

## ENANTIOSEMY IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

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**Abstract:** *The article examines the phenomenon of enantiosemy — a situation where a single word or expression has two opposite meanings. The main causes of enantiosemy in the Russian language are described, such as the historical change of meanings, contextual variation, and metaphorization. A typology of enantiosemy is also presented, including verbal, noun, adjective, and prepositional-conjunctive enantiosemy.*

**Keywords:** *enantiosemy, meaning, context, metaphorization, polysemy, variation.*

**Аннотация:** *В статье рассматривается феномен энантиосемии — явление, при котором одно слово или выражение имеет два противоположных значения. Описаны основные причины возникновения энантиосемии в русском языке, такие как историческое изменение значений, контекстуальное варьирование и метафоризация. Также представлена типология энантиосемий, включая глагольную, существительную, прилагательную и предложно-союзную энантиосемию.*

**Ключевые слова:** *энантиосемия, значение, контекст, метафоризация, полисемия, варьирование.*

Enantiosemy is a linguistic phenomenon where a single word or expression has two opposite meanings. An example of enantiosemy is the word «borrow» (in Russian «одолжить»), which can mean both “to lend” and “to borrow”. In the Russian language, enantiosemy is a fairly common phenomenon, and studying it is important for understanding the dynamics and characteristics of language development.

Causes of enantiosemy:

1. Historical changes in word meanings: Over time, the meanings of words can change, and in some cases, the new meaning can be the opposite of the old one. For instance, the word «зло» (evil) in Old Russian meant “difficulty” or “unpleasantness”, but later acquired the meaning of “injustice” or “negative action”.

2. Homophony and polysemy: In some cases, enantiosemy may arise due to homophony, when different words of separate origins merge into one and acquire opposite meanings. For example, the word «вправить» can mean both “to fix, return to place” and “to dislocate” in certain contexts.

3. Contextual variation of meaning: The same word can take on opposite meanings in different contexts, depending on the speech situation. For example, the verb «пустить» can mean “to allow” or “to deny something”, depending on the intonation and context.

4. Metaphorization and transfer of meanings: Through metaphorization, words can acquire new meanings, sometimes opposite to the original. For instance, the word «простительный» can mean both “forgivable” and “inexcusable” in different situations.

Types of enantiosemy:

1. Verbal enantiosemy: This type occurs frequently, as verbs often express actions that can be opposite depending on the context. For example, the verb «сдать» can mean both “to fail (an exam)” and “to pass (an exam)” successfully.

2. Enantiosemy of nouns: Nouns can also have opposite meanings. For instance, the word «гостиница» (hotel) can mean both a place for staying or a temporary home where someone briefly stays.

3. Enantiosemy of adjectives: A good example is the adjective «страшный» (scary), which can mean both “frightening” and “impressive” or “awe-inspiring.” Similarly, «умный» (smart) can sometimes be used ironically to mean the opposite in specific contexts.

4. Enantiosemy of prepositions and conjunctions: In Russian, prepositions and conjunctions can carry opposite meanings depending on their usage. For

example, the preposition «за» can mean both “for” (supporting something) and “for” (as in being arrested for a crime).

Sociocultural aspects of enantiosemy: Enantiosemy often reflects broader cultural and social processes. Language evolves with society, and changes in word meanings are frequently influenced by shifts in values, ideals, and perceptions of reality. For instance, the word «крутой» (steep, dangerous) initially had negative connotations but later came to mean something positive, like “cool” or “successful.”

In youth subcultures, enantiosemy is commonly used for irony and paradox, adding humor or expressing protest against mainstream language. For example, «жесть» (tough) can mean something bad or unpleasant, or it can be used to describe something impressive or shocking depending on the tone and context.

This process is connected with the playful manipulation of meanings, which is characteristic of youth and marginalized subcultures aiming to distance themselves from the official, normative language. In such contexts, enantiosemy becomes a tool to express protest, assert uniqueness, or introduce humor into speech.

The sociocultural aspects of enantiosemy demonstrate how language interacts with an evolving social reality. Linguistic changes, such as the emergence of opposite meanings within a single word, are closely tied to cultural transformations, shifts in values, and the rise of new social stereotypes. Enantiosemy not only reflects linguistic processes but also serves as an indicator of broader changes in society, revealing its tendency toward diverse interpretations, the play of meanings, and shifts in the perception of words.

Conclusion: Enantiosemy in the Russian language is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, reflecting historical, sociocultural, and linguistic processes. Studying enantiosemy helps to better understand how the semantics of words develop and what factors influence this evolution.

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