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## ENANTIOSEMY AND ITS SEMANTIC FEATURES



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### Abstract

The article offers a general overview on the history of the enantiosemy development in three languages: Russian, Uzbek and English. In this article, the author gives various linguists' points of view regarding the essence of enantiosemy phenomenon and its types. The focus is given to semantic features of enantiosemy in contrastive languages.

**Keywords:** enantiosemy; polysemy; irony; antonymy; homonymy; Janus-words; contronym.

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#### Аннотация

Ушбу мақолада энантиосемиянинг инглиз, рус ва ўзбек тилларидаги умумий ривожланиш тарихи тавсиф қилинган. Шунингдек, мазкур тил ходисасининг турлари кўрсатилган, тилшуносларнинг бу масалага оид фикр-қарашлари келтирилган ҳамда “энантиосемия” ва унинг турларига берилган таърифлар кўриб чиқилган. Солиштирилаётган тилларда энантиосемиянинг семантик хусусиятларини ўрганишга асосий эътибор қаратилган.

**Калит сўзлар:** энантиосемия; полисемия; ирония; антонимия; омонимия; Янус сўзлар; контроним.

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#### Аннотация

В статье предлагается общий обзор истории развития явления энантиосемии, предполагающий рассмотрение содержательной стороны историографии проблемы в трех языках: английском, русском и узбекском. Целью данной статьи является обзор существующих точек зрения различных лингвистов относительно понятия «энантиосемия» и ее типов. Основное внимание уделяется рассмотрению семантических особенностей энантиосемии в сопоставляемых языках.

**Ключевые слова:** энантиосемия; полисемия; ирония; антонимия; омонимия; слова-Янусы; контроним.

The polar meaning of words, as well as syntactic and lexical differences in word compatibility – these are features that express enantiosemy. The study of this linguistic phenomenon began in 10<sup>th</sup> century by the well-known expert of that time on the Quran and the Hadith, the philologist and grammarian Abu Bakr ibn al-Anbari (885–940). Examples of Arabic enantiosemy are outlined in the book “Kitab al-aDDad”. He named words that contain the opposite meaning “aDDad”. In this book, he cites numerous examples of enantiosemy in the Arabic literary and colloquial language, and gave examples from the dialects of a given language (2).

In 1884, Carl Abel in his book “Über den Gegensinn der Urworte” put forward a hypothesis of initial enantiosemy (4). This hypothesis Abel argued with examples from the Egyptian language, arguing that this is the result of the rich vocabulary of this language. The cause of enantiosemy according to Abel was the comparison and finding the opposite meanings of words. Following Abel, having become interested in his works, in 1910 S. Freud publishes an article “On the antithetical meaning of primitive word”. However, E. Benveniste criticized Freud’s article, justifying the weakness of Abel’s arguments about pre-lingual enantionyms. By the beginning of the twentieth century a book by another German explorer T. Neldeke (Wörter mit Gegensinn (Addad). Neue Beiträge zur semitischen Sprachwissenschaft // Berlin, 1910) was published. In the article by B. T. Ganeev “Initial enantiosemy and diffusion in language”, the author points out the linguist Sami Ali, who studied enantiosemy in Arabic language, which developed Freud's ideas? As for the term *enantiosemy*, it was introduced to the scientific circulation by V. I. Schertsl in 1883, who believed that this is “one of the most remarkable and amazing phenomena in the field of semiotics”. According to V. Shertsl, “enantiosemy is the phenomenon where the same word contains two opposite meanings”. In his study, the scientist didn’t agree about assumption that the peoples of ancient times deliberately invented words opposite to each other, on the other hand, it is also quite risky to attribute the assumption that “enantiosemy was originated from a series of accidents”.

In English linguistics, some linguists have studied enantiosemy. The terms “autonym” and “contronym” were originally coined by Joseph T. Shipley in 1960 and Jack Herring in 1962, respectively (8). Some pairs of contronyms are true homographs, i.e., distinct words with different etymology which happen to have the same form. Miriam Shlesinger and M. Lynne Murphy point out that such words are sometimes called Janus-words, due to the two-faced god Janus. Dirk Geeraerts writes that this phenomenon is known in historical semantics as antiphrasis. John Train in 1980 wrote the book “Amazing words with extraordinary origins”. David Gamon proposed the term *enantiodromia* for the diachronic process of changing the meaning of a word. In addition, enantiosemy is one of the types of semantic shift according to Andreas Blanc. Ales Klegr in the article “The limits of polysemy: enantiosemy” gives a classification for the types of enantiosemy. He divides it into seven distinct groups, six of which demonstrate a systematic, motivated relation between enantioseme and polyseme (Linguistica Pragensia 2/2013). Ales Klegr concludes that enantiosemy incorporates a set of relations within a word between polysemes (autohyponymy, automeronymy, co-hyponymy, in addition to semantic shifts, metaphor and

metonymy). He identifies the following types of enantiosemy: directional, collocational, irony, anti-irony, euphemistic, converse and non-systematic (5).

In Russian linguistics, many linguists also tried to thoroughly study enantiosemy: V. I. ShertsI, L. A. Bulakhovsky, V. M. Panov, V. N. Prokhorova, V. A. Ivanova, V. Y. Kravtsova, L. R. Makhmutova, B. T. Ganeev, L. E. Bessonova, and others.

In Uzbek linguistics, it is known that enantiosemy is insufficiently explored phenomenon. However, there are works by S. Usmonov, B. Makhmudov, N. Salikhova and Y. Odilov.

In the history of linguistics, there are various names for the term enantiosemy (6).

	<b>«against sense-Gegensinn» (Abel, 1884)</b>
	<b>«a kind of polysemy» (Budagov, 1953)</b>
	<b>«special type of polysemy» и «antonymic homonymy» (Skiba, 1958)</b>
<b>Enantiosemy terminology</b>	<b>«homoantonymy» (Novikov, 1961; Vinogradov, 1975)</b>
	<b>«internal antonymy» и «autoantonymy» (Gelblu, 1965)</b>
	<b>«innerlex antonymy», «antonymosemy» (Skolov, 1980)</b>
	<b>«antisemy» (Pernishka, 1981)</b>
	<b>«intra-word polarization» (Zharkova, 1988)</b>

Undoubtedly, enantiosemy should be investigated on the cultural and within historical background of the people where they come from. Apparently, the emergence of enantiosemy became possible due to the inherent duality in the human mind in the consideration of objects and phenomena. Two opposite notions merged into one, complementing and linking to each other, resulting to the expression one word: “lend – give and take”. Most scholars believe that, perhaps, in the process of evolution of human thinking, there was some revision of pre-existing beliefs on the nature of things and phenomena, a critical understanding of the surrounding reality, up to the complete opposition of different sides of the same phenomenon. Words could begin to be used in an ironic sense and led to the possibility of considering any property at the same time in a bad and favorable sense.

A. Budagov in his book “Introduction to the science of language” in 2002 calls enantiosemy as *antonymous meanings of the word*.

A. Reformatsky (1996), V. M. Panov (1984) attribute enantiosemy to a form of antonymy, i.e. the presence of contractive meanings in the same word, although among adjacent phenomena it occupies a special position: The ability of a word to have opposite, antonymous meanings is called polarization of meanings, or enantiosemy, and also note that, in a literal translation from Greek, this word means “the contradiction of meanings within a word”. V. N. Prokhorov (1961) and V. A. Ivanov (1982) agree about this opinion (7).

We cannot say that enantiosemy is a type of polysemy since homonymy is a word that sound and spelled alike but have different meanings.

O. S. Akhmanova gives the following definition of enantiosemy: Enantiosemy. 1. Polarization of meanings, 2. The ability of the word (morphemes, etc.) to express antonyms (1).

Y. R. Odilov in his work “Enantiosemy in the Uzbek Language” (2016) identifies its types as euphemistic, dysphemistic, irony, antiphrasis, speech, usual, linguistic, symmetric, asymmetric, phraseological, and introduces a new kind – paralinguistic enantiosemy (3). He claims that phraseological enantiosemy is formed by using paralinguistic means.

In the thesis “Enantiosemy of lexical and phraseological units: language and speech” V. Yu. Kravtsova (2006), the description of enantiosemy of language units according to these criteria implies its division into nuclear, peripheral, full, incomplete, nominative, symmetrical and asymmetrical, synchronic and diachronic etc.

L. R. Makhmutova, in her thesis “The main types of enantiosemy in the modern Russian language” 2009, highlights similar classification of enantiosemy.

B. T. Ganeev in his work “Contradictions in Language and Speech” (2004) states that in vocabulary contradictions are most often manifested in cases of enantiosemy, homonymy, oxymoron, synonyms, antonyms, elliptical paradoxes, tautology as variations of paradoxical statements, as well as phraseological linguistic units, where two types of contradictions appear – general phraseological and concrete phraseological.

Y. R. Odilov in his article “Enantiosemic opposition and its anthropocentric research” (“Anthropocentric study of enantiosemy”) identifies several factors in the emergence of enantiosemy in the Uzbek language: 1) the meaning of a word or phraseologism changed over time, i.e. historical development of the meaning of the word, 2) dialects, 3) borrowing.

D. Shmelyov points that enantiosemy can be used in a narrow and broad meaning. For example, in a narrow meaning when one lexeme implies two different meanings

In broad meaning, this term is used diachronically and can mean two opposite lexemes (either a word, morpheme or fixed expression) that go back to one general lexeme. Due to various reasons different opposite (polar) meanings can arise in a word. So, these two meanings can coexist with each other or one can be lost during time.

Similar case is “autoantonymy”, however, there is a slight difference, and it can be developed by homonymy in a word with opposite meanings. For example, cleave (split, cut) emerged from an old English *cleofan* that meant *to stick*.

Enantiosemy appears when in a word with several general and blurry meanings gradually evolve words with more peculiar meanings that reflect the first shades of the original meaning. This can be in a language or cross languages. For example, the Indo-European stem *ghosti* – (“alien”, “foreigner”) gave the word *hostis* (“enemy”) in Latin, and “гость” in Russian; The initial general meaning of the lexeme is “alien”, that is, the one with whom certain relations exist (hospitality or hostility). In modern linguistics, enantiosemy is a highly controversial phenomenon.

Linguists give different definitions to the linguistic status of enantiosemy. So, for example, I. N. Gorelov (1986), O. I. Smirnova (1975) and V. N. Prokhorov (1976) define this phenomenon as a “crossing of homonymy and antonymy”, i.e. enantiosemy is considered as a transitional phenomenon between them, as the presence of separate words with opposite meanings.

Although at first glance enantiosemy is similar to homonymy, antonymy or polysemy, studying its semantic features one can make obvious differences.

Homonyms are the same in sound, but they are completely different in meanings, and there are no polar meanings in the same word; antonyms are two words that have opposite meanings and polysemy is word that has various meanings, let’s look at the example below:

**Polysemy**

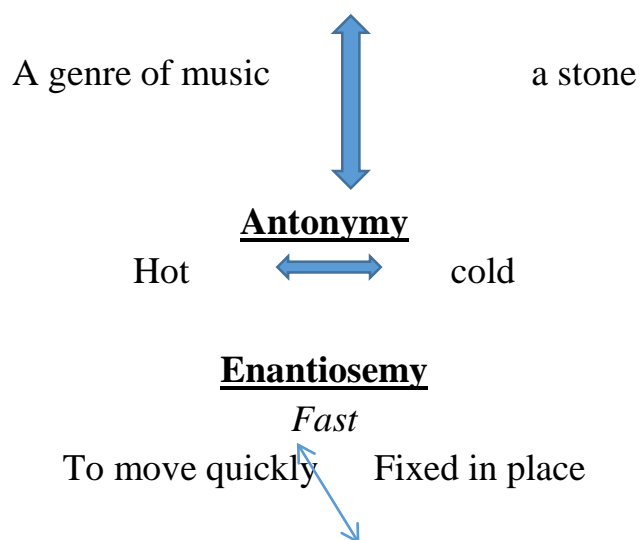
*Picture*



Painting Description Image Movie Situation Cinema Memory

**Homonymy**

*Rock*



Hence, these examples demonstrate that enantiosemy is an independent phenomenon of lexical semantics, therefore, it needs deep linguistic research. It is interesting as a linguistic anomaly and paradox. Enantiosemy has different types such as lexical, phraseological, emotional and it can occur between languages or within one language. This phenomenon is significant in a language as it makes it more rich and colorful. Enantiosemy often occurs in speech and in most cases it is lost in translation into another language.

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- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conronym?action=render>