

THE PROBLEM OF POLYSEMY AND HOMONYMY IN THE TRANSLATION PROCESS

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Annotation: This article analyzes the phenomena of polysemy (multiple meanings) and homonymy (words that are the same in form but have different meanings) in the translation process. In linguistics, these phenomena are considered semantic complexities and cause serious problems in translation practice. The theoretical foundations of the phenomena of polysemy and homonymy, their impact on the translation process, their dependence on context, cultural differences, and approaches in translation systems based on artificial intelligence are studied. Based on practical examples, the impact of these problems on the quality of translation is analyzed and proposals are put forward to eliminate them. The results of the study are of practical importance for translators, linguists, and specialists involved in translation technologies.

Keywords: translation theory, polysemy, homonymy, semantics, contextual analysis, artificial intelligence

Language is the most important tool of human thinking, through which thoughts are expressed, knowledge is transmitted, and cultures come into contact with each other. Translation acts as a bridge that ensures this exchange of ideas between different languages. The translator must be able to deeply understand not only the grammatical and syntactic structure of the language, but also its semantic depths. In particular, complexities at the lexical level — the phenomena of polysemy and homonymy — cause serious problems in the translation process. Polysemy is the fact that one word has several, interrelated meanings. For example, the word “oy” in the Uzbek language means “heavenly body” and “lunar cycle”.

This situation requires the translation to choose the correct meaning depending on the context. Homonymy is the phenomenon of words that have the same form but completely different meanings. For example, the word “yo'l” is used in the meanings of “a place intended for movement” and “style, direction”. If the translator cannot distinguish between these two phenomena, the content of the text may be misinterpreted.

The problem of polysemy and homonymy has been discussed in translation theory for many years. Linguists have been studying these phenomena through semantic analysis, pragmatic approaches, and contextual research, and trying to find solutions to them in translation practice. This problem has become especially relevant in translation systems created on the basis of computational linguistics and artificial intelligence. For example,





lexical-semantic networks such as WordNet help to identify polysemantic units based on context.

The problem of polysemy and homonymy in the translation process is complicated for the following reasons:

Contextual dependence: In order to determine the correct meaning of a word, the context in which it is used must be analyzed in depth.

Cultural differences: Polysemantic or homonymous words from one language may not be directly translated into another language.

Translator competence: The translator's language knowledge, cultural level, and semantic sensitivity play an important role in solving this problem.

Limitations of automatic translation systems: Machine translations often fail to fully understand the context, leading to inaccurate translations.

This problem negatively affects not only the quality of the translation, but also the general content of the text. Especially when translating literary, legal, scientific and religious texts, the phenomena of polysemy and homonymy pose a difficult choice for the translator. Therefore, an in-depth study of these phenomena, their identification and development of methods for correct translation are one of the important areas of translation theory. [Komilov, 2010; 71] The problem of polysemy and homonymy in the translation process is analyzed theoretically and practically. First of all, the role of these phenomena in linguistics, the reasons for their occurrence and their differences are considered. Then, problems arising in translation practice are analyzed based on examples. Also, solutions to these problems are proposed using modern translation technologies, systems based on artificial intelligence and lexical-semantic models. It serves to improve the quality of translation, facilitate the process of language learning and improve automatic translation systems. Especially taking into account the lexical features of the Uzbek language, it is important to conduct a deep analysis of the phenomena of polysemy and homonymy, reflect them in electronic thesauruses, and integrate them into translation systems. [Abduazizov, 2006; 45]

The problem of polysemy and homonymy in the translation process is one of the most complex and urgent issues in linguistics. This section analyzes the impact of these phenomena on translation practice, the problems that arise, methods for identifying and eliminating them, as well as practical examples. The results of the analysis serve to strengthen theoretical conclusions.

Polysemy — the fact that one word has several, interrelated meanings — forces the translator to pay close attention to the context. For example, the English word “bank” is used in the meanings of “financial institution” and “river bank”. When translated into





Uzbek, it is translated as “bank” or “river bank” depending on the context. The analysis shows that polysemantic words cause the following problems in translation:

- Lack of context: If the text does not have enough context, the translator may choose the wrong meaning.

- Cultural differences: Some meanings are specific to a particular culture and do not translate directly into another language.

- Translator's experience: The translator's semantic sensitivity is important when dealing with polysemy.

Homonymy — words that have the same form but completely different meanings — causes confusion in translation. For example, the Uzbek word "ko'z" is used in the meanings of "organ of sight" and "ignaning ko'zi" (needle's eye). In English, these two meanings are expressed by different words: "eye" and "eye of the needle". According to the results of the analysis, homonymy poses a problem in the following cases:

- Syntactic similarity: Homonymous words occur in the same sentence structure, leading to misinterpretation in translation.

- Errors in machine translations: Artificial intelligence-based translation systems cannot distinguish homonymous units.

- Frequent occurrence in literary texts: In works of fiction, homonymy is used as a stylistic device, which complicates translation. The following examples illustrate the problem of polysemy and homonymy in a practical way: Polysemy in English text: “He went to the bank to sit and relax.” Translation (incorrect): “U bankka borib dam oldi.” Translation (correct): “U daryo bo'yiga borib dam oldi.” Here, the word "bank" is intended to mean "river bank", but is incorrectly translated as "financial institution". Homonymy in Uzbek text: “Ko'zdan kechirdim.” Translation (incorrect): “I examined the eye.” Translation (correct): “I inspected it.” Here, the phrase “to examine” is used in the sense of “to examine,” but a literal translation would yield incorrect results.

Modern translation systems, in particular, artificial intelligence-based platforms such as Google Translate, DeepL, ChatGPT rely on contextual analysis to solve the problem of polysemy and homonymy. However, the analysis shows that: Polysemy: If there is enough context, the system selects the correct meaning. However, errors are more common in short texts.

Homonymy: Systems often cannot distinguish homonyms, especially in idiomatic expressions.

The phenomena of polysemy and homonymy in the translation process depend on the semantic sensitivity, ability to analyze the context, and cultural knowledge of the translator. In the translation process, the phenomena of polysemy and homonymy are complex lexical problems that test the linguistic competence, ability to understand the context, and cultural sensitivity of the translator. In this study, the theoretical foundations,



practical manifestations, and impact of these two phenomena on translation practice were analyzed in depth. Polysemy — the fact that a word has several, interrelated meanings — requires a context-based approach to translation. Homonymy, on the other hand, causes semantic confusion caused by words that have the same form but completely different meanings. Both phenomena directly affect the quality of translation, especially in the translation of literary, scientific, and legal texts. [Crystal, 2003; 112-117] The results of the analysis showed the following: The phenomenon of polysemy requires the selection of the correct meaning in translation depending on the context. If the context is insufficient, an incorrect translation occurs. The phenomenon of homonymy creates syntactic and stylistic complications, especially in artificial intelligence-based translation systems. The translator's experience, semantic sensitivity, and cultural knowledge play a decisive role in solving these problems. Although machine translations are based on contextual analysis, in cases of polysemy and homonymy, the role of human thinking still prevails.

Therefore, in translation practice, it is important to study the phenomena of polysemy and homonymy in depth, develop methods for their identification and correct interpretation. Special textbooks, electronic thesauri, contextual analysis tools, and exercises for translators can be an effective solution in this regard. In the future, it will be possible to further improve artificial intelligence-based translation systems, create algorithms that identify polysemantic and homonymous units based on context, as well as conduct a deep analysis of the lexical features of the Uzbek language, which will improve the quality of translation. It serves to enrich translation theory, improve the practical translation process, and provide a deeper understanding of the phenomena of polysemy and homonymy in linguistics.

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