



LEXICAL MEANING AND ITS INFLUENCE ON TRANSLATION

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Article history:	Abstract:
<p>Received: 26th September 2024 Accepted: 24th October 2024</p>	<p>The lexical meaning of words plays a critically important role in the translation process. Understanding the meanings of words, their context, and cultural nuances is essential for achieving accuracy and adequacy in translation. The article examines the main aspects of lexical meaning, its types, and its influence on translation decisions. It also discusses the problems arising from polysemy, synonymy, and cultural differences. Examples from translation practice are provided to illustrate the presented concepts.</p>
<p>Keywords: Lexical meaning, denotative meaning, connotative meaning, associative meaning, translation, polysemy, synonymy, context, cultural differences, intercultural communication, translation strategies.</p>	

The lexical meaning of a word, as a basis for understanding a text, is an important aspect of translation. In translation, it is not only important to know how a word is translated but also to understand its meaning in context. The wide range of meanings of words can create difficulties for the translator, as the same word can have different meanings in different contexts. Moreover, differences in cultural contexts can exacerbate these issues.

The lexical meaning of a word can be considered from three main perspectives: connotative, denotative, and associative meaning.

1. Denotative meaning is the primary, literal meaning of a word that can be found in dictionaries. For instance, the word "table" has a denotative meaning—an item of furniture with a flat surface, intended for working or eating.

2. Connotative meaning includes the emotional and associative nuances that a word may have. For example, when using the word "table" in the phrase "table of friendship," the word acquires positive connotations associated with communication and warmth.

3. Associative meaning encompasses the personal or cultural connections that speakers may have when using a word. This meaning is shaped by experience and can vary significantly from culture to culture.

When translating, it is important to consider all aspects of lexical meaning. If a translator does not take into account the connotations of a word, the result may be not only inadequate but even offensive. For example, the English word "home" is not only translated as "дом" (house) but also carries ideas of coziness and warmth, which may be lost in a simple translation.

Moreover, polysemous words can pose a problem. For example, the word "bank" in English can mean both "банк" (financial institution) and "берег" (of a river). The correct influence on the choice of the

appropriate translation will depend on the context in which the word is used.

An example from practice illustrates the complexity of translating highlighted terms:

In the sentence "She went to the bank to get some money," the word "bank" is translated as "банк" (meaning financial institution). In another example, "The bank of the river was eroded," the word "bank" is translated as "берег" (meaning the bank of a river).

Polysemy and synonymy are two important areas related to lexical meaning. Polysemous words can mislead a translator if the context is not clearly specified. Synonyms can also call into question word choice, as they carry different shades of meaning.

For example, the words "glad" and "happy" in English can both be translated as "радостный" (joyful), but in certain contexts, "glad" may convey a lesser degree of happiness than "happy." An incorrect word choice can change the meaning of the entire sentence.

Cultural differences play a significant role in determining the lexical meaning of words. Some words and expressions may not have exact equivalents in another language. For instance, the concept of "Душа компании" (the life of the party) in Russian can be translated as "life of the party" in English, but neither of these expressions conveys the full cultural and emotional significance associated with the nuances of communication in each culture.

Lexical meaning has a significant impact on the translation process. A translator must consider both denotative and connotative meanings, polysemy, and cultural contexts when selecting equivalents. A careful analysis of all these aspects helps to avoid mistakes and achieve accuracy and adequacy in translation.

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