

HOMONYMS

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Annotation. This article explores interlanguage homonyms in media texts and the cultural aspects of homonyms. It includes the following sections: keywords, introduction, main part, conclusion, and references.

Keywords: homonyms, media texts, cultural aspects, interlanguage, paradigm, semantics.

Аннотация. В данной статье исследуются межъязыковые омонимы в медиатекстах и культурологические аспекты омонимов. Он включает следующие разделы: ключевые слова, введение, основную часть, заключение и список литературы.

Ключевые слова: омонимы, медиатексты, культурологические аспекты, межъязык, парадигма, семантика.

Introduction. Homonyms are words that are identical in sound and spelling, or at least in one of these aspects, but have different meanings. For example, the word "bank" can refer to a shore or a financial institution, and "ball" can mean a spherical object or a formal dance event.

The most widely accepted classification of homonyms includes homonyms proper, homophones, and homographs.

Homonyms proper are words that are identical in both pronunciation and spelling, such as "bark" (the sound a dog makes) and "bark" (the outer covering of a tree).

Homophones are words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings, such as "air" and "heir," "buy" and "bye," "knight" and "night," "peace" and "piece," "write," "right," and "rite."

Homographs are words that are spelled the same but differ in pronunciation and meaning, like "bow" [bou] (to bend) and "bow" [bau] (a weapon), "lead" [li] (to guide) and "lead" [led] (a metal), "row" [rou] (a line) and "row" [rau] (a quarrel), "wind" [wind] (air in motion) and "wind" [waind] (to twist).

Professor A. I. Smirnitsky categorized homonyms into two main classes: full homonyms and partial homonyms.

Full lexical homonyms are words belonging to the same part of speech category and sharing the same inflectional forms, such as "match" (a game) and "match" (a stick for lighting a fire).

Partial homonyms are divided into three groups:

A) Simple lexico-grammatical homonyms, which belong to the same part of speech category but share only one identical form in their inflections, like "to find" and "found" (past tense and past participle of "to find").

B) Complex lexico-grammatical partial homonyms, which belong to different parts of speech but share one identical form in their inflections, like "rose" (noun) and "rose" (past tense of "to rise").

C) Partial lexical homonyms, which belong to the same part of speech category but share identical corresponding forms, like "to hang" (hung, hung) and "to hang" (hanged, hanged), or "to can" (canned, canned) and "can" (could).

Sources of homonyms include:

1. Phonetic changes over time, which can cause previously distinct words to sound identical, like "night" and "knight."
2. Borrowing, where a borrowed word eventually sounds the same as a native word or another borrowing, such as "bank" (shore) and "bank" (financial institution), with the latter borrowed from Italian.

3. Word-building, especially through conversion, where a word changes parts of speech, like "comb" (noun) and "to comb" (verb), or "pale" (adjective) and "to pale" (verb). These are called lexico-grammatical homonyms.
4. Shortening, where a longer word is reduced, creating homonyms like "fan" (enthusiast) from "fanatic" and "fan" (a device for cooling) from Latin.
5. Sound imitation, which can create homonyms like "bang" (a loud noise) and "bang" (a fringe of hair), or "mew" (a cat's sound) and "mew" (a sea gull).
6. Split polysemy, where different meanings of a single word diverge, creating homonyms like "board" (a piece of timber), "board" (meals provided for pay), and "board" (an official group), or "spring" (the act of springing), "spring" (a water source), and "spring" (a season).

Three Kinds of Homonyms

"There are three kinds of homonyms: those that sound and look alike (such as 'bank' meaning a slope, 'bank' referring to a place for money, and 'bank' as a bench or row of switches); homophones, which sound alike but are spelled differently (like 'coarse' and 'course'); and homographs, which are spelled the same but have different pronunciations and meanings (for example, the verb 'lead' and the metal 'lead'). The Concise Oxford Dictionary (8th edition, 1990) lists over 3,000 homographs."

- Tom McArthur, Oxford Companion to the English Language. Oxford University Press, 1992

Homographs and Homophones

"The confusion and lack of clarity regarding the term 'homonym' stem from its close relationship with the words 'homograph' and 'homophone.' Therefore, I'll define these terms first.

A word can be either a homograph or a homophone, but by definition, it is also a homonym. In other words, 'homonym' is an umbrella term that includes both homographs and homophones. Essentially, 'homonym' is a collective noun for 'homograph' and 'homophone.'"

- David Rothwell, Dictionary of Homonyms. Wordsworth, 2007

A homograph is a word that shares its spelling with another word but differs in meaning and often in origin. For instance, you might tear your trousers while climbing a fence and shed a tear from frustration. Here, 'tear' and 'tear' are spelled the same but are pronounced differently and have distinct meanings. Some homographs, however, share the same pronunciation, such as 'hide,' which can mean an animal's skin, a measure of land, or the verb to conceal.

A homophone is a word that sounds the same as another word but has a different spelling and meaning. For example, standing on a stair and staring at a picture exemplifies homophones 'stair' and 'stare.'

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