

## THE SYNONYMY OF HIPPOLOGICAL TERMS IN THE LEXICAL- SEMANTIC SYSTEM OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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### Annotation:

The article is devoted to the synonymy of hippological terminology in the lexico-semantic system of English with some samples which belong to horse term for equine behavior.

**Keywords:** lexical-semantic field, hippological term, synonymy, semantic system, equine terms.

As we know, synonymy relates to the topic of semantics, which concerns the study of meaning in language. The term synonymy originates from the Greek words *sún* and *onoma*, which mean with and name.

O. Jespersen and many others used to stress that the English language is especially rich in synonyms, because Britons, Romans, Saxons, Danes and Normans fighting and settling upon the soil of the British Isles could not but influence each other's speech. British scholars studied Greek and Latin and for centuries used Latin as a medium for communication on scholarly topics. Synonymy has its characteristic patterns in each language. Its peculiar feature in English is the contrast between simple native words stylistically neutral, literary words borrowed from French and learned words of Greco-Latin origin. New words may be formed by affixation or loss of affixes, by conversion, compounding, shortening and so on, and being coined, form synonyms to those already in use[1].

Synonyms are usually defined as words belonging to one and the same part of speech, close in meaning, that makes it possible to be interchangeable at least in some contexts.

Synonyms are traditionally described as words different in sound-form but identical or similar in meaning. It's inconceivable that polysemantic words could be synonymous in all their meanings. So, the number of synonymic sets of a polysemantic word tends, as a rule, to be equal to the number of individual meanings the word possesses.

Differentiation of synonyms may be observed in different semantic components- denotational and connotational.



It should be noted that the difference in denotational meaning cannot exceed certain limits, and is always combined with some common denotational component. As we've analyzed hippology terms the adjectives spooky, terrible, horrible, awful, dread, ... are viewed as members of one synonymic set as all three of them possess a common denotational semantic component 'spooky horse, terrible foal, awful stallion' – behavior of horse and come into comparison in this meaning[4].

According to whether the difference is in denotational or connotational component synonyms are classified into ideographic and stylistic. Ideographic synonyms denote different shades of meaning or different degrees of a given quality. They are nearly identical in one or more denotational meanings and interchangeable at least in some contexts, e.g. shy – head shy – spooky shy conveys, for instance, the strongest meaning as a linguistically point synonymic dominant; it marks the possession of that quality in its fullest extent, while the other terms denote the possession of it in part only, 'when a horse spooks at something', 'jumps up at their skin', 'a horse that doesn't like to have it's head, ears or face touched' or 'a horse that is afraid of things'.

In the synonymic group barn sour, buddy sour, balk, weaving, here the word barn sour has the most general meaning, the others are characterized by differences clearly statable: buddy sour doesn't want to leave the barn or refuses to leave other horses, balk refuses to approach an object, weaving a nervous or neurotic behavior where a horse rocks back and forth on his front legs, usually due to boredom install bound horses, while barn sour means that doesn't want to leave the barn or refuses to leave other horses and due to boredom install bound horses[2].

According to whether the difference is in denotational or connotational component synonyms are classified into ideographic and stylistic. Stylistic synonyms differ not so much in denotational as in emotive value or stylistic sphere of application.

Pictorial language often uses poetic words, archaisms as stylistic alternatives of neutral words, e.g. maid for girl, bliss for happiness, steed for horse, quit for leave. In many cases a stylistic synonym has an element of elevation in its meaning, e.g. foal, filly, colt[3].

It must be noted that synonyms may influence each other semantically in two diametrically opposite ways: one of them is dissimilation or differentiation, the other - the reverse process, i.e. assimilation.

Many words now marked in the dictionaries as 'archaic' or 'obsolete' have dropped out of the language in the competition of synonyms, others survived with a meaning more or less different from the original one. This process is called synonymic



differentiation and is so current that is regarded as an inherent law of language development. For example, the term appaloosa nowadays mean an appaloosa is a breed of horse known for its loud markings, the white sclera of their eyes, striped hooves, and mottled skin, and as an archaic it means a horse of a North American breed having dark spots on a light background.

Synonymy in semantics refers to a word with **the same (or nearly the same) meaning as another word.**

Criteria of synonymity is interchangeability. It should be pointed out that neither the traditional definition of synonyms nor the new version provide for any objective criterion of similarity of meaning. It is solely based on the linguistic intuition of the analyst.

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