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THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CONTEXTUAL USE OF CONTRONYMS IN PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH

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The article deals with the relevance of the use of contronyms in professional English. Firstly, the richness of vocabulary for a foreign language is no less important than knowledge of grammar. Secondly, the more words a person knows, the more freely he feels in a foreign language environment. Thirdly, the construction of new words is based on general principles related to the understanding of words in the text or in someone else's speech, and then using them actively in your own speech. Fourthly, learning new vocabulary is considered a long process and requires a lot of patience due to the diversity of English and the radical change of a word depending on the context.

The article defines the main characteristics of the contextual use of contronyms in professional English. It has been proved that the English vocabulary is attractive due to the huge number of ambiguous nouns with quite different meanings. Contronyms belong to this category due to their peculiarity of identical spelling, but completely opposite meanings as well as the tendency to have several variants, and sometimes dozens of meanings. Contronyms present certain difficulties for future specialists, but they also attract with their uniqueness. It is believed that studying contronyms not only adds interest to the process of mastering English, but also broadens understanding of the importance of taking context into account for the correct perception of the meaning of words. The use of contronyms in the appropriate context will help future specialists not only enlarge their vocabulary, improve their cultural level, but also develop communication skills. Therefore, the ways of avoiding incidents in the process of using contronyms in the context of professional English will be the perspective of our further research.

Key words: professional English, ordinary English, contronyms, antonyms, context, ambiguous nouns, polysemy.

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ГОЛОВНІ ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ВИКОРИСТАННЯ КОНТРОНІМІВ У ПРОФЕСІЙНІЙ АНГЛІЙСЬКІЙ МОВІ

У статті обґрунтовано актуальність використання контронімів у професійній англійській мові. По-перше, багатство словникового запасу для іноземної мови є не менш важливим, ніж знання граматики. По-друге, чим більше слів людина знає, тим вільніше вона почувається в іншомовному середовищі. По-третє, побудова нових слів базується на загальних принципах, пов'язаних з розумінням слів у тексті або в чужому мовленні, а потім з активним використанням у власному мовленні. По-четверте, вивчення нової лексики вважається

тривалим процесом і вимагає багато терпіння завдяки різноманітності англійської мови та радикальної зміни слова залежно від контексту.

У статті визначено головні особливості контекстуального використання контронімів у професійній англійській мові. Доведено, що словниковий запас англійської мови є привабливим завдяки величезній кількості багатозначних іменників з досить різними значеннями. Контроніми належать до цієї категорії завдяки своїй особливості однакового написання, але мають абсолютно протилежні значення, а також схильність до кількох варіантів, а іноді й десятків значень. Контроніми становлять певні труднощі для майбутніх спеціалістів (особливо, якщо йдеться про їх вивчення та розуміння в певному контексті), але водночас вони приваблюють своєю унікальністю. Вважається, що вивчення контронімів не тільки додає інтересу до процесу оволодіння англійською мовою, але й розширює розуміння того, наскільки важливо враховувати контекст для правильного сприйняття значення слів. Варто додати, що використання контронімів у відповідному контексті допоможе майбутнім фахівцям не лише поповнити словниковий запас, підвищити культурний рівень, а й розвинути комунікативні навички. Тому перспективою подальших досліджень стануть шляхи уникнення казусів у процесі використання контронімів у контексті професійної англійської мови.

Ключові слова: професійна англійська мова, звичайна англійська мова, контроніми, антоніми, контекст, багатозначні іменники, полісемія.

Introduction. For knowledge of a foreign language, the richness of the vocabulary is no less important than understanding grammar. The more words a person knows, the more freely he/she feels in a foreign language environment. The diversity of vocabulary is largely determined by the richness of word formation in the English language. The construction of new words is based on general principles. That's why those who know these principles feel much more confident among unfamiliar vocabulary. New words are learned gradually. Often, at first, we only encounter them in texts or someone else's speech, and only then begin to actively use them in our own speech. Therefore, learning new vocabulary is a long process and requires a lot of patience, active reading, listening and dictionary work.

Most words have multiple meanings, and their precise meaning can change dramatically depending on the context [5]. The English language is particularly notable for its high number of polysemous words. The linguistic name for this phenomenon is "polysemy". This term comes from the Greek words πολύ- (polý-) "many" and σῆμα (sêma) "sign". This ambiguity can lead to errors, misunderstandings and incorrect interpretations [1, p. 44].

Many English learners encounter ambiguous nouns, words with multiple meanings. Among them, it is also worth highlighting such a paradox as contronyms. These words are spelled the same way, but their meanings are completely opposite to each other. Even advanced learners can be confused contronyms, especially when common words have numerous, sometimes dozens, of different meanings [4, p. 76]. Let's explore some examples.

The word "draft" can be interpreted as "sketch", "outline", "pattern", "template", "rough copy", "project", "source". It is also used to denote such phenomena as "stream of air" or "conscription/ call in the army". "Date" can be used to indicate "a term", "a deadline", "a period of time". There is also another common variant, namely, "to call for a date" means "to call for an appointment". Everyone knows what the word "interest" means. On the one hand, it can be perceived as "engagement". On the other hand, this word is successfully used in the financial sphere to denote interest on deposits. The word "pool" most often means a place where you can swim. But sometimes it stands for billiards or some space, something collected together (reserve pool which is can be interpreted as reserve fund). Women will explain the word "nails" as dense horny

plates on the back surface of the ends of the fingers and toes. Men will think that this is a fastener, a hardware item in the form of a rod with a metal head and a sharp end [2].

Considering that ambiguous nouns have many meanings, a crucial question arises: How can one determine the correct meaning in a specific context? The simple answer is to look at the context and study English with a specialist who can explain the nuances of this foreign language.

So, analysis of contronyms and the features of their contextual use in Professional English will be the main aspect of our research.

The aim and objectives of the research. Due to the stated above, the purpose of this research is important and relevant. It is connected with the determination of the features of the contextual use of contronyms in professional English. To achieve this aim, it is necessary to accomplish several objectives of the research:

- 1) to highlight the main features of contronyms in English;
- 2) to identify the main function of contronyms in English;
- 3) to determine the peculiarities of the use of contronyms in English.

Materials and methods. Such research methods as descriptive (for a general description of the main features of contronyms in English); contextual-interpretive (to identify the main function of contronyms in English), as well as the method of creating a problem situation with the help of contronyms in English.

Discussion. Antonyms, words with opposite meanings, are a common linguistic phenomenon found in both Ukrainian and English. The word “antonym” itself is of Greek origin, where “anti” means “opposite” and “onym” means “name”. Words with opposite meanings are found among verbs, nouns, prepositions, adverbs and adjectives. Antonyms significantly enrich our speech and significantly enrich our vocabulary. However, there is another very interesting phenomenon called contronyms (contranymy). This phenomenon is peculiar only to the English language. A contronym (also known as an auto-antonym, among other terms) is a word with two opposite meanings. Contronyms are also known as Janus words. Janus was an ancient Roman god with two faces that looked in opposite directions. That's why you can see how he became to be associated with contronyms [6]. This term derives from two words contra+onym. Contra is a term of Latin origin and it means “against, contrary, in opposition”. Onym (onyma) is a Greek word and it stands for “name”. The earliest recorded use of “contronym” dates back to the 1960s, coined by American linguist Jack Herring in his 1962 article in “Word Study”; Herring defined contronyms as words capable of expressing opposite meanings. He first gave the name and definition of this term in his article in the journal “Word Study”. He determined that contronyms are words that can express opposite meanings to each other [7, p. 5].

As a rule, words that can take opposite meanings were formed over several centuries. Moreover, this began during the development of the Old English language. Therefore, it is not always immediately clear from which lexical units a particular word is formed. However, if you start to study it more deeply, you can stumble upon something interesting. An excellent example of the formation of such a contronym is the verb “to cleave”. It has several meanings in modern English. It can be explained as “to fasten, to connect, to join”; “to separate (to cut, to divide), or cause something to separate (to divide), often violently”; “to cut or to break down in two parts”.

E. g. The ancient ivy cleaved to the ruined castle walls. – Старовинний плющ приріс до зруйнованих стін замку.

The volcano cleaved nearly half after its last eruption. – Вулкан розколовся майже навпіл після останнього виверження.

However, in Old English, these were two completely different words in pronunciation and meaning, namely “clifian” (in the meaning of to stick or hold firmly onto something/to join or adhere closely) and “clēofan” (in the meaning of to divide). Over time, they began to be pronounced almost identically, and then formed a single lexical unit [3].

Let's look at a small example using one typical and quite common contronym “sanction”. It is explained as “to let, to permit” and “to forbid”.

E.g. The new enterprize was built under city sanction. – Нове підприємство було збудовано з дозволу влади міста. A sanction was placed on importing Kinder eggs. – Була розміщена заборона на імпорт Кіндер сюрприз.

The contronym “rent” also has two opposite meanings.

E.g. Unfortunately, I am enforced to rent an apartment. – На жаль, я змушена винаймати (орендувати) житло. The store rents trucks to use. – Магазин здає вантажівки для використання.

The same applies to the words “consult” – просити пораду/давати пораду; “lease” – винаймати або здавати житло.

E.g. The lawyer gave me consult on my case. – Юрист дав мені пораду щодо справи. I consulted a dictionary of nautical terms. – Я заглянув у словник морських термінів.

E.g. Caroline usually leases her apartment to short-term stayers. – Керолайн зазвичай здає своє житло квартирантам на короткий час. Jenny is leasing her apartment from Mrs. Smith at \$300 a month. – Дженні винаймає своє житло у місіс Сміт за \$300 на місяць.

The contronym “to give out” also arouses a certain interest owing to its meanings. It is explained as “to provide with something”/“to stop supplying”/“to break down”.

E. g. Could you please give out our brochures to everyone? – Чи не могли б ви роздати всім наші брошури (забезпечити нас брошурами)? My coffee machine gave out last week so I decided to buy a new one. – Моя кавомашина зламалася минулого тижня, тому я вирішила купити нову. Food supplies will have given out by the end of the week. – Продовольчі запаси закінчаться до кінця тижня.

The word “to overlook” is also used in opposite contexts.

E.g. The manager overlooked the employees from his office. – Керівник контролював співробітників (спостерігав за співробітниками) зі свого офісу. Unfortunately, the painter overlooked a spot on the house. – На жаль, маляр не помітив пляму на будинку.

In rare, but no less interesting cases, radically different meanings of words are found in different dialects of the same language. This is most noticeable in the example of British and American English. Historically, British and American English developed in parallel after the United States gained independence from the British Empire. This is evidenced by the verb “to table” which is translated as «обговорювати питання» або «відкласти питання на потім». E.g. They tabled a motion for immediate debate. – Вони подали клопотання про негайні дебати. They unexpectedly tabled the discussion for another day. – Вони несподівано відклали переговори на інший день.

It follows that the word initially has the same meaning in both British and American English. However, in the course of language development and the application of the lexical unit to certain realities or contexts, it can already imply opposite phenomena.

In fact, there are not many contronyms in English, but most of them are quite actively used by native speakers in everyday speech. Contronyms are a very interesting phenomenon, but you need to be constantly vigilant with them. That is why it is so important to read English texts carefully and learn to grasp the context. These words are inherent in both common and professional

English. Even though they present certain difficulties for future specialists (especially when it comes to their study and understanding in a certain context), they attract people with their uniqueness.

Results. As a result of the study, the main features of contronyms in professional English were highlighted; the main function of contronyms in professional English was identified; the peculiarities of the use of contronyms in professional English were determined. Thus, we can confidently say that each foreign language has its own individuality. The English language in turn is obviously very interesting and multifaceted due to many lexical phenomena. This applies not only to ordinary English, but also to professional English. Contronyms occupy a strong place in professional English and acquire a specific semantic meaning in a particular area of activity. Studying contronyms not only adds interest to the process of mastering the English language, but also expands understanding of how important it is to take into account the context for the correct perception of the meaning of words.

Summarizing all the above presented, we can definitely say that contronyms should undoubtedly be used in students' speech of any speciality. The best variant is to observe them in practice, namely in books, films, articles, correspondence, live conversation. It is enough to remember that the word has several contradictory meanings and a specific one is usually easily understood from the context. The use of contronyms in the appropriate context will help future specialists not only enlarge their vocabulary, improve their cultural level, but also develop communication skills. That is, the very idea of contronyms expands the ability to correctly understand interlocutors, participate in various discussions, and delve into the smallest nuances of conversations on a particular topic. This is really necessary, since contronyms need correct understanding and the ability to use in the right place and, accordingly, the right context. Therefore, further research will focus on ways to prevent misunderstandings when using contronyms in professional English contexts.

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