

SEMANTIC RELATIONS OF THE SYNONYMS OF “CHOOSE”

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Abstract: In this article, the peculiarities of the English verb "choose" in translation, the meaning possibilities and semantic features are analyzed, and the possibilities of polysemy are described.

Key words: content, synonym, antonym, polysemy, semantic analysis

The significance of synonymy as a paradigmatic semantic relation to translation is stated by Baldinger as follows: “Translation is nothing than a problem of synonymy.” It is evident, then, that Baldinger perceives synonymy in its widest sense to mean, in translation, the search for equivalent meaning on all linguistic levels. However, translation, strictly speaking, cannot be perceived as a simple task of haphazard matching of SL lexical items with their TL counterparts. Any individual can do this by relying on a bilingual dictionary. By contrast, the translator needs to analyze the meaning of the SL lexical items before attempting to find TL equivalents for these items. In his search for efficient lexical equivalents in the TL, the translator has to play the role of a competent proxy on behalf of his readers; he must identify the areas of cultural overlap and linguistic interference between the two languages. His suffering starts at this stage: identical symbols in the two languages do not necessarily convey the same meaning. Much worse is the difference in people’s experiences and the variation of conceptual boundaries from one language to another “in a way that defies principled explanation”. Knowing that lexical items are the vehicles by which people’s experience is encoded and their concepts are expressed leads to the conclusion that shifts in interlingual synonymy are inevitable phenomena in translation.

Apart from the problem of implicit in the study of synonymy, Nida captures the structural specification of words as another source for semantic shifts in this area. In this regard, he states:

The area of cultural specification, however, is likely to provide the greatest difficulties for the translator. In translating a text which represents an area of cultural specification in the source language but not in the receptor language, the translator must frequently construct all sorts of descriptive equivalents so as to make intelligible something, which is quite foreign to the receptor.

In our opinion, this process of finding semantically equivalent lexical items is carried out by performing a variety of shifts in the central and/or peripheral components

of the ST lexical items. By means of careful contextual conditioning, the translator may remove or insert some componential values associated with the ST lexical items.

During investigation of the synonyms of the verb “choose” we found out the following synonyms of it and drew such a map of synonyms according to their meaning relations:

Choose v		
Formal	Informal	Slang
Pick, adopt, designate, desire, elect, opt for, prefer, settle upon	Cherry-pick, espouse, fix on, predestine, single out, wish	Cull, see fit, select

According to Nida, “in many instances, shifts of components involve only a shift from a literal etymological meaning to one which is functionally more relevant.” Nida’s example for this case is the translation of the verb ‘**choose**’ etymological meaning of which is ‘to choose smth’. If translated, say, into Uzbek, the word would mean nothing unless an etymological shift is used, i.e., the translator has to refer to its etymological origin then transfer it into the TL. Another type of componential shift goes from generic to specific meaning or vice versa. Let us analyze the synonyms of “choose”:

pick1 —v. 1 (also absol.) choose carefully. 2 detach or pluck (a flower, fruit, etc.) from a stem, tree, etc. 3 a probe with the finger, an instrument, etc. to remove unwanted matter. b clear (a bone, carcass, etc.) of scraps of meat etc. 4 (also absol.) (of a person) eat (food, a meal, etc.) in small bits. • pick and choose select fastidiously. pick at 1 eat (food) without interest. 2 find fault with. pick a person's brains extract ideas, information, etc., from a person for one's own use. pick holes in find fault with (an idea etc.). pick a lock open a lock with an instrument other than the proper key, esp. with criminal intent.

adopt v. 1. legally take (a person) into a relationship, esp. another's child as one's own. 2. choose (a course of action etc.). 3. take over (another's idea etc.). 4. choose as a candidate for office. 5. accept responsibility for the maintenance of (a road etc.). 6. accept or approve (a report, accounts, etc.).

cull —v. 1 select or gather (knowledge culled from books). 2 gather (flowers etc.). 3 a select (animals), esp. for killing. b reduce the population of (an animal) by selective slaughter.

designate —v. (-ting) 1 (often foll. by as) appoint to an office or function. 2 specify (designated times). 3 (often foll. by as) describe as; style. 4 serve as the name or symbol of.

desire —v. (-ring) 1 (often foll. by to + infin., or that + clause) long for; wish.
2 request (desires a rest).

elect —v. (usu. foll. by to + infin.) 1. choose. 2. choose by voting.

espouse v. (-sing) 1 adopt or support (a cause, doctrine, etc.). 2 archaic a (usu. of a man) marry. b (usu. foll. by to) give (a woman) in marriage.

opt v. (usu. foll. by for) make a choice, decide.

predestine v. (-ning) 1 determine beforehand. 2 ordain in advance by divine will or as if by fate.

select —v. choose, esp. with care.

As for the relation between the lexical items and their referents, which is the core of their referential meaning, the translator is likely to face three situations. The first one is “the existence of a term (and its corresponding referent) in the receptor language, but with an equivalent function being performed by another referent”. A good example for such a situation arises when translating from English into Uzbek which has the verb for ‘choose’ – ‘танламоқ’ The translator has to replace the word ‘ҳохиш’ in the phrase ‘бу менинг ҳохишим эмас’ by another word, which refers to “имкониёт”.

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