

تعد ظاهرة المشترك اللفظي من أهم القضايا الدلالية التي لفت إليها

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ABSTRACT

This paper titled: The Phenomenon of Homonyms in Arabic and English languages: A comparative study, it established the following findings: Originally, in English the word homonymy is divided into homophony and homograph, whereas this term is translated as المشترك اللفظي in Arabic which refers to a word that has one articulation and more than one meaning. The definition of homonymy in Arabic is similar to the definition of polysemy in English, i.e. they are considered to be one. The difference between them is that homonyms in Arabic may have a relation or no relation in their meanings, while polysemy in English have a relation in meaning. Hence, the two types of homonyms, i.e., those that have a relation in meaning and those that do not, are not found in English. Some Arab linguists believe that homonymy does not exist in Arabic because they think that homonymic words have one real meaning while the rest are metaphorical. Homonymy is defined differently in English while in Arabic there is an Agreement among linguists on its definition. The types of homonyms in English are complete, partial, word homonyms, homonyms of words form, lexical homonyms, and grammatical homonyms, while the types of homonymy in Arabic are those that have only two meanings, multiple meanings, a relation in meaning no relation in meaning, homonyms created because of shift in application, homonyms created due to shift in articulation, and those that have identical present and past participle.

INTRODUCTION

تعد ظاهرة المشترك اللفظي من أهم القضايا الدلالية التي لفت إليها نظر كثير من من علماء اللغة منذ فترة طويلة. تدخل ظاهرة المشترك اللفظي و كذلك الترادف و التضاد في إطار نظري واحد يسمى بنظرية العلاقات الدلالية semantic relations، و هي نظرية حديثة نسبياً في ميدان الدراسات اللسانية تتصل بتعدد دلالة الكلمة و غموضها في دراسة علم الدلالة، و هو ما يطلق عليه (علم الدلالة البنوي) structural semantics (1)

وسيهتم الباحث بالدراسة عن الاشتراك اللفظي في لغتي العربية والانجليزية دراسة تقابلية فيما يلي: .

In fact, it is unanimously agreed by the majority of linguists that the phenomenon of homonyms is found in both Arabic and English languages. However, both defined it as an expression with one enunciation (form) and more than one meaning. Actually, this phenomenon creates lexical and syntactic ambiguity in both Languages. Thus, it should be studied and examined. Hence, this paper, aims at:

2. أنظر: حلمي خليل: مقدمة لدراسة اللغة، ط1، 1989م، دبي، ص157.



Homonymy in Arabic

الإشترك اللفظي في اللغة العربية

Definitions of Homonymy

تعريف المشترك في اللغة العربية

هو اللفظ الواحد الدال على معنيين مختلفين فأكثر دلالة على السواء عند أهل تلك اللغة" أو " هو اللفظ الواحد الدال على أكثر من معنى"⁽¹⁾

قول الزبيدي في مقدمة "تاج العروس": إنه "اللفظ الواحد الدال على معنيين مختلفين فأكثر، دلالة على السواء عند أهل تلك اللغة"².

وقول زكريا بن محمد الأنصاري: " ما وضع لمعنيين فأكثر، كالقرء للطهر والحيض"³. قال السرخسي: " وأما المشترك، فكل لفظ يشترك فيه معان، أو أسام، لا على سبيل الانتظام، بل على احتمال أن يكون كل واحد هو المراد به على الانفراد، وإذا تعين الواحد مراداً به، انتفى الآخر، مثل اسم (العين) فإنه للناظر، ولعين الماء وللشمس، وللميزان، وللنقد من المال، وللشيء المعين، لا على أن جميع ذلك مراد بمطلق اللفظ، ولكن على احتمال كون كل واحد مراداً بانفراده عند الإطلاق، وهذا لأن الاسم يتناول كل واحد من هذه الأشياء، باعتبار معنى غير المعنى الآخر، وقد بين الباحث قبل قليل أن اللفظ الواحد لا ينتظم المعاني المختلفة"¹⁴.

Homonymy in Arabic is known as المتشابه or المتجانس or اللفظي المشترك الإشتراك اللفظي in the holy Qur'an (Al-Dhamin 1990: 66). Also, homonyms are called النظائر الوجودية (الضامن). In philology, Al-Salih 1968:302), Al-Khuli 2001:141, and Mansur 2009:1) define homonymy as a word or a sentence that has one articulation (or form) and more than one meaning. For example, the word سن has one articulation whether it means age or tooth; and دقيق which means flour, precise, and thin. An instance of homonymy from the Glorious Qur'an is الحج in which the underline word may mean to have intercourse or to say dirty.

Homonymy is a controversial subject among Arab linguists. On one hand, some linguists, such as Ibn Dorstoya ابن دُرُسْتَوِيَه, deny the existence of this phenomenon as they claim that only one of its meanings is real physical (and the rest are metaphorical). (For instance, the word وجد has several meanings like to find, anger, to love, etc. They declare that "One may think this word has several meanings but actually all these meaning are related to one thing." On the other hand, other linguists, like Al Kheleel bin Ahmed بن الخليل, Sibawayh سيبويه, and Abu Zeid أبو زيد السيوطي, agree on its existence in the Arabic language. متفقون على وجود هذه الظاهرة في اللغة.

(العربية)

Types of Homonyms

أنواع المشترك اللفظي

Homonyms in Arabic can be divided into the following types:

- 1- عبد الرحمن بن أبي بكر، جلال الدين السيوطي، المزهرفي علوم اللغة وانواعها ج1 ص 369 الطبعة: الأولى، 1418 هـ 1998م طدار الكتب العلمية - بيروت
- 2- أحمد مختار عمر: علم الدلالة، ط 1 ، 1402 هـ ، 1982م ، الكويت، ص 145.
- 3- الزبيدي، محمد مرتضى الحسيني، تاج العروس من جواهر القاموس، تحقيق عبد الستار أحمد فراج مطبعة حكمة الكويت سنة 1385 هجري 1965م ص 825
- 4 زكريا بن محمد الأنصاري 1141 هـ
- 5 السرخسي، أصول السرخسي ص 126/ج1

1- Homonymic words that have two meanings. For example, قدم (part of body) or (unit of length). Another example is لسان (organ of body) and (language) (Al-Khuli2001: 143-4).
"وما أرسلنا من رسول إلا بلسان قومه"

2- Homonymic words that have multiple meanings. Such words in Arabic are فصول that has the meanings (chapters of a book), (seasons of year), (semesters in school), (acts of a play), etc. Another example is the word عين (hole in a needle),(eye of man), (fountainhead), (spy), etc. (Al Khuli 01:143). The word صدی has the meanings (echo), (extreme thirst), (to preserve), etc. (Ibn Jinni ابن جنى 132008a: 459). Also, بأس has the meanings (dread), (bravery), (torture), (power),(battle) (Waffi 1957 وافي : 292-3 and Atlas 2007). A well-known example that has more than thirty meanings is the word حوب which may mean sin, sister, daughter, need, sadness, haughtiness, heart softness (Ye'koob 1999 يعقوب : 178).

3- Homonymic words that have a relation in meaning. For instance, in Arabic, the word يد may mean part of body and power; and the word ذراع has the meanings organ in body and unit of measurement. This kind is actually known as polysemy in English (Al Khuli 2001:143 and Umer 982:63-4 عمر).

4- Homonymic words that have no relation in meaning. The word قرن may mean the horns of an animal, or a hundred years. The word وجد which has no relation between its meanings that are to detest someone or to know. Another example is قال (to say from يقول) and (to fire somebody from يقيل) (Al Khuli 2001: 143).

5- A homonymy in which the pronunciation is the same while the writing is different, e.g- رابت الناس قد ذهبوا الى من له ذهب** رأيت الناس قد مالوا الى من عنده مال
In which ذهبوا means 'went' and ذهب is 'gold'; مالوا means 'incline' and مال is 'money' .

6- Homonyms created because of shift in application

Sometimes, a word has different senses according to the field or specialization in its used. In Arabic, a word like عملية (operation) may mean surgical operation, action, agency, execution, or maneuver. The word جدار (wall) has the meanings cell wall, counter scrub, firewall, pier (Waffi 1957:294 and Umer 1982:164-6).

Homonymy in English

Definitions of Homonymy

Originally, the word "homonym" comes from the conjunction of the Greek prefix *homo-*, meaning "same", and suffix *-ónymos*, meaning "name". Thus, it refers to two or more distinct concepts sharing the "same name" or signifier (Wikipedia2010: 1). Lyons (1982: 72; Oxford Word power 2000:366; Richards and Schmidt 2002:241; and for lexical items that are identical in spelling and pronunciation but have different meanings. Examples of homonyms are *lie* as in *you have to lie down* and *lie in Don't lie, tell the truth.* , Watkins et al.(2001:269) defines it just like defining homophones, i.e., "words that sound exactly like other words but have different spellings" in spite of the fact of not naming them

'homophones' Gramley and Pätzold (1992:13) and Wikipedia (2010: 2), on the other hand, define homonymy as "the existence of different lexemes that sound the same.(homophones, e.g. *days/daze*) or are spelt the same (homographs, e.g. *lead(guide)/lead (metal)*) but have different meanings." In this way, they divide them into homophones and homographs. This is the definition that is adopted in this research. On a larger scope, homonymy is defined as a word that is identical in form with another word, either in sound (as a homophone) or in spelling (as a homograph), or both, but differs from it in meaning. For example, *sale* (an act or of selling something) and *sail* (to travel on water); *bark* (the skin of a tree) and *bark* (the sound of a dog).

أنواع المشترك اللفظي

هناك نوعان من المشترك اللفظي، هما:

1- نوع حدث نتيجة تطور في الجانب الدلالي أي نتيجة اكتساب الكلمة معنى جديداً مثل: كلمة *operation* التي تستعمل للدلالة على الخطة العسكرية و على العملية الجراحية و على الصفقة المالية ... و مثل كلمة (بشرة) التي تعني جلد الإنسان، و تطلق كذلك على النبات. و يسمى هذا النوع: بوليزمي *Polysemy*.

2- نوع حدث نتيجة تطور من جانب النطق. و يحدث هذا حين توجد كلمتان تدل كل منهما على معنى، ثم يحدث عن طريق التطور الصوتي أن تتحد أصوات الكلمتين، و تصبحا في النطق كلمة واحدة. مثال ذلك كلمة *sea* بمعنى بحر و *see* بمعنى يرى (لا يهم اختلاف الهجاء). و يسمى هذا النوع هومونيمي *homonymy*.⁽¹⁾

معايير الفصل بينهما:

هناك خلاف بين اللسانيين حول طرق الفصل بين البوليزمي و الهومونومي. و قد فشلت كافة النظريات في حسم القضية. فقد اعترض الدكتور مختار عمر على هذا الرأي بأن هناك فرقاً بين كلمتين اثنتين بأصلين مختلفين حدث من وقت ما، طبقاً لتطور صوتي أن تطابقا، و كلمة واحدة تطور معناها ببطء أو بطريق المجاز عن المعنى الأول حتى صار لها معنيان مختلفان. و لهذا ينبغي أن يعطى كل نوع اسماً خاصاً.⁽²⁾

أما الرأي الثاني و هو ما ذهب إليه *lions* فهو اتخاذ أجزاء الكلام كمعيار للفصل بينهما، فكلمة *hammer* (اسم) و *hammer* (فعل) توضعان في المعجم كمدخلين منفصلين. في حين أن *division* (عملية حسابية = القسمة) و *division* (فرقة عسكرية) اسمان و مع ذلك توضعان تحت مدخل واحد

و مع ذلك فهناك الكثير من علماء اللسان الذين يفرقون بين البوليزمي و الهومونيمي، و إن لم يحدث اتفاق على وسيلة التمييز بين النوعين، و أهم ما طرح من آراء حول هذا الموضوع يتلخص فيما يلي:

1- إذا كانت كلمات المشترك اللفظي تملك نفس النطق و لكن بهجاء مختلف (مثل *hair* مع *heir* و *reed* مع *read* و *pear* مع *pare*) فإن اختلاف الهجاء يكفي لجعل الكلمات من نوع الهومونيمي.⁽¹⁾

أما إذا كانت الكلمة تملك نفس النطق و الهجاء و تتعدد معانيها فيمكن اللجوء إلى المعيار الدلالي. فإذا لم توجد علاقة دلالية بين المعنيين فلا مشكلة لأن كلاً منهما كلمة مستقلة حدث بطريق الصدفة أن تملك نفس النطق و الكتابة. أما إذا وجدت العلاقة أو المشابهة فهما كلمة واحدة تطورت، إما تطوراً بطيئاً بمرور الوقت، أو سريعاً عن طريق المجاز.⁽²⁾

Types of Homonyms in English language

1- Complete (full, absolute)

1. أحمد مختار عمر: علم الدلالة، ط 1، 1402 هـ، 1982 م، الكويت، صص 126، 137.

2. نفس المرجع، ص 169.

Those are homonyms that have the same pronunciation and the same spelling i.e. the identity covers spoken and written forms. Classic examples are *bank* (embankment)(bridge) and *bank* (place where money is kept) (Lyons 1982:72 and Allan1986:150).

2- Partial homonyms

They are those where the identity covers a single medium, as in homophony and homography. Thus, homophones and homographs are considered as partial homonym (Crystal 2003:220). Watkins et al. homonyms and what they call 'near homonyms'. According to them homonyms are words that are "exactly" alike in pronunciation but differ in spelling and meaning, e.g. *morning* and *mourning*; *there* and *their*, while near homonyms do not sound exactly alike, e.g. *except* and *accept*; *loose* and *lose*.⁴

3- Word homonyms

These are homonyms where all the forms of a paradigm and its collocation possibilities are identical. Thus, one does not get any indication of their belonging to one word or the other. Such homonyms are generally found in words belonging to the same part of speech. Examples are *seal* and *seals* (plural of *seal* which is an animal) and *seal* and *seals* (plural of *seal* which is an impression placed on things To legalize them). In addition, the possessive forms of these words, i.e., *seals* are identical (Singh 1982: 24).

4- Homonyms of word forms

These are homonyms in which only few word forms are identical. Generally, the canonical forms in addition to some forms are alike and some others are not identical. For example *lie* that means not to tell the truth becomes *lied* in the past and past participle while *lie*, that means to rest one's body, becomes *lay* in the past (ibid.).

5- Lexical Homonyms

When the homonyms belong to the same part of speech, they are called lexical for example, *trunk* (part of an elephant) and *trunk* (a storage chest).

6- Grammatical Homonyms

When the difference between homonyms is not only confined to the lexical meaning but the grammatical types are also different, they are called grammatical homonyms. They are given separate entries in the dictionary. In these cases, the words have similar canonical form but different paradigms and structural patterns. Verbs occurring as transitive and intransitive or lexical units that occur as nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc. (e.g. *cut* (v.), *cut* (n.), *cut* (adj.)) are examples of such homonyms (ibid.).

5 Antonymous Homonyms الأضداد

In some cases, homonyms have two antonymous meanings. Thus, such words create great problems in communication in Arabic. Consider the following examples of antonymous homonyms in Arabic (Al Khuli 2001: 144-5): جون - 20 = black, white

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صريم - 21 = day, night

- بسل - 22 = forbidden, un forbidden
سليم - 23 = uninjured, stung
ابيض - 24 = white, black
بصير - 25 = blind, sighted
وراء - 26 = front, rear
لُق ح - 27 = fly, sink
ثب و - 28 = jump, sit
طاعم - 29 = to feed somebody, to be fed (Al-Salih 1968: 310)

It is important to discriminate between antonym and antonymous homonymy which is one kind of Antonym in Arabic. The former occurs with two words that have opposite meanings, e.g. يبيع (sell) and يشتري (buy); and سهل (easy) and صعب (difficult), while the latter occurs with one word that has two reverse meanings (ibid.: 303) and (Al-Dhamin 1990: 72).

Reasons of Creating Homonymy

There are many reasons behind creating homonymous words in Arabic. They are as follows:

1- Economy

Because of the development in all fields of life, the number of words' senses is more than the number of words themselves. One cannot create new words for every new sense that appears. For this reason, one adds new senses to the Existing lexemes, e.g. the word طائرة (plane) exists in Arabic before the invention of the plane. It was used previously to refer to birds. After the creation of the plane, the word طائرة gains its new sense. Similarly, the words سيارة (car), قطار (train), and هاتف (phone) have gained new senses after their creation. Accordingly, 16 homonymy is an economic method in which one can limit the number of words and enhance the number of senses (Al Khuli 2001: 146-7).

2- Ambiguity

Homonymy is used deliberately for the purpose of arising ambiguity. This is related to rhetorical reasons and for having excitement in communication. For example: - ³⁰

دع المكارم لاترحل لبغيتها * واقعد فانك انت الطاعم الكاسي

Here, the word الطاعم means (to be fed) and not the apparent meaning (to feed). In a similar way, the word الكاسي means (to be coated or dressed) and does not mean (to coat somebody).

Another example is:-³¹ أصون أديم وجهي عن أناس * لقاء الموت عندهم الأديب

ورب الشعر عندهم بغيض * ولووفى به لهم حبيب

The word حبيب here may mean (beloved) or (name of a person) (Al Jaghoob, 2009: 1 (الجاغوب)).

3- Metaphorical Reasons

Sometimes there are regional, partial, and causative reasons behind using the second meaning of the homonym. In most cases, the meaning of the homonym can be sensual and physical in which the sensual meaning is the original one (Al-Dhamin 1990: 69). Examples of such homonyms are (Al Dersoni 2010: 4): 32 = sin, wine (إثم) - 33 = state of Egypt, Egyptian people (مصر) - 34 = mouse, jointer of the carpenter (فارة - مسحاج), mouse of computer (Owenn2005: 127) (ظعينة) - 35 = howdah (هودج), woman, camel (17) - 36 = chin, beard (ذقن) - 37 = shortage in the camel milk, mental deficiency (افن - مجد) - 38 = stomach surfeit of animals, extreme generosity (وغى) - 39 = fuss in war, war (عقيقه) - 40 = newly born hair, animal slain when hair is shaved (Waffi 1957: 293).

4- Difference in Derivation

The Arabic word قال is a homonym that means (said from يقول _____) and (napped from قيلولة). Another example is ضاع (past tense of lose) and (past tense of spread fragrance). As such derivation sometimes causes homonymous words (Yekoob, 1999: 181) (Al Khuli 2001: 147).

5- Politeness

In some cases, people use homonymic words to indicate a positive as well as a negative sense. For instance, instead of saying محمد مهدي الأعمى, it is more polite to say محمد مهدي البصير in which the word البصير denotes either being sighted or blind, here is used instead of أعمى (blind) (ibid.).

6- Euphemism

Euphemism is similar to politeness, but is more general in application. Politeness is personal, whilst euphemism is related to the society. The expression دول العالم الثالث was earlier called, الدول المتأخرة, after that it was changed to الدول قليلة النمو, this phrase became الدول النامية in which نام means advanced and old fashioned. The second sense is meant in the final expression (ibid.).

7- Sarcasm

Unlike the case with politeness, some homonyms are used for the sake of sarcasm. One may use the positive sense of the word to give an ironic sense, for instance the word فصيح is sometimes used to mean the opposite of eloquent (ibid.).

8- Differences in Dialects

A word may mean X in the language or in a specific dialect and the same word means Y in another dialect, In this way, the word will have two senses (X and Y) in the standard language. Thus, when dictionaries were created, all the senses of the word were included in the dictionaries. Among the examples that are known of this kind of homonyms are العجوز which may mean old woman or man, needle, ground, rabbit, lion, sea, hero, cow, ox,

hunger, war, wine, tent, life, sun, etc. (Abdul Tawab 1999 عيد التواب: 326; Yekoob 1999:180; and Al-Dhamin 1990: 68). Also, similarly the word ألم (pain) and ألم = ألم (167).

9- Optimism

A word may have several meanings due to optimism. The word مفازة that basically means a place of victory, gains another sense that is desert. Justifying the reason behind such use is to create a sense of optimism to the person who wants to cross a desert (Al Khuli 2001: 148).

10- Homonyms created due to shift in articulation

When two words that are different in articulation and writing had undergone change in articulation which led to become similar in enunciation, this led to become homonyms. In Arabic, the word الفروة means either scalp or affluence in which 'affluence' comes from الثروة the letter ث of ثروة was replaced by ف (Abdul Tawab 1999:332) and (Yekoob 1999:180). The word سائل (liquid from سال), and سائل (asker from سأل) and سائل (beggar from سأل) is a well-known example of such kind of homonymy (Umer 1982:166-7 and Al Baalbaki 2005:615).

11- Borrowing words from other languages

Borrowing words (as they are) that are similar to others in the original language can also cause homonymous words. For instance, borrowing the word كلب (kalb) from Germany into Arabic leads to creating a homonym with the word كلب (dog). Another example is سور from Persia which means city wall or hospitality that was used first by the Prophet (Abdul Tawab 1999: 331). 19

12- Using the peculiar reference of the word in addition to its general meaning and vice versa.

In Islam, especially in religious rituals, there are thousands of words that have gained their meanings throughout this way. Consider the following words (Al-Salih1968: 305 and Waffi 1975: 292):

CONCLUSION

This paper shades light on the following: In English the word homonymy is divided into homophony and Homograph. Whereas this term is translated as اللفظي المشترك in Arabic which refers to a word that has one articulation and more than one meaning. The definition of homonymy in Arabic is similar to the definition of polysemy in English, i.e. they are considered to be one. The difference between them is that Homonyms in Arabic may have a relation or no relation in their meanings, while polysemy in English have a relation in meaning. Hence, the two types of homonyms, i.e., those that have a relation in meaning and those that do not, are not found in English. Homonymy is defined differently in English

while in Arabic there is an agreement among linguists on its definition. Finally, some of the reasons behind creating homonyms in both languages are Identical.

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