

## CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMONYMY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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### ABSTRACT

The article deals with the phenomenon of homonymy and their classification. This article includes information of homonymy and characteristics, the main reasons for the appearance of homonymys in English language. Homonymy is quite frequent and difficult concept in linguistics, as well as homonymys are able to enrich and decorate any language.

**Key words:** Homonymy, Homography, Homophony, Heteronymy, classification of Homonymy, differences between Homonymy and polysemy.

Nowadays, the usage of homonymys is widely increased. Modern English is characterized by a fairly significant number of homonymys, compared to other languages. Learning homonymy is an important approach and foundation in learning and exploring creative writing. It helps learners to grasp the context of sentences that have words with more than one meaning.

Homonymy is derived from Greek ( homos - the same, onoma - name ) i.e the same name combined with the difference of meaning. Homonymys are words which are different in meaning but identical in sound or spelling, or both in sound and spelling. For example :

**1. Mean - average ; not nice.**

**2. Rock - a genre of music ; a stone.**

Homonymys can appear in the language not only as the result of the split of polysemy, but also as the result of leveling of grammar inflexions, when different parts of speech become identical in their outer aspect, For example. " **care**" from "caru" and "care" from "carian". They can be also formed by means of conversion, For example. " **to slim** " from "slim", " **to water**" from "water" . They can be formed with the help of the same suffix from the same stem. Moreover,

Homonymic relation can be found not only in words but also : 1) between Morphemes, For example. It's raining. Flattering won't help. 2) between Words and Morphemes, For example. He could not get over the **shock**. The watch is **shockproof**. 3) between Words and Sentences, For example. I do not **care**. He took and I do not **care** attitude. The interdependence and interrelations of different peculiarities of homonymic pairs demand further investigation.

Homographs are words that are spelled the same but may have different pronunciation and meaning.

1. **Letter** - **There is a letter for you.** (printed message)
2. **Letter** - **"B" is the second letter of the alphabet** (literature of Language)
3. **Right** - **I am sure I am right.** ( correct)
4. **Right** - **Take a right turn at the intersection.** (Side)

Homophones are words that sound identical or nearly identical when pronounced but have different meaning.

1. **Buy** (Verb) - **I want to buy a new coat.**
2. **By** (Preposition) - **The telephone is by the window**
3. **Bare** (Adj) - **The trees are already bare**
4. **Bear** (Noun) - **I am afraid of bears**

Heteronymys are homonymys that share the same spelling but have different pronunciation. That is, they are homographs which are not homophones. Such words include **desert ( to abandon) and desert ( region)**. Heteronymys are also sometimes called **heterophones** Heteronymy also has a specialized meaning in poetry.

Classifications of homonymy. From the viewpoint of origin homonymys can be **historical and etymological**.

**Historical Homonymys** are those which result from breaking up polysemy ; the one polysemantic word will split up into two or more separate words. FOR EXAMPLE

1. **To bear ( tolerate) - to bear ( give birth to)**
2. **Pupil (student) - Pupil ( of the eye)**
3. **Plant (tree) - Plant ( factory)**

**Etymological Homonymys** are words of different origin which come to be alike in sound or in spelling.

**Bank ( financial institution, Italian)**

**Bank ( of the river, native word).**



**Full Homonymys** are words representing the same category of parts of speech and having the same paradigm. **Match - game, Match - a stick for burning smth**

**Partial** are subdivided into **simple lexico-grammatical partial Homonymy**. They belong to one part of speech there is one identical form in a paradigm which is never the same form. **To form - to establish, found - Past indefinite form to find.**

**Complex lexicon grammatical partial homonymys**. They are different part of speech and have one identical form in a paradigm. **Rose (noun) - rose ( verb ).** Partial lexical homonymys of the same part of speech identical only in their corresponding forms.

**1. To lie ( lay, lain) and to lie ( lied, lied )**

**2. To can ( canned, canned ) - can ( could)**

Polysemy and Homonymy. They are both linguistic phenomena that involve words with multiple meaning. **Homonymy** refers to the relationship between words that have the same form but have different meaning. **Polysemy** refers to the phenomenon where a single word has multiple related meaning.

**Key Differences:**

**1. Number of words:** Homonymy involves distinct words that happen to have the same form, while polysemy refers to a single word with multiple meanings.

**2. Relationship:** Homonyms are usually unrelated words that coincidentally have the same form, while polysemous meanings are typically related and connected by a common theme.

**3. Origin:** Homonyms can arise from different etymological origins and can be completely unrelated, while polysemy often arises from a word's historical development or semantic shifts.

In conclusion, Homonyms are important for understanding the English language. Instead of understanding the examples, understand their use and meanings, which will be helpful for the overall scenario of homonyms. Most commonly, many examples of homophones are used, as mentioned in this article above. All the detail and brief notes on the homonyms are part of language understanding for speaking and writing. Understanding homonyms are necessary to avoid the confusion created by them.

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