APPROACHES TO MEANING IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

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Abstract:

The article analyzes the different approaches to meaning. It is emphasized that the semasiological approach to the study of synonymy is crucial.

Keywords: masiological, semasiology, synonymy, extensional approach, intensional, dichotomy.

Peprnik (1998) provides a brief explanation of lexicology. He outlines the semasiological approach crucial to the study of synonymy. This masiological approach examines the meaning of form and then asks about the meaning of form. The second approach, onomasiology, starts with the meaning and then deals with the form that is the subject of synonymy (the meaning is important, not the form). On the other hand, semasiology is a study of polysemy or homonymy where the form is essential, e.g. phonological form. Arnold (1986) also defines semasiology from a slightly different perspective. Semasiology is understood there as a whole branch of linguistics that examines the meaning of words. In addition, it is further subdivided into the diachronic and the synchronic approach. Diachronic semasiology examines changes in the meaning of individual words. On the other hand, the entire semantic system belongs under the synchronous survey. Kvetko (2009) names two basic approaches to meaning: - the referential approach - the functional approach. The referential approach analyzes the projection that the hearer imagines under a word within the utterance. It is a reference to the semiotic triangle introduced by Ogden and Richards. The symbol is connected to the referent through an intermediary represented by thought. The functional approach is more complex as we focus on the relationship of the word to other units in the text. A referential approach is more important to synonymy because it gives the listener an idea of the

correct meaning of the word in the sentence. Cruse (2004: 46) points to two other approaches:

- the extensional approach
- the intensional approach

The extensional approach deals with everything that a word could refer to. It is not geared toward specific speakers. In contrast to the extensional approach, there is the intensional approach, in which a specific expression representation, the sense of a word, is examined. The key approach to synonymy is intensional, which deals with specific concepts of synonyms and the meaning of references. We can use the word car as an example. When we say the car is broken, we're referring to a specific car, which is an extended approach that examines a specific thing in the world, a reference. When we have the simple word car, the intentional approach helps us to study the meaning and relationships of the word car and other words, for example, the meaning of car can be seen in the words vehicle, bus, motorcycle, driver, or driver will. I would like to list further types of classification according to their association with synonymy. Each linguist specifies different types of meaning according to different criteria. Cruse (2000) distinguishes two meaning dichotomies:
- word meaning and sentence meaning - lexical and grammatical meaning The lexical and grammatical meaning form the second dichotomy.

The type of meaning is indicated by the meaning element. Cruse (2000) divides grammatical units into closed-set and open-set items. Closed-set items are small sets, while open-set items are large. Both elements carry meaning, but closed sentence elements contribute to the grammatical structure of the sentence while open sentence elements carry the meaning of the sentence as the meaning lies in the grammatical constituents of a sentence or a word, although in some cases this means, that lying is imperative. The most common components are inflectional endings (e.g. plural forms: animals, students; form expressing tenses or number: liked, had, was; form expressing the 3rd person, sg.: has, means, is). Some words that only occur in one form can be recognized by their distribution in the sentence and only then do you recognize which part of speech they belong to.

The lexical meaning does not depend on the form of a word, because the form of a word can be different, but the lexical meaning remains the same. It just depends on the base of a word, which is the same in all forms, regardless of the inflected form. For example, we have the word be with the inflected forms been, is, was, were. There is a lexical meaning while the grammatical meanings are different for each word.

Lexical and grammatical meanings together form the entire actual meaning. The research shows the dynamism and richness of the language.

The results of the research are only a negligible fraction of language and even synonymy. A general statement is even more difficult due to the development of language, which is based on human knowledge, experiences, and developments of mankind. Attempts are made to define meaning in general, and linguists approach meaning. Research into meaning is a central topic of the diploma thesis.

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