

Homonyms

Lecture # 8

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Definition of Homonymy

- Greek ***homonymous*** – homos “the same”
onoma “name”

Two or more words ***identical in sound form and spelling***,
or in one of these aspects, but ***different in meaning***,
distribution and (in many cases) ***in origin***

Classification of homonyms

by Walter Skeat


- *identical in sound form and spelling but different in meaning*

Perfect homonyms

Ball

Any spherical body

A large dancing party

- 
- *identical in sound form but different in spelling and meaning*

Homophones

Piece

Part separated from smth

Peace

A situation without war conflicts



“Waiter!”

“Yes, sir!”

“What’s this?”

“It’s **bean** soup, sir!”

“Never mind what it has **been**. I want to know what it is now.”

Bean – been (*homophones*)

- *words different in sound-form and in meaning but identical in spelling*

Homographs

Lead [li:d]

The first position at a particular time during competition

Lead [led]

A soft heavy grey metal



Classification of homonyms

by A.I. Smirnitsky

- full homonyms
- partial homonyms

Full homonyms

- words which represent the same category of parts of speech and have the same paradigm
- have the same spelling and pronunciation

match, n.

a game, a contest

match, n.

a short piece of wood for producing fire



Partial homonyms

- Simple lexico-grammatical
- Complex lexico-grammatical
- Partial lexical

Partial homonyms

1. simple lexico- grammatical

belong to the same part of speech

their paradigms have only one identical form

to *found*, verb

found, verb

(Past Ind., Past. Part. of to find)

Partial homonyms

2. Complex lexico-grammatical

belong to different parts of speech and have one identical form in their paradigms

rose, noun

rose, verb (Pat Ind. of to rise)

one, numeral

won, verb (Past Ind., Past Part. of to win)

Partial homonyms

3. Partial lexical homonyms


belong to the same part of speech but identical only in corresponding forms of their paradigms

to lie (lay, lain), verb

to lie (lied, lied), verb

to can (canned, canned)

can (could)



Synonyms and antonyms are regarded as the treasure of the language's expressive resources. They are created by the vocabulary system with a particular purpose

Homonyms are of no interest in this respect. They are accidental creations, and therefore purposeless.

In the process of communication they lead sometimes to confusion and misunderstanding



Sources of Homonyms

- Phonetic changes
- Borrowing
- Shortening
- Split polysemy

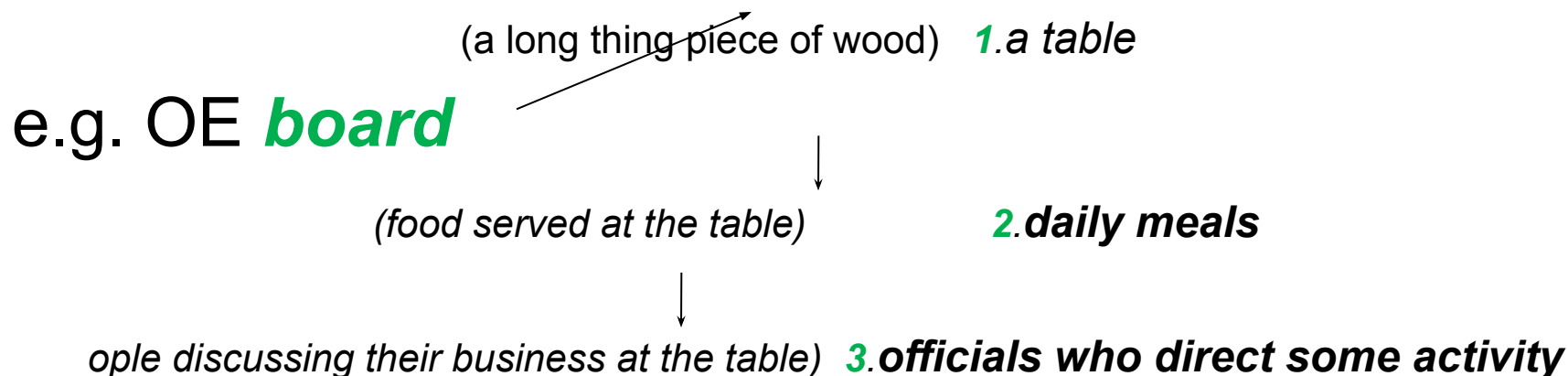
Convergent development of sound form (phonetic changes)

- two or more words which were pronounced differently at an earlier date may develop identical sound forms



Divergent semantic development (split polysemy)

- *different meanings of the same word move so far away from each other that they come to be regarded as two separate units*



Sources of Homonymy

■ shortening

Fan (Lat.)

“an implement for waving lightly to produce a cool current of air”

Fan “*an enthusiastic admirer of sport or celebrity*”

← shortening

Fanatic

Sources of Homonymy

■ borrowings

Bank

bank – “a shore”

a native word

bank – “a financial institution”

an Italian borrowing

Distribution Criterion

- homonyms differ in their syntactic function

e.g. I think that this “that” is a conjunction but that “that” that that man used was a pronoun.

PRACTICE

1. Define the given words into

- *Homonyms proper*
- *Homophones*
- *Homographs*

2. Give meanings of these words

*Made (A) - maid (N), row (N) – row (N),
seal (N) - seal (N), band (N) – band (N),
desert (V) – desert (N)*

Made (A) - maid (N)

Past make A female servant

HOMOPHONES

row (N) - row (N)

People in a line A quarrel

HOMOGRAPHS

seal (N) - seal (N)

A sea animal The official mark

HOMONYMS

de'sert (V) - 'desert (N)

To leave empty A sandy land

HOMOGRAPHS

hare (N) - hair (N)

An animal Strands growing from the skin

HOMOPHONES

PRACTICE

- Fill in the blanks choosing the right word.
- Translate your sentences

No (sweet \ suite) without sweat.

All is (fare \ fair) in love and war.

Out of (site \ sight) out of mind.

It never rains, but it (pours \ paws).

Practice

Classify the homonyms using Professor Smirnitsky's classification

- He should give a ball in your honor.—He is playing with a ball.
- What's happened with your left ear? – He 's left us.
- Turn off the light! – He is wearing light summer trousers.
- He couldn't bear the pain.- catch the bear before you sell the skin.
- 'To can' means to make preservation. – Birds can fly

Practice

Classify the homonyms using Professor Smirnitsky's classification

- He should give a ball in your honor.—He is playing with a ball.

Full homonyms

- What's happened with your left ear? – He 's left us.

Complex lexico-grammatical partial

- Turn off the light! – He is wearing light summer trousers.

Complex lexico-grammatical

- He couldn't bear the pain.- catch the bear before you sell the skin.

Complex lexico-grammatical partial

- 'To can' means to make preservation. – Birds can fly

Lexical partial



Practice

- Find the homophones to the following words, give the spelling (if they are different) and explain the difference in meanings

Dye

Tale

Week

Sun

Meet

Write

Hare