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ENGLISH 'HOMONYMY' AND ARABIC 'MUSHTARAKU LAFZI' IN SELECTED LITERARY TEXTS: A SEMANTIC CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS

Kamal G. Nasir

College of Education for Human Sciences/University of Thi-Qar, Iraq

ABSTRACT

The current study is interested in the contrastive linguistic analysis of homonymy in English and Arabic. The study aims to investigate this relation in two selected novels (i.e. "Lord of Flies" and "Palace of Desire [Qasir al Shawq]). The primary purpose of this study is to reveal the similarities and differences of homonymy in English and Arabic. It determines the highest and lowest percentage of this term and its types in the concerned novels.

Keywords: *English- Arabic Contrastive Analysis, Semantics in English, Ilm al dalala in Arabic, Homonymy in English Novel, Al mushtarak al lafzi in Arabic Novel.*

INTRODUCTION

Semantics is a field of linguistics that concentrates on studying the meanings of words, phrases, sentences etc. The study of relations of meaning among words is considered the essence of semantics. So, the current study deals with the description and explanation of homonymy which is one of these relations and its equivalent in Arabic. Homonymy considers one of the difficulties or problems that the learners or students of English have while studying and realizing this relation. Consequently, the current study highlights on these issues or problems in the two languages and investigates this term adequately and precisely.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Homonymy in English

This term could be defined from two perspectives. Yule$(2010, P. 120)$ defines it as "one form written or spoken has two unrelated meanings". A word that is spelt and pronounced the same as another but has a different meaning" (Tulloch, 2017,pp.1-2).

Or it has been defined as "a word that is spelt the same way as another word but sounds differently, to a word that is spelt the same way and sounds identical too and to a word that sounds the same as another word but is spelt differently" (Rothwell, 2007, P. 8).

Types of Homonymy

It can be divided into two main kinds

1-Absolute homonymy

It is a kind of homonym in which words fulfil all the required conditions to complete them. They would be identical in the phonemic, graphic and syntactic levels. They are articulated in the same way, have the same shape, and belong to the same speech part. They are also included in the same way. Therefore, they are complete or absolute homonyms (Kortmann, 2020, pp. $155 - 156$).

2-Partial Hamonymy

This type of homonymy gathers both homophone and homograph. The words are recognized as partial homonyms when they do not achieve all the previously mentioned conditions. The idea is that if the words lack the identity in the articulation but still involve the same letters with unrelated meaning, they are homograph e.g. (lead, lead), but if their identity occurs in the phonemic environment that to be pronounced symmetrically but written differently they have described homophones such as (see, sea). Also, if the words are classified as different parts of speech, they are considered partial homonyms (ibid).

The Distinction between Homonymy and Polysemy in English

Holst(2014,P.751) confirms the importance of the distinction between polysemy and other phenomena that have vagueness in terms of words' meaning because there are situations in which it is difficult to differentiate a word or an expression to be a polysemy or homonymy.

Lyons $(1977, p. 550)$,Cruse and Croft (2004.p.177)) state that there are essential criteria by which the distinction between homonymy and polysemy has been made.

The first criterion in which polysemy is differentiated from homonymy is the matter of a historical source or origin. The homonymous words trace back to a different origin. They are not identical historically. The issue of their symmetry in terms of shape (letters) and sounds is accidental. With regard to polysemy, the question is different. The polysemic words have the same origin. They are descended from the exact provenance because of the change in the use of the word, or it might be used for the figurative purpose (ibid).

The second criterion is related to the connection between the meaning of the word. Denning et al.(2007, P. 137) explain that in terms of homonymy, although the words are identical in the articulation and spelling, they are not similar in the meanings. Regarding polysemic words, Simpson (1997, pp. 60-70) asserts a semantic relationship among the word's senses. The meanings of the single word expand to express the same thing indirectly or figuratively.

The other criterion is the occurrence of the words in the dictionaries. In the case of homonymy, each word is found alone with its meaning in the dictionary. While in polysemy, the matter is reversed. There is only one word with its different meanings. They are not independent but belong to the same word (Cruse, Croft, 2004, P. 111).

Almushtarak Allafzi (Homonymy) in Arabic

Almushtarak allafzi has been studied in two perspectives. It involves two meanings that are equivalent to English ones (homonymy and polysemy).

Khaleel(1998,p.122)defines almushtarak allafzi(homonymy) as one of the semantic relations between words in which a word expresses different meanings. Al sutyti(1998,pp. 369-370) says that this term is a word that expresses two different meanings. Almushtarak al lafzi is considered so important in Arabic . It has an important role in creating other phenomena like puns in order to make words with the same form and different meanings (Abd Altawab, 1999,p. 335).

Abu Alhussein(1993,p.97) had referred to almushtarak allafzi in the form of polysemy when he said that the multiple things could be named by the same name like عين it is (eye of money(عين المال, (eye of water)عين الماء.Polysemy is not found explicitly but is regarded as part of(almushtarak allafzi)homonymy(Omar ,1998,p.pp.162-163).

Types of Almushtarak Allafzi (Homonymy) in Arabic

The types of homonymy(Almushtarak allafzi) are classified depending on the relations between the meanings of the words:

1-A word with two meanings: (قدم),which means the body's organ and a length unit.

2- A word with multiple meanings such as (عين),which means the organ of the body, spy, a hole of the needle etc.

3- Words that have a relationship between their meanings like (فصل). It has a relationship among its different meanings involving chapters of a book, seasons of the year, semesters in school.

4- A word that has no relation among its meanings. They are so different such as (خال) is a mother's brother or a mole(Alkhuli,2001,pp.142-143).

The Distinction between (Homonymy and polysemy) Almushtarak Allafzi in Arabic:

The modern Arab linguists refer to these two terms in one term called (almushtarak allafzi) homonymy. They differentiate among them in the way that homonymy can be recognized as two words with unrelated meanings and having the same form and pronunciation like (asked سأل, flow سال) (Omar,1998,p.163).

In respect to polysemy, Omar (1998,p.161) explains that a word has basic meaning and minor meanings. The meanings are found because of the diversity of the word's usage, which creates different meanings. Thus, modern linguists try to deal with the single word with multiple meanings as a kind of metaphor or its meanings are figurative.

METHODOLOGY

This study is a linguistic contrastive one that detects the similarities and differences in the usage and existence of homonymous words in English and Arabic novels. The approach that is adopted within this study is the qualitative method. The data of the study concerns two novels from different languages. The first one is Lord of Flies (1954) by William Golding, while the second is (Palace of Desire) by Naguib Mahfuz.

The analysis of the quotations chosen to be sampled is based kormann's classification to be the model in both novels. The dependable dictionaries of this study encompass the following "Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary of Current English" by Hornby (1995) for English data, concerning Arabic data, the researcher depends on "Mujam Alwasit, which is written by Mustafa et al.(2004), Mujam Alraed by Massoud (2010) and also "Mujam Aleayn" by Alfarahidi (2003). Then, the translation of the meanings of the words is based on "Al-Murid. A modern Arabic English Dictionary by Baalbakí (2010).

DATA ANALYSIS

This section deals with the analysis of linguistic phenomenon of homonymy that is mentioned in the theoretical part. It includes the English part, which is the practical application of homonymy and its types in the English data. The Arabic part also involves the practical discussion of this phenomenon in the Arabic data.

A/ The analysis of English data is explained in the following quotations:

1. "Some were naked and carrying their clothes; others half-naked or more or less dressed in school uniforms, grey, blue, fawn jacketed or jereseyed "$(P. 23)$.
   "Even while he blew, Ralph noticed the last pair of bodies that reached the platform above a fluttering patch of black"(ibid).

   Blue holds the meaning of having the colour of sunlight (Hornby, P.117).

   Blew means 'to send out a current of air from the mouth (ibid, P.118).

   These words are similar only in the sounds, not in the written form. Hence, they are partial homonymy (homophone) and because blue is an adjective and blew is a verb, they are partial homophone.

2. "He sighed , bent and laced up his shoes " (p.52).
   "Below the other side of the mountain top was a platform of forest" (p.53).
   Sighed means 'to take a long deep breath that can be heard, expressing sadness, relief tiredness (Hornby, 1995,p.1099).Side 'is the upright surface round something but not bottom or top of it ' (ibid,p.1098).

   These words are partial homonyny in the form of homophone because they are identical only in the sound . In addition, sighed is v and side is n, they are partial homophone.

3. "Even the smallest boys, unless fruit claimed them, brought little pieces of wood and threw them in"(p.57).
   "Life became a race with the fire and the boys scattered through the forest"(p.13).

Threw means 'to send something from one's hand through the air with some force by moving the arm'(Hornby,1995,p.1246).

Through means 'moving between things by which one is surrounded among'(p.1245).

The above words are partial homonymy since they don't comprise the same form. Then, they are considered homophone because the identity between them is only in pronunciation and they are partial homophone because threw is v and through is pre.

4.   "We may still here till we die"(p.17).

"Beyond these was the glitter of the sea and he could hear voices"

Here means 'of in ,at or to this position or place "(Hornby,p.558).

Hear means 'to perceive sounds with the ears"(ibid,p.552).

The above words have unrelated meanings . They are partial homonymy with the type of homophone . They are also partial homophone ,because they belong to different parts of speech (here adv, hear v).

5.   "Ralph sat on a fallen trank, his left side to the sun"(p.35).

"Not for five minutes could they drag themselves away from this triumph but they left at last"(ibid).

In the first line left means 'the left side or area '(Hornby,p.637)

while in the second, it means 'to go away from a person'(ibid , p.671).

According to kortmann (2020) the words are partial homonymy although they have the same spelling and sounds and because they are different grammatical elements (left¹ n, left² v).

6.   "We want meat"(p.70).

"With the fading of the light the viotous colors died and the heat and urgency cooled away. The candle buds stirred . Their green sepals drew back a little and the white tips of the flowers rose delicately to meet the open air" (p.79).

Meat means 'the flesh of animals ,esp if mammals or birds rather fish,used as food' (Hornby, 1995, p. 727).

Meet means 'to come into contact with something '(ibid,p.729).

Although these words are equivalent in their pronunciation and have unrelated meanings but their spelling is not similar. So, they are partial homonymy and because their correspondence is only in the sounds they are called partial homophone . Moreover, the differences in their grammatical categories make them under the type of partial homophone .

B/ The analysis of Arabic datais explained in the following quotations:

"على انه اول من هز اوتاد اذنيه بانغام الشعر"(P.29).

Although Yasin had been the first person to make his ear resound with the harmonies of poetry (Hutchins et al., 1991, P.22)

"فبدت من فتحه فانلته الواسعة خصلات من شعر صدره الاسود الاتين" (P.45)

"Tufts of the thick black hair of his chest could be seen above the wide neck of his undershirt" (ibid, P.35).

شعر (hair) means "The fine thread-like strands that appear on the human's skin aired mammals tike the bird's feather scales fish etc. (Mustata etal., 2004, P. 484).

شعر (poetry) means "The rhythmical speech which is based on emotion imagination and mind lieingin the poem is arhythmical homogeneous pleasant" (Massoud,2010,P.474).

These two words are homonyms with unrelated meanings with the same word. They are two words sharing a single form. They are partial homonymy in homographs because they are corresponded only in the spelling but have different pronunciations. Also, both of them are nouns so, and they are complete homographs.

" في الحجرة هرع الى الكنبة فتهالك عليها "

"One inside his room be rushed to the sofa and collapsed" (ibid, p.1)

"رفع خليل نعيمة الى بين يديه ووضعها على حجره"

"Khalil tank Na'ima in his arm to set her on his lap"(ibid, p.46).

الحجرة (room) means 'side, chamber(Massoud, 2010, p.396), (Ballbaki,2010, pp.114-798).

حجره(lap) means 'human's lap' (ibid), (Baalbaki, 2010,p.476).

The above word is a homonymic one . It has more than different meaning. Thus, the words in these lines are put under the first kind (absolute homonymy). Both of them pronounce in the same way , identical in their letters , and have the same grammatical form (nouns) with fully unrelated meanings.

"علا صوت النادل في القهوة فتطاير الى الحجرة الصامتة الصدى"

"The voice of the waiter at the coffeehouse echoed through their silent room" (p.3).

"الى يمينها قعدت امينة على كرسي المطبخ"

"On a kitchen chair to her right sat Amina" (p.8).

علا(to rise) means 'to become loud' (Baalbaki, 2010, p.72).

على(on) means ' transcendence , a companying' (Massoud, 2010, p. 561), (Baalbaki, 2010, pp. 94-1050).

These words are partial homonymy. They express totally unrelated meanings. According to kortmann, they are homophone because they are similar in their articulation but different in the grammatical form (علا v, على prep) so, they are described partial homophone.

"لم طلقت؟ لسوء في خلق زوجها، فيكون الطلاق من حسن حظها "

"Why had she gotten divorced? Yasin asked himself if it was because of some defect in her husband's character, then she was lucky to be divorced" (p.13)

"قيل انه حرية كالهواء ، ولقاء بين احضان الماء ، واهواء بعدد حبات الرمال. وخلق كثيرون يحظون بمحياك"

"It's said that people there are free as the air, that they meet in the arms of the waves , and that there are as many love affairs as grains of sand on the beach. Many there will get to see your face" (ibid,p.14).

خلق (character) means 'habit, religious, to be manly, temper ' (Massoud, 2010,p.343).

خلق (people) means 'human beings, created things'(ibid).

The above words share in the same form but different pronunciation therefore, they are classified as partial homonymy having the kind of homograph. Their characteristics are that they are similar in form, the same part of speech but because their pronunciation isn't exactly the same ,they are regarded complete homograph .

"فتمضي خديجة وهي تغمغم ، حتى لا تتبين المرأة كلامها"

"Khadija had gone murmuring under her breath so the other woman would not hear" (p.38).

"والهانم تسمع او تستعرض نفسها في المرآة "

"The lady of the house listened, primls in front of mirror"(ibid).

المرأة (woman) means 'female '(Mustafa etal, 2004, p.860), (Baalbaki, 2010, p.181).

المرآة (mirror) means ' a machine in which human sees himself '(Massoud, 2010, p.726), (Translation is mine).

In the above lines, the two words are partial homonymy . They are separated but sharing the same form . They belong to the homographic type. They have the same form but aren't equivalent totally in their pronunciation. Also, both of them nouns so, they are total homograph.

"وان وجه الخطاب لأمينة"

"Addressing his remarks to Amina"(p.36).

"تغير وجه امينة حتى نمت اساريره عن الامتعاض الشديد "

"Amina's expressions changed to reveal her intense annoyance"(p.43).

وجه means 'to address someone, to send to'(Massoud,2010, p.856).

وجه means 'the first thing from the head which includes the nose, mouth and eyes'(ibid).

The above words are homonyms. There is no semantic relation between their meanings. As a result, they are partial homonymy in the form of homograph. Both of them are written in the same way but

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pronounced differently. Furthermore, they belong to different parts of speech (N,V) so, they are partial homograph.

CONCLUSIONS:

The present study reveals several similarities end differences between English and Arabic. These similarities and differences are explained in the following concluding points.

1. in English and Arabic, this phenomenon has its heading. It means a word that comprises two or more different meanings.

2. There is a complete difference between the two languages in the types of homonymy. In English, linguists divide it into absolute and partial homonymy: homophone and homograph. Then, these can be complete or partial. Arabic linguists classify its types by depending on the word's relation of meaning.

3. During the analysis of the two novels, the homonymic words are more in English than Arabic. Its occurrence scores 28.91%while in Arabic, it is 15.87%.

4. Unlike English which has no absolute homonymy, Arabic has only (1) homonymic word belonging to this kind which has 10%.Considering partial homonymy, it is more in English than Arabic. It represents 16.66%,whereas, in Arabic, it has 10%.

5. The analysis of English and Arabic novels shows that the presence of homophone in English surpasses that in Arabic. In the English novel , partial homophone is scored 79.16% whereas in Arabic it has only 10%. Concerning the complete type of homophone , English has 4.16% whereas Arabic has 0% because it is not found in the Arabic texts.

6. The analysis of the two novels shows that there are no homographic words in English while, Arabic comprises (7) homographic words . Complete homograph is more than partial one. It represents 50% whereas the other has 20%.

7. Unlike English which has no types of homograph . It is scored 0% because there are no homographic words absolutely, Arabic has (5) homographic words under the first type (complete) and in the ratio 50% and two partial words in 20%.

8. Also the present study reveals that the existence of homonymy in English and Arabic texts is uneven. The homonymic words are found more in English than Arabic. The number of their occurrence is(24) words in 28.91% . In Arabic, the homonymic words are only (10) which scores 15.87%.

9. In both languages, 'homonymy and polysemy' give rise to the ambiguity of meaning. Arabic has no criterion for distinguishing between 'homonymy and polysemy', whereas English has an essential criterion for determining them.

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