The Study of the Homonymy in Persian

Hasanova Charos

Lecturer "Persian and afghan languages" department, Tashkent state university of Oriental Studies

Abstract: The article comparatively analyzes the theories of linguists from all over the world including Iran on homonymy and the theories on the occurrence of homonymy that exists in Persian have been studied through typological methods while being discussed.

Keywords: homonymy, mutashbeh, lexical homonym, complete homonym, incomplete homonym.

I. Introduction

One of the occurrences that represent the most difficult and unique features of any nation's language is considered to be homonymy. The scholars of the world have studied the theoretical aspects of this occurrence to some extent. The first thing to look at should be the ideas behind the term homonymy. The word homonym is derived from Greek and the word, "homos" mean "the same", while "onyma" – refers to "a name". There are many descriptions to homonymy in linguistics. There are many common and distinguished features in many of the definitions. For instance, V.V. Vinogradov believes that words that have varied semantic structure and under some circumstances morphological structure, but share the same pronunciation are homonyms [2:4].

D. E. Rosenthal agrees with V.V Vinogradov and states that the words that share the same grammatical and pronunciation patterns that are not linked with each other semantically make up homonymy [http://pedlib.ru/Books/6/0262/6_0262-14.shtml]. Professor R. A. Budagov, on the other hand, considers homonyms to be words that were different in origin and coincidental in pronunciation, but now have different meanings [2, 492]. O.S. Akhmanova evaluates homonyms in terms of their sound, that is, two or more different language units whose expression is consistent with each other [1,287.]. It is noteworthy that the given definitions to some extent reflect the features of the homonyms in the Persian language as well. The homonyms, in this language, are referred to as "متشابه" [motasbeh]. Scholars from Persia also agree on the point that the words that have different meaning but share the same or similar pronunciation to be homonyms.

In the works of Persian grammar, the question of homonymy is either not considered at all, or the information about homonymy is too short and not studied in depth. The opinions of various Iranian scholars on homonyms are sometimes contradictory. In particular, Dr. Muhammad Javod Mashkur does not consider the words like خوار-خار / خواستن-خاستن/خوان-خان despite they share the same pronunciation while having different meanings. However, Zinnur, the author of the book "the Grammar of Persian", marks these words as homonyms and Ali Barnak approves of his viewpoint. O.R. Usmanova, who studied homonyms in Persian, believes that the theory put forward by J. Mashkur on the aforementioned words not to be homonyms is unfounded [7]. Hence, the issue of homonymy in Persian remains one of the

issues that require clarity.

Here is our suggestion to classify the homonyms in Persian language:
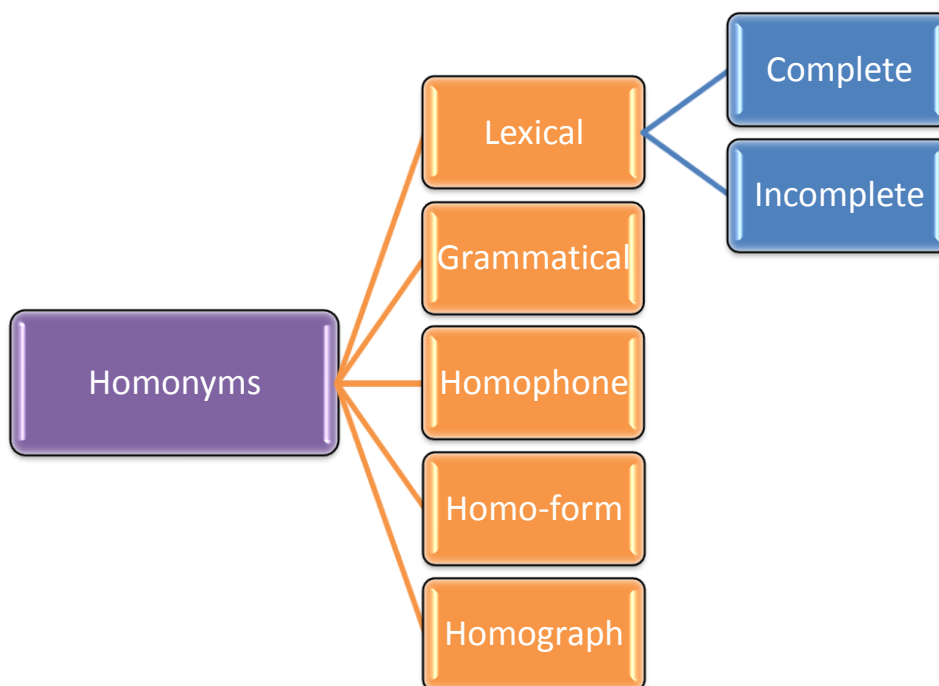
1. Lexical homonyms: complete and incomplete homonyms

2. Grammatical homonyms

3. Homophone

4. Homo-form

5. Homograph

1. *Lexical homonyms* are the homonyms that does not have any grammatical changes; they are the words with shared graphics and pronunciation.

Some of the words that make up lexical homonyms may also have grammatical suffixes, but this suffix does not play a role in the formation of the homonym of this word with another word, because this word in the same case forms the second word and with it, the homonym forms. Both words form a lexical unit with this form.

Two or more words with independent meanings that are the same in terms of pronunciation even in the case of a lexical unit are lexical homonyms. V.V. Vinogradov and Rosenthal D. E.'s definitions of lexical homonyms are almost identical, meaning the same resonant words under this term, however, with completely different meanings [10]. M. I. Fomina describes lexical homonyms more broadly and includes in this category words that differ in two or more meanings, but correspond in spelling and pronunciation, as well as grammatical rules [11]. Researcher P. I. Gladkiy, who studied the phenomenon of lexical homonymy in German, refers to the same resonant words that correspond to each other in different forms under the definition of lexical homonyms. In his work, he considers a lexeme as an independent lexical unit that expresses all its forms and meanings in language. Therefore, lexical homonyms should only be complete homonyms. In the gender category known as partial homonyms, nouns that differ in singular and plural forms, however, should not be considered as lexical homonyms of the same sound. P.I. Gladkiy suggests calling such words lexico-grammatical homonyms. [4]

lexical homonymy, in reality, can only belong to the synchronic state of a language. However, given the basis, the core of lexical homonyms, homonymy can also be studied in the diachronic aspect, and in this case this study is divided into four types: etymological (heterogeneous), semantic (homogeneous), word-forming and borrowed homonyms. Our study was conducted on the basis of the synchronous aspect, and only in some places the diachronies of the word is shown.

➢ **[bār]بار**

I. بار[bār] – luggage

II. بار[bār] – times (like once, twice, three times…)

III. بار[bār] – reception ceremony (the reception at Royal palaces and in the offices of State Heades), Reception

IV. بار[bār] – باریدن the present participle of the verb "to rain" (IV بار is a homo-form to the word بار above and the word بار below, because باریدن only the present participle of the given verb can become homonymous to them)

V. بار[bār] – a cooker with three supports for it to be erect.

VI. بار[bār] – bar, restaurant

➢ **[tār]تار**

I. تار[tār] – the darkness (tathara in Avesta)

II. تار[tār] – the tor (a musical instrument)

III. تار[tār] – a thread, a rope, a fiber

IV. تار[tār] - [tārak] – the upper part of a human skull, the top, the peak

V. تار[tār] - [tāl] – botanical. The willow tree.

1.1. Complete homonyms. If the homonymy is the phenomena in which the spelling and the pronunciation of more than one word is the same, then it is possible to say that the words that were derived from other words historically or the ones that emerged as a result of polysemy which now share the same pronunciation and spelling coincidentally, and most importantly, belong to the same part of speech can be referred to as original or complete homonyms. In order to clarify our opinion above, we are going to visualize it with a diagram [6,11].
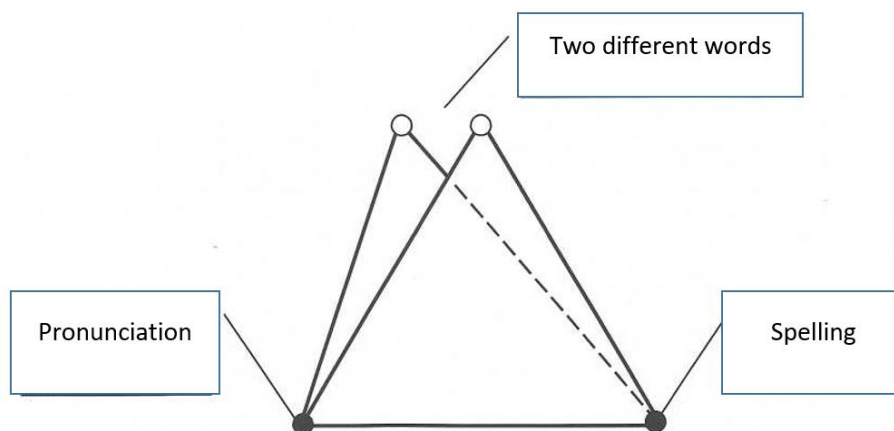
Needless to say, the same pronunciation is implied according to the similarity in the phonetic structure of more than one word, because by this feature homonymy differs from homophony. In homophony, regardless of some differences in the phonetic structure of the two words, the position, the combinator depending on a certain condition, in the word is pronounced the same. From the perspective of Persian, there is no commonality between the features of homonymy and omography. The main reason for this may be the diacritical marks in Persian. Because words containing short vowels (diacritical marks) are mostly words in the form of cwc, they are the same in writing but different in pronunciation, so we will consider them in the section on homographs. In the work "O'zbek tili leksikologiyasi (Lexicology of the Uzbek language)" [8, 258-292] homonymy is the same pronunciation of more than one word, it is not necessary for them to have the same spelling. In particular, according to the spelling rule with the traditional principle, the writer is more likely to have a different graphic record of the homonymous component in the vernacular. It is thought that this condition is more common in French and English. However, we do not agree with this view, because, as mentioned above, in linguistics there are also phenomena of homography and homophony in parallel with the phenomenon of homonymy. Therefore, if homonyms do not have to be spelled the same, but are pronounced the same, what is the difference between these words and a homophony? We found it appropriate to add to the list of homonyms words which are both orthographically and ortho-epically the same, due to the peculiar orthographic features of the Persian language. For example:

تک [tak] - the word is spelled and pronounced in the same way as the existing IV options, which forms a complete homonym, which are:

I تک[tak] - vernacular. Single, alone

II تک[tak] - hurry-scurry, to tire someone for nothing

III تک[tak] - bottom, bottommost, bottom-line

IV تک[tak] - see تق تق

I من[man] – I, personal pronoun

II من[man] – the unit of weight measurement which is used throughout Iran, but it has varied value in different parts of the country

I زر[zar] – gold

II زر[zar] – arch. A senile man or a women

III زر[zar] - a dice

Such examples mentioned above are only a few that can be found in Persian lexicology.

1.2. Incomplete homonyms

In lexicology, another type of homonyms are semi-partial (partial) or incomplete homonyms, which include words that belong to the same part of speech, which are written and pronounced the same, but do not correspond to each other in all grammatical forms. The words سرطان [saratān] - crab and سرطان [saratān] - disease, quoted by A. Kuronbekov, the Professor of Persian language, (the later does not have the plural form) make up incomplete homonyms. To understand the issue more clearly, we can use the words завод - factory (place of production) and завод (device used to move a mechanism) in Russian (the second word does not have the plural form). Many scholars who have studied homonyms have also described this phenomenon as partial homonyms or incomplete homonyms. S. Usmanov, on the other hand, calls homographs, homophones and homo-forms semi-homonyms

collectively. However, here we are going to agree with M. Mirtojiev. We refer to examples as proof of our point.

I ستیم[setim] – pus, discharge

II ستیم[setim] – septima music. (the seventh chord and the interval in the seventh chord), borroving

Both of the aforementioned words do not have the plural form.

I جیب[jeyb] – collar in the plural form. جیوب

II جیب[jeyb] – math. Sinus, a borrowing

II جیب[jeyb] and I جیب[jeyb] cannot agree with certain grammatical forms.

The following can be said about the phenomenon of homonymy in Persian as a conclusion:

➤ The homonymy in Persian is divided into 1. Complete; 2. Incomplete homonyms.

➤ The formation of homonyms in the Persian language has been determined on the basis of five ways: 1. through loan words; 2. On the basis of dialectal words; 3. Using suffixes; 4. By convergence; 5. On the basis of divergence.

➤ In Persian, there is the phenomenon of homonymy through borrowing words from foreign languages, which takes place in two ways: the loan word forms homonymy with another lexical unit present in Persian; homonymous words from a foreign language are borrowed from other languages.

➤ Persian is a language rich in various dialects. Every dialect has polysemantic words and homonyms, just like literary language. However, among the linguistic facts we have collected we have not found a word in a dialect which is used equally in literary language as other lexical units.

➤ The formation of homonyms using suffixes is also a phenomenon peculiar to the Persian language.

➤ The formation of homonyms by convergence is a historical-phonetic phenomenon, which is based on the random coincidence of some words with to become the same in spelling and pronunciation with another because of the phonetic development of some words in the language.

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