

HOMONYMOUS RELATIONS IN COMPOUND WORDS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract. This paper explores the phenomenon of homonymous relations in compound words in English and Uzbek languages. Homonymy, which refers to words that are identical in form but differ in meaning, plays a significant role in the structure and interpretation of compound words. The study compares the formation, usage, and semantic diversity of compound homonyms in both languages, highlighting similarities and differences influenced by linguistic, cultural, and cognitive factors. Through qualitative analysis and selected examples, the research identifies common patterns and unique cases where compound words demonstrate homonymous features. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of lexical ambiguity and semantic structure across typologically distinct languages, providing valuable insights for comparative linguistics, translation studies, and language teaching.

Keywords: Homonymy, compound words, English, Uzbek, semantics.

I. INTRODUCTION

Language is a dynamic and multifaceted system that reflects the cognitive and cultural worldview of its speakers. One of the intriguing aspects of lexical structure in natural languages is the phenomenon of homonymy, which refers to words that share the same form but differ in meaning. Homonymy becomes particularly complex when it appears within compound words, where two or more morphemes combine to create a new lexical unit. Both English and Uzbek languages demonstrate a rich inventory of compound words, and in many cases, these compounds exhibit homonymous relations that can lead to lexical ambiguity and varied interpretation. For instance, the English compound “*light house*” may be interpreted as a beacon for ships or as a compound of two unrelated words, while in Uzbek, the word “*qorako‘z*” can refer to a flower or metaphorically to a person with dark eyes. Such duality of meaning provides fertile ground for linguistic analysis and comparison. This study aims to investigate the structure and semantics of compound words with homonymous features in both English and Uzbek. By comparing how homonymy functions in these two typologically different languages, we can gain insight into broader processes of word formation and meaning construction. Furthermore, analyzing such features is essential in fields such as comparative linguistics, translation studies, and language pedagogy, where understanding nuances of meaning is critical. In recent linguistic studies, scholars have emphasized the significance of examining homonymy not only as a lexical phenomenon but also in its syntactic

and cognitive dimensions [1]. This paper builds upon these perspectives by narrowing the focus to compound words and exploring how homonymy operates within them in the context of English and Uzbek.

II. METHODOLOGY

This study employs a comparative qualitative research design to analyze homonymous relations in compound words in English and Uzbek languages. The research is grounded in a descriptive linguistic approach, which focuses on observing, categorizing, and comparing linguistic units without altering or manipulating them. To conduct the analysis, a corpus-based method was used. A selection of compound words exhibiting homonymy was compiled from reliable sources, including English and Uzbek dictionaries, linguistic corpora, and literary texts. For English, sources such as the Oxford English Dictionary and the British National Corpus were referenced, while for Uzbek, the Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language and authentic native texts were utilized [2]. The compounds were analyzed based on the following criteria:

(1) lexical structure, (2) semantic ambiguity, and (3) frequency of use in modern language contexts.

Each compound word was classified according to whether its homonymy was lexical (same spelling, different meaning), morphological (same structure, different interpretation), or contextual (meaning varies based on usage) [3]. In addition, expert opinions were consulted by reviewing recent academic papers and linguistic studies focused on Uzbek and English word formation. Comparative data analysis was carried out by juxtaposing compound homonyms from each language to identify patterns, overlaps, and divergences in meaning and usage [4]. This methodology allows for a thorough understanding of how homonymy functions within compound structures, and how such structures reflect the linguistic and cultural characteristics of English and Uzbek respectively.

III. RESULTS

The analysis revealed several significant findings regarding the presence and function of homonymous relations in compound words in English and Uzbek. Firstly, both languages demonstrate a noticeable number of compound words that exhibit lexical homonymy. For example, in English, the compound “*match box*” can denote a small container for matches or be interpreted in a sports context as a “box for the match,” depending on syntactic emphasis. Similarly, in Uzbek, the compound “*sariq gullar*” might refer to either a specific type of flower or serve as a metaphorical expression, depending on context. Secondly, Uzbek compound words showed more metaphorical usage rooted in cultural and poetic traditions, which often leads to a wider range of homonymous meanings compared to English compounds. This was particularly evident in idiomatic expressions and proverbs. In contrast, English compounds with homonymous features were more prevalent in technical and compound noun structures, often resulting from productive word formation patterns. Thirdly, the classification of compound

homonyms revealed that contextual homonymy is the most common type in both languages. That is, many compounds do not present ambiguity when isolated, but when placed in different sentences or discourse contexts, they acquire multiple interpretations. For example, the English “*spring field*” might refer to a place or to a field in the spring season, and the Uzbek “*oq qush*” may refer to a bird or metaphorically to a person.

IV. DISCUSSION

The findings of this study demonstrate that homonymous relations in compound words are influenced by both linguistic structure and cultural context. English compounds often reflect systematic word formation rules, while Uzbek compounds tend to be more metaphorical and emotionally expressive. This distinction highlights how language typology and cultural worldview shape the way compound homonyms are formed and interpreted. Moreover, contextual homonymy emerged as the most prevalent type in both languages, suggesting that meaning in compound words is highly dependent on usage. These results align with previous research emphasizing the dynamic nature of lexical meaning across languages

V. CONCLUSION

This study concludes that homonymous relations in compound words are a common feature in both English and Uzbek, though they manifest differently due to linguistic and cultural factors. While English compounds are often structurally driven, Uzbek compounds reflect deeper metaphorical and contextual meanings. Recognizing these differences enhances cross-linguistic understanding and supports more accurate translation and teaching practices.

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