



## PROBLEMS OF SYNONYMY IN FRENCH LINGUISTICS

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### Abstract

Synonymous connections and relationships are found in various areas of the language: in vocabulary, phraseology, morphology and syntax. The synonymy of linguistic units is based on the principle of dialectical unity of the common and the different, which reflects of the same phenomena or relations of objective reality. From a philosophical point of view, the problem of synonymy is part of a broader problem of identity and difference.

**Keyword:** synonymy, linguistics, syntactic, vocabulary, grammar, practical meaning.

### Introduction

Synonymy is one of the least studied areas of linguistics both in vocabulary and grammar, and especially in syntax. Thanks to the numerous works that have appeared recently and devoted to certain issues of grammatical synonymy, at present it can be said that the development of this issue has yielded little both in theoretical and practical terms. Synonymy is one of the sources of enriching the language with expressive means, therefore it is of particular interest for the development of problems related to the struggle for the culture of speech, with the study of the language and style of fiction and public speaking, with the tasks of building stylistics.

### Discussion

In this regard, the study of lexical-phraseological, grammatical and syntactic synonymy acquires not only theoretical, but also practical significance. Knowledge of synonymy makes it possible to explain the directions of language development, ways and means of changing its various aspects, and also



facilitates access to the riches of expressive means of speech, allows you to present them in the system, which is especially necessary when learning a foreign language.

The facts of synonymy, similarity and interchangeability of syntactic constructions shed light on their systemic connections, while the development of the system bases of classification contributes to the scientific interpretation of the features that determine the possibilities of convergence or opposition of syntactic units.

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The problem of classification of synonyms. According to the degree of equivalence (synonymy), synonyms are divided into:

- full (absolute);
- partial (relative)

Absolute synonyms that completely coincide in meaning are extremely rare, mainly in the field of scientific terminology. Examples: la patrie– le pays natale, permettre–autoriser.

Examples of relative synonyms:gros –grande, demander–interroger–solliciter, aimer – chérir, le don– le talent.

There is also a separate group of contextual synonyms whose meaning matches in a certain distribution. For example, verbs acheter and prendre the following sentences are synonyms: Je vais acheter un peu de pain ; Je vais prendre un peu de pain. Verbs tenir, endurer they have different semantics and cannot be interchanged, but in negative form they are synonymous: Je ne tiens pas la rutal t ; Je n endure pas la rutal t .

In accordance with the functions performed, synonyms are divided into:

- ideographic (semantic);



- stylistic;
- semantic and stylistic.

Ideographic synonyms shade different sides of the denoted object (la faute – l’erreur – le mécompte – la méprise), indicate a different degree of manifestation of the sign, action (la faute – la bévue).

Stylistic synonyms, respectively, differ in their stylistic coloring, for example, select и d’élite, где select refers to the conversational style, a d’elite – to neutral. Semantic-stylistic synonyms combine both of these functions.

In terms of component analysis, synonyms are defined as words with the same denotative meaning, but with different connotative meaning. Although such a definition can be criticized, this approach has its advantages and makes it possible to analyze synonyms in a new way.

A group of synonyms can be investigated using their dictionary definitions (definition analysis). The data of various explanatory monolingual dictionaries are subjected to comparative and transformational analysis, as a result of which the semantic components that make up the meaning of each analyzed word are revealed. Since words in the language system orient their meaning to each other, it is possible to distinguish numerous rows of words that have something in common in their semantics and something different, opposed to the semantics of other words of the same series. By the number of common and different elements in the definitions of words, one can judge the degree of their connectedness.

The essence of synonymy and synonymic relations between words has long been the object of attention of domestic and foreign linguists. Despite this, the question of what to consider synonyms and how to build their description remains unresolved. Different, often mutually exclusive opinions concerning the very concept of a synonym, the criteria for synonymy of words and the classification of synonyms reflect the contradictory nature of synonymy.

### **Analyzes**

It is known that synonymy is represented at different levels of the language: grammatical, word-formation, phraseological and lexical. According to the well-known linguist I.V. Arnold, synonymy is characteristic of all languages and serves as an indicator of the development of the language, since “a rich, diversified vocabulary has a highly developed system of functional styles, and



the richness of styles implies the possibility of selection, and this latter is known interchangeability of words, i.e. synonymy.” [Arnold, 1986: p.56]

Despite its universal character, synonymy began to be studied after semasiology was formed into a separate science at the end of the 19th century, since until that moment synonyms were considered only as an expressive means of language. The dissemination of Ferdinand de Saussure’s concept of language and the development of structural linguistics in the 20th century contributed to a deeper study of lexical synonymy.

At the same time, the very existence of synonyms has been significantly questioned. Thus, G.O. Vinokur, understanding synonyms as words with identical meaning, argued that “the so-called synonymy of language means, if we deal not with linguistic abstraction, but with a living and real language, with the language that actually exists in history, is simply fiction,” since semantically identical words the language does not exist. According to the author, real synonyms can be found only in the appropriate dictionary, while in speech such units as road and path are always clearly distinguished. Other researchers consider synonyms along with antonyms, equonyms, hyponyms, hyperonyms, converses as a special case of equivalence. [Vinokur, 1990: p. 286]

From the traditional point of view, it is customary to distinguish between linguistic and speech synonymy, while the term “language” is used after A. Gardiner and F. de Saussure in relation to everything that is recorded in dictionaries and grammars of a particular language, and the term “speech”, on the contrary, belongs to everything “non-traditional”, i.e. to what remains in the text, if you remove the traditional. Accordingly, linguistic synonymy is understood as synonymous relations of words recorded in explanatory and synonymous dictionaries. Speech synonymy, according to researchers, can be observed in “the artistic speech of writers and poets capable of unconventional innovation.” At the same time, the perception of language and speech context as a creative force, a distorted understanding of speech as the artistic language of a writer or poet hinder the study of synonymy at the level of the language system. [Saussure, 2004: p. 256]

## Results

In our opinion, this approach to synonymy is wrong. Most researchers of synonymy understand language as a subject that can be considered without taking into account the principles of functioning of human consciousness. The



authors of such works refer to the texts of dictionaries representing the language system. So, R.L. Smulakovskaya believes that the functional and semantic characteristic of a word in the text allows us to trace the implementation of system capabilities presented as certain rules of words in explanatory dictionaries. The linguist believes that the presence of synonyms dictionaries paved the way for the analysis of synonymous verbs in the text, since it became possible to compare the synonymic series in the dictionary with its reflection in the text and identify “losses” and “gains” on the way from the dictionary to the text. Speaking about the dictionary, obviously, the researcher meant the language system, not the text, otherwise her phrase would not have acquired meaning. [Smulakovskaya, 2002: p. 58]

In modern linguistics, according to the well-known Russian cognitologist E.S. Kubryakova, the text is understood as an informational self-sufficient speech message with a certain target setting, “the idea of which is focused on a certain addressee.” [Kubryakova, 1965: p.115] Therefore, it can be assumed that the dictionary fully corresponds to this definition, i.e. it is a speech work or text, and not a reflection of the language system. However, modern researchers associate synonymy with the so-called phenomenon of “choice”. Using a linguistic expression, a person performs a linguistic action that performs both cognitive and communicative functions. Every time a native speaker carries out his communicative plan, he solves the problem of “choosing” language means. The essence of the problem of choice consists in the implementation of a certain communicative intention and intention with the help of an appropriate cognitive-functional model. Thus, the ontological basis of synonymy is the ability to express the same mental and linguistic content by linguistic means with different linguistic meanings. Studies of language from the perspective of cognitive science, which has been developing in recent decades, show that the ontology of the world is reflected in human consciousness in the form of a system of categories, including linguistic ones. The elements of language categories are unequal among themselves: some of them are psychologically more distinguished than others. As a result, the language category, including synonymy, has a graduated character, and its elements can form a continuous continuum. With regard to the phenomenon of synonymy, this approach gives grounds to assume that the boundaries between synonymous series have the character of a transition zone.





Therefore, we can say that the cognitive approach allows us to consider synonymy as a category that is formed by a native speaker as a result of cognition of the surrounding reality and is associated with the phenomenon of “choice” of equivalent language expressions. Synonymy, like other categories of language, have a phenomenological nature, and this, in turn, means that in the language system, the meanings of its components (synonyms) are based on images of situations.

### Conclusion

It should be clarified that synonymous lexemes, apparently, do not express the same thing, but different concepts that have at least one common feature in their composition. Otherwise, the existence of two or more words expressing the same concept would be inexplicable. Thus, the traditional criterion of the generality of the expressed concept can be clarified and formulated as a criterion of partial generality of the expressed concepts.

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