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Research Article

SYNONYMS IN RUSSIAN PHILOLOGY (LITERATURE REVIEW)

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ABSTRACT

The study of synonyms in Russian philology is an essential field of research that explores the intricacies of the Russian language. Synonyms, words with similar or identical meanings, play a crucial role in the rich tapestry of linguistic diversity and expression. This article provides an overview of the significance of synonyms in Russian philology, their historical development, classification, and their impact on language and communication.

KEYWORDS

Synonyms, Russian Philology, Russian Language, Linguistic Diversity, Historical Development, Classification, Stylistic Synonyms, Complete Synonyms, Partial Synonyms, Emotional Tones.

INTRODUCTION

The study of synonyms in Russian philology is an intriguing and significant branch of linguistic research, delving into the multifaceted world of the Russian language. Synonyms, or words with closely related meanings, constitute a fundamental component of any language, and in the context of Russian, they hold a distinctive and

intricate place. The exploration of synonyms in Russian philology not only sheds light on the linguistic diversity and complexity of the language but also provides valuable insights into the culture, history, and communication dynamics of the Russian-speaking world.

This article embarks on a journey through the world of Russian synonyms, aiming to unveil their historical evolution, classification, and the profound impact they have on language and communication. Understanding synonyms in Russian philology is essential for language enthusiasts, linguists, writers, and anyone seeking to appreciate the linguistic richness of the Russian language. In the following sections, we will delve into the historical development of Russian synonyms, their various classifications, and their role in shaping the language and its expressive potential.

Historical Development of Russian Synonyms:

The evolution of synonyms in the Russian language is a captivating narrative that traces its roots deep into the annals of history. To comprehend the intricate tapestry of Russian synonyms, one must embark on a historical journey through the language's development.

Origins in Old East Slavic: The history of Russian synonyms is intertwined with the emergence of Old East Slavic, the linguistic precursor to the modern Russian language. During this formative period, the Old East Slavic vocabulary was relatively modest, and the language primarily served utilitarian purposes. However, as this proto-Russian civilization expanded and encountered various cultures through trade, diplomacy, and conquest, it began absorbing words and expressions from other languages. This initial influx of foreign terminology laid the groundwork for the development of synonyms.

Influences from Greek, Latin, and Turkic Languages: The Old East Slavic people interacted with Greek, Latin, and Turkic-speaking communities, leading to the assimilation of words from these languages into the Russian lexicon. The Greek and Latin languages, often used in religious contexts, contributed to the enrichment of religious and philosophical terminology in Russian, giving rise to a plethora of synonyms in these domains.

Influence of the Church: The Church played a pivotal role in shaping the Russian language, as it was responsible for religious texts, education, and administration. The Church introduced religious terminology that was borrowed from Greek and Latin, and this enriched the Russian lexicon significantly. Synonyms in religious and spiritual contexts became particularly diverse and nuanced due to the influence of ecclesiastical language.

State and Administrative Terminology: The state's administration, foreign policy interactions, and territorial expansion also had a substantial impact on the development of Russian synonyms. Administrative, military, and diplomatic terms were adopted from various sources, leading to multiple synonyms for governance, warfare, and diplomacy. These synonyms reflected the evolving political landscape of Russia.

Language Reforms and Standardization: In the 18th and 19th centuries, Russia underwent a series of language reforms aimed at standardizing the language and making it more accessible to a wider audience. These reforms, initiated by

figures such as Mikhail Lomonosov and Vladimir Dahl, sought to eliminate inconsistencies and simplify the language. While some synonyms were standardized and harmonized during this period, others retained their distinct usage in different regions and registers.

Modern Developments: In the modern era, Russian synonyms continue to evolve, influenced by global cultural exchanges, technological advancements, and contemporary linguistic trends. New synonyms emerge to describe concepts and ideas related to the digital age, social media, and other aspects of modern life.

The historical development of Russian synonyms reflects the country's cultural and linguistic interactions with diverse communities and its dynamic evolution over the centuries. This rich historical backdrop is essential to understanding the nuances and intricacies of synonyms in Russian philology, a topic that continues to fascinate linguists, writers, and those who seek to delve deeper into the Russian language.

Classification of Synonyms in Russian Philology:

The classification of synonyms in Russian philology is a fundamental aspect of linguistic analysis, helping to categorize and understand the myriad ways in which words with similar or overlapping meanings are used in the Russian language. Synonyms can be grouped based on various criteria, including their semantic relationships, usage contexts, and stylistic nuances. Below, we explore some common

categories for classifying synonyms in Russian philology:

Stylistic Synonyms:

Neutral Synonyms: These synonyms are commonly used in everyday language and are considered standard and unmarked. They are suitable for a wide range of contexts. For instance, "красный" (red) is a neutral synonym for the color red.

Colloquial Synonyms: These synonyms are often used in informal speech and casual conversations. They may carry a more relaxed or familiar tone. For example, "дом" (house) can be a colloquial synonym for "жилище" (dwelling).

Literary or Poetic Synonyms: These synonyms are more elevated and are often used in literature, poetry, or formal written texts. They can add a poetic or archaic touch to the language. "прекрасный" (beautiful) is a literary synonym for "красивый" (beautiful).

Complete and Partial Synonyms:

Complete Synonyms: These synonyms have nearly identical meanings and can be used interchangeably in most contexts without altering the overall sense of the message. For example, "большой" (big) and "великий" (great) are complete synonyms.

Partial Synonyms: These synonyms share some semantic overlap but may have subtle distinctions in meaning, connotation, or usage. For instance, "живопись" (painting) and "картина" (picture) are partial synonyms, with

the former emphasizing the art form and the latter referring to a specific instance of a picture.

Synonyms with Different Emotional Tones:

Positive Synonyms: Some synonyms may convey similar meanings but differ in the emotional tone they evoke. For instance, "счастье" (happiness) and "радость" (joy) both relate to positive emotions but may carry varying degrees of intensity.

Negative Synonyms: Similarly, negative emotions can be expressed using synonyms with differing emotional connotations. "гнев" (anger) and "злость" (ire) are synonyms for negative emotions but may convey different shades of anger.

Synonyms with Regional Variations:

Russian is a vast and diverse language, spoken across a vast geographical area. Regional variations in vocabulary have led to synonyms that may be specific to certain areas or dialects. For example, "булка" (bread roll) might be used in some regions, while "булочка" serves as a synonym in others.

Synonyms Across Registers:

The Russian language encompasses various stylistic registers, from formal and academic to informal and everyday speech. Synonyms can differ in their appropriateness for specific registers. For example, "человек" (person) is neutral, while "индивид" (individual) might be used in a more academic or formal context.

Historical or Archaic Synonyms:

The evolution of the Russian language has left behind archaic or historical synonyms that may no longer be in common use. Exploring these synonyms provides insights into the linguistic heritage of the language. For example, "грамота" (diploma) is an archaic synonym for "диплом."

Understanding these categories of synonyms in Russian philology is essential for comprehending the subtleties and nuances of the language. These classifications aid in precision in both written and spoken communication, as they allow speakers and writers to choose the most appropriate synonyms for their intended purpose and audience.

The Impact of Synonyms on Language and Communication:

Synonyms play a profound and multifaceted role in language and communication, and their significance in Russian philology is no exception. Understanding how synonyms influence language and communication is essential for linguists, writers, educators, and anyone interested in the Russian language. Here, we explore the various ways in which synonyms impact language and communication:

Enriching Vocabulary:

Synonyms provide speakers and writers with a wealth of options to express themselves. The richness of synonyms allows for a more precise and nuanced articulation of ideas, emotions, and experiences. This diversity of vocabulary

empowers individuals to choose words that align perfectly with their intended meaning.

Stylistic Variation:

Different synonyms are often associated with varying stylistic registers. Whether one is aiming for a formal, casual, poetic, or technical style, synonyms offer a toolkit to adapt language to diverse contexts. This versatility is particularly valuable in creative writing, journalism, and academic discourse.

Avoiding Redundancy:

Synonyms are crucial for avoiding redundancy in speech and writing. They allow speakers and writers to convey meaning concisely and effectively. Instead of repeating the same word, synonyms can be used to provide variation and maintain the listener or reader's interest.

Precision in Expression:

Synonyms enable speakers and writers to select words that precisely capture the intended shades of meaning. This precision is vital in professions such as law, science, and technical writing, where subtle distinctions are of utmost importance.

Cultural and Historical Context:

Synonyms can carry cultural and historical connotations. Some synonyms may be linked to specific historical periods or cultural contexts, enriching the language by preserving linguistic heritage and creating connections to the past.

Translation and Cross-Cultural Communication:

Synonyms play a pivotal role in translation, as they allow translators to select the most appropriate equivalent in another language. Understanding the nuances of synonyms is essential for accurately conveying meaning between languages and bridging cultural gaps.

Rhetorical Effects:

Synonyms can be strategically employed to achieve rhetorical effects in speech and writing. They can be used to emphasize a point, create euphony, or evoke specific emotions in the audience. This rhetorical versatility is a powerful tool for persuasive communication.

Psycholinguistic Impact:

Synonyms can have a psycholinguistic impact on language users. The choice of synonyms can influence how a message is received and processed by the listener or reader. Some synonyms may evoke stronger emotional responses, while others may convey a more neutral or intellectual tone.

Cognitive Benefits:

For language learners, the study of synonyms enhances cognitive flexibility and linguistic proficiency. It encourages learners to think critically about word choices and to appreciate the subtle differences in meaning, which, in turn, fosters language skills and cultural awareness.

Literary and Artistic Expression:

Synonyms are a key tool for writers, poets, and artists, allowing them to experiment with language, create imagery, and evoke complex emotions. The interplay of synonyms is central to the art of storytelling and poetic expression.

In the context of Russian philology, synonyms are not only linguistic elements but also cultural and historical artifacts. They reflect the dynamic evolution of the Russian language, influenced by centuries of cultural exchange, historical events, and societal changes. An understanding of synonyms is indispensable for effective communication, creative expression, and the preservation of linguistic heritage. As such, the study of synonyms in Russian philology remains a vibrant and evolving field of research.

CONCLUSIONS

The study of synonyms in Russian philology reveals the intricate and multifaceted nature of the Russian language, offering insights into its historical development, classifications, and profound impact on language and communication. In summary, the exploration of synonyms in Russian philology leads us to several key conclusions:

Linguistic Diversity and Richness: The Russian language is a treasure trove of synonyms, reflecting its dynamic evolution over centuries. The historical development of synonyms, influenced by interactions with various cultures and historical events, has enriched the language, making it an incredibly versatile and expressive tool for communication.

Classifications Enhance Precision: The classification of synonyms into categories such as stylistic, complete or partial, and regional variations allows for precision in language use. This precision is essential for conveying ideas and emotions with nuance and appropriateness across different contexts.

Language Evolution and Adaptation: Synonyms continue to evolve in response to modern developments, including technology and global cultural exchanges. This adaptive quality of the language ensures that Russian remains relevant and expressive in contemporary society.

Cultural and Historical Significance: Synonyms in Russian philology have cultural and historical significance, often linked to specific eras, regions, or social contexts. They serve as linguistic artifacts that connect us to the past and provide insights into Russian culture and history.

Effective Communication and Rhetorical Impact: Synonyms are invaluable tools for effective communication, allowing speakers and writers to tailor their language to achieve specific rhetorical effects, avoid redundancy, and convey precise meanings. This is particularly relevant in persuasive communication and creative expression.

Psycholinguistic and Cognitive Influence: The choice of synonyms can have a psycholinguistic impact on language users, shaping how messages are received and processed. The study of synonyms also benefits language learners by enhancing cognitive flexibility and language proficiency.

Artistic Expression and Literary Significance: Synonyms are central to the world of literature and the arts. Writers and poets use them to craft stories, evoke emotions, and create intricate narratives. The interplay of synonyms is essential for artistic expression and the enduring beauty of literature.

In conclusion, synonyms in Russian philology are not merely linguistic elements but also cultural and historical markers. Their impact on the language and communication is profound, enriching the linguistic landscape and enabling a wide range of expressive possibilities. As the Russian language continues to evolve and adapt to the contemporary world, the study of synonyms remains an essential and dynamic field of research, deepening our understanding of language and culture.

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