method enhances the emotional impact of the text and directs the reader's attention to the main idea⁹⁸. Antonyms are also used as an important stylistic device in journalistic and scientific texts. They are used to compare opposing views, to express the problem more clearly, and to demonstrate logical contradiction. For example, antonymic pairs such as success and failure, progress and decline, strength and weakness serve to reveal two opposing sides of the issue under discussion. Thus, antonyms in the English language play an important role in the semantic and stylistic system. If their isomorphic features are manifested in the general semantic structure of antonyms, then their allomorphic features are manifested in their formation, morphological structure, and contextual use. This further illuminates the functional possibilities of antonyms in the language system.

Conclusion

In the lexico-semantic system of the English language, antonyms are one

⁹⁵ Palmer, F. R. *Semantics*. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981

⁹⁶ Katamba, F. *English Words: Structure, History, Usage*. – London: Routledge, 2005

⁹⁷ Leech, G. *Semantics: The Study of Meaning*. – London: Penguin Books, 1981

⁹⁸ Dickens, C. *A Tale of Two Cities*. – London: Chapman & Hall, 1859



of the important linguistic units. They ensure the clarity, logic, and expressiveness of speech by expressing the relationship between opposite meanings in the semantic structure of the language. In this study, the isomorphic and allomorphic features of English antonyms in the semantic and stylistic system were analyzed. In general, antonyms appear as an important functional unit in the semantic and stylistic system of the English language. The study of their isomorphic and allomorphic features contributes to a deeper understanding of the lexico-semantic structure of the language and is of great scientific importance in determining the stylistic possibilities of antonyms in speech. The results of this study can serve as a theoretical basis for a broader comparative and pragmatic study of the phenomenon of antonymy in the future.

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