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Semantic Phenomena and Processes in Linguistic Terminology

A survey of the state of such semantic phenomena in English and Russian linguistic terminology as hyponymy, synonymy, polysemy and paronymy is presented. In assessing hyponymy which is a comparatively new type of relations we should consider its importance in establishing synonymy and polysemy. Next the present state of investigation of polysemy is considered taking into account drawbacks of the existing definitions of this phenomenon. A brief survey of the existing directions of research from the point of view of terminology science, translation, terminography and cognition makes it possible to identify various new types of polysemy. Although there has been a substantial research on synonymy, there seems to remain some insufficiently investigated problems, such as reasons for synonymy, types of relations between synonyms and tendencies in synonymy development, while the suggested classifications of synonyms are diverse and hardly compatible. The literature on the reasons for synonymy shows a variety of approaches, at the same time to the author's best knowledge, very few publications can be found in the literature that address the issue of relations of synonyms in historical perspective. In our latest studies we have used the following types of outcomes of synonyms interaction in the cases of borrowing of synonym: native word specialising; borrowed word specialising; dividing the general amount of meaning; native word is ousted to become an areal variant; native word completely ousted: native and borrowed lexemes exist as stylistic synonyms; "native" word ousts the borrowing. Concentrating on paronymy we can not fail to notice that at the present time literature shows no consensus on defining the nature of this phenomenon, which means different approaches in selecting material. Summing up the results it may be concluded that at present we may notice substantial changes in the character of semantic phenomena in terminology.