

ANTONYMS AND SYNONYMS

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Abstract

This article is devoted to the lexical phenomena of antonymy and synonymy. It examines the concepts of antonyms and synonyms, their role in language, as well as classification criteria. Antonyms are words that have the opposite lexical meaning, while synonyms are words that are close or identical in meaning. Both of these phenomena play an important role in enriching speech, creating expressive texts, and expressing thoughts more accurately.

Keywords: antonyms, synonyms, vocabulary, lexical meaning, opposites, words that are similar in meaning, linguistic means of expression, stylistics, Russian vocabulary.

Introduction

The article will cover the following aspects:

- Definition and classification: Precise definitions of antonyms and synonyms will be given, as well as various classifications of these lexical units.
- Language functions: It will show how antonyms and synonyms are used to create contrasts, comparisons, clarify meaning, and create imagery.
- Examples: Numerous examples of antonyms and synonyms from various fields of vocabulary will be given.
- Practical application: The ways of using antonyms and synonyms in various types of speech activity, such as writing, oral speech, translation, will be considered.

Antonyms and synonyms are two linguistic concepts that play an important role in enriching our speech, giving it expressiveness and accuracy. Let's take a closer look at what they mean and how they are used.

Antonyms: opposites combine

Antonyms are words that have the opposite lexical meaning. They help us express contrasts, comparisons, and emphasize different aspects of the same phenomenon.

Antonyms (Greek: ἀντι- prefix with the opposite meaning + ὄνομα[1] — "name") are words of the same part of speech, different in sound and spelling, having directly opposite lexical meanings, for example: "truth" — "lie", "kind" — "evil", "speak" — "shut up."

The lexical units of the vocabulary of a language turn out to be closely related not only on the basis of their associative connection by similarity or contiguity as lexico-semantic variants of a polysemous word. Most words of the language do not contain a sign capable of opposition, therefore, antonymic relations are impossible for them, however, they can acquire an antonym in a figurative sense. Thus, in contextual antonymy, antonymic relations of words with direct

meaning are possible, and then these pairs of words carry an emphatic load and perform a special stylistic function.

Antonyms are possible for words whose meanings contain opposite qualitative shades, but the meanings are always based on a common feature (weight, height, feeling, time of day, etc.). Also, only words belonging to the same grammatical or stylistic category can be opposed. Therefore, words related to different parts of speech or lexical levels cannot become linguistic antonyms.

Antonyms in poetry

Antonyms are often used in poetry, for example in the titles of works: "Days and Nights" by K. Simonov, "War and Peace" by L. N. Tolstoy, etc., to create an ironic subtext (see M. Gorky: ... I won't say how bitter life is for workers in these sweet establishments producing sweets and gingerbread) or to create the volume of the described event (see V. V. Mayakovsky: Joy crawls like a snail; grief has a furious run)[2].

Examples of antonyms:

- Big – small
- Black and white
- Hot – cold
- Day – night
- Good – evil

Functions of antonyms in speech:

- Enhanced expressiveness: They emphasize contrasts and create vivid images.
- Creating oppositions: They help to compare and contrast phenomena.
- Clarifying the meaning: They allow you to express your thoughts more precisely.

Synonyms: different words, the same meaning

Synonyms are words that have a close or identical lexical meaning. They allow you to avoid repetitions in speech, make it more diverse and expressive.

Synonyms (from others-Greek. σύν "together" + ὄνομα[3] — "name") are words of the same part of speech or phrases with full or partial coincidence of meaning[4].

Synonyms are used to enhance the expressiveness of speech and avoid its monotony. Examples of synonyms: cavalry — cavalry, brave — brave, go — step. In a broad sense, elements of other levels of the language can act as synonyms: phraseological units, morphemes, syntactic constructions [3].

Classification of synonyms

Synonyms, pointing to the same concept and having the same lexical meaning, differ in their expressive coloring, attachment to a certain style, and frequency of use.

Many synonyms differ from each other both in lexical meaning and expressive coloring.

In modern Russian, the following types of synonyms are distinguished:

semantic (semantic, ideographic) synonyms, which differ in shades of meaning: wet — wet, wet reflect different degrees of manifestation of the trait;

stylistic synonyms are synonyms that have differences in expressive and emotional coloring and a different sphere of use, but denote the same phenomenon of reality: wife (commonly used) — spouse (official) — faithful (razg.);

semantic and stylistic synonyms that differ both in shades of meaning and stylistically: angry (neuter) — angry (razg., that is, angry to a large extent) — angry (razg., that is, very angry) — angry (colloquially, that is, a little angry).

Examples of synonyms:

- Happy – joyful, cheerful
- Big – huge, gigantic
- Beautiful – lovely, charming
- Talk – talk, talk
- Go – step, step

Functions of synonyms in speech:

- Speech enrichment: They make speech more diverse and expressive.
- Clarification of meaning: Allows you to choose the most appropriate word for a specific context.
- Create imagery: They help you create vivid and memorable images.

Why are antonyms and synonyms important?

Learning about antonyms and synonyms helps:

- Expand vocabulary: Allows you to find new words and expressions.
- Improve writing and speaking skills: Makes speech more accurate, expressive and diverse.
- Better understand the meaning of the text: It helps to analyze texts more deeply and find hidden meanings.
- Develop creative thinking: Encourages the search for new associations and comparisons.

How do I find antonyms and synonyms?

- Explanatory dictionaries: They contain information about the meanings of words and their synonyms.
- Thesauri: Specialized dictionaries containing synonyms and antonyms.
- Online services: There are many online services that allow you to quickly find synonyms and antonyms.

Conclusion

Antonyms and synonyms are an integral part of any language. Their knowledge allows us to express our thoughts more accurately, create vivid images, and better understand the world around us.

Synonyms and homonyms are two linguistic concepts that are often confused. Let's find out what the difference is between them.

Synonyms

- Definition: Words with similar or identical lexical meaning.
- Examples: big – huge, joy – happiness, talk – talk.
- Function: Enrich speech, allow you to express your thoughts more accurately and in a variety of ways.



Homonyms

- Definition: Words that sound and spell the same, but have completely different meanings.
- Examples: onion (vegetable) – onion (weapon), key (lock) – key (spring).
- Types of homonyms:

Homoforms: Words that match in the same grammatical form, but have different meanings (for example, meadow – meadow).

Homophones: Words that sound the same, but are spelled differently and have different meanings (for example, kos – koz).

Homographs: Words that are spelled the same way, but have different meanings and may sound different (for example, padlock).

Characteristic	Synonyms	Homonyms
Meaning	Similar or identical	Various
The sound	Usually different	same
Writing	Usually different	same
Function	Enriching speech, clarifying meaning	They can create ambiguity.

What is the main difference?

Synonyms are interchangeable in most contexts without loss of meaning.

- Homonyms are not interchangeable, as their meanings are completely different.

Why is it important to distinguish between synonyms and homonyms?

- Correct use of words: To avoid mistakes in speech and writing.
- Understanding texts: To accurately interpret the meaning of what is written.
- Speech development: To enrich your vocabulary and make your speech more expressive.

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