

**Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
Dnipro State Agrarian and Economic University
Philology Department**

Collective Monograph



**Linguistic and Methodological Training of
Students for Future Professional Activities**



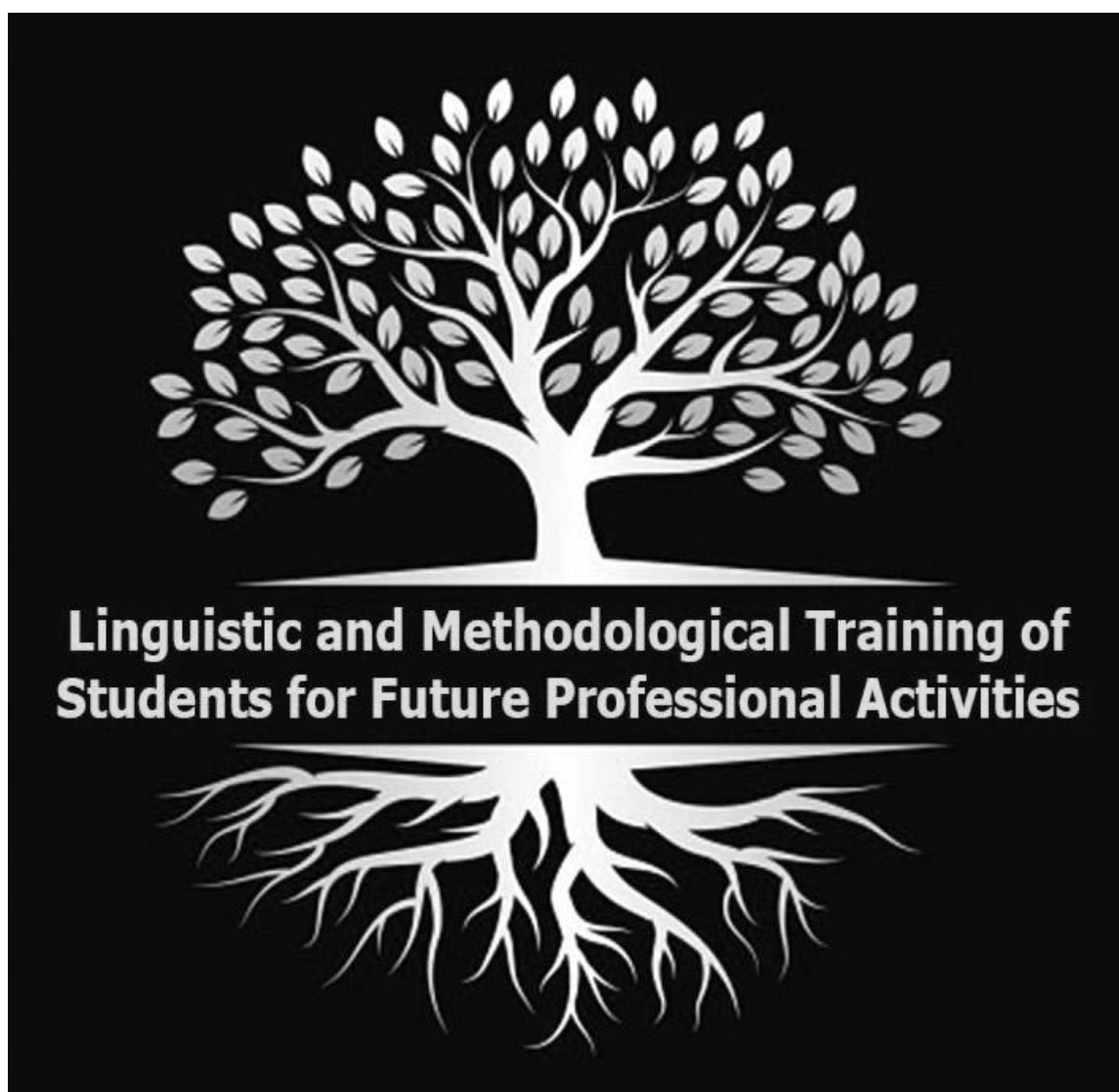
Philology and Pedagogy

Dnipro, 2023

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Collection of scientific materials published is the scientific and practical publication which contains scientific articles of Doctors, Candidates of Sciences, PhDs, research workers, lecturers and practitioners from Europe and Ukraine. The papers contain the study reflecting linguistic and methodological issues in the framework of students' training for professional activities.

The publication examines fundamental directions of linguistic research, methods and technologies of teaching foreign languages, professional, interpersonal and intercultural communication, translation studies, copywriting, media literacy. The collective monograph was published within the framework of the State Budget research topic “Linguistic and professional training of specialists: linguistic, social and cognitive, communication and pedagogical aspects” (state registration number 0122U001178). The publication is aimed at professionals engaged in practical activities in the field of linguistics, methodology, academics and general public.

Section 1

“Fundamental directions of linguistic research”

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SYNONYMY AS A LOGICAL PHILOSOPHICAL AND LINGUISTIC CATEGORY

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Abstract. *In scientific research, the phenomenon of synonymy is analyzed from the point of view of logic, philosophy and linguistics. The concept of synonymy in the context of various branches of linguistics is defined. A comparative-historical analysis of the concept of synonymy was carried out. Categorical signs of synonymy have been established. The criteria for establishing synonymous relations between words and concepts are described. The article uses general scientific methods of observation, analysis and synthesis; linguistic methods, among which the traditional descriptive method is used to interpret the essence of the phenomenon of lexical synonymy; a comparative method applied to the analysis of definitions of lexical synonymy. Modern definitions of the phenomenon of synonymy have been elaborated. It is noted that currently linguists have tested several approaches to the study of lexical synonyms in literary texts: linguosemantic, onomasiological, semasiological, linguopragmatic, cognitive and linguistic. It is noted that the study of lexical synonymy in a contextual aspect allows the scientist to gain access to the deep macrostructure of the text. Analysis of language on the subject of lexical synonymy in the plane of discourse and anthropocentrism can be successfully carried out taking into account the actual functional-semantic aspect of synonyms and the communicative features of those communicators who engage in communication itself. It is proved that synonymy is precisely that incredible and incomprehensible linguistic fact, which, on the one hand, is based, most importantly, on the awareness of the similarity/identity of objects, phenomena, concepts of the surrounding reality, and on the other hand, on the search for distinguishing linguistic signs for the nomination of such realities.*

Key words: *synonymy, lexical synonymy, usual synonym, contextual synonym, artistic discourse.*

Introduction. Synonymy is a special linguistic phenomenon that is constantly in the field of vision of linguists. The generally accepted study of synonymy at different linguistic levels testifies to its universality, and the unceasing interest in the comprehensive linguistic phenomenon points not only to the uniqueness and objectivity of the existence of the phenomenon, but also to the constant contradictions in seeing and understanding the essence of such a linguistic wonder.

Relevance of research. Synonymy is precisely that incredible and incomprehensible linguistic fact that, on the one hand, is based, most importantly, on the awareness of the similarity / identity of objects, phenomena, concepts of the surrounding reality, and, on the other hand, on the search for distinctive linguistic signs for the nomination of such realities. That is why in the theory of linguistic science there is still no unanimous view on the nature and motives of the appearance of synonymy, a single measure for establishing synonymous relations between linguistic units has not been crystallized, a unified view of the meaning and role of communicators as generators of new, sometimes situational, lexical-synonymous units has not been established. The relevance of the proposed work is determined by the objective need to comprehensively describe lexical synonyms that appear in language and speech.

A research problem. A fundamental elucidation of the logical and philosophical constants of synonymy will make it possible to establish the reasons for the appearance and purpose of synonyms, since synonymy is the philosophical side of language, without which neither the spirit of understanding it nor a thorough study can be achieved.

The aim of the article is the descriptive and comparative analysis of the lexical synonymy as a logical-philosophical and linguistic category.

Objectives of the study. The purpose of the scientific article involves the following tasks: to synthesize linguistic studies of lexical synonymy in domestic and foreign linguistics; justify the main categorical features of synonymy; determine the criteria for establishing synonymous relations between language units; describe the history of synonymy research, the semantic structure of the lexical meanings of synonyms.

Methodology. The article uses general scientific methods of observation, analysis and synthesis; linguistic methods, among which the traditional descriptive method is used to interpret the essence of the phenomenon of lexical synonymy; a comparative method applied to the analysis of definitions of lexical synonymy.

Scientific novelty. For the first time, the concept of such synonyms, which, functioning in language and speech, perform the role of lexemes, pragmas, and connotations, is substantiated; criteria for establishing synonymous relationships are

defined; a comprehensive descriptive analysis of lexical synonyms was carried out; the history of synonymy is analyzed.

Analysis of publications. Lexical synonymy and proper synonymous relations have been of interest to philosophers and linguists for a long time, starting from the earliest eras of language study. The origins of the study of synonymy can be found in ancient philosophy. Ancient thinkers and sages in their reflections on language, its forms and peculiarities of nomination paid attention to the presence of several words in speech to name the same concept. This peculiarity of the language found its justification through the use of the philosophical category “identity – difference”.

The principle of identity was first formulated by Aristotle, who noted that everything true must correspond in all respects to itself. Such a thesis is rather proclaimed in the form of the law of the negation of opposites, rather than the law of identity. Ontological substantiation of the principle of identity, according to which each subject is identical with itself, was proposed by H. Wolff: “The same true is the same true that is true. In other words, any A is A ” [1, p. 12]. The absolutization of the principle of identity is inherent in the theory of U. S. Jevons, who puts forward the idea that the object is identical with itself at any moment. H. Hegel initiated criticism of the principle of identity, considering the formula $A = A$ to be empty and only a law of abstract thought. According to the scientist, “no consciousness thinks... It does not speak according to this law... Statements that follow such a normative law of truth (a planet is a planet, a spirit is a spirit) are rightly considered unreasonable” [2, p. 112]. The same line of criticism of the principle of identity as empty and devoid of meaning is presented by F. E. Beneke, I. Römke, and F. Mautner.

So, the philosophers who addressed the clarification of the concept of identity can be divided into two groups according to the principle of attitude towards them: those who had a positive attitude to identity as a philosophical dogma, and those who did not recognize it. Aristotle, H. Wolff, I. Kant, I. G. Fichte express a positive attitude to the principle of identity, considering identity to be an ontological constant. The second group includes A. Bergson, H. Hegel, B. Erdman, G. V. Leibniz, who understand identity rather as an epistemological principle, gradually establishing in philosophy and

logic, on the one hand, the limitations of the subject area of the principle of identity, and, from the second, the distinction between the subject and the subject content of acts of thought.

Thus, B. Erdman, starting from the principle of non-identity, notes that any object identical to itself differs from another. According to H. Siegart, the formula $A = A$ fixes the constancy of the filling of ideas and concepts. V. Wundt holds this opinion, for whom the principle of identity as a fundamental law of knowledge establishes the stability of our logical thinking in all its transformations. H. Frege in his work “Sense and Significance” under the principle $A = A$ understands the principle of identity / equality, where he sees the relationship between the signs of objects, and not the relationship between objects. The scientist assigns sense (meaning) and meaning to different spheres (*opinion – meaning – sentence*, and *meaning – signified object*), noting that it is necessary to draw a clear line between “expressed” and “signified”. The explanation of such a principle through the analysis of the variability of phenomena, various processes of nature, society and thinking transfers the study of the category of identity from only the logical and philosophical plane to other fields of knowledge, in particular psychology, sociology, linguistics, etc.

The concept of identity has long been firmly established in the language. We compare it both with the facts of the surrounding reality and with linguistic phenomena. The same objects, signs, actions, circumstances are recognized as identical. The conclusion about their identity is a mandatory final category in the process of assessing the situation of reality, learning objective reality, orienting a person in it. Usually, linguistic units are identical, i.e. equal, the same, according to one differentiating feature: categorical affiliation, lexical meaning, composition of structural components, functional purpose. That is, identity, both as a philosophical and as a linguistic quantity, cannot be thought of and does not exist without difference, because “identity / difference” is a philosophical category, which is an ontological antonymy that produces the essence and nature of synonymy.

The first to pay attention to the identity / difference of the name was Socrates, because, analyzing the different names of such and such Gods, the thinker confirms the

possibility of using all the names of the same god, because in each of them there is a feature that is unique to the deity that a person saw. Plato expresses a special interest in the essence of the relationship “name – concept” in the dialogue “Cratylus”, in which Socrates emphasizes the differences between humans and animals. Such a difference, according to the philosopher, is that a person constantly compares objects and concepts of the surrounding world, compares them. “A person, as soon as he sees something, and one can also say “catches it with his eyes”, immediately begins to look closely and think about what he saw. That is why a person is rightly called a “man”, because he is first of all an eyewitness and an observer” [3, p. 32], that is, he learns the world around him, noticing the similarities and differences between the named objects. It turns out that Plato, with his ideas, reveals such features of human thinking as discreteness and discursiveness, that is, connecting the named objects with each other by means of judgment, identifying their common and distinctive properties. The discreteness of identical linguistic units presupposes their difference among themselves. The difference can be considered as the initial phase of discreteness and as a condition for the implementation of the discursive process of knowing the phenomena of extra-linguistic reality.

In order to name a phenomenon, object, or concept, it is necessary to determine the features or properties that distinguish such an object from a number of other similar objects. Hegel emphasized the difference that is established within the limits of identity, in which these differences are already concentrated. “Since the mind begins to consider identity, it actually goes beyond its own limits and has before it not identity, but difference in the form of difference” [2, p. 273]. O. O. Potebnya (as well as Plato and Humboldt) notes that knowledge of the world occurs with the help of comparison, which, according to Hegel, “makes sense only under the assumption of a possible difference and, conversely, difference has meaning only under the assumption of an existing similarities Therefore, we demand identity in difference and difference in identity” [2, p. 273]. Denying the principle of identity, H.V. Leibniz insists that considering two objects to be identical means calling one object by two names. The identity/difference postulate formulated by F. de Saussure declares: there is nothing in

language except identity and difference. The main element of language – a sign – is constructed only through differences from other signs.

The existence of synonymy is based on such categories of philosophy and logic as identity and difference. Identity is a relationship between objects (real or abstract), which allows us to talk about them as indistinguishable from each other, in some set of characteristics (for example, properties). Difference is a comparative characteristic of objects that indicates the inconsistency of their features and properties. The difference is fixed where it is established that certain features characteristic of some object are absent in another, which is compared with the first. Identity exists within difference, difference within identity.

Therefore, the common is the basis for the difference; differences that are significant in naming the subject are already concentrated in the most common one. The combination of identity and difference explains the dynamic development of language and its systematization, which is manifested in such categories as polysemy, synonymy, antonymy, which are mutually related. The philosophical basis of synonymy is the categories of identity and similarity of concepts, and the logical basis is the relationship of equality and coincidence.

The phenomenon of synonymy is a separate implementation of the problem of meaning and concepts in general, one of the central questions of which is whether logical concepts are identified / converged in the mind or generalizations presented in the lexical meaning of words. Undoubtedly, synonymy is related to the logical category of identity, similarity, relatedness of concepts. Synonymous relationships appear when they occur within the limits of one logical concept. In current logic and linguistics, a concept is defined as an opinion that reflects objects and phenomena in a generalized form by fixing their properties, signs and relations. Properties, signs and relations appear in the concept as common and specific signs correlated with classes of objects and phenomena. Conceptual thinking is carried out through specific mental operations: analysis and synthesis, identification and differentiation, abstraction and generalization.

Thus, philosophers and linguists come closer to the observation that the semantic field of identity is adjacent to the concepts of similarity, similarity, proximity, which became decisive for the progress of the theory of synonymy in the future. E. Meyerson, describing the constant connection of identity with the laws of nature, revealed the special importance of the mind's ability to identify in the process of thought-speech activity. Indeed, it is human nature to compare. Comparison as a process involves recognizing or assimilating objects. The conclusion about identity is the result of the identification operation, which in the mind of the speaker is connected with the convergence of the essential features of the compared objects up to a complete coincidence. A complete coincidence is perceived as identity, not a complete one – as similarity, closeness. In the relation of identity there are concepts whose volumes completely coincide. According to A. E. Konverskyi, identical concepts are “different symbolic expressions that have different meanings, but the same denotation. For example, “a square” and “a rhombus with all right angles”, “the capital of Ukraine” and “the city where Taras Shevchenko University is located”, etc. Related phenomena need to be distinguished. The search for such a distinction and clarification of the identity/proximity of the concepts, meanings, and goals of a linguistic unit has been shaped in the future into the theory of lexical synonymy, since the problem of synonymy in the theoretical aspect is a ratio of philosophical and linguistic interpretations.

In modern linguistics, two essentially opposite interpretations of synonymy coexist. On the one hand, synonyms mean words with identical meanings, and, on the other hand, words with close meanings. Some scientists try to combine these two approaches: words that are identical and close in meaning are classified as two different types of synonyms. Thus, O. I. Uyemov in the article “Problem of synonyms and contemporary logic” notes that two objects are identical if their essences are identical: at the same time, they require not a complete coincidence of all the components of their essences, but a coincidence of only the essential features of their essences. For E. Husserl, where there is similarity, there is also identity in the true meaning of the

word, because a set is defined as a community of similar entities that are elements of one set. That is, identity and similarity are equivalent concepts.

In modern logic and philosophy, the distinction between the concepts of identity and closeness is not made clearly enough, which causes ambiguity in the vision of the nature of synonymy. Identity and proximity are combined and the problem of synonymy narrows down to the question of identity / proximity of concepts or generalizations. Complete identity and incomplete identity (closeness) provoked the understanding of synonymy in linguistics as absolute and non-absolute, respectively (Y. D. Apresyan, O. D. Grigorieva, L. A. Novikov, etc.). According to scientists, zero opposition, equivalent (complete coincidence) distribution and corresponding equivalent concepts are inherent in absolute synonymous relations. The units involved in such relations have completely equivalent values.

In modern linguistics, it has already become an axiom that absolute synonymy does not exist (L. O. Cherneyko, O. Ye. Khomenko), just as there is no total identity of concepts. In most studies, the emphasis is not on the common features of synonyms, which are definitely perceived, but on the differences between them. Because of this, words whose concepts completely coincide are increasingly considered as lexical doublets, “absolute synonyms”, “irrelative synonyms”, “lexical doublets”, “lexical equivalents”, “lexical parallelisms”, and words that differ at least what shades. Such words, like synonyms, mean the name of the same concept, but, “unlike synonyms, they do not differ from each other either in the main meaning, or shades of meaning, or emotional and expressive coloring, for example: *car* – *automobile* etc. Therefore, the named words should not be confused with synonyms, and therefore the terms “absolute synonyms” and “irrelative synonyms” for naming them cannot be considered successful.

From a philosophical point of view, no two situations are the same, so each of us uses a word according to certain conditions of communication. S. Ullman notes that absolute synonymy contradicts our attitude to language, because few words that are completely synonymous in meaning are interchangeable in any context without the slightest change in nominative meaning, emotional color. Some scientists, when

studying synonymous relations, try to avoid the term identity at all, because they believe that each, different from another, linguistic form has a specific, different from others meaning and therefore tend to talk about similarity, closeness.

So, the problem of the logical-philosophical basis of synonymy has emerged with particular acuteness. The primacy of the basic concepts of synonymy (identity or closeness) is solved in different ways in the scientific literature.

In our research, we will take as a basis the view of the logical and philosophical basis of synonymy common in modern linguistics: synonyms can be close concepts (related) and part of the same (almost identical). The similarity / identity of concepts appears as a result of the mental operation of comparing logical categories, by searching for the difference / differences in their essence. Taking this definition as a basis, we can talk about the different degree of identity of words united by a common logical concept into one semantic subsystem and distinguished by individual nuances.

The identity of *alphabet* – *ABC*, in our opinion, does not form a synonymous pair, because from a logical and philosophical point of view, they fix an equivalent match and are therefore lexical doublets. And the rapprochement *amateur* – *dabbler* is a synonymous pair, because the word *amateur* denotes a broader concept relative to *amateur*, because in addition to the meaning “one who is engaged in his favorite business not as a professional”, can also be used in the sense of “who has a great passion for something”, respectively, will fill a larger number of contexts, for example: *amateur florist* and *dabbler florist*, but a lover of the native word and never an amateur of the native word. Therefore, similar concepts can be synonyms when one of the members of the synonymous pair is not only identical in the basic meaning of the concept, but also has at least one distinguishing feature that determines the peculiarities of their functioning. This view spread in linguistics thanks to the works of Y. Apresyan, I. Bilodid, E. Regushevskiy, D. Shmelev, and others. It allows you to count as synonyms both almost identical lexemes and those that converge only by one shade, and therefore behave differently in different contexts.

Criteria for defining lexical–synonymous units

The active search for the basis for establishing synonymous relations between lexical units has established a widespread view in logic, according to which words that denote the same concept, but express its different shades, should be considered synonyms. A. Bragina and R. Budagov adhere to this opinion, considering that the appearance of synonyms is connected with the striving of language towards an ever more precise common and individual correspondence between the world of words and the world of concepts. However, most linguists are skeptical of the formed logical-philosophical understanding of synonymy based on the commonality of the concept expressed by synonyms, noting its inexhaustibility. Thus, L. Krysin believes that “the logical approach does not solve the problem of identifying synonyms, but only translates it into another” [4, p. 58]. Because of this, in the modern textbook on logic by V. Kyrylov, A. Starchenko, a definition of synonyms, traditional for linguistics, appears: “Synonyms are words that are close or identical in meaning, express the same concept, but differ in shades of meaning stylistic coloring, for example: *contract* – *agreement*” [5]. The logical connection of a word and a concept is essential for the definition of synonyms, but it cannot be considered as the only correct one when identifying synonymous relations, and it does not exhaust the linguistic problem of synonymy as a whole.

Trying to free themselves from a purely logical approach to the phenomenon of synonymy and give it a full linguistic interpretation, researchers transferred the principle of identity / closeness of concepts to the plane of language, which was embodied in the understanding of synonymy as the ability of different words to denote identical / close concepts. It is the linguistic direction related to the definition of the criteria of synonymy that turned out to be the most fruitful: to date, a sufficiently rich material has accumulated, which makes it possible to generalize the criteria of synonymy.

When considering synonymous relations, it is customary to take into account various criteria for their establishment. The definition of synonymy of words in linguistics is approached from many points of view. Thus, V. Vilyuman lists at least ten signs that can be

used as a basis for defining synonyms [6, p. 19]. However, it is indicative that all the criteria of synonymy can be reduced to three main ones: closeness/identity of the objects denoted by the word, closeness/identity of the concepts denoted, closeness/identity of the structural meaning of the word. Accordingly, in modern lexicology, the discussion in the theory of synonymy takes place within three approaches: denotative (V. Vilyuman, V. Levytskyi, Reformatskyi, Zh. Sokolovska), significant (V. Grechko, A. Yevgenyeva, S. Melnychuk, L. Novikov, S. Ulman, D. Shmelov).

However, none of these approaches can be used as the only correct one, because denotative commonality is not yet a criterion for the synonymy of statements... Linguistic units with a common denotation and different semantic content are not true synonyms. D. Shmelov holds the same opinion. Only the structural approach cannot be taken into account, because “words that are interchangeable in certain contexts that are in clear correspondence are not free” (B. Hornung). All this forced many researchers to take into account all three factors – meaning, subject and compatibility – when defining synonyms.

The definition of synonyms as words close in meaning does not fully ensure the formal establishment of the fact of synonymy / non-synonymy of words, which is a serious problem of the theory of lexical synonymy. The search for a basis for establishing the fact of synonymy of words led to the formation of a number of essentially additional criteria, with the help of which integrated modeling of synonymous subsystems is possible. Among the linguistic criteria of synonymy proposed by the researchers, we will single out those that do not contradict philosophical, psychological and logical aspects:

a) the presence of conceptual commonality of lexical units (Y. Apresyan, V. Grechko, A. Yevgenyeva, M. Zhovtobryukh, L. Lysychenko, L. Shcherba) is manifested in the fact that synonyms express one concept. Such a criterion is indisputable and mandatory, it is singled out in one way or another by all researchers. A concept is a category of thinking, usually defined as one of the main forms of representation of the world associated with the use of language. The concept is the result of the generalization of the known realities and the mental selection of the

corresponding class according to a certain set of characteristics common or different for all objects or phenomena. Accordingly, the structure of the concept includes generic and species characteristics of objects and phenomena. The concept is objectified into a sign, that is, it is a certain form of reflection of reality at the level of knowing it through language. Nominative units become symbolic forms of concepts. Concepts in linguistics are not associated with any one symbolic form, which causes the appearance of synonyms, for example: *Motherland – Fatherland*;

b) subject commonality of lexical units – a criterion additional to the conceptual one, because exclusively subject commonality cannot be considered the basis of synonymy due to the fact that such a requirement can unite not only synonymous lexemes, but also words that are in generic relations, – hyperonyms and in species – hyponyms, for example, the hyperonym flowers unites the hyponyms *chamomile, rose, iris, narcissus*, which are not synonyms. Therefore, many linguists are inclined to combine the first two criteria and define exactly the subject – concept community as a mandatory basis for the synonymization of lexical units. Subject commonality of lexical units means that synonyms are related to one subject, i.e. have a common denotative meaning, a common seme – archiseme. The coincidence of the denotative correlation of words is definitely a condition for their synonymization and is reflected in the semantic structure of the word, but does not fully determine its meaning;

c) closeness or identity of values. The most important criterion for determining synonymy (semantic equivalence) between lexical units, the selection of which has become traditional in the theory of synonymy, but at that time also the most controversial, because, according to N. Shishova, “if today there is no unanimous view on the lexical meaning of a word , then it is hardly possible to give an unequivocal definition of the proximity of meaning” [7, p. 28]. The approach to the criterion of proximity of meanings in our study is based on the understanding of the lexical meaning as a complex multi-component semantic structure of a word, which is revealed by means of component analysis and represents a hierarchically ordered configuration of sems that correlate with aspects of its denotative, significant, connotative and pragmatic meanings.

All scientists who study the phenomenon of lexical synonymy refer to the definition of the proximity of meanings. First of all, you need to realize that you cannot talk about the proximity of the entire lexical meaning in general, because, as R. Ginsburg rightly points out, “only the denotative component of the meaning can be described as identical or close, because synonyms are similar in their denotative meaning, but the stylistic the meaning component is always different” [8, p. 25].

Secondly, in order to solve the question about the criteria of synonymy, it is necessary to give an unequivocal answer to the question about the linguistic essence of those differences that are permissible within the limits of synonymy and can be observed between synonymous words, since the fact of the existence of certain differences is recognized and promoted by all researchers.

Yu. D. Apresyan reduces all the differences between synonyms to four types:

1) purely semantic differences; 2) evaluation differences; 3) differences in semantic associations; 4) differences in logical accents.

Attempts at a detailed description of the nuances of meaning that distinguish synonyms can be found in Zh. Sokolovska’s scientific research “Problems of Lexical Synonymy in Modern Linguistics” (1970). According to the researcher, such nuances can relate to: gradation (*fear – horror*), greater or lesser breadth of meaning (*use – benefit*), the degree of abstractness and concreteness (*hide – cover*), the difference between the term and the everyday meaning of the word (*car – automobile*), adding to the main value an exceptional feature (*to open – to unlock*). It is precisely the presence of differences (shades) in the meanings of synonymous tokens that justify the existence of synonymy in language and speech;

d) semantic and syntactic compatibility, that is, lexical and syntactic distribution is the criterion that complements and is subordinate to the semantic one. The criterion of closeness of values makes it possible to distinguish a synonymous series at the level of paradigmatics, and the requirement of lexical and syntactic compatibility – at the level of syntagmatics. The meaning of synonyms as linguistic units includes the potential possibility of their combinability in syntagmatics. At the same time, meaning and semantic connectivity are ontologically heterogeneous. If the nominative function

of the sign is reflected in the meaning of the lexical-synonymous unit, then the semantic conjunctiveness is a reflection of its syntagmatic function and is secondary to the meaning. V. Hak, R. Ginzburg, M. Kochergan, and E. Kuznetsova insist on the obligatory clarification of the semantic criterion of conjunctivity. Indeed, seminal analysis is usually carried out by comparing lexical meanings in a paradigmatic way. Linguistics even established the opinion that identical / different components of the meanings of lexical units can be distinguished only by comparing them with other units found in the same semantic field. However, according to Yu. A. Naida, if we proceed from the position that the syntagmatics of a word is a manifestation of its semantics, then the best way to objectify the seminal analysis of a word is to study its conjugation. R. Ginzburg rightly believes that connectivity is the only means of component analysis, since only it can reveal the hidden senses. The importance of such a criterion cannot be overestimated when establishing synonymous relationships between lexical units not only of the language level, but, first of all, of the speech level;

e) interchangeability of lexical units (L. Novikov). V. Vilyuman, L. Bulakhovsky, L. Novikov, S. Ulman, and M. Shansky put forward the principle of interchangeability of synonyms in any context as the main criterion of synonymy. Thus, according to A. Gvozdev, there are no synonyms where their replacement is impossible, but there are only words that denote different concepts, although sometimes they are close to each other. Whereas, according to Yu. Apresyan, no pair of lexical-synonymous units will be able to satisfy such a strict claim, since “there are almost no synonyms that do not differ from each other either semantically or emotionally-stylistically” [9, p. 301], therefore the scientist insists on a weak distributive criterion of synonymy, i.e. the requirement of partial interchangeability. We share the opinion of those linguists (A. Yevgenieva, N. Pashkovskaya, D. Shmelov) who make it impossible to apply such a criterion to words close in meaning, because interchangeability contradicts the main functions of synonyms (ideographic and stylistic); this criterion can be used only for lexical doublets.

Grammatical features of lexical-synonymous units also include their common part-language belonging. We are inclined to the views of those scientists who allow the

semantic proximity of words that have different morphological expression, i.e. inter-linguistic synonymy. We consider cross-linguistic synonymy permissible due to the fact that the proximity / identity of the meanings of words as the main criterion of synonymy is found primarily in lexical semantics, and not in the grammatical meaning, therefore words of different grammatical classes can converge in meaning, for example, synonyms of *own* (pronoun) – *own* (adjective).

We consider the selection of the criterion of stylistic uniformity of lexical synonyms to be illegitimate, since the common stylistic component unites a separate type of lexical-synonymous units – stylistic synonyms (*request – statement – report*), therefore it cannot act as a differentiating feature for language synonyms; with a certain stylistic goal in speech, the meanings of words with different stylistic colors can converge, which is a kind of source of expression, an artistic technique (*walk – wander – climb*).

The functioning in the language of semantically close words, which differ in the degree of expression of a particular shade of meaning, received the name of ideographic synonyms, for example: *want – desire – crave – long for – prefer*.

Therefore, the existence of words close in meaning is a lexical-semantic phenomenon based on the speaker's awareness of common features of the facts of the surrounding reality. Having analyzed the criteria for the selection of synonyms available in linguistic science, we note that only the criterion of conceptual commonality along with close semantics does not cause contradictions. Convergence of the meanings of words can be found only in relative concepts that are in mutual dependence and can characterize the phenomenon of the same plan. The similarity of linguistic units implies the presence in each of them of a common semantic base and, at the same time, at least one differential shade of meaning. The other specified criteria are not universal for determining the synonymy (semantic equivalence) of words, although they make it possible to identify the paradigmatic and syntagmatic relations of synonyms among themselves and with other words in the lexical-semantic system of the language.

The history of synonymy research.

The lexical system of the language is an exceptionally complex relationship of lexical groups based on opposition and semantic proximity. Precisely semantic equivalence largely determines the organization of the lexical system. The outstanding linguist L. Shcherba noted that “language is a rather complex system of synonymous means of expression, one way or another correlated with each other” [10, p. 19]. The existence of synonyms is associated with the ability of the language system to have several designations for one signified. All issues of system characteristics in one way or another intersect with problems of synonymy, which makes their study difficult. According to the right remark of M. Nikitin, “the problem of synonymy is one of the eternal problems of linguistic semantics, which has not yet received a generally accepted solution, despite constant efforts both in theory and in practical compilation of dictionaries of synonyms” [11, p. 28].

For the first time, the term “synonymy” (*synonemia*) appeared in antiquity during the time of M. Quintilian and translated from Greek meant “synonymy”, that is, the ability of different words to denote the same realities of the surrounding world. Europeans paid attention to the close meaning of words in the 16th century: words similar to each other were considered equivalent and interchangeable, calling them “word identity”. In English literature, as G. Noyes rightly points out, “the development of the science of synonyms begins directly under the influence of French linguistic science, with the appearance of J. Trasler’s research “The difference between words considered synonymous in the English language”, which became an almost verbatim translation of the famous French linguist Girard “The correctness of the French language or the difference in the meanings of words that can be synonyms” in 1718” [5]. In the German language, the term synonym was first used in Eberghardt’s collection “German synonymy or words related in meaning” in 1794. The first mention of synonyms in the Ukrainian language is found in P. Berinda’s study “Lexikon slavyanorossiskyi y ymen taklochanie”, which was published in 1627 in Kyiv. It is natural that since then, they believe, the scientific study of the close meaning of words, connected with the emergence and formation of the term system and terminopols of the theory of lexical synonymy, begins.

Scientists of the 17th–19th centuries, from the very beginning of the formation of synonymy, are trying to define such a linguistic phenomenon, clarify its logical and philosophical basis, seek to find special requirements to unite such units into a common group. This period is associated with the names of such linguists as I. Davydov, D. Kalaidovych, M. Lomonosov, I. Fonvizin, and others. In their research, scientists pay attention to the fact that the meaning of one word does not always exactly coincide with the meaning of another, in addition, synonyms are not able to replace each other in all speech situations, so they are not completely identical. M. Lomonosov emphasized that synonyms are similar words (not identical) that exist for a more precise expression of thought.

The main problem of synonymy, to which numerous researches are devoted, starting from the end of the 18th century, is the question of the possibility of having two or more words in the language to denote the same concept. Considering the stylistic, expressive, emotional varieties of synonyms, the authors (O. Halych, I. Davydov, N. Ibragimov, P. Kalaidovych, P. Kondyrev, S. Salar, etc.) claim that words identical in meaning (unambiguous) cannot be. Scientists characterize synonyms as words “similar in meaning”, “related in meaning”. “If synonyms are taken in the sense that they contain different concepts, but have some connection between them, then words of the same name exist in every language and can express the same concept in its various degrees and changes. Therefore, accomplice, co-participant and co-partner in this sense will be synonyms, because all these names belong to a person who is engaged in a business that someone else is also engaged in. However, if we accept the definition of synonyms as words that have one meaning and that have a similarity in naming so perfect that the meaning of synonyms in all interpretations can always and without change be the same; if it is possible to use them without any difference in all cases, if there is not the slightest need to choose one of the words, taking into account the power of expression, then there are no words of the same name in any language” [12, p. 8 – 9]. About the inadmissibility of words with the same meaning in the literary language, O. Halych noted: “Synonyms are words that are similar and different in meaning” [13, p. 9 – 10].

So, for linguists of the first half of the 19th century, the defining and mandatory fact in the definition of synonyms was the differences between them, which justified their presence in the language, because “if there were synonyms with an equivalent meaning, then the language would be difficult for perception and memory, because only the ear felt the difference in words of the same name, and the mind could not grasp either the power of expression, or the connection between meanings, or various manifestations of the same concept” [13, p. 9].

However, in the process of researching synonymy, not only contradictory explanations regarding its linguistic nature appear, but also the denial of such a phenomenon in general. Thus, G. Vinokur notes that “... the synonymy of the means of language, if dealing not with a linguistic abstraction, but with a living real language, with the language that actually exists in history, is simply a fiction. A synonym is a synonym as long as it is in the dictionary, but in the context of live speech there is no situation in which it would be the same to say: child or child, road or path” [14, p. 55]. L. Bloomfield also rejects the existence of synonymy, considering it “science fiction”. We find the same views and refutations of the phenomenon of close significance in the scientific investigations of other researchers (for example, V. Zvyagintseva).

The opposing attitude of scientists indicates only the rejection of the formulated definitions and outlined problems of synonymy, and not the expression of doubt regarding the objectivity of its existence. L. Bloomfield focuses on the fact that when studying the meaning of a word, one cannot ignore the variety of speech situations that “incite us to pronounce this or that speech form” [Bloomfield, p. 143 – 145]. “All members of a language group are trained from childhood to use a certain language form when the situation is familiar, known in advance, has typical characteristics, but even in cases like this, the use of the word is never exactly the same; most linguistic forms have even less defined meanings” [15, p. 143 – 145]. It is significant that from the first observations of synonyms, linguists distinguish between synonymy in language and speech. Almost all proponents of synonymy in language claim that synonyms are words of close, almost identical meaning, and it is precisely the differences between them that determine the peculiarities of their functioning in speech.

A more detailed study and confirmation of synonymy takes place through lexicographic description, starting with the works of M. Lomonosov from the middle of the 18th century until the appearance of the first serious glossaries of lexical-synonymous units (dictionaries of D. I. Fonvizin in 1783, P. O. Kalaidovich in 1818). The first dictionaries are not complicated by the author's theoretical concepts about the essence of synonymy, but are an attempt by the authors to collect and classify the units of such a linguistic phenomenon in accordance with the researchers' own views and intuition.

The most significant and interesting lexicographic development of the beginning of the 20th century can be considered the "Dictionary of Russian synonyms and expressions with similar meanings" by N. Abramov, which caused criticism and disapproval, because, as Yu. Apresyan pointed out, "it was not understood and not appreciated by contemporaries". For our research, such a dictionary is extremely interesting and important, because in it the author demonstrates a functional approach to synonymy. The synonyms given in the dictionary do not form synonymous rows, but synonymous nests that reflect the associative background of the era of the creation of the dictionary. The author intuitively organized into synonym nests what are called contextual synonyms, co-hyponyms, hyperonyms, hyponyms in modern linguistics.

A similar, but already extremely stately and deeply researched, view of synonymy can be seen in the popular science essay by V. Favorin "Synonyms in the Russian Language". In this development, synonymy is understood as a process, a dynamic phenomenon that reflects the thinking and cognitive activity of a person, and synonymous relationships are illustrated in the form of dynamic, constantly changing series, which, intersecting with each other, are formed into nests, and nests – into systems; synonyms are able to accumulate in our imagination in amplitudes according to the degree of expression of the semantic shade, thereby demonstrating a constant movement. Therefore, the works of V. Favorin and N. Abramov are far ahead of their era in the understanding of synonymy, because the ideas and thoughts highlighted in them are already developing in modern linguistics.

The twentieth century turned out to be the most valuable and fruitful for the theory of lexical synonymy. Scientists continue to develop the logical-philosophical idea of

difference with identity at the basis of synonymization of words, further forming and confirming the understanding of the phenomenon of synonymy as the first linguistic miracle with the involvement of exclusively linguistic methods. Thus, the well-known linguist O. Potebnia even at the beginning of the XXI century. in his study “Thought and Language” (1928), he noted that “the pairing of the words genus – tribe fully demonstrates the non-identity of identity in folklore. Such a pair, at first glance, is close to the tautological declension of synonyms, but, if you look more carefully, it reflects extremely important differences in the terminological order”.

At this time, synonymous resources of the language are actively and diligently researched and collected, a huge number of scientific surveys and dictionaries of synonyms appear. It was in the 20th century that interest in the study of synonyms grew, a large amount of scientific literature devoted to the study of synonymy as a linguistic phenomenon was published. An independent scientific discipline in linguistics – synonymy – is emerging. Scientists are trying to determine the place of synonymy in the language system (N. Abramov, Z. Aleksandrova, Y. Apresyan, S. Berezhan, V. Grechko, V. Zvyagintsev, O. Reformatskyi, D. Shmelov), strive to find criteria for distinguishing synonyms (N. Arutyunova, Sh. Bally, S. Berezhan, V. Vylyuman, T. Vinokur, V. Hak, O. Gvozdev, N. Shanskyi) develop classifications (L. Bulakhovskiy, R. Budagov, V. Vynogradov, V. Grechko, A. Yevgenyeva, V. Levitskyi, N. Shanskyi) and describe the functional purpose of lexical-synonymous units (O. Galkina-Fedoruk, V. Klyueva, M. Palevska), and also try to analyze synonyms in action, that is, under different conditions of communication (A. Bragina, V. Hak, O. Grigorieva, V. Kodukhov, V. Levitsky).

Linguists of the 20th century are trying to establish such a category as a special linguistic universal, examining it at all linguistic levels. Sound synonyms (R. Avanesov, V. Sidorov), grammatical (Sh. Bally, A. Yevgenyeva, O. Peshkovsky, L. Polyuga, N. Shvedova), phraseological synonyms are actively considered (V. Vinogradov, L. Shevchenko), syntactical (G. Zolotova, A. Lagutina, I. Kovtunova).

Lexical synonymy is analyzed on the material of different languages. Russian linguists such as Yu. Apresyan, A. Yevgenyeva, S. Berezhan, A. Bragina, L. Novikov,

M. Palevska, N. Shanskyi, A. Shapiro, D. Shmelov and others. Foreign scientists S. Balli, J. Eberhard, J. Lyons, R. Farel, Y. Filipets, and others devote their explorations to the problem of synonymy.

The 20th century records the extraordinary interest of domestic linguists in the lexical synonymy of the Ukrainian language. Ukrainian linguists study lexical synonymy from the point of view of general linguistics (L. Bulakhovskyi, M. Kochergan, S. Semchynskyi), lexicology (A. Bevzenko, V. Vashchenko, P. Derkach, M. Fashchenko, L. Shevchenko) and stylistics (O. Davydova, P. Derkach, O. Ponomariiv, V. Rusanivskyi).

It has become traditional for linguists to study lexical synonyms taking into account the grammatical class to which words with similar meanings belong. For linguists, the part-linguistic affiliation of synonyms becomes, at the same time, a special feature around which words with similar meanings can be grouped, and as a criterion that helps to prove the systematicity of lexical-synonymous units. Thus, noun synonymy is studied by A. Bevzenko, V. Vashchenko, N. Davydenko, I. Oschypko, O. Taranenko, verb synonymy by S. Andrienko, H. Kolesnyk, I. Oliynyk, I. Oschypko, L. Palamarchuk and others.

In terms of stylistics, the problem of lexical synonymy has been elaborated in detail by such linguists as L. Bulakhovskyi, A. Buryachok, V. Vashchenko, L. Palamarchuk, and L. Skrypnyk. From the point of view of stylistics, synonyms arise as a result of the selection of perfect forms of expression of thoughts and feelings. According to V. Vashchenko, “synonyms satisfy a person’s desire for accuracy and beauty of speech. It is in the synonyms that the most “intimate” features of the lexical system, its communicative and expressive possibilities are hidden. From these units, you can choose the most successful, accurate, apt or bright words for a specific speech act, depending on the circumstances that accompany communication or the expression of a person’s thoughts and feelings” [5].

In the last century, an active study of lexical synonymy of the Ukrainian language began in the direction of dictionary science. The lexicographical aspect of synonymy was thoroughly worked out in the scientific studies of V. Vashchenko “Dictionary of

synonyms of the Ukrainian language and some questions of the theory of synonymy” (1968) and S. Levchenko “To the question of the principles of compiling a dictionary of synonyms of the Ukrainian language” (1955). The authors refer not only to the elementary consideration of words with similar meanings, but first of all to a scrupulous description of the criteria for their establishment and, accordingly, the principles of arranging synonymous series and nests for further arranging the dictionary.

In general, among the valuable and solid dictionary works of the 20th century on lexical synonymy are P. Derkach’s “Short Dictionary of Synonyms of the Ukrainian Language” (1960), “Minimum Synonymous Dictionary” by V. Vashchenko (1972), “Selected from Ukrainian synonyms” and “Materials for a dictionary of synonyms” by A. Bagmut, “Practical dictionary of synonyms of the Ukrainian language” (1993) by S. Karavanskyi, “Russian-Ukrainian dictionary of synonyms” by N. Pylynskyi (1995) and “Dictionary of synonyms of the Ukrainian language” (1999) L. Polyugy, which was published in 1960 and has been reprinted and supplemented several times to this day. Synonymous equivalents of the most frequently used words are selected in the dictionary, accompanied by brief explanations and stylistic remarks.

Attempts to systematize and give order to words with close meanings in glossaries have provoked different, sometimes contradictory, views on the lexical-synonymous paradigm, i.e., a synonymic series and a synonymic nest as a way of arranging synonyms. A. Buryachok, L. Lysychenko, O. Nechitaylo, L. Skrypnyk, O. Taranenko devote their explorations to the problem of construction, and in general, the existence of a synonymous series in Ukrainian linguistics. A serious study in this aspect is the work of O. Taranenko “Some aspects of the theory of synonymy in the plan of creating a synonym dictionary” (1980). The difficulty remains again in the criteria for the selection of synonyms and, most importantly, in establishing the proximity of their meanings in order to arrange them in one or another synonymous series. To do this, linguists consider whether it is worth including in the synonymous series words that converge in meaning only under certain conditions or only with a certain stylistic purpose, but taking into account the postulates of the non-existence of the same two

words in the language to name one concept (logical difference with identity) and the identical use of one and the same word, are inclined to take into account all possible words with close meanings, otherwise no synonym series would have been formed, and therefore, a dictionary would not have been formed. Such considerations mark and produce a discursive approach to the study of lexical synonymy. The material for research is, most importantly, an artistic text, in which lexical synonymy is the sphere of infinite possibilities of linguistic creativity, and therefore constitutes a fruitful field of sound and high-quality lexical-synonymous means.

The study of the lexical-synonymous level of artistic works of different meters of Ukrainian literature begins at the dawn of the 20th century. There are studies by V. Ilyin based on the material of lexical synonymy by T. Shevchenko, I. Oschypko – on noun, adjective, and adverbial synonymy in the artistic works of I. Franko, I. Oliynyk – on verb and adjectival synonymy in the poetry of Lesya Ukrainka, L. Palamarchuk on the material of lexical synonymy of the artistic works of M. Kotsyubynskyi, L. Polyuga – on verbal synonymy in the works of Ivan Franko, H. Kolesnyk – on the lexical synonymy of the poetic language of M. Rylsky, which is one of the most thorough studies in this series of works, A. Bevzenko – on the synonymous richness of the language of Mykhailo Stelmakh (1968), M. Fashchenko – on synonymy in the works of Oleksandr Dovzhenko (1972), A. Porozhniuk – on the lexical synonymy of Oles Honchar's artistic works (1987), H. Horokh – on lexical synonymy of Ulas Samchuk's artistic works.

In the opinion of I. Hnatyuk, such works testify to the appropriate level of elaboration of theoretical issues of synonymy in Ukrainian linguistics, in particular, the understanding of the very essence of a synonym, synonymy, the theory of a synonymous series, gradation and stylistic distinction of lexical synonyms, contextuality and contextlessness of synonymy. Such studies also had great practical value, as they served as a reliable factual basis for the creation of large summarizing works, in particular the academic Dictionary of Synonyms of the Ukrainian Language (1990–2000). This elegant two-volume work is today the most complete collection of Ukrainian synonyms, which includes 9,200 synonymous rows. Such a collection of

linguistic units became not only a true luxury in the lexical-synonymous dictionary, which demonstrates a richly dressed paradigm of words with close meanings, but also a symbolic and temporal rubicon between the traditional and alternative theory of synonymy.

Indeed, due to the huge number of works devoted to the phenomenon of close meaning of words, by the end of the 20th century it seemed that everything had already been studied and analyzed both in the theory and in the practice of synonymy, so interest in the linguistic phenomenon gradually began to fade. This is also connected with the fact that some leading scientists (S. Ullman, G. Shperber) are beginning to be skeptical about the possibility and expediency of studying synonyms, because, on the one hand, the issue of developing a clearly defined method of synonyms remains open, and, on the other hand, the conviction of some linguists (O. Smyrnytskyi) in the inability of lexical-synonymous units to form a special separate lexical system within the general system of language vocabulary. Such an assumption became directly opposed to the ideas of structural linguistics of Ferdinand de Saussure, which became invaluable for the further progress of the theory of synonymy. Structural linguistics arose and developed in the first half of the 20th century. Having established the doctrine of language as a communicative semiotic system (Ferdinand de Saussure), which has its own structure, the then still young linguistic discipline developed its own method of component analysis, which became extremely productive and indispensable when considering lexical synonyms. However, structural and systemic linguistics sought to develop clear criteria during the definition of this or that linguistic phenomenon, which is practically impossible when identifying criteria for the proximity of meanings.

It is impossible to overestimate the significance of another field of linguistics for the theory of synonymy, the principles of which were formulated as early as 1860 by the American philosopher C. Peirce and which developed under the influence of the ideas of the founder of structural linguistics, F. de Saussure. Linguistic semiotics – the science of sign systems possessed by utterances and utterances – long ago developed successful criteria for an effective and fruitful study of lexical synonymy. To this day, all scientists who study any lexical-semantic phenomenon in language and speech turn to its branches – semantics, pragmatics and syntax.

The phenomenon of synonymy in semiotics is interpreted quite broadly: synonyms are two equivalent but not identical statements. Equivalence means anything related to one and the same denotation or concept, that is, to the part containing explanatory information. Therefore, a more detailed and scrupulous analysis of synonymy in the 20th century is usually carried out in terms of separate branches of linguistic semiotics, most importantly within the limits of only semantics (onomasiology and semasiology). Precisely semantics established a reliable foundation and a serious protection for current and future linguistic studies of the phenomenon of close meaning of words.

The novelty and peculiarity of modern approaches and views lies in the synthesizing, complex analysis of synonymy: in combining the achievements of traditional synonymy and semantics, philosophical views and modern linguistic knowledge.

One way or another, the 21st century was marked by a revival of interest in synonymy, and therefore to this day the problem of synonymy is debatable and topical, which is connected with the modern requirements and claims of linguistic science, because it has been proven that the presence of identity / difference in the meanings of words is usually not limited to the linguistic paradigm, objectively fixed in the thinking of the speakers. Synonyms often occur in speech, where words are used in figurative and other meanings, fall into contextual dependencies that, in connection with the situation or the intentions of the participants of communication, acquire common meanings.

According to V. Chernyak's right remark, "the organic inclusion of the problem of synonymy in various problems of linguistic knowledge is determined by the fact that in synonymy, the main functions of language – communicative, cognitive, and metalinguistic – are uniquely intertwined – the unique ability of language to be a means of analyzing itself" [16, p. 95].

That is precisely why modern linguistics openly demonstrates the transition to the cognitive-communicative-discursive paradigm of linguistic knowledge, which represents the integration of the two leading linguistic branches of our time – cognitive and communicative. In line with current linguistic knowledge, there is a need for a

new, cognitively and pragmatically oriented theory of synonymy. Today's linguistics, focusing on anthropocentrism as a priority direction for the study of linguistic units, expands the aspectology of synonyms. The new anthropocentric linguistic science has already defined new perspectives for the study of synonyms: now synonyms are considered as an actively used means of verbalizing concepts, as an important tool of communication and language reflection. An important place is the study of the role of synonyms in the organization of the text.

Today, there are already linguistic developments dedicated to the study of synonymy not as a systemic phenomenon that has a set of certain characteristics, but as an individual's ability to evaluate and experience similarity in the process of cognitive activity (V. Basok, N. Golikova, V. Zabotkina, Yu. Knyazeva, S. Lebedeva, O. Pokrovska, A. Sudya, O. Taranenko, Yu. Chepel, V. Chernyak, etc.), through synonymy, speech-thinking mechanisms, as well as psychological features of the individual and linguistic and cultural factors are investigated.

The universality of the phenomenon of synonymy, which reflects the dialectical interaction of semantic similarity and difference, the communicative purpose of synonyms actively used by the speaker, has determined today the multifaceted approach to synonymous relationships.

Currently, lexical synonymy is studied from the point of view of onomasiology (V. Dits, N. Yefremova, L. Novikov), semasiology (Y. Apresyan, V. Levitskiy, O. Skshidlo), functional semantics (H. Horokh, V. Zabotkina), linguistic pragmatics (V. Basok, N. Panasenko, A. Sudya), sociolinguistics (in the communicative direction, the works of L. Dzhalashova, T. Neverova, A. Khrustalova), cognitive linguistics (V. Grishkova, S. Lebedeva, N. Mechkovska, A. Shumylova), psycholinguistics (V. Grishkova, O. Zalevska, R. Frumkina), linguistic stylistics (V. Kyrylova, N. Nepliyvoda, N. Khomyak). The problems of lexical synonymy were analyzed in line with modern knowledge on the material of German (V. Basok, N. Panasenko), English (V. Pavlov) and Russian (V. Grishkova, S. Lebedeva, A. Shumylova) language.

Synonymy in the onomasiological aspect is understood from the point of view of commonality of nomination. Synonyms are defined as words that have a common denotative (objective) meaning. The onomasiological interpretation of synonyms consists in “establishing what is hidden behind the nuances of the meaning of lexical units – members of a synonymous series, more precisely, what part of the knowledge about objective reality obtained in the process of activity we fix in their names, which concept we call a certain synonym, the presence of which features in the object’s ontology is mandatory for it to be included in a certain synonymous series” [17]. There is an opinion that the onomasiological stage is a prerequisite for the next, semasiological, stage of analysis.

Synonymy in the semasiological aspect is the identity or closeness of the values of units of the same linguistic level. Synonymy arises due to the complete or partial coincidence of individual elements of the semantic structure of a linguistic sign, which semasiologists call linguistic variants, lexical-semantic variants, elementary meanings.

From the point of view of cognitive linguistics and psycholinguistics, scientists are trying to change the traditional vision of the nature of synonymy, to establish, in addition to logical and philosophical, the first anthropocentric prerequisites for the emergence and principles of the functioning of synonyms, to describe the meaning of such a phenomenon for a native speaker, they strive to get rid of the term “synonym” in line with the latest paradigms.

The study of synonyms from the point of view of cognitive linguistics is connected with scientists’ attention to the composition and structure of a linguistic sign. The appearance of a sign always reflects an individual’s desire to replace one entity with another, which allows for the analysis of mental processes in human consciousness. In the cognitive aspect, synonymy is defined as a special linguistic phenomenon that reproduces the dismemberment of the linguistic picture of the world. Such views on the close meaning of words are convincingly and thoroughly covered in the dissertation study of S. Lebedeva “The closeness of the meaning of words in individual consciousness” in 2002 and in the scientific research of A. A. Shumylova “Lexical synonymy: traditional and cognitive vision of the problem” in 2009.

S. Lebedev connects synonymy with the phenomenon of differentiated nomination, and considers the synonymous series as a means of linguistic objectification of the concept, which reflects its various sides. According to the linguist, “the closeness of the meanings of words can be determined by both linguistic and non-linguistic factors” [18], therefore he suggests considering the process of synonymization as approximation and introduces the term proxonym (from the English *approximate* – almost the same). The proposed term denotes specialized signs, i.e. generally accepted synonyms, quasi-synonyms, parasemantics, etc., as well as non-specialized signs that are not primarily aimed at expressing the proximity of values, but which acquire such a property due to functioning under certain conditions (in the context). The developed theory of the proximity of the meanings of words – proximate – is based on the criteria of comparison / experience during the establishment of lexical similarity by a person. According to proximate, similarity, closeness or commonality of meaning in linguistic activity is based on the analysis of the processes of experience, comparison and contrast.

In turn, psycholinguistics puts forward its own theory of synonymy. The psycholinguistic aspect of words that are close in meaning is elaborated in detail in A. Zalevska’s work “Introduction to Psycholinguistics” in 1999. The scientist notes that “from the point of view of psycholinguistics, a word is always associated with a certain fragment of the image of the world, the images of things in our consciousness are hidden behind the word. Denotations of words are elements not of the world of objective reality, but of the world of our internal, subjective ideas about it under the control of norms and values established in society” [19]. Therefore, in the scientist’s opinion, it is appropriate to consider the closeness of word meanings within the psycholinguistic approach as synonymy of meanings and to designate such lexical units with the term “similar”. “Similar arise in the language organization of an individual, where connections of converging values can be established between any units, the comparison of which is relevant in any situation “for me, here and now” [19].

Therefore, the study of lexical synonymy is possible today only with the distinction of such concepts as a word in the language system, a word in the context of

speech, a word as a human achievement and a word as a tool of influence. For a native speaker, there is no problem of an isolated word: to recognize words, to bring their meanings closer together, means to introduce them into the context of one's own experience, various knowledge established in the relevant culture for the implementation of a communicative and cognitive function. In this sense, the consideration of synonyms in a communicative act is thought of as a discursive analysis, and therefore becomes part of the communicative-cognitive approach to language and its units. That is, the modern description of the relative meaning of words should be carried out only from the standpoint of the speaker of the language and culture as the addressee and addressee of information with the mandatory consideration of the communication situation, in connection with which "synonymy appears as a process of switching the semantic plan of the cognitive content of the sign into the plan of pragmatic meaning" [11, p. 36]. At the same time, as V. Chernyak rightly observes, "the synonymy observed during the semantic switch from the cognitive plane to the pragmatic one is reduced, first of all, to stylistic synonymy" [13, p. 87].

Here, the question immediately arises as to which text to choose for the analysis of such synonymy. It is well known that synonyms realize the greatest potential in the texts of artistic style, because they witness the existence of both synonymous connections established by language usage and those that arise in the conditions of the speech situation. In turn, it is precisely the artistic text that provides a wide space for the functioning of synonymy, improves its semantic-stylistic, connotative, pragmatic possibilities, expands the potential of its use in speech. The author's text for the cognitive-communicative-discursive theory of synonymy is defined as a certain communicative unit, where the context of synonyms is not only their environment, but also a wide communicative context that includes a certain amount of life and verbal experience of communicators. According to M. Hrustaleva, "the study of lexical synonymy in the context aspect allows the scientist to gain access to the deep macrostructure of the text" [20].

In the context of artistic and literary discourse, synonymy from the point of view of modern domestic linguistic knowledge is investigated by V. Basok, V. Vasylenko,

N. Golikova, V. Dits, A. Sudya, O. Romanova, A. Yarova. A landmark for the current theory of synonymy is the dissertation study by G. Horokh “Lexical synonymy in the works of Ulas Samchuk (an attempt at semantic-functional analysis)” (1995), performed in terms of functional semantics, and V. Basok “Contextual synonymy: semantic-stylistic and pragmatic aspects (on the material of modern German nouns)” (2006), designed from the point of view of communicatively oriented linguistics. Scientifically attractive works from the point of view of linguistic stylistics are the dissertation studies of V. Vasylenko “Functioning of synonyms and antonyms in the poetry of Igor Muratov” (1999) and V. Dietz “Lexical and contextual synonyms in the poetic work of young poets (onomasiological and stylistic aspects)” (2006), in which a comprehensive lexical-semantic and functional-stylistic description of synonymy in an artistic text is carried out.

Synonyms in artistic and author’s text are included in the subject of our research, which is based on scientific hypotheses regarding the semantics, pragmatics and stylistics of synonymy by V. Basok, N. Golikova, and M. Nikitin. V. Basok claims that “it is necessary to highlight the spectrum of features of synonyms related to their use in various communicative situations. The interpretation of the pragmatic properties of synonyms involves taking into account the speaker’s intentions, the type of speech act, the degree of its effectiveness, the desired perlocutionary effect, as well as various background information that contributes or hinders the expression of the general meaning of the statement and its adequate understanding” [21, p. 7]. N. Golikova explains her scientific position as follows: “Progress of national and world linguistics at the beginning of the 21st century. requires the identification and detailed description of the widest possible aspectology of synonymous relations, realized by the relevant units not only in the language (statics), but also during the communication of its speakers (dynamics), because it is in the process of communication that the figures of speakers who create and perceive information about realities become noticeable reality” [22, p. 19]. According to M. Nikitin, “synonymy is not only a dictionary given of language, but even more so a communicative and pragmatic speech act” [11, p. 21].

Conclusions. So, linguistics, having studied synonymy in the fields of general linguistics, lexicology and stylistics for several centuries, developed and consolidated a terminological and conceptual base that served as the basis for a comprehensive characterization of synonyms as language and speech components of branched dynamic and static systems, which allows today to interpret lexical synonymy as a mental-linguistic category that due to convergence of meanings of words, different in terms of formal expression, realizes the individual consciousness and cognitive activity of a person. Such an understanding of synonymy reveals the essence and nature of the lexical-semantic phenomenon, its place in the speech and thinking activity of a person, the influence of historical, cultural and social processes on the peculiarities of the functioning of such lexical units under different communicative conditions, and makes it possible to solve problems that have repeatedly arisen before representatives of structural linguistics.

Prospects for further research. Lexical synonyms that function in language and speech reflect the individual perception of the human world, but they still need more and more comments from the point of view of various branches of linguistics – linguistic stylistics, pragmalinguistics, psycholinguistics, etc.

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