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Identifying the Features of Synonyms in the Definition of the Paradigm of "Wishing" in English Language

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Abstract

Since ancient times, people have wished each other well on a variety of occasions. In public and political discussions (meetings), wishes were conveyed through congratulations texts and were applicable in both peaceful and combative settings. The various ways that wishes are expressed in greeting texts—which are very real on social media and in TV—show that wishing in the English language permits one to produce unique speech acts using a range of expressive mediums in addition to cliched formulas. Additionally, books with wishes written in them are published separately. In addition, a lot of poets and authors post congratulations and well wishes on their personal blogs. As a result, the same wish appears in various texts in various variants and synonymous forms. The lexical units that comprise the synonymous pairs in English speech wishes will be the main topic of this essay. The study's importance is directly tied to the tasks of determining which synonymous units are active in the wishes text and how they differ in oral and written communication. The research experience that the professors at Kazan Federal University have accumulated is reflected in the findings of the article. This new study aims to define the performative paradigm of the English language speech act of "wishing" by identifying the characteristics of synonyms. The study's authors examined publications on linguistics and philology published by contemporary Russian and international scholars; they examined the lexical information found in greeting text collections, dictionaries of English synonyms, and congratulations websites; they also compared the vocabulary stock with real-world speech.

Keywords: English Language; English Speech; Wishes; Public Conversations.

1. Introduction

The English language's lexicon is full of synonyms that have been used for a variety of purposes, such as expressing the complex meaning of individuals in particular circumstances or the semantic nuances of lexical units and their combinations. While some of them are also found in closely related languages, the majority are distinct because their full meaning can only be fully appreciated by those whose speech they have originated from. These lexical units enable one to speak at the highest level of expressiveness, to hint subtly without upsetting the other person, to exact revenge without causing harm, and other things (Khusnullina et al., 2016). One of the most fascinating areas of study for linguists, philologists, sociologists, psychologists, and ethnographers is the synonymic relations of English units. Numerous works by international and domestic researchers have already addressed the problems of lexical synonymy in theoretical and practical terms. In addition to describing specific forms of language enrichment, they look into general questions about language system development and analyze changes in the language's lexical fund based on extra- and interlinguistic speech factors. They also attribute sociocultural and linguocultural traits to the language's lexical composition for the reasons mentioned above. Studying English synonymous units in terms of comparison and contrast, historical and linguistic background, cultural linguistics, etc. Despite a plethora of works, this field of synonym research is far from finished. In this paper, lexical synonymy in English speech is examined for the first time using the example of wishes. Synonyms are considered as lexical units that express wishes and determine the subtle nuances of English speech (Salakhova & Sibgaeva, 2017).

The lexical units that are fixed in English wish texts are the subject of this study. The study's focus is on the synonymic relationships that exist between literary language's lexemes and how those variations manifest in oral speech. The work's objective is to pinpoint the characteristics of synonyms in the English language definition of the performative paradigm of the speech act "wish." The following objectives guided the formulation of the tasks that followed: defining and characterizing the speech act "wish" and learning the fundamental characteristics that set it apart from other speech etiquette units; examining the dominant traits of communicative behavior that realize the speech act; exposing the semantic characteristics of lexical units used in various contexts of wishes; examining variants of set expressions with semantics of wish and figuring out whether they can be interchanged. The Dictionary of Synonyms in the English Language serves as the study's primary source, along with a compilation of texts and websites expressing congratulations and well wishes. The factual information is sourced from the Corpus of English Fiction and the National English Language Corpus "Туган тел."

2. Literature Review

According to Rowe and Levine (2016), synonyms are two or more words that share the same semantic properties and have very closely related meanings. They can be used to prevent using the same word repeatedly. Even though these words are frequently interchangeable, Walker's (2011) study of synonymous groups, which includes run, head, manage or system, process, and procedure, shows that these words have a small but important meaning difference that is influenced by collocation and semantic prosody. A word might make sense in a sentence, but using its synonym would be strange because their similarity does not amount to "total sameness" (Yule, 2010). Synonyms are not exactly the same in this sense, and their differences in meaning indicate that they are not entirely interchangeable (Liu, 2010). Thus, non-absolute similarity and synonyms lacking precise meanings are referred to as near-synonymy. Most importantly, in order to "choose the right word" in any situation involving language production, near-synonymy is basically necessary (Edmonds & Hirts, 2002).

Edmonds & Hirts (2002) state that there are four general categories into which near-synonyms can be separated based on any aspect of their meanings. The first category is denotational, which includes word meanings that are literal, explicit, and context-independent. The second stylistic category looks at pair synonyms that are motivated by dimensions and whether they work well in formal or informal contexts, including dialect. The third expressive category refers to expressions that reflect the attitude of the speaker, as demonstrated by Islamiyah & Fajri's (2019) research on three adjectives: skinny, slim, and thin. The findings of their paper show that these adjectives have distinct meanings. Being skinny is frequently used to highlight negative traits like resentment. However, the word "slim" has a positive meaning and is typically used to compliment someone, such as to say that they are "attractively thin." Conversely, thin typically connotes neutrality. Compared to dad and father, the term "daddy" also conveys the speaker's feelings of intimacy more strongly. Finally, structural category is related to grammatical issues such as syntax and collocation (Effendi et al., 2020).

3. Methodology

The majority of studies have employed the descriptive method. A comparative-historical approach was employed to ascertain the order and chronology of linguistic processes. The statistical method was used to examine the frequency and regularity of word usage of lexical units. The approach that defines the unity of activity and consciousness, as well as axiological, cultural, and hermeneutical approaches that enable the interpretation of the lexical and semantic characteristics of lexical synonymy in the English language, form the methodological basis of the study.

4. Results

Wishes are referred to as expressive speech acts because they share the purpose of conveying the speaker's perspective on a particular circumstance or the addressee's actions in compliance with social norms. This function is also fully fulfilled by wishes, whose goal is to convey the speaker's attitudes and feelings in an effort to elicit primarily positive responses from the addressee. As a result, wish falls into the expressives category since it is an action that is connected to people's behavior and meant to convey interpersonal relationships. It would seem reasonable to separate the speech acts of wishing and congratulating because they frequently occur together before defining the speech act of wishing and identifying the range of statements that implement this speech act. Wishes in English sometimes translate into other languages as greetings.

As a result, congratulating someone is a courteous speech act that the speaker performs to convey their happiness about the current situation while taking into account their interests. Studies have examined about 3,400 proverbs in the English language. It has been discovered that the temporal reference distinguishes congratulations from wishes. They refer to different aspects of an event, even though they may have been realized on the same occasion. By congratulating, the speaker informs the addressee that they should celebrate a current happy occasion together, and by wishing, the speaker conveys their hope for the addressee's future well-being in life. In both situations, the speaker's sympathy can be defined as "joy with the addressee" when congratulating and as "an expression of the speaker's hope" when wishing. As a result, the speech act of wishing is one in which the speaker conveys their hope for a particular future state of affairs in the addressee's life in order to inform them of the speaker's assessment of the addressee's characteristics or actions or of the situation as a whole.

Ancient peoples believed that thoughts were material many centuries ago. It was believed that words possessed an enigmatic magical power that could change a person's fate. The rise of different speech formulas, such as blessings and curses, which are still powerful forms of ritual speech among many contemporary peoples, is a reflection of these beliefs. As a result, people think that words cursed or bad wishes spoken in a fit of wrath will bring about illness, other problems, or even death. Conversely, a person receiving words of blessings and well wishes is more likely to experience happiness and prosperity. In the early stages of the development of society, the word was treated with the same reverence as any other object or living thing in its immediate vicinity. The ancients believed that an evil angel was to the left of a man and a good angel was to the right of a man. Because of this, it's important to start with the right foot when getting out of bed or putting on or taking off shoes; otherwise, mistakes are to be expected. These opinions have had a positive impact on English, where the word "right" now refers to anything morally upright and just.

Words' psychological effects on human awareness have not diminished with the development of the social mind, bearing an unmistakable parallel to the power of words in antiquity. In order to attract happiness, business success, and prosperity to the recipient, words of blessings, well wishes, and health wishes are used these days primarily due to linguistic tradition. These include the following equivalent phrases: a white path for you, when wishing someone well as they set out on a lengthy journey. One hears wishes for blessings, wishes-prognostications, toasts, and congratulations. Though most of the wishes are said in memory of someone or in honor of a particular occasion or event. Certain expressions have become overused and clichéd. Phonological units are also included in these forms. As representatives of the English people, English people enjoy using many metaphors and eloquent language to convey their wishes. Some of them have become set expressions and are included in phraseological expression dictionaries.

Congratulation also contains the equivalent expressions of degree of well wishes: from the bottom of my heart, I congratulate; with all my heart, I congratulate. There are always well wishes during a conversation. Upon seeing the diners, they typically say, "Let it taste you well; let your food/tea be delicious." The first thing that is taught to someone starting a new job is to let go of all negative thoughts and let the wind take away anything negative that comes out of their mouth. When people watch others at work, they occasionally say things like "may you be strong" or "good luck in your business." Greetings of good fortune and other synonyms greet the start of the work itself. Phrases like "live to one hundred years," "live your life long," and "a long life for you" are synonymous with wishes for long life. It is also well known that when one expresses hope for a wish to be fulfilled in the future, one does not compel the addressee to act or take accountability for the wish's accomplishment.

The study discovered synonymous relationships between set expressions that have only one component changed (added, omitted) and phraseological expressions with multiple components. Respect situations, for instance, in which the elements are altered but the meaning is entirely preserved. The examples "remember//-retain in memory" show how the verbal component is completely altered while the meaning remains intact. In certain verbal communication scenarios, desires are fulfilled through discourse that is addressable, contextual, and dynamic; in other words, it is a complex communicative event that depends directly on a variety of extralinguistic elements, including attitudes, objectives, the social and personal traits of the interactants, and the situational context. Discourse has a specific structure, the parts of which can change based on internal or external modifiers. Because of these characteristics, there are specific distinctions between the written and spoken discourse structures. The main distinction between written and spoken discourses is their structure; while spoken discourse is more spontaneous, written discourse allows the communicant more time to consider the best course of action.

Dialogues from fictional works have been used to analyze examples of spoken English discourse. The aforementioned instances demonstrate how synonymous lexical units pick up extra semantic nuances during a conversation that are not recorded in dictionaries. For instance, (inspirational source). The dialogues contain the following variations: the inspirational keys; the completeness of thoughts; the source of inspiration; and so on. This explains why the lexemes are used so frequently and how much they depend on the context.

5. Discussion

The key characteristics of lexical units with the semantics of wish that are a component of the active vocabulary of contemporary English speech have been identified by the conducted research. From the examination and observation of synonymic relationships in these lexemes, the following conclusions have been drawn: Despite their shared origins, all languages evolve and form unique relationships with one another based on extralinguistic and interlinguistic factors. As a result, there are words from other languages that appear in synonymous relationships between lexemes that express wishes; in fact, some whole set expressions contain vocabulary from other languages. However, the majority of synonyms in English wishes are common vocabulary with varying degrees of semantic shading, reflecting the unique nationality and mentalities of the English. Speech behavior in English is shaped by an individual's experience, which is influenced by national cultural quirks, historical and cultural contexts, moral and social norms, and more. Over time, the custom of wishing someone something changes in many ways, but the primary clichés in the wishes never go away and are expressed using various lexical units, or synonyms.

6. Conclusion

As a result, the English language's synonymic system has evolved and changed over time, and this can be seen in both spoken and written English. This is the best we can say about the lexical fund that is fixed in English language dictionaries and corpora. The general lexical fund as a cohesive system is comparatively stable, but advancements in social and public life as well as cutting-edge technologies also affect this system. Thus, the emergence of new synonyms shouldn't come as a surprise and should instead aid in selecting stylistically appropriate alternatives.

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