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**Abstract:** Polisemy is a fundamental aspect of language, enabling words to carry multiple meanings based on context. Among various semantic extensions, anthropomorphism – attributing human characteristics to non-human entities- plays a crucial role in shaping the meanings of polysemantic English nouns. This study explores the cognitive and linguistic mechanisms that facilitate anthropomorphic extensions in English analyzing how nouns that originally refer to objects, concepts or natural elements acquire human-like attributes. Drawing from cognitive linguistics, conceptual metaphor theory, and lexical semantics the paper examines patterns of semantic shifts in frequently used polysemantic nouns. The findings highlight the significance of embodiment and metaphorical mapping in language evolution, demonstrating that anthropomorphic polysemy not only enriches communication but also reflects fundamental cognitive processes shaping human perception of the world.

**Keywords:** Polysemy, Cognitive linguistics, Anthropomorphism, Lexical semantics, Conceptual Metaphor, Metonymy, Etymology

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E-mail: nazokatkurambayeva20@gmail.com**KO'P MA'NOLI INGLIZ OTLARINING ANTROPOMORFIK****SEMANTIKASI**

**Annotatsiya:** ushbu tadqiqot ko'p ma'noli ingliz otlarining antropomorfik semantik jihatlarini o'rganishga bag'ishlangan. Ma'lumki, inson ongida til birliklari ko'pincha antropomorfik xususiyatlar bilan bog'lanadi. Ya'ni, ular insoniy fazilatlar his-tuyg'ular va xatti-harakatlar orqali talqin qilinadi. Ko'p ma'noli otlar misolida ularning turli kontekstlardagi semantik o'zgarishlari tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot tilshunoslikning semantik va pragmatik yondashuvlariga asoslanib ko'p ma'nolilik fenomenini tushinishda antropomorfizatsiyaning rolini aniqlashga harakat qiladi. Shuningdek u lug'aviy birliklarning inson idrokida shakllanish jarayonini ko'rsatib, ularning ma'nosiga ta'sirini tahlil qiladi.

**Kalit so‘zlar:** Ko‘p ma‘noli so‘zlar, Kognitiv lingvistika, Antropomorfik ma‘no, Leksik ma‘no, Konseptual Metafora, Metanimiya, Etimologiya.

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### АНТРОПОМОРФНАЯ СЕМАНТИКА МНОГОЗНАЧНЫХ АНГЛИЙСКИХ СУЩЕСТВИТЕЛЬНЫХ

**Аннотация:** Многозначность—это фундаментальный аспект языка, позволяющий словам иметь несколько значений в зависимости от контекста. Среди различных семантических расширений важную роль играет антропоморфизм —приписывание человеческих характеристик неживым или нечеловеческим объектам. Настоящее исследование направлено на изучение когнитивных и лингвистических механизмов, способствующих антропоморфным расширениям в английском языке, анализируя, как существительные, изначально обозначающие объекты, понятия или природные явления, приобретают человеческие черты. Опираясь на когнитивную лингвистику, теорию концептуальной метафоры и лексическую семантику, работа рассматривает модели семантических сдвигов в часто используемых многозначных существительных. Полученные результаты подчеркивают важность воплощения и метафорического картирования в языке, демонстрируя, что антропоморфизм отражает фундаментальные когнитивные процессы, формирующие человеческое восприятие мира.

**Ключевые слова:** многозначность, когнитивная лингвистика, антропоморфизм, лексическая семантика, концептуальная метафора, метонимия, этимология

#### Introduction

The anthropomorphic semantics of polysemantic English nouns reflects the cognitive tendency of human language to attribute human like characteristics to abstract to inanimate or non-human entities. This study explores how such semantic shifts occur, their linguistic and cultural implications and the cognitive mechanisms underlying these metaphorical extensions in English vocabulary. This article looks into the complexity of poly semantic English nouns, emphasizing how their anthropomorphic elements language and communication enhance

#### Understanding Polysemy

Polysemy refers to the phenomenon where a single word has a multiple related meanings. It is a key concept in linguistics, especially in semantics. For instance, the word ‘foot’ can mean the part of the body, which is the lower limb used for walking. In addition to above it has extended meanings such as:

-base of an object (The foot of the mountain)

- end of a bed (She sat at the foot of the bed)

-measurement unit (he is six feet tall)

Each meaning may match partly in contextual usage, but unique connotations depend on the setting

### **Anthropomorphism in language**

Anthropomorphism in language refers to the attribution of human traits emotions, or intentions to non-human entities, such as animals, objects, natural phenomena, or abstract concepts. It is a fundamental cognitive and linguistic process that shapes how we understand and describe the world.

### **What is anthropomorphism?**

Have you ever stopped and thought about who Mr. Fox of fantastic Mr. Fox really is? He is a walking talking crafty red fox. If you have ever met a fox in real life, chances are it is not a cunning and charismatic as Mr. Fox, doesn't cooperate with other animals, and cannot speak a human language. Assigning these humanlike qualities to a fox is an example of anthropomorphism, a literary device that pops up all the time storytelling.

Example of Polysemantic Nouns with Anthropomorphic qualities

### **Head**

The noun 'head' is the uppermost part of the human body containing the brain, eyes, ears, nose and mouth. For example: She nodded her head in agreement.

This noun has not only origin meaning which means part of the body, but also it has multiple meanings depending on the context. In the book 'Miracle Morning' by Hal Elrod we can consider different meaning of this word.

In the Miracle Morning by Hal Elrod the word 'head' is likely used in various meanings. Here some examples of how head might appear in the book, based on its key themes of personal development, mindset and routine.

#### **1.Head as a mind**

-The first step to transforming your life is getting your head in the right place. This metaphorical use of head refers to mental state and positive thinking.

#### **2. Head as leadership taking control of your life.**

-You must take charge of your mornings and be the head of your own success. Head means being in control just as a leader heads a company or group. High achievers don't wait your change; they head in the direction of their goals.

#### **3.Head as direction**

-If you are not heading in the right direction, you need to change your habits.

Head symbolizes movement towards personal growth.

Each morning routine should head towards success and fulfilment.  
intentionality every action should lead somewhere positive.

This suggests

#### 4. Head as physical action. (Body language and movement)

-Get out of your head and into action – your body must follow your goals. Head here refers to overthinking vs. taking action.

- Nod your head in agreement as you affirm your new beliefs.  
This highlights body languages role in mindset shifts.

#### The role of context and culture

Polysemantic nouns are words that have multiple meanings depending on their usage. The interpretation of these meanings is heavily influenced by context and culture, as they determine how a word is understood in different situations.

Context plays a crucial role in distinguishing between the different meaning of a polysemantic noun. It provides clues that help speakers and listeners identify the intended meaning. Context can be:

-Linguistic context. The words and sentence structure surrounding the noun. Example: ‘He sat on the bank.’ context clarifies whether ‘bank’ refers to a financial institution or the side of a river.

- Situational context. The physical or social environment in which the word is used. Example: The key is missing. In a musical setting ‘key’ refers to a scale; in a household setting, it means a physical key.

-Pragmatic context. The speaker’s intention tone and background knowledge shared by participants in communication. Example: She has a bright future. Metaphorical use of bright rather than its literal meaning.

#### Cultural influence on Polysemantic Nouns

Culture shapes how people interpret and use words. The same noun may have different connotations, metaphoric extensions, or even additional meanings in different languages and societies.

**Cultural-specific meanings.** Some words have multiple meanings only within certain cultural frameworks. Example: Tea in British culture can refer to both a drink and an evening meal, while in other cultures it only refers to the beverage.

**Metaphorical and idiomatic meanings.** Many polysemantic nouns acquire meanings based on cultural experiences. Example: ‘Crown’ in English refers to both a physical object and a symbol of monarchy due to historical associations.

**Taboo and euphemistic meanings.** Some nouns develop additional meanings based on cultural sensitivities. Example In some cultures ‘pig’ may have neutral or culinary meanings whereas in others, it may carry religious or negative connotations.

### **Cross-Cultural Variations in Polysemy**

The meaning of polysemantic nouns can differ across language due to cultural perspectives.

For instance: The English word gift means present but in German ‘Gift’ means poison.

The word ‘bread’ in English refers to food but also metaphorically means money in certain cultures.

### **Implications for language learning and Translation**

-Accurate translation – literal translation often fails to capture cultural nuances.

Effective communication –Awareness of cultural meanings prevents misunderstandings.

Language teaching learners must be exposed to contextual and cultural usage of words.

### **Conclusion**

Context and culture are fundamental in interpreting polysemantic nouns. While context provides immediate clues for meaning selection cultural background influences how a word develops and is understood in different societies. Recognizing these factors enhances linguistic accuracy, translation and cross cultural communication.

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