

**POLYSEMY IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGE: THE PROBLEM OF MEANING SELECTION IN THE TRANSLATION PROCESS****Murodaliyeva Sevaraxon Nazirjon qizi**

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**Annotation**

This article examines polysemy in English and Uzbek with a particular focus on the problem of meaning selection in the translation process. Polysemy, defined as the presence of multiple semantically related meanings within a single lexical item, compels translators to choose among competing meanings depending on context. The study approaches polysemy not merely as a lexical phenomenon but as a decisive factor influencing translators' decision-making. Through the analysis of English and Uzbek polysemous units, the article explores the roles of context, semantic fields, and equivalence, and reveals how incorrect meaning selection leads to translation errors.

**Key words**

polysemy, meaning selection, translation process, context, semantic field, equivalence.

**Аннотация**

В данной статье рассматривается явление полисемии в английском и узбекском языках с особым акцентом на проблеме выбора значения в процессе перевода. Полисемия, определяемая как наличие нескольких семантически связанных значений у одной лексической единицы, вынуждает переводчика выбирать между конкурирующими смыслами в зависимости от контекста. Исследование трактует многозначность не просто как лексический феномен, а как решающий фактор, влияющий на принятие переводческих решений. На основе анализа полисемичных единиц английского и узбекского языков в работе исследуется роль контекста, семантических полей и эквивалентности, а также демонстрируется, как неверный выбор значения приводит к переводческим ошибкам.

**Ключевые слова**

полисемия, выбор значения, процесс перевода, контекст, семантическое поле, эквивалентность.

**Annotatsiya**

Mazkur maqolada ingliz va o'zbek tillarida polisemiya hodisasi tarjima jarayonidagi ma'no tanlash muammosi bilan uzviy bog'liq holda tahlil qilinadi. Polisemiya bir so'zning o'zaro semantik jihatdan aloqador bo'lgan bir nechta ma'nolarga ega bo'lishini anglatib, tarjimonda muqobil ma'nolar orasidan eng mosini tanlash zaruratini yuzaga keltiradi. Tadqiqotda polisemiya faqat leksik hodisa sifatida emas, balki tarjimonning qaror qabul qilish jarayoniga bevosita ta'sir ko'rsatuvchi omil sifatida talqin qilinadi. Ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi polisemik birliklar misolida kontekst, semantik maydon va ekvivalentlik masalalari yoritilib, noto'g'ri ma'no tanlash oqibatida yuzaga keladigan tarjima xatolarining tabiati ochib beriladi.

**Kalit so'zlar**

polisemiya, ma'no tanlash, tarjima jarayoni, kontekst, semantik maydon, ekvivalentlik.

The translation process is not merely an exchange of information between languages, but a complex intellectual and semantic activity. A translator must perceive each lexeme not just as a dictionary unit, but as a semantic unit functioning within a specific context. It is at this very point that the phenomenon of polysemy becomes one of the most problematic aspects of translation.

The fact that a single word possesses several interrelated meanings presents the translator with the task of choosing the most appropriate option from among alternatives. Typological and semantic differences between English and Uzbek further complicate this task.

It is worth noting that while the issue of polysemy has often been studied within the framework of lexicology, the need to examine it from a translation studies perspective is steadily increasing. This is because errors in translation often arise not from a lack of knowledge regarding a word's existing meanings, but from an incorrect identification of which meaning is active in a given context. Therefore, in this article, polysemy is analyzed in direct connection with the problem of meaning selection in the translation process.

#### **Theoretical interpretation of the concept of polysemy**

In Uzbek linguistics, the phenomenon of polysemy is explained through the historical development of language and processes of semantic expansion. In the work "O'zbek tili leksikologiyasi", polysemy is interpreted as a phenomenon resulting from the development of a word's meaning. The work emphasizes that secondary meanings formed on the basis of a primary meaning become reinforced under the influence of communicative needs and integrate into the language system.

S. F. Rixsiboyeva and co-authors explain the essence of polysemy as follows:

"Polysemy is the ability of a lexeme to express several meanings united around a single semantic center."

This is a very valuable insight. This definition demonstrates that polysemy is not a random collection of meanings, but a phenomenon with an internal semantic system. From a translation perspective, this is crucial because if a translator cannot identify this semantic center, they will make an error in the process of meaning selection. Consequently, the translated text remains superficial or incorrect.

#### **The relationship between polysemy and context**

The primary factor determining which meaning of a polysemous word is activated is context. Context includes not only the units surrounding a word but also the speech situation, topic, style, and pragmatic purpose. In the Uzbek language, the lexeme "yo'l" (road/way) signifies physical space, but is also used in the sense of a life choice or method.

For example, translating the sentence "u o'z yo'lini topdi" as "he found his road" might be grammatically possible, but it is semantically and stylistically incorrect. In English, the variants "he found his way" or "he found his path" would be appropriate in this context. This case clearly shows that the translator must accept context as the primary criterion. Failing to distinguish these meanings during translation into English often leads to semantic inconsistency.

#### **Polysemy and the problem of meaning selection in English**

Polysemy is extremely widespread in the English language, which is linked to the language's analytical nature and historical development. John Lyons writes the following regarding polysemy in English:

"Polysemy is a fundamental characteristic of the vocabulary of natural languages." (Lyons, 1977)

This view indicates that most basic lexemes in English possess multiple meanings. Distinguishing and correctly choosing these meanings becomes the translator's primary task. For instance, the word "head" represents a body part, a leader, or a main part. If a translator always renders this word as "bosh" (head), a result contrary to the context arises. This demonstrates that semantic analysis, rather than a mechanical approach, must be the priority in the translation process.

#### **Meaning selection and the issue of equivalence**

Meaning selection in translation is directly related to the concept of equivalence. Every polysemous unit does not necessarily have a single, perfectly matching equivalent in another language. Mona Baker explains this situation as follows:

“A word in one language may cover a semantic area which is divided differently in another language.” (Baker, 2018)

This means that a translator must take cross-linguistic semantic fields into account when selecting meaning. Otherwise, the chosen equivalent will not fully encompass the context, and a translation error will occur. The differences in polysemy between English and Uzbek are most clearly manifested at this point.

#### **Polysemy and the translator’s decision**

In the translation process, meaning selection is not an automatic process but a conscious decision by the translator. Eugene Nida, emphasizing the priority of meaning in translation, states:

“The closest natural equivalent must be determined primarily on the basis of meaning.” (Nida, 1964)

This approach serves as an important methodological foundation for working with polysemy. A translator must analyze each polysemous unit in context, determine its semantic and pragmatic load, and then make a decision. Otherwise, the translation remains only at the level of formal correspondence.

#### **CONCLUSION**

In English and Uzbek, polysemy is one of the main factors creating the problem of meaning selection in the translation process. While polysemy is a phenomenon that demonstrates the richness of a language, it requires deep semantic analysis in translation. The theoretical views and examples considered in this article show that successful meaning selection in translation depends directly on context, equivalence, and the translator's linguistic competence. To reduce errors based on polysemy, the translator must make conscious decisions based on semantic analysis.

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