

MNU MAQSUT
NARIKBAYEV
UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 05
AUGUST 2023

KAZZGUU LIBERAL ARTS DIGEST





INFORMATION ABOUT THE JOURNAL

“KLAD” is a student journal first published at M. Narikbayev Kazguu University School of liberal arts. This journal is aimed at enhancing students’ involvement into science and research.

«KLAD” journal admits for publication various types of articles: original research, review articles, short reports or essays, reflections, case studies, methodologies and cases in english; containing the results of fundamental and applied research in the field of philosophy and identity, history of kazakhstan, pedagogy, linguistics and methods of teaching languages, translation, and tourism.

CONTENTS

Academically successful sophomores who struggle with procrastination at KAZGUU University	7
Anelya Abildina, Daiana Abylka, Dayana Bakirova	
Supervisor: Roza Sagitova	
Diachronic corpus analysis of Russia-Ukrainian conflict	13
Kalidolda Yernur	
Supervisor: Anar Ibrayeva	
Semantic Change in the English Language	22
Daiana E. Abylka	
Supervisor: Anar Baizhanova	
Lexical Features of New-Zealand English	28
Salauatova Alina	
Supervisor: Anar Baizhanova	
Linguistic features of headlines in the English press	33
Sabina Sameeva	
Supervisor: Anar Baizhanova	
Gender peculiarities of the use of the Russian language in verbal communication between male and female	41
Kussainova Zarina	
Supervisor: Anar Ibrayeva	
Translation Strategies of Humor in Subtitling	48
Rakhimzhanova Sabina	
Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of innovative teaching and learning methodologies in higher education institutions and analyze which are the most effective	58
Gyunay Zhakenova	
Supervisor: Yelena Yemelyanova	
UNT as the main reason to commit suicide among adolescents in Kazakhstan; ways to prevent it	61
Arina Yepifantseva	
Supervisor: Yelena Yemelyanova	

Preventing suicide in Kazakhstan: measures and facts	64
Kristina Assotova	
Supervisor: Yelena Yemelyanova	
How to Prevent Violence Against Women	67
Assylbek Nuray	
Supervisor: Yelena Yemelyanova	
Fake News - False Information Passed off as Factual - is an Effective Weapon in the Information Age	70
Baizov Alikhan	
Supervisor: Yelena Yemelyanova	
The development of a “virtual autism” among children: problems and solutions	73
Dariya Beisembina	
Supervisor: Imanzhanova Dinara	
Deepfake as a disinformation tool in 21st century	76
Kaiyrzhan Togzhan	
Supervisor: Yelena Yemelyanova	
What measures could be taken to prevent fake news dissemination?	80
Kazi Venera	
Supervisor: Yelena Yemelyanova	
Each president should be elected only once	84
Koltsov Konstantin	
Supervisor: Yelena Yemelyanova	
Violence Against Women in Kazakhstan	87
Orazbayeva Aruzhan	
Supervisor: Yelena Yemelyanova	
The UNT is the reason for suicide in Kazakhstan	91
Pshembayeva Dolores	
Supervisor: Yelena Yemelyanova	
Domestic violence against women	95
Samarbayeva Leila	
Supervisor: Yelena Yemelyanova	
KAZGUU Liberal Arts Digest	98

PART 01

KAZGUU LIBERAL ARTS DIGEST

**RESEARCH
PAPERS**





SEMANTIC CHANGE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

DAIANA E. ABYLKAS

SUPERVISOR: ANAR BAIZHANOVA

The aim of the study is to identify the manifestations of semantic change in contemporary literature. This study is an extreme study of Semantic change in the English language using Paulo Coelho's book "The Alchemist". It is based on words that have undergone a change of meaning to a different concept. During the analysis of the text the words (N=92) were identified and categorized into 6 classifications. As a result, it was revealed that metaphORIZATION was the most common. Furthermore, metonymization was identified as the type of classification that occurs the least. It was then decided to identify the frequently occurring parts of speech and find out the reason for this outcome. Out of all the types of speech, 3 types as noun, adjective and verb were encountered in the text. As a result, it turned out that the name of noun leads in terms of semantic change.

Keywords: semantic change, meaning, part of speech, modifying

SEMANTIC CHANGE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Language is the major foundation of every nation, which is inherently changing with the times and because of actions that take place outside the progress of the language. The meanings that were endowed in the first period of the emergence of words lost their relevance over time and the word began to modify its meaning. Semantic change is what explains this concept in its use and existence. As a result, numerous words of daily routine have been subjected to the kind of abrupt change that time and circumstance demand. The purpose of this study is to discover and highlight the signs of semantic change in English words, proving it with examples from the book of our time. The value and distinction of this study is to fill some gap in the research on this topic in linguistics, since this topic has not been fully explored in terms of modern ideas. In this study, it is essential to use the Mixed Research Method in order to look at the subject from all sides and to be a complete

researcher on the topic.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Since the purpose in my study is to trace the signs of semantic change in the English language with the help of modern literature, I will begin with the common definition of the value of the word. The most fundamental principle of the semantic change study is the notion of English words meaning transformation. According to Hollmann majority of languages often undergo multiple changes, which in turn lead to changes in the semantic corpus of a word (2009, p. 535). These changes can impact the original concept of a word and completely replace it or just become one of the synonymic meanings of the word chain. When a word has numerous meanings, this term is referred to as polysemy. Many English words are considered polysemantic and this is not at all a drawback of linguistics. On the contrary, the development of polysemy in English gives out an expressive possibility of enriching the language. Furthermore, it

should be pointed out that the number of sounds produced by the human body is somewhat limited (Antrushina et al., 2015, p. 131). Therefore, polysemy plays a huge role in the process of language development by adding content.

How do words acquire new meanings? There are two main reasons for appearing new definitions: extra-linguistic and linguistic. As a result of innovation in social life, the evolution of technology and the arts, new words, terms, and some phenomena had to be named. It is known that there are such kinds of enrichment of the language as borrowings and word-building, also the replacement of one old word with a new one is seen as filling a given «void» in the vocabulary. A good example can be the word «carriage», which originally had the meaning of a horse-drawn vehicle; however when the first trains appeared in the history of England, this word got a new meaning as railway car (Antrushina et al., 2015, p. 148). Another purpose can be progressed through the influence of other words; for example, in Old English the noun «deer» referred to any animal. After a long time “deer” ran out of the borrowed word animal and “deer” changed the meaning to a certain type of beast (олень) (Antrushina et al., 2015, p. 149).

Words that have been subjected to some transformation may not lose their original meaning, because they will fit the word as an additional definition. As Babitch writes in his papers the meaning of a word is made up of several different components (2010, p. 60). It is recognized that there are two major types of lexical word meaning: denotative and connotative. In this context, each of these meanings has its own function in relation to the use of a word in a particular context. The denotative meaning carries the focus on communication; when the connotative one fulfills the pragmatic communicative value of a word. In the narrow sense, denotation is the primary and first meaning of a word that denotes the name of a thing. The connotation of a

word is the supplementary meaning of the specific word and carries within it a set of associations that the word may cause. (Kukharenko, 2012, p. 29).

Moreover, in the first half of the 20th century, a great deal of work was done to qualify semantic changes more appropriate to the lexical designation for separating them by their descriptions (Traugott, 2017):

Metaphorization: there is a new meaning as a result of associating two words because of formal similarity

Metonymization: two different words that occur in the same situation and the connection between them can be very difficult to trace

Pejoration: giving a negative connotation to a word

Amelioration: giving a positive connotation to a word

Narrowing: to narrow the meaning to something definite

Generalization: generalization of all meanings in one word.

The research presented in this paper focuses on the analysis of a “The Alchemist” practical text for detecting qualification data of semantic change and recognizing which specification type is more common in this particular work and at a given time in English language perspectives.

METHODOLOGY

This linguistic study was done using Mixed Research Methods because the tools of qualitative research like analysis and observation and frequent analysis from quantitative research were used during the study. As mentioned above, the semantic change of a word has its own ways of remaking meaning. Analyzing them, we can understand that the words did not just transform their denotations, but acquired a

negative/positive connotation, narrowed or broadened their meaning. It is confirmed that they began to separate into categories, because of the identification of their common characteristics. My analysis is based on a semantic change of the first 60 pages in «The Alchemist » written by Paulo Coelho in 1987 and first published in English language 1993. According to the novel's PDF format the book consists of 88 pages and 3 parts. My choice fell to this book because it is representative of contemporary literature and with the help of this factor the vocabulary of the book can be compared with the words of earlier periods. In my study I will take units of text and check with their initial meanings and with those they have acquired over time. In order to deconstruct the text thoroughly, I have used a lot of resources, especially online dictionaries like etymonline. Etymonline is considered one of the major online etymology vocabularies, which has complete data about the old meanings of a certain seme of text, the way it's modification over the history, examples from other contexts and in what century it appeared. This identification will be supported by information on the identification of words and their division by descriptions of the above groups that are related to semantic change. This work will be done on dividing them into groups and finding out which type of semantic change and part of speech is more in the lead than all of them at the present time.

FINDINGS

Findings were formulated based on the selected material. During the analysis of the practical part, 92 words were identified that had undergone any semantic transformation during the whole time of the word appearance. The very first thing that was done is a division by classifications. As it was mentioned above, there are 6 types of meaning transference. It is possible to look at examples from each type and the reason for the relationship to each variety.

METAPHORIZATION

Metaphorization is the process of changing a meaning that has a similarity to the original meaning. The word “pregnant” was originally as “cogent, convincing, compelling» (of evidence, an argument, etc.) and eventually acquired a meaning “containing a developing embryo, fetus, or unborn offspring within the body”, which may show the physical and structural similarity of the two meanings from the aspect of «fullness».

METONIMIZATION

Words subjected to semantic change through metanomization have no similarity in meaning as such, but there is contiguity between the two concepts. One example of such a word from text, «glass,» was found in the text. Originally glass was just a vessel for liquids and in the process of evolution it acquired the meaning of an object from which this vessel is made.

PEJORATION

This type of this phenomenon reverses the neutral or positive connotation into a negative one, as shown in the word “crazy”. This word when it appeared was simply meant for people who in some way suffered their health and became sick. Compared to current realities, the original meaning is considered to be a person who is mentally or mentally seriously ill, which has given the word a poor connotation.

AMELIORATION

The word “boy” originally had the meaning of “servant, commoner, knave”, but during the development of the language and the influence of extralinguistic reasons on the denotational component of the word itself change it in meaning as “a male child or, more generally, a male of any age”. As a result, the word «boy» took on a softened and positive meaning, comparing it to the original frame.

NARROWING

There are situations in the language where a very broader term has begun to denote as a narrow one. This appears for the reason that a new word unit comes to the meaning of the first word and the old meaning is given to describe another object. The word «wife» itself is a native English word and had the meaning of just a woman, a lady, a girl, and at the time of the change it acquired the meaning of married girl, which made it possible to narrow the meaning.

GENERALIZATION

The final kind of semantic change is a generalization of one narrow word into a broader connotation. “Kidnap” may be a good example for this classification. The act of kidnapping in the early periods took on the meaning of stealing a group of children to provide them to the American colonies as servants. But if it is looked in the dictionary now and see the denotative component of this word, it has the meaning in general of the act of stealing any person.

In the process of analyzing words from the book and determining the type of semantic change classification of the word itself, you can find out which type out of all 6 is predominant one nowadays.

Figure 1

Semantic Change Classification in “Alchemist”

Note. The figure below illustrates the number of words that have been selected as examples of the term semantic change. The note of this figure describes the meanings of the mentioned concepts and informs about the meaning of the figure.

While analyzing the words from the book and determining the type of semantic change classification of the word itself it is possible to find out which type out of all 6 is predominant nowadays. According to specific figure and frequent analysis, metaphorization prevails of all the types of change and is more common nowadays.

Figure 2

Percentage of Transference in “Alchemist”

Note. The figure shows the occupied shares of each type of classification. The diagram makes the picture of the percentages of the types clearer.

The 5th cell of the table from the Appendix lists the parts of speech of each word and from that it would be like to take these words to identify the type of speech that has been subjected to these changes in meaning. As

Figure 1

Semantic Change Classification in “Alchemist”

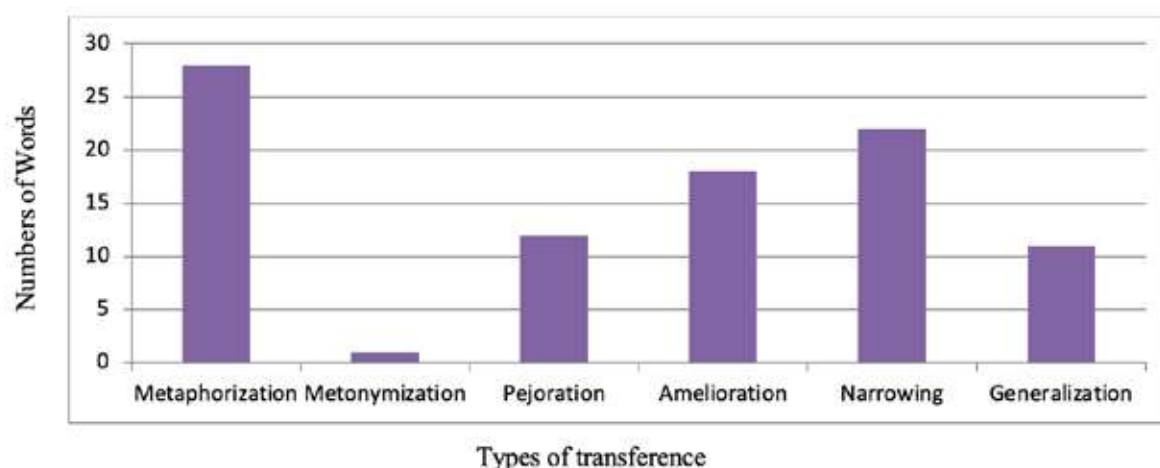
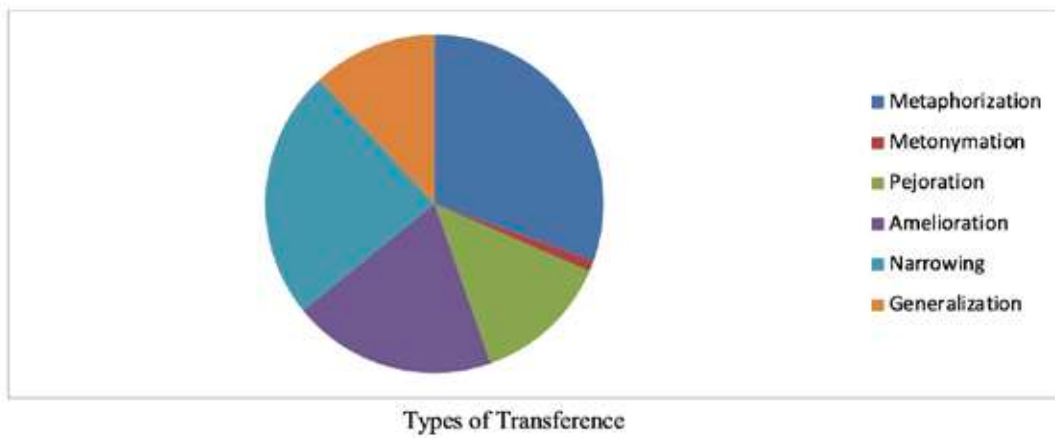


Figure 2

Percentage of Transference in "Alchemist"



noted, of the parts of speech there are only 3: a noun, an adjective, and a verb. This is most likely because these parts are easy to change, as they are considered to be among the main and productive parts of speech.

the numerical information of this aspect. The Specific figure makes it clear that nouns have a larger share in this list.

Figure 3

Parts of Speech With Semantic Change in "Alchemist"

Note. The figure indicates the proportion of each part of speech as a noun, adjective, and verb and their relationship to the meaning of the semantically changed words. The data give clarity and clarity on

	Adj	Noun	Verb
%	17.4%	43.6%	39%

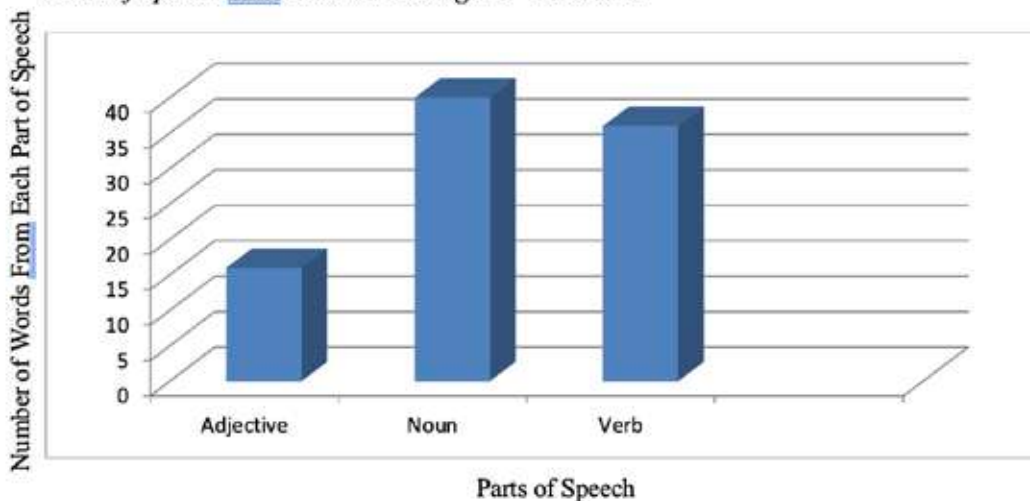
Table 1

Percentage of Words That Related to Particular Part of Speech

Note. For each subject a separate line was selected, where the proportion of words belonging to this or that type out of all 92 words. The noun occupies about half of all words, which by percentage also proves

Figure 3

Parts of Speech With Semantic Change in "Alchemist"



the accuracy of the figures about this part of speech.

DISCUSSION

Sixty pages out of 88 of "Alchemist" were analyzed and 92 representative words were found that had been subjected to forces that changed their designation in whole or in part. Based on the material taken for the analysis of the practical part, it can be understood that a lot of words have been subjected to this phenomenon of linguistics as semantic change. In the process of the whole analysis, the most important type of transfer of one meaning to another, metaphorization, was revealed. From this we can understand that during the whole period of the existence of the meaning of words, more attention was paid to the similarity of two things, which influenced the frequent use of metaphorization. According to analyses, approximately 31% of 92 words are suffered from metaphorization. Moreover, if we take into account the grammatical categories of a single word, it is instructive to understand and analyze the point about the most frequently used part of speech of all. In word analysis, nouns lead in relation to semantic change. According to the percentage indicators (about 44% of the selected words), nouns are more subject to this change. I would like to make a recommendation to subsequent researchers or new researchers to take these conclusions into account in their analyses and to prove their opinion about it. Also, to understand the clear distinction between types of metaphorization and extension of meaning, because in this study it was sometimes difficult to relate a particular word to one classification.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, semantic change is still a hot topic for the English language and therefore, this phenomenon is still valid for modern time. The connotations of words can be very different from each other in terms of criteria. In this case, their classifications can help

to make a clear line of distinction between words. In many cases, words do not simply take on a negative or positive connotation, but become a completely different word, but still maintain the connection between the original application. As confirmation of this conclusion, a work of fiction was taken, which contained many words that had lost their meaning due to linguistic or extralinguistic reasons. From the results of the study, we can understand that English never stands still and is always subject to change. Most of the 92 words have changed their meaning because of their resemblance to some object physically and structurally. There are cases where the new or old meaning of words can only be understood because of the context in which the word itself is located. The solution to this problem can only be the fixation of related meanings to one word and the separation of other unrelated meanings.

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