



Antonyms of English and Kazakh Languages and Their Structural Features

 **Nurgul Marksetovna
Tukeshova¹**

 **Fanuza Kharisovna Tarasova²**

 **Ilmira Kanatovna
Yerbulatova³**

^{1,2}Kazan Federal University

³Zhangir Khan West Kazakhstan
Agrarian Technical University

ABSTRACT

Despite the fact that English and Kazakh languages are rich in antonyms, which are universal phenomenon, in particular, the comparative study of antonyms in English and Kazakh languages is almost incomplete. In order to supplement it, the article provides an overview of the concept of antonyms in English and Kazakh languages, and reveals how often antonyms have been studied by other researchers. Conducted analysis of antonyms in English and Kazakh languages reveals the structural features of each language, their similarities and differences. Also, examples of antonyms as part the phraseological units with antonymous components were given, which were taken and analyzed from lexicographic dictionaries of the two studied languages, and based on the analysis of the dictionaries, it was determined how often different root and single-root antonyms occur. The practical significance of this work may affect its use in the teaching of the two languages under study, in comparative linguistics.

Keywords: antonymy, lexis, structural analysis, single-root, different root, English language, Kazakh language.

1. Introduction

Antonyms are a universal means of language, and therefore nowadays the study of antonyms is widely considered in linguistics, but the desire to study them has not diminished. Although it has been studied so far, there are many problems for researchers in identifying them, and it can be said that there is no common definition of the antonym. Also, a comparative study of antonyms in two unrelated languages with different structures is of great interest. Antonyms are words that compare the quality, volume, size, properties of things. Antonyms are nominative units that are opposite in their meaning, and serve to determine the opposite phenomena of objective reality [1].

If we consider the concept of "antonym" in English language, then today there is a significant amount of work on this topic. Next, we consider some definitions of antonyms. As Antrushina G. B. notes, antonyms are used to define words of the same categories of parts of speech that have the opposite meaning, such as up - down, light - dark [2]. Another researcher Arnold I. V. in his work notes, that the antonyms are words that are opposite in meaning and different in sound. Antonyms are far from possible for all words in a language, since not every concept has a corresponding and contrasting concept [3]. And Aarts B. notes, that the antonym is used both in a broad sense equivalent to the "opposite", and in a limited sense, covering opposite adjectives [4]. Ginzburg R. S. defines antonyms as words characterized by semantic polarity or opposite meaning, also the term "opposite meaning" is rather vague and allows for a significantly different interpretation [5].

Corresponding Author: Nurgul
Marksetovna Tukeshova

e-mail: tukeshova_nurgul@mail.ru

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Although the study of antonyms is less common in Kazakh language than in English, a number of researchers have contributed to this problem. According to Akhanov K., words with opposite meanings are antonyms [6]. As Akhanov K., Sagyndykuly B. determines antonyms, as words which are opposite to each other. According to him, the antonym is formed only from words that express qualitative concepts [7]. Also according to Kaliev G. and Bolganbaev A., antonyms are formed by comparing and contrasting the criticism and quality of things, more or less properties, as well as quantity [8]. Researchers' definition of an antonym suggests that the meanings of antonym words are contradictory. Antonyms allow us to express briefly the opposite of specific thoughts, often for the contrast [9].

2. Methods

The wide variety of classifications available in different structural languages, the varying degree of study of this problem in the linguistics of individual languages, the poorly studied issue in the field of comparative linguistics poses new challenges for researchers and predetermines interest in this problem [10].

The possibility of a structural description of antonyms, the identification of their specific and common features in relation to different languages, on the one hand, and the significant role that antonyms play in a language, on the other hand, make it possible to speak with full right about antonyms not only as an internal systemic phenomenon, but also as one of the universals of the lexical system of the language as a whole [11]. Antonyms in English language on semantics and structure have been thoroughly studied from various points of view by such researchers as Lipka L., Antrushina G.B., Arnold I.V. and et al. And in Kazakh language there are no works that thoroughly studied antonyms, but definitions of the concept of antonyms can be found in the works of Akhanov K., Sagyndykuly B., Kaliev G. and Bolganbaev A.

The purpose of this article is to identify the structural features of two different structural languages, English and Kazakh. To this end, we compared the structural types of two languages to further determine their similarities and differences. The study produced a method of a comparative approach to the study of the structure of antonyms. For this, we set the tasks:

- study the concept of antonyms in English and Kazakh languages;
- make a theoretical review and find out how much the antonyms were studied by other researchers;
- make a structural analysis of antonyms in English and Kazakh languages.

We will attempt to make a structural analysis of the antonyms in English and Kazakh languages, dividing the antonyms into single-root and different roots.

3. Results and Discussion

Further, we consider the antonyms by their structures. According to the structural classification, antonyms differentiate into different root and single-root.

In English, the main parts of speech can often be antonyms. In English, different root and single-root antonyms are distinguished. Different root antonyms are words with different roots and opposite meanings. Their opposition is enclosed within the roots. For example,

clever – awkward
marriage – divorce
storm – calm [12].

And single-root antonyms are words that express contradictory meanings by adding to the root prefixes or suffixes with opposite meanings.

As noted by Likhacheva O.N, in English the antonymous contradiction is represented by the following image [13]:

1) simple and derivative words

Simple words are words that consist only of one root and do not have prefixes or suffixes. Derived words are words that are formed by adding prefixes or suffixes. For example,

comfort – discomfort
usual – unusual
perfect – imperfect

In this model of the formation of antonyms, derived words can be derived from suffixes -un, -in, -im, -dis, -il, -ir.

2) derivative words. Derivatives include words formed by adding prefixes or suffixes, for example,

overestimate – underestimate
harmful – harmless
clouded – cloudless

In this model of the formation of antonyms, derivative words are formed by adding the prefixes “-over, -under”, and the suffixes “-ful, -ed, -less” to the base of the word.

3) compound words. Compound ones include antonyms formed from two or more bases. For instance,

good-tempered – bad-tempered
to switch on – to switch off.

As for Kazakh language, it is important to note, that in Kazakh language, antonyms have not been studied for different root and single-root antonyms. In Kazakh language, the vast majority of antonyms are different root antonyms.

In Kazakh language, as well as in English language, antonyms can be one of the most important parts of speech that can be used as antonyms. Among them according to Sagyndykuly B., antonyms can be formed from the following words [7]:

1) root words:

жас – кәрі (young – old)

жақсы – жаман (good – bad)

оңай – қиын (easy – difficult)

That is, in this case, the two root words can be antonymous pairs.

2) derivative words:

байлық – кедейлік (wealth – poverty)

ашық – жабық (open – closed)

жоғарғы – төменгі (upper – lower)

The following suffixes are often used to form derivative antonyms in Kazakh language: -лі, -лы, -ті, -ты, -ді, -ды, -ғы, -гі, -қы, -кі, -лық, -лік, -дық, -дік, -тық, -тік, -дай, -дей, -тай, -тей, and etc.

Compared to English, derivatives in Kazakh are formed only with the help of suffixes, as Kazakh language there is no prefixes. As Khisamova V. N notes, the absence of a method of forming antonyms using prefixes does not mean the absence of that or other forms in the language [14].

3) root and derivative words:

білімді – надан (educated – ignorant)

арзан – құнды (cheap – valuable)

In this case, one of the pairs of antonyms is in the root form, and the other is an derivative antonym formed by a suffix.

4) root and compound words:

бер жақ – ар жақ (one side – the other side)

ақ көңіл – арамза (kind – insidious)

тыныш – у-шу (quiet – noisy).

And in this situation, one of the antonyms is in the root form, and the other is an antonym of two or more words.

There are not many single-root antonyms in Kazakh language. Some researchers of the antonyms of Kazakh language consider, that single-root words formed by adding the suffixes “-лы, -лі, -ды, -ді, -ты, -ті” and “-сыз, -сіз” can be considered antonyms. For instance,

сулы – сусыз (watery – waterless)

елді – елсіз (inhabited – uninhabited)

However, it should be emphasized, that the other researchers do not include single-root words formed by suffixes or prefixes with the opposite meaning in the category of antonyms, noting that the opposite meaning in words formed from suffixes is completely different from the antonymous opposite, and more precisely, suffixes cannot form an antonymous meaning.

Further, to determine how often different root and single-root antonyms are found in the studied languages, we considered, for an example, the antonyms as part of phraseological units. For this, English and Kazakh dictionaries of phraseological units were analyzed, and phraseological units with antonymous components were highlighted. In English language, out of more than 300 phraseological units with antonymous components, the vast majority of words that have entered into an antonymous relationship are different root antonyms,

In black and white [15].

Cork high and bottle deep [16].

Blow hot and cold, and etc.

However, only a small number are single-root antonyms. These antonyms were formed by adding the prefixes “dis-”, “un-” to the root. For example,

Agree to disagree [16].

Quote, unquote.

Unlucky in love, lucky at play, and etc.

In more than 100 phraseological units with antonymous components of Kazakh language, the majority are also different root antonyms, for example,

Күн демей, түн демей. (Always, constantly)

Өлі мен тірінің арасында. (Between life and death)

Аз сөзбен көп мағына беру. (Brief and to the point)

Antonyms as part of these phraseological units are different root antonyms: күн – түн (day – night), өлі – тірі (death – alive), аз – көп (few, little – many, much, a lot).

And also, as in English, very few single-root antonyms were found in Kazakh language as part of phraseological units with antonymous components.

Жанды мен жансызға арыз айтты [16]. (To complain)

В этом примере антонимы «жанды» и «жансыз» являются однокорневыми, образованные путем добавления суффиксов «-ды» и «-сыз».

4. Summary

A review of the concepts and structural features of antonyms in English and Kazakh revealed that antonyms can be simple, derivative, compound, and that they are characterized by both different root and single-root antonyms. Although the question of single-root antonyms remains open in the Kazakh language, since many researchers come to conflicting opinions when classifying antonyms. Also in the studied languages, antonyms can be represented by important significant parts of speech. In particular, the analyzed antonyms as part of phraseological units with antonymous components revealed that the most antonyms are different-root antonyms in the two languages under study. A distinctive feature of the two languages is the absence of prefixes in the Kazakh language, in contrast to the English language.

5. Conclusions

Summing up, as mentioned above, antonyms are words with opposite meanings. They are a universal linguistic phenomenon, and are found in all languages, as it is the most important part of human speech. Also, as shown by examples, antonyms can be found in phraseological units in various structures, however, it was found that different root antonyms are much more common.

We note that the comparative study of English and Kazakh language remains relevant and does not have an unambiguous solution, it also requires a more thorough study in various aspects. It is worth noting, that the antonyms of the English language have been studied many times in various aspects, but this cannot be said about the Kazakh language compared to English. The different degrees of knowledge of the concept of antonyms in two languages, as well as the poorly studied Kazakh, made it necessary to cover this problem.

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