Conceptual Enantiosemy

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the phenomenon of enantiosemy, offers a general overview of the history of its development and also presents the main types of enantiosemy. The main attention is paid to the consideration of cognitive signs of enantiosemy in English, Russian and Uzbek languages. The research is mainly done on associations of interviewees. The purpose of this article is to present and prove a new type of enantiosemy "conceptual enantiosemy" through deep research. The main methods of the research were the survey method. This article proves that each person perceives words differently, either in a negative or in a positive aspect. Interviewees (different levelled students, teachers) were to write the very first associations to the data in questionnaire that consisted of thirty words in three languages, regardless of the part of the speech, whether that word would be a noun, adjective or verb. From the results, antonymic pairs of word associations were analyzed, which were the proof to the existence of conceptual enantiosemy.

INTRODUCTION

"Quot homines, tot sententiae", as the Roman playwright P.Terence (c. 195-159 BC) said so, i.e. how many people, the same number of opinions. We will add to this proverb: the more there are words, so many concepts and even more associations.

The research on the dissertation "Linguo-cognitive features of enantiosemy in English, Russian and Uzbek" has been performed at the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek, led to a new type of enantiosemy which was decided to name as "conceptual" which we tried to prove in the following research. At first, we will begin with the definition of the phenomenon of enantiosemy and its origin.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Enantiosemy is a combination of two opposite meanings in one word. The polar meaning of words, as well as syntactic and lexical differences in word compatibility – these are features that express enantiosemy. The study of this linguistic phenomenon began in 10th century by the well-known expert of that time on the Quran and the Hadith, the philologist and grammarian Abu Bakr ibn al-Anbari (885-940). Examples of Arabic enantiosemy are outlined in his book "Kitab al-aDDad". Abu Bakr ibn al-Anbari named words that contain the opposite meaning "aDDad". In this book, he cites numerous examples of enantiosemy in the Arabic literary and colloquial language, and also gave examples from the dialects of a given language.

In 1884, Carl Abel in his book "Über den Gegensinn der Urworte" put forward a hypothesis of initial enantiosemy. This hypothesis Abel argued with examples from the Egyptian language, arguing that this is the result of the rich vocabulary of this language. The cause of enantiosemy according to Abel was the comparison and finding the opposite meanings of words. Following Abel, having become interested in his works, in 1910 S. Freud publishes an article "On the antithetical meaning of primitive word". However, E. Benveniste criticized Freud's article, justifying the weakness of Abel's arguments about pre-lingual enantionyms. By the beginning of the twentieth century a book by another German explorer T. Neldeke (Woerter mit Gegensinn – addad). In the article "Initial enantiosemy and diffusion in language" by B.T. Ganeev, the author

points out the linguist Sami Ali, who studied enantiosemy in Arabic language, which developed Freud's ideas. As for the term *enantiosemy*, it was introduced to the scientific circulation by V.I. Schertsl in 1883, who believed that this is "one of the most remarkable and amazing phenomena in the field of semiotics".

In English linguistics, some linguists have studied enantiosemy. The terms "autantonym" and "contronym" were originally coined by Joseph T. Shipley in 1960 and Jack Herring in 1962, respectively[2]. Some pairs of contronyms are true homographs, i.e., distinct words with different etymology which happen to have the same form. Miriam Shlesinger and M. Lynne Murphy point out that such words are sometimes called Janus-words, due to the two-faced god Janus. Dirk Geeraerts writes that this phenomenon is known in historical semantics as antiphrasis. John Train in 1980 wrote the book "Amazing words with extraordinary origins". David Gamon proposed the term *enantiodromia* for the diachronic process of changing the meaning of a word. Also, enantiosemy is one of the types of semantic shift according to Andreas Blanc. Ales Klegr in the article "The limits of polysemy: enantiosemy"[3] gives a classification for the types of enantiosemy. He divides it into seven distinct groups, six of which demonstrate a systematic, motivated relation between enantioseme and polyseme (Linguistica Pragensia 2/2013). Ales Klegr concludes that enantiosemy incorporates a set of relations within a word between polysemes (autohyponymy, automeronymy, co-hyponymy, in addition to semantic shifts, metaphor and metonymy). He identifies the following types of enantiosemy: directional, collocational, irony, anti-irony, euphemistic, converse and non-systematic.

There are mentioned a number of types of enantiosemy in linguistics: synchronic – diachronic, linguistic – speech, lexical – grammatical, lexical – phraseological, denotative – connotative, intra – and interlingual[4]. We propose a new type – conceptual enantiosemy. It is common knowledge that a concept is not only the usual meaning of a word recorded in a dictionary, but also all the information about this word. Everyone has conceptual thinking. The cognition of a person includes perception, thinking, awareness, speech. In the cognition of one person, the concept of a word, i.e. *glasses*, can be completely different compared to the cognition of another

person. The process of scoring this word can affect the perception of this word in different ways for each person. Any word causes a different perception due to any situation associated with this word. For instance, for someone *glasses* remind a *teacher* or as being called a *four-eyes*, etc. Especially the level of intonation of a word shows how a person will perceive this word in relation to himself. For example, in Uzbek families, the role of the daughter-in-law and mother-in-law is big. Every word plays a big role in a relationship. Many words and phrases are opposite. It is necessary to carefully understand what and how they say, since usually it means the completely negative meaning of what was said. Not only in this case, but in all relations between people, there is sometimes a reproach and the opposite meaning in the dialogue.

METHODOLOGY

A survey was conducted to identify and prove conceptual enantiosemy. This survey was conducted at Mirzo Ulugbek National University of Uzbekistan, faculty of foreign philology, department of English philology, world literature, among first, second courses, as well as among undergraduates and teachers. Also, about 15 students and teachers were from other universities in the same direction i.e. philology and language learning (Romano-Germanic philology). Seventy people participated in this study. The questionnaire consisted of thirty words. As the dissertation topic based on comparison of three languages: ten words in Russian, ten words in English and ten words were given in Uzbek separately. The respondents had to write the very first associations (up to two) to these words, regardless of the part of the speech, whether that word would be a noun, adjective or verb. The main methods of the research were the written survey questionnaire.

From the results, antonymical pairs of word associations were analyzed, which is evidence of the existence of conceptual enantiosemy. Due to the fact that students study in different groups where Russian or Uzbek is prevalent, next to each word was a translation of this word into English, as all students study English.

Table 1: Questionnaire

1	Очки (glasses)
2	Стул (chair)
3	Дерево (tree)
4	Сердце (heart)
5	Книга (book)
6	Судьба (fate)
7	Насекомое (insect)
8	Счастье (happiness)
9	Душа (soul)

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[2] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contronym
[3] Klegr A., The limits of polysemy: enantiosemy, Aleš Klégr (Prague), LINGUISTICA PRAGENSIA 2/2013
[4] Е.В Шелестюк http://rudocs.exdat.com/docs/index-132836.html

10	Зеркало (mirror)

1	Fire
2	Ice
3	Milk
4	Sweet
5	Bone
6	Victim
7	Ring
8	Line
9	Time
10	Swine

1	Йўл (way)
2	Қанот (wings)
3	Мавзу (topic)
4	Хужжат (document)
5	Хизмат (service)
6	Рахбар (leader)
7	Ўсмоқ (grow)
8	Авлод (generation)
9	Оила (family)
10	Қишлоқ (family)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Words in the questionnaire in Russian

Glasses

The first word in the questionnaire was "glasses". Associations, of course, were very different: eyes – 12, eyesight – 9, sun – 7, mirror – 5, protection – 4, health – 3, grandmother – 3, glass – 3, magnifying glass – 3, nerd – 2, smart – 2, straight-A student, knowledge – 2, book – 2, accessory, fashion – 2, black – 2, teacher – 2, poor, intelligence, reason, pure, scientist, money, summer, face, beauty, accuracy, diplomat, elderly, frame, clumsy guy, light, sunglasses, grandfather, window, cup, scissors, white, mind, age, protection, smart person, student, beautiful.

In order to identify conceptual enantiosemy, let's look at words that are either directly opposite to each other, or opposite to some extent. For example, *eyesight – poor eyesight; grandfather – grandmother; teacher – student*, these words are clearly opposed to each other, however the associations *health – beauty* are not direct opposites, i.e. someone perceives glasses as an accessory for beauty, protection from the sun, while it is a vital thing intended for another person with visual impairment. Moreover, having heard this word, some people may think of an *excellent student, scientist, diplomat, intelligent person*, i.e. may perceive as a

positive word, but others most likely may think of a *clumsy guy, a geek*, or as a nickname *bespectacled* given in school, so we can observe negative associations in questionnaire responses.

Chair

Associations to the word *chair* were broke down into several categories:

- *furniture*: table – 16, board, chair;
- *place* – 3: audience – 3, office, university – 2, lesson, school;
- *food*: lunch, tablecloth;
- *room*: toilet, kitchen, dining room, floor;
- *leader*: supervisor – 2, teacher;
- *item*: book – 2, notebook, cup and the rest: relaxation, family, wood, wooden – 4, soft – 3, comfortable, royal, red, brown, sit and work.

At first glance, it seems difficult to identify the *opposite* words, but if you look thoroughly, you can see some differences. For example, *toilet – kitchen, rest – work, wooden – royal, red, brown*, i.e. people have different color perceptions. Initially, the word "chair" did not imply a large number of associations on the contrast with other words, but as we can see here there are a variety of words and even six categories of this word have been identified.

Tree

To the given word "tree" many associations were responded, where we can observe opposite ones. Antonymic pairs in our opinion are:

- *old, old age – youth;*
- *life, green, tree of life – firewood, building material, saw, furniture*, i.e. *life* and roughly speaking – *death*.

Also, everyone has different associations on the types of trees: *plane tree, Christmas tree, lilac*.

Heart

Antonymic associations to the word *heart* turned out to be: *tenderness, sincerity, kindness, kind – meanness; to love* and *love – broken heart, hanahaki* (fictional illness of unrequited love where a person coughs up flower petals), *suffering; mother – father*.

Book

The word book is possibly the richest in associations answered by the participants in the questionnaire, however, they are not completely opposite, but still these associations are very different. This word is divided into categories in the table below.

Table 2: Book

№	Noun	Adjective	Verb	Books	Genre
.1	knowledge – 18	interesting – 2	read	Starry nights ("Yulduzli tunlar")	novel – 2
.2	library – 6	useful	learn – 2	Harry Potter	fantasy
.3	wisdom – 3	calm	learn poems	Mowgli	fiction
.4	wit	clever			fan fiction
.5	skills	soulful			poems by Yesenin
.6	school – 3	scientific			
.7	education				
.8	friend – 3				
.9	fellow				
.10	paper – 4				
.11	note-book, pen – 6				
.12	binding				
.13	sheet/page				
.14	information – 2				
.15	source of information – 2				
.16	bestseller				
.17	author – 2				
.18	reading – 5				
.19	light – 2				
.20	reality				
.21	life				
.22	творчество				
.23	existence				
.24	experience				
.25	love				
.26	gold				
.27	encyclopedia				
.28	glasses				
.29	pictures on the cover				
.30	grandfather				
.31	old man				
.32	night				
.33	free time				

There are 33 nouns (if we take into account the repetitions of words, then 55), adjectives – 6 (with repetitions 8), verbs – 3 (with repetitions 5), three books' names and 5 genres of books. Perhaps this is the most positive word with associations. Due to the fact that the word *book* caused a great deal of associative differences as well as other words, this is the relevance of this study; moreover, it is the proof of the existence of conceptual enantiosemy.

Fate
It was interesting to analyze how people react to every word in the questionnaire. For example, the word *fate*, someone thinks it is *interesting*, and someone is *terrible*, many thoughts about the *future* than the *present*, and more people thought about

success and *luck* in life than about *failures*. Most likely, each person was thinking about his life and fate at the moment.

Insect
The word "insect" was not particularly distinguished by opposite associations, except for the words *harm*, *pest* and *benefit*. The main was the difference in insects' species.

Happiness
This word distinguished itself as the most positive word with positive associations such as happiness is *family*, *parents*, *children*, *health*, etc. However, some wrote that happiness is *money*, this statement is also

correct, but along with other words it creates slight contradiction.

Soul
This word is mainly associated with both good and bad, for example: grief, fear, *bad* in a person – joy, happiness, calm, pure, *kind, immortality – dead soul*. Some survey participants thought of different colors: green, white.

Mirror
Having analyzed this word, it would be appropriate to say that there are no obvious contradictions, but some opposite words we can identify. Perhaps when people look in the mirror they see their *fears, mistakes, horrors*, others probably can see *beauty*; also we can consider as antonyms the words *Snow White, the princess* and *the witch*.

Words in the questionnaire in English

Fire
Among these words, we considered the following as antonymic pairs:
- *flame – water;*
- *disaster, war, trouble, a destructive burning – fest, bonfire.*

Here the words are negative about distress, and the other two are positive, although there is the word *bonfire*, it is usually during the holidays, so we attributed this word to positive.
- scary - beauty;
- friend – enemy, hell;
- hell, death - life.

Ice
These opposing to each other associations were examined in the table:

Table 3: Ice

-	+
cold, ice-cream, snow, *winter*, iceberg, freezing, North, coldness, frozen, skiing, white cubes, slip, smooth	*summer*, butterfly, Coke, ice cube
white, blue	*black* color

These words are clearly shown in table, where the main opposites to the word "ice" are *summer, ice-cream – winter, snow, cold, freezing* i.e. someone thinks about the cold in the winter, and someone about the cold drink in the summer time.

Milk
Among these associations, by the word milk, we considered the following as antonymic pairs:

- Milky way, Nestle, Nesquik, Nisholda[5], milkshake, kefir, sour cream, coffee, ice cream – various dairy products, sweets, which include milk;
- mother – baby.

Sweet
Many respondents, after reading the word sweet, immediately thought about something (even about someone: *a baby, sweet children*) that was very tasty, such as *cake, candy, chocolate, sugar, strawberries,* but some mentioned *pain* and *toothache*, as well as *pain in heart from love*. We can conclude: *sweetness, happiness – pain.*

Bone
The associations were so different and interesting, mainly related to the ones has a bone or who eats it: *a dog, skeleton, fish bone,* etc., also a film associated with this solid organ of the body: *"Mortal instruments, city of bones"* and the TV-series *"Bones".*

Antonymic pairs:
- human, strength, body, blood – disease, death, grave;
- leg – hand;
- dog – cat;
- body – skeleton.

As can be seen from the analysis of associations, four antonymic pairs were identified here.

Victim
Here we can observe the chain of events preceding the victim, i.e. from the *person / animal (sheep)* to the process of becoming a *victim (sacrifice)* and then *investigating*: poor, unhappy, pain, knife, scream, criminal, dead, killing, murder, *police, punishment, prison, Sherlock Holmes[6].*

The sheep symbolizes victimhood in various cultures and it is a symbol of innocence and kindness. Summarizing the associations, this word almost has no antonymic pairs, but the words *cops* and *loyal* i.e. acting within the law, law-abiding, may completely contradict the words *criminal, murder.*

Ring
This word also aroused various associations, mostly *wedding, pre-wedding ceremony, engagement* are mentioned and how much this makes people happy: *happiness, joy*. Moreover, what metal this ring is made of: *diamond, silver, gold.*

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[5] A type of sweet dessert made in the period of Ramadan in Muslim countries.

[6] A detective based on works of A.K. Doyle.

The gender was also mentioned: husband, wife. This word is also very positive.

Line

The word line is polysemic, which we can observe in the associations of the respondents: queue, border, way. In our opinion, the opposite words are:

- death – life;
- start – finish;
- pros and cons in life;
- stop – run.

The comparison of the *"line"* with death, probably it is due to the fact that when in the hospital the patient is holding on his life, he/she is connected to a ventilator, and if the heart stops, the device shows a solid straight line.

Time

The word *time* was very interesting during the analysis of associations. For example, for some people *time is money*, for others *time is life, family*. Many people compared time with *water* and *hours*, which is *slipping away, elusive, very fast* and *precious*. Also, opposites are the following words:

- death – life;
- past, history – live, life.

Swine

This word caused mainly negative associations, such as *dirty, disgusting, stinky, beast, drunk man, unpleasant person, fat, rude*, *black* (black boar), pink (pink pig), etc. We can see antonymic pairs in the following words:

- animal – a person;
- a man – obese woman.

Analyzing these associations, the following positive words seem questionable, such as *peacefulness*, white, joy, beauty. We believe that in people's cognition the word *swine* cannot arise positive words simply by the virtue that pork is forbidden in Islam that is Uzbek people's religion. If we include these words, we can see such oppositions:

- not beautiful – beauty;
- black – white.

We believe that some survey participants may have confused this word with another similar word in its sound. During the survey EFL students had some questions. The question was that in the list of words where you need to write your associations to each word, students specified the translation of the word *swine*, whether it meant *a swan* (Russian *lebed'*). It was understood that we deal with *paronyms* – very similar words in sound and spelling but different in lexical meaning. In this regard having examined other paronyms also in Russian language, a new type of antonyms was revealed: *paronymic antonymy*. For example: *postupok – prostupok* (act – misconduct), *razdet' – razodet'* (undress – dress in), etc. There were several paronymic antonyms were identified in Uzbek language as well according to the dictionary of paronyms.

Words in the questionnaire in Uzbek

Yo'l - way

In our opinion, the antonymical pairs of this word are:

- khayot, khayot yo'li (life, life path) – narigi dunyodagi abadiy yo'li (eternal path in another world);
- tekis, ravon, to'g'ri – egri, qing'ir-qiyshiq (straight – curve).

Qanot – wings

This word does not particularly combine the antonymic associations, there are simply different associations of bird species *kabutar, ho'roz*, *burgut, Humo qush* (pigeon, eagle, rooster, Humo bird). However, the word *farishta – angel* the word itself considered as symbolic enantiosemy (*the guardian angel* and *fallen angel*).

Mavzu – the theme

Associations to the word *mavzu* were connected with study and work (*scientific work, lecture, seminar*), also mainly descriptions of a given topic (*travel, work*) or its characteristics (*relevant, interesting, complex*).

We counted the following associations as anthonymic pairs:

- muhokama – g'iybat (discussion – gossip);
- lekciya – seminar (lecture – seminar);
- ish – sayokhat (work – travel);
- qiyin – qiziqarli (difficult) – (interesting).

Hujjat – document

Antonymic pairs of this word:

- muhim, kerakli (important, necessary) – muhimsiz, keraksiz (unimportant, useless).

Hizmat – service

In our opinion, the following words are the antonymic pairs to this word:

- savob (beneficence), minnatdor (grateful), bepul (free) – pulli (paid);
- ofitsiant (waiter) – mijoz (client).

Rakhbar – boss

There are different associations mainly defining the word *boss*: *mother-in-law, father-in-law, partner, director, king, leader, teacher*.

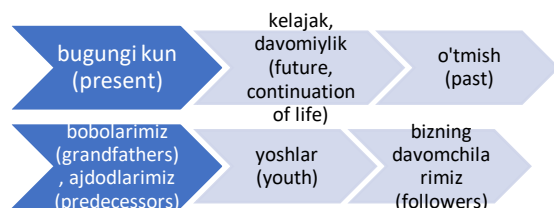Antonymic pairs to this word in our opinion are:

- qattiqo'l (strict) – mehribon (caring);
- sardor (leader, manager) – kekkaygan, olifta (conceited, vain);
- aqlli (smart) – ahmoq (fool).

O'smoq – grow

This word is positive and has no antonymic pairs, except for different opinions that what can grow: *o'simlik, daraht, gul, atirgul, bola* (plant, tree, flower, rose, child).

Avlod – generation

We showed the opposition in a graduonymic[7] line:

Oila - family

The associations of the survey participants to the word "oila" are mainly associated with family members: *aka, uka, opa, ona, ota* (brother, younger brother, sister, mother, dad) and abstract concepts *baht, sevgi, farovonlik, davlat* (happiness, love, prosperity, wealth). These words are positive, not opposite to each other.

Qishloq – village

A lot of associations were written, which at first glorified the word *qishloq* with such words as *chiroyli tabiat, musaffo joy, toza havo* (beautiful nature, clean place, clean air) and there are also completely negative words such as *regres, rivojlanmaslik, pahsa uylar, internet yo'q* (setback, stagnation, clay houses, no internet connection). We can observe words that directly relate to the countryside: *tandir, yalpiz, dalalar, mevalar, daraxtlar, tog', paxta dalasi* (tandoor, mint, fields, fruits, trees, mountain, cotton field) and also to people: *ota-ona, bobo, buvi, bog'bon, fermerlar* (parents, grandfather, grandmother, gardener, farmers).

CONCLUSION

During the survey all respondents may have had a number of reasons that affected their answers. We think that this depends on the *worldview*, *the psychological state* of the interviewee and also the

attitude to the examiner (the person who is taking questionnaire). Worldview, background information plays a big role in associating a word, the more a person well-read is, the better he can write deep and thoughtful. So, one student wrote the association *nemeton* in the word *tree*, which as mentioned above, denotes a sacred grove. The associations were different, for example, even TV series and films were mentioned: "Bones" "Mortal instruments, city of bones" etc. Psychological state also plays a large role in positive and negative responses. Perhaps at that time, the respondent was in a state of depression, the world seemed gloomy, therefore, associations were negative as *sick, broken*, *ill* etc. Some students even skipped a few words, apparently due to a lack knowledge or complete indifference.

Summing up the research, we can say that some words: 6 out of 30, did not have a negative meaning, these are the following words in the questionnaire: happiness, ring, village, wings, grow and family; however, 24 words out of 30 had antonymic pairs, even several were broken down into categories. As a result, we can confidently say that there are various opinions and associations regarding any word. We believe that the existence of *conceptual enantiosemy* is proven.

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