

# The Morphological Structure of Antonymic Adjectives in English and Russian Languages

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**Abstract:** *In this paper will be discussed and highlighted structural patterns of antonymic adjectives, multiaspectness and usage of antonyms in morphological structure of words and according to their root and derivational forms antonymic adjectives will be analyzed, moreover their differences and similarities in two languages in English and Russian. Consequently, this documentary will be analyzed by lexical-semantic analysis of adjective antonyms and presented examples by reflecting the necessity of antonyms not only in a daily basis but also in a literary language as well. Each word will be analyzed in detail, will be given usage of the words in literature as well when is appeared this or that word.*

**Keywords:** Antonym, root, derivational forms, definition, origin of words.

## INTRODUCTION

Semantics is a branch of linguistics which studies the meaning of a word and correctly usage of them in sentences or in our speech. For expressing the correctly usage of this or that word was used different types of semantics which include in itself hyponymy, synonymy, antonymy, and etc... For example happy and joyful are synonyms and for example happy and unhappy are antonyms. From this example is clear that antonyms are words that opposed to each other. Antonyms can express contrasting concepts of time (early - late, morning - evening), space (close - far, south - north), size, volume (small - large, shallow - deep), feelings (love - hate, happiness - grief), age (old - young), natural phenomena (cold - heat, windy - quiet), contrasting concepts in the field of objects and phenomena related to social activities of a person (labor - idleness, victory - defeat, peace - war), etc. Not all words of the English and Russian languages enter into antonymic relations. So, nouns with a specific meaning (house, table, wall) do not have antonyms, there are no antonyms in numerals, in most of the pronouns. As a rule, there are no antonyms among high-quality adjectives denoting the names of colors and their shades (with the exception of a few: black - white, dark - light), although in general antonymic pairs among high-quality adjectives are formed especially actively, and this is precisely one of the distinguishing features signs of quality adjectives. Many authors dealt with antonyms for example in English was appeared different antonyms dictionary by Merriam- Webster in 1994, also "Basic Dictionary of Antonyms and Synonyms" by Laurence Urdang in 1982 which help in finding opposite of lexeme units and learn the morphological structure of antonyms. Besides many dictionaries were appeared by Russian authors which help to us in finding appropriate antonyms and making correctly analysis of morphological structure. For example "Словарь антонимов русского языка" by Lvov in 1984 and another dictionary "Словарь антонимов русского языка" by Vvedenskaya in 1995 are useful in our article. With these two dictionaries were analyzed adjective antonymic words according to the morphological structure in Russian and were collated with in English language.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

According to morphological structure of antonyms, antonyms may be classified into: · root antonyms: to love - to hate, long - short, day - night; and derivational antonyms (having the same roots but different derivational affixes): regular - irregular, fruitful - fruitless. [1, p. 395-412] According to V.N. Komissarov in his dictionary of antonyms [8, p.1-288] classified them into two groups: root antonyms and derivational antonyms. We will discuss firstly about root antonyms, finding some peculiarities like similarities and diversities between two languages. Nextly, will be given different examples of antonymic pairs in two languages.

According to Guseva G.V., the main function of prefixes in English and Russian is to change the lexical meaning: *happy* – *unhappy*. Also it was mentioned that prefixes can be classified based on the different principles:

### 1. Semantic classification.

a) negative prefixes: *un-*, *in-* :

**Pleasant – Unpleasant** [1, 614]:

pleasant – a) causing a feeling of happiness or pleasure; friendly and likable; b) origin: Middle English *plesant*, from Anglo-French *plaisant*, from present participle of *plaisir*; c) first use: 14<sup>th</sup> century; d) antonyms: *distasteful*, *harsh*, *unpleasant*.

unpleasant – a) not pleasant or enjoyable; causing discomfort or pain; not friendly; b) first use: 15<sup>th</sup> century; c) in *literature*: Although the sun warmed my face and my right side, a crisp coolness in the air chilled my left hand, which was shaded. My habit of mind is that warmth is *pleasant* and cold is *unpleasant*. Rather than instinctively shoving my hand into my pocket at

this moment, I looked into the feeling ... (*Focused and Fearless: A “Meditator’s Guide to States of Deep Joy, Calm and Clarity”* by Shaila Catherine, Chapter 5. The Wisdom of Letting Go, 2008).

**Приятный – Неприятный** [3, 248-249]: *приятный человек – неприятный человек, приятные ощущения – неприятные ощущения.*

приятный – а) доставляющий удовольствие: *Приятный запах. Приятная встреча;* б) привлекательный, нравящийся: *Приятный человек. Приятная наружность.*

неприятный – а) не нравящийся своими качествами, противный: *Неприятный запах;* б) вызывающий неудовольствие, волнение, нарушающий чье-нибудь спокойствие: *Неприятный разговор;* в) examples: Люди бывают злые, добрые, умные, глупые, *приятные, неприятные;* но лишние ... нет. (И.С. Тургенев, “*Дневник лишнего человека*”); Сочетание (двух звуков или двух красок) может быть *приятно* или *неприятно* для глаз или для слуха, но любой звук, любой цвет могут быть нужны в той или другой картине, в той или другой симфонии. (В.Я. Брюсов, “*Погоня за образами*”); Он был до крайности чуток и, ощущая *приятное и неприятное*, как тепло и холод, не мог воздержаться и не выразить своего ощущения словом или жестом. (И. Гончаров, “*Литературный вечер*”).

The word *pleasant* is adjective and for the forming of opposite of this word is used the prefix *un-* and it is a negative prefix and the same situation with Russian word *приятный*. To form the opposite of this word the negative prefix *не-* is used in Russian language.

**Active – Inactive** [1, 17, 428]:

active – а) doing things that require physical movement and energy; involved in the activities of a group or organization; involving action or participation; б) **active, operative, dynamic, live** are synonymous when they mean being at work or in effective action. Active in general may be employed wherever the others are applicable, but it is also usable where none of the others would be appropriate. It may qualify anything that shows its nature or its existence in acts, in action, or in work <an *active* volcano> <an *active* brain> <*active* sympathy> and it is applicable to anything which can be worked, operated, manipulated, or wielded <an *active* pen> <a mine still *active* after fifty years of mining> It is also applicable to an agent, an operator, an instrument, a means or to something accomplished by any such agency <*active* enforcement of the law> <an *active* propagandist> <an *active* search for truth> *Active* may imply little more action or movement or exertion than shown in a state that is not death, rest, or inertness <his pulse is low, but his heart is still *active*> or it may, and usually does, imply vigor and energy in action or movement <an *active* market> <an *active* writer> <the *active* stage of a disease> Often it suggests causation or activation <the *active* principle in a drug> In contrast with *active* **operative** is applicable only to things (as a principle, motive, emotion) that have a capacity for acting, working, or effecting ends or to those (as laws) that can be put into operation <when strict ethical principles are *operative* in society, men may expect the millennium> <the rule has been *operative* since January first> *Operative* usually is weaker in its implication of effectiveness; one’s sense of duty is *operative* when it in any degree influences one’s thoughts or actions; it is *active* when it serves as a spur to action or is the determinant of one’s actions. **Dynamic** stresses the realization of the potential in something: it therefore often connotes release of great energy and consequent forcefulness; a *dynamic* personality is one that exhibits great power and exerts a great influence; love is a *dynamic* emotion when it sweeps away all that would obstruct its movement. **Live** is also applicable to persons, personalities, principles, laws, emotions, and motives. It stresses vitality and modernity more than forcibleness and, when used of persons, intelligent awareness of present conditions or needs and progressiveness more than effectiveness <Steve had in him the making of a *live* man of affairs – *Anderson*>; c) origin: Middle English, from Anglo- French or Latin, Anglo- French *actif*, from Latin *actives*, from *actus*, past participle of *agere* to drive, do more at *agent*; d) first use: 14<sup>th</sup> century; e) antonyms: lazy, broken, inactive.

Inactive – а) not doing things that require physical movement and energy; not exercising; not involved in the activities of a group or organization, not currently being used; б) **inactive, idle, inert, passive, supine** mean not engaged in work or activity. *Inactive* is applicable to anyone or to anything that for any reason is not currently in action, in operation, in use, or at work <*inactive* machines> <delicate children are usually *inactive*> <an *inactive* charge account> <in winter, when ... mosquitoes, exceptionally large, numerous, and aggressive in this section, are *inactive* – *Amer. Guide Series: La.*> **Idle** (see also *vain 1*) applies chiefly to persons who are without occupation or not busy at the moment, but it is also applicable to their powers or to the implements they use <why stand ye here all the day *idle*? They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us – *Mt 20:6 – 7*> <though his pen was now *idle*, his tongue was active – *Macaulay*> <is a field *idle* when it is fallow? – *Shaw*> <every *idle* miner directly and individually is obstructing our war effort – *Roosevelt*> **Inert** as applied to a thing (as matter, a substance, or a drug) implies inherent lack of power to set itself in motion or by itself to produce a given or understood effect < [comets] were now shown to be mere chunks of *inert* matter, driven to describe paths round the sun by exactly the same forces as prescribed the orderly motions of the planets – *Jeans*> <commercial fertilizers consist of three to five hundred pounds of available plant food ... extended with harmless *inert* materials to make a ton of product – *Morrison*> As applied to persons or their activities, *inert* suggests inherent or habitual indisposition to activity or extreme difficulty in stimulating or setting in motion <*inert* citizens are not easily aroused to action by evidence of graft or waste> <many students are too *inert* to derive much stimulation from the books

they read> <the *inert* were roused, and lively natures rapt away! – Wordsworth> **Passive** implies immobility or a lack of a positive reaction when subjected to external driving or impelling forces or to provocation <the mind is wholly *passive* in the reception of all its simple ideas – Locke> <to sit as a *passive* bucket and be pumped into ... can in the long run be exhilarating to no creature – Carlyle> <deprecated ... the *passive* reception of everything that comes from a foreign press – Warfel> In an extended sense *passive* often implies submissiveness without such positive responsiveness as would help the person or side that attacks or seeks to impose its will <*passive* obedience> but it still more often implies a failure to be provoked to action or resistance <to be *passive* in calamity is the province of no woman – Meredith> **Supine** implies abject or cowardly inertia or passivity usually as a result of apathy or indolence <it is impossible to remain *supine* when war threatens> <condition of static lethargy and *supine* incuriousness – Huxley>; c) first use: 1664; d) antonyms: live, active; e) in literature: Resting metabolic rate accounts for the largest percentage of energy expended in both *inactive* and *active* individuals, although the exact percentage varies between the two groups. The percentage of energy expended during exercise is higher in active than in inactive individuals. Thermo genesis accounts for about 10% of the energy expended in both active and inactive individuals (Source: Modified from Poehiman (1989), “*Exercise Physiology for Health, Fitness, and Performance*”, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition by Sharon A. Plowman and Denise L. Smith, 2007).

## RESULTS

### Активный – Пассивный [2, 37]:

активный – а) деятельный, энергичный: *Активная оборона*; противоположность: *пассивный*; б) действующий, развивающийся: *Активный процесс в лёгких*.

пассивный – а) бездеятельный, неэнергичный, не проявляющий деятельности, безучастный, безразличный к окружающей жизни: *Пассивный человек*; противоположность: *активный*; б) зависимый, лишенный самостоятельности: *Играть пассивную роль*. c) usage of these words in the contexts: Русский анархизм – женственный, а не мужественный, *пассивный*, а не *активный*; Знаешь, папа, ты *пассивен* там, где нужна энергия, и не слишком *активен* в том, что никакого отношения к делу не имеет!; Для меня оставалось загадкой: что между этим *пассивным*, безвольным, тихим человеком и бурным, *активным*, рвущимся в завтра, вперёд Водолей?; Гуманизм должен был внушать не подленькую идейку неизбежности страдания, не *пассивное* чувство сострадания, а воспитывать *активное* отвращение ко всякому страданию, вызванному социально- экономическими причинами.

As it is meant *active* is connected with movement and action and the opposite of this word is *inactive* which connected with laziness. With the help of the prefix *in-*, it was formed the derived form of this word, however in Russian language one can mention another situation, that the word *активный* opposite lexeme unit is *пассивный*, it means that opposite word is not forming according to derivational form. Now it is obvious that these two words both in Russian and English have differences in producing the opposites.

b) prefixes denoting repetition or reversative actions: *de-*, *re-* : *colonize – decolonize*;

c) prefixes denoting time, space, degree relations: *inter-*, *hyper-*, *ex-*, *pre-*, *over-* : *student – ex-student*, *tension – hypertension*, *election – preelection*.

### 2. Origin of prefixes:

a) native (Germanic): *un-*, *over-* :

#### Communicative – Uncommunicative [1, 841]:

communicative – а) willing to talk to people; relating to communication; б) first use: 14<sup>th</sup> century.

uncommunicative – а) not tending or liking to talk or give out information; not disposed to talk or impart information; б) first use: 1691; c) antonyms: talking, communicative; d) in literature: ... By contrast, my father and my husband’s father were inclined to be less communicative. I tend to be *uncommunicative* and have to push myself, but I know the importance of it and struggle to make the effort (“*Primer on Personality*” by Marian Mission, 2014)

#### Общительный – Необщительный [3, 194]:

общительный – легко входящий в общение с другими, не замкнутый: *Общительный человек*.

необщительный – не склонный к общительности, сторонящийся общения с людьми, замкнутый: Я принадлежу к людям *необщительным*, она к *общительным*.

As it is seen the antonyms *communicative* and *uncommunicative* and their equivalents in Russian *общительный* and *необщительный* are similar to each other by the forming derived form of antonyms.

b) Romanic: *in-*, *de-*, *ex-* : *wife – ex-wife*

#### Complete – Incomplete [1, 169]:

complete – а) having all necessary parts; not lacking anything; not limited in any way; not requiring more work; entirely done or completed; б) origin: Middle English *complet*, from Latin *completus*, from past participle of *complere*; c) first use: 14<sup>th</sup> century; d) antonyms: *partial*, *incomplete*.

incomplete – а) lacking some part; not finished; not complete: *American football of a forward pass*: not caught by the ball was thrown to; б) origin: Middle English *incomplete*, from Late Latin *incompletes*, from Latin *in-* + *completes* complete; c) first

use: 14<sup>th</sup> century; d) antonyms: *full, entire, complete*; e) in literature: Among its tasks, the UEIF must perform expert analysis pertaining to partially skeletonised remains including *complete, incomplete, single* and ... (“*Forensic archaeology: A global perspective*” edited by W.J. Mike Groen)

#### **Полный – Неполный:**

полный – а) содержащий в себе что-нибудь до своих пределов, замещённый целиком: *Ведро, полным водой*; б) цельный, вполне законченный, исчерпывающий: *Полное собрание сочинений*; с) достигающий предела, наивысший: *Полная тишина*.

неполный – а) не совсем наполненный; не достигающий нормы: *Неполный стакан*; б) не совсем законченный; с) in literature: Букеев: Все кажется возможным, а *полное* счастье недостижимо. Ольга: Удовлетворитесь *неполным*. (М. Горький, “*Яков Богомолов*”); Я, боясь, что вы будете иметь *неполную* книгу, послал к вам с Гусятниковым 5-ю часть полную. (*Архив братьев Тургеневых*)

These two words are formed by the similarity of their definitions, but in Russian mostly is used *пустой* instead of *неполный* in forming the opposite lexeme units but anyway they are similar in their forming and definition.

c) Greek: *-pathy*: sympathy, *-tension*: hypertension

### **DISCUSSION**

**3. The function of prefixes.** According to their function prefixes may be *convertive* and *non-convertive*:

- convertive prefixes transfer derivate to a different part of speech in comparison with their original stem: *em-, de-: bronze – to embronze, bus – to debus*;
- non-convertive prefixes: *dis-, under-: to go – to undergo, honest – dishonest*.

#### **Honest – Dishonest:**

honest – а) good and truthful; not lying, stealing, or cheating; showing or suggesting a good and truthful character; not hiding the truth about someone or something; not meant to deceive someone; б) origin: Middle English, from Anglo-French, from Latin *honestus* honorable, from *honos, honor* honor; c) first use: 14<sup>th</sup> century; d) antonyms: *lying, dishonest*.

dishonest – а) saying or likely to say things that are untrue; containing information that is untrue; used to deceive someone; б) origin: Middle English, from Anglo-French *deshoneste*, from *des-* *dis-* + *honeste* honest; c) first use: 14<sup>th</sup> century; d) antonyms: *truthful, honest*; e) in literature: ...On the other hand, honesty leads to greatness. Many great people were honest. People who are notorious are usually *dishonest*. We must be honest if we want to prosper. So friends, we must be honest. (“*My Time My World*” by Pratheek Praveen Kumar)

#### **Честный – Нечестный [3, 348]:**

честный – а) проникнутый искренностью и прямоотой, добросовестный; выражающий такие свойства: *Честный человек*; б) заслуживающий уважения, безупречный: *Честная жизнь*.

нечестный – а) лишенный честности, порядочности: *Нечестный человек*; б) in literature: Окружали меня люди необразованные, неразвитые, равнодушные, в громадном большинстве *нечестные*, или же *честные*, но взбалмошные и несерьёзные. (А. П. Чехов, “*Жена*”); *Нечестный* человек хочет быть *честным*, болтливый–молчаливым, развязанный–сдержанным, трусливый–храбрым. (Казакевич, “*Дом на площади*”)

These two words are formed the opposite according to derivation form. With the help of the prefix *dis-* is created opposite word *dishonest* and in Russian, with the help of prefix *не-* but these two prefixes are not similar in translation to each other but both are used in forming negative meanings.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

The object of this work is the study of antonymy as a phenomenon. At the beginning of the work, the definition of antonymy itself was given and analysis according to the morphological structure. The subject of the paper was the study of the properties of antonyms in English and Russian. In this case, we considered antonyms as words with the opposite meaning. Various dictionaries of antonyms were also presented in the work. It was really helpful for the analysis according to the morphological structures of two languages. The concept of some scholars were also given in this documentary. The goal was to study the features of antonymy in English and Russian. Here we considered the antonyms in one part of speech, namely, the antonyms of adjectives. And in conclusion, a conclusion made about the work done.

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