

УДК 347.78.034

**СЕМАНТИЧЕСКАЯ И ИСТОРИКО-ЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКАЯ  
СИСТЕМАТИКИ ЛОЖНЫХ ДРУЗЕЙ ПЕРЕВОДЧИКА****Крикунов Иван Сергеевич,**переводчик, копирайтер, редактор, Мирафокс Лимитед, Китай, Гонконг, 338 Дорога  
Хеннесси, 11. E-mail: krikunov8584570@yandex.ru.**Аннотация**

За все время глоттогенеза или глоттогонии — всемирно-исторического процесса развития — языки развивались и обособлялись, но, тем не менее, между ними все еще существует та или иная связь. По этой причине лингвистическая систематика установила определенную иерархию, выделяя языковые семьи, ветви, группы и другие таксоны низшего порядка. Наследием таких связей даже между, на первый взгляд, разными языками являются родственные слова. Такие слова имеют общее происхождение и восходят к праязыку или могут быть заимствованы. Таким образом, существуют очевидные фонетические, семантические и орфографические сходства и параллели между словами в разных языках, особенно в одной языковой семье. Так, например, слова гладь (рус.), glad (англ.) и glatt (нем.) имеют один и тот же корень и происходят от одного и того же праиндоевропейского корня \*ǵʰel, со значением "сиять, сверкать". В этой статье рассматриваются классификации особого рода родственных (а в некоторых случаях нет, как мы увидим далее) слов — так называемых ложных друзей или межъязыковых омонимов или паронимов — с точки зрения семантики и историко-лингвистического контекста, используя примеры из языков германской, славянской, и романской групп индоевропейской семьи.

**Ключевые слова:** ложные друзья, faux amis, межъязыковые омонимы, межъязыковые паронимы, германская группа, романская группа, славянская группа.

**FALSE FRIENDS SEMANTIC AND HISTORICAL-LINGUISTIC  
SYSTEMATICS****Ivan S. Krikunov,**translator, interpreter, copywriter, editor, Mirafox Limited, China, Hong Kong, 338 Hennessy  
Road, 11. E-mail: krikunov8584570@yandex.ru.**ABSTRACT**

For all the time of glottogenesis or glottogony — the world-historical process of development — languages have developed and separated, but nevertheless, there is still a connection between them in one or another way. For this reason, linguistic systematics has established a certain hierarchy, highlighting language families, branches, groups, and other taxa of the lowest order. The legacy of such connections even between, at first glance, different

languages are related words. Such words have a common origin and go back to a proto-language or can be adopted. Thus, there are obvious phonetic, semantic, and spelling similarities and parallels between words in different languages – especially in the same language family. So, for example, the words гладь (Rus.), glad (Eng.), and glatt (Germ.) are of the same root and come from the same Proto-Indo-European root \*ǵ<sup>h</sup>el meaning "to shine, to sparkle". This article examines the classifications of a special kind of related (and in some cases not, as we will see further) words – so-called false friends or interlanguage homonyms or paronyms – from the semantic, and historical-linguistic context points of view, using examples from the languages of the Germanic, Slavic, and Romance groups of the Indo-European family.

---

**Keywords:** false friends, faux amis, interlanguage homonyms, interlanguage paronyms, Germanic group, Romance group, Slavic group.

---

As said above, there are so-called interlanguage homonyms or, as they are commonly called, "false friends" – pairs of words in different languages, similar phonetically and in writing, but different semantically [4]. For the first time such a literary term was introduced by M. Kössler and J. Derocquigny in *Les faux amis ou Les pièges du vocabulaire anglaise* [9, C. 30]. These language pairs, despite low frequency in text corpora, present significant problems in translations [5, 6, 7, C. 69; 8].

Probably, the classification and division of interlanguage homonyms into groups could minimize the problem by improving translation algorithms, and software [2, 6]. In connection with the above, it makes sense to divide interlanguage homonyms into groups from the semantic, and linguistic-historical context points of view.

First, let us turn to a semantic classification of interlanguage homonyms. R. A. Budagov, determining the similarities between various interlanguage homonyms within the framework of related languages, identified the following groups:

The first. The meaning of the words in a pair does not match. For example, affaire (Fr. for "matter") – афера (Rus. for "scam"). As we can see, the meanings of both words are completely different, while native Russian-language speakers could think that the meanings are the same.

The second. The meanings match only partially. For instance, café (Fr. for "coffee house", "coffee bean", and "coffee") – кафе (Rus. for "coffee house" only). Thus, the semantics of both words converge only in one meaning – "coffee house", and the French word has more meanings than the Russian one.

The third. One word from a pair is more polysemantic than another one. Consider the words artist (Eng. for "any cultural worker") – артист (Rus. for "performer" only). Although both words are similar in meaning, the English artist, nonetheless, describes more professional spheres. So, for example, the word artist can mean a singer, an artist, and even a sculptor.

The fourth. Words in a pair differ in over- and undertones. For example, absolute (Eng. for "total") – абсолютный (Rus. for "utter", or "complete"). The fact is that in Russian, the word absolute is mostly used with a negative connotation and in the phrase абсолютный провал – "utter fail", while in English, the word absolute is devoid of any negative emotions [3].

The second thing to be reviewed is a historical-linguistic classification of interlanguage homonyms. Concerning historical and linguistic context, the following groups of interlanguage homonyms can be distinguished:

Connotational. Language pairs, where both words come from the same root, but at the same time acquired different meanings in the course of independent glottogenesis. In Czech, the word pozor means "attention", and in Russian, the same word takes on a negative connotation and

means "shame, embarrassment", whereas the meaning "attention" went out of use. At the same time, both words refer to the mentioned above Proto-Indo-European (PIE) root \*g<sup>h</sup>el. The reasons for this semantic difference are still unknown.

Adopted. Word pairs fall into the adopted category if one or both of them have changed their meaning due to the adoption process. For example, the English and German words chef come from the Latin capus and as a consequence from the PIE root \*kaput- meaning "head". Despite the historical kinship, the English chef has the meaning of a professional who manages the kitchen, while the German chef means any head in any field of activity. This phenomenon is explained by the origin of the English chef, which, in turn, originated from the French chef de cuisine – "kitchen head". Then it began to mean "a professional cook" exclusively, and the word chief had the meaning of "head in general".

A special case of adopted false friends can serve as parallel ones. The words of languages X and Y are adopted from language Z with polysemantic meanings and acquire new – local – ones. For example, the French word blanc – "white", "blank sheet", "space" – got into English and formed the meanings "empty", "insensitive", "emotionless", or "complete", and in German with the meanings "naked", "shiny", "pure".

Chance homonyms. In such pairs, both words are not related, but they are similar in terms of phonetic or other changes in languages. For example, despite the similarity, the English rat has nothing in common with the German word, which means "council" or "committee", since the English rat goes back to the PIE root \*red- meaning "gnaw", "bite", and the German one refers to \*rei – "suppose", "assume" [1, с. 368-369; 4, С. 1833].

The above classifications of the false friends reveal connections or their absence between interlanguage paronyms. Presumably, this approach will help to identify these supposed connections at the level of machine translation. For example, algorithms can be improved in such a way that the machine first searches for the Proto-Indo-European roots of two paronyms, compares them and concludes whether these words can have a similar meaning or not, increasing the quality of suggested translation.

Also, the presented classifications can be implemented in the field of education and teaching English as a foreign language. Thus, it is possible to create a special algorithm for students, according to which they – students – will be able to delve into the history of paronyms in case of difficulties and uncertainties in translation, analyze their possible historical and linguistic connections and come to the right conclusions, not only getting a desired answer, but also developing a research mindset.

However, the proposed methods of application have not yet been fully disclosed and require subsequent articles on relevant topics.

### Список литературы:

1. Аль-Атвари А.Х. Ложные друзья и лексические заимствования: лингвистический анализ ложных друзей между английским и арабским языками // Журнал языковых и лингвистических исследований. – 2021. – №17. – С. 368-383. URL: <https://www.jlls.org/index.php/jlls/article/view/2097/697> (дата обращения 03.05.2022).
2. Бабушкина Н.В. 2007. Исследование результатов машинного перевода герундия: особенности анализа и критерии редактирования: дис. канд. филол. наук.: 10.02.05. – Санкт-Петербург. URL: <https://dlib.rsl.ru/01003312866> (дата обращения 03.05.2022).
3. Будагов Р.А. Человек и его язык. – М.: МГУ. – 1976.

4. Чамизо Домингес П.Дж. Ложные друзья: их происхождение и семантика в некоторых избранных языках // Журнал прагматики. – 2002. – №34. – С. 1833-1849. URL: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/263577407\\_False\\_friends\\_Their\\_origin\\_and\\_semantics\\_in\\_some\\_selected\\_languages](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/263577407_False_friends_Their_origin_and_semantics_in_some_selected_languages) (дата обращения 03.05.2022).
5. Фуфурина Т.А. Лексические трудности перевода «ложных друзей переводчика» с английского языка на русский // Проблемы педагогики. – 2015. – №10. – С. 66-72. URL: <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/leksicheskie-trudnosti-perevoda-lozhnyh-druzey-perevodchika-s-angliyskogo-yazyka-na-russkiy/viewer> (дата обращения 03.05.2022).
6. Красоткина Е.Ю. Ложные друзья переводчика // Международное научное обозрение. – 2015. – №7. – С. 45-48. URL: <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/lozhnye-druzya-perevodchika-2> (дата обращения 03.05.2022).
7. Крупнов В.Н. В творческой лаборатории переводчика. – М.: Международные отношения. – 1976. URL: <https://www.booksite.ru/fulltext/krupnov/text.pdf> (дата обращения 03.05.2022).
8. Смирнова Т.П. Проблемы перевода «ложных друзей переводчика» в англоязычных текстах компьютерной тематики // Современные научные исследования и инновации. – 2017. – №4. URL: <http://web.snauka.ru/issues/2017/04/81092> (дата обращения 03.05.2022).
9. Томилова А.И. Явление межъязыковой псевдоэквивалентности в русском и французском языках: теоретические и прикладные аспекты. – Екатеринбург. – 2018. URL: <http://elar.uspu.ru/bitstream/uspu/10126/1/mon00113.pdf> (дата обращения 03.05.2022).

#### References:

1. Al-Atwari A.H. False friends and lexical borrowings: linguistic analysis of false friends between English and Arabic languages // Journal of Linguistic and Linguistic Research. – 2021. – No.17. – С. 368-383. URL: <https://www.jlls.org/index.php/jlls/article/view/2097/697> (accessed 03.05.2022).
2. Babushkina N.V. 2007. Research of the results of machine translation gerund: analysis features and editing criteria: dis. candidate of Philology.: 10.02.05. – St. Petersburg. URL: <https://dlib.rsl.ru/01003312866> (accessed 03.05.2022).
3. Budagov R.A. Man and his language. – M.: Moscow State University. – 1976.
4. Chamizo Dominguez P.J. False friends: their origin and semantics in some selected languages // Journal of Pragmatics. - 2002. – No.34. – PP. 1833-1849. URL: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/263577407\\_False\\_friends\\_Their\\_origin\\_and\\_semantics\\_in\\_some\\_selected\\_languages](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/263577407_False_friends_Their_origin_and_semantics_in_some_selected_languages) (accessed 03.05.2022).
5. Fufurina T.A. Lexical difficulties of translating "false friends of the translator" from English into Russian // Problems of pedagogy. – 2015. – No.10. – С. 66-72. URL: <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/leksicheskie-trudnosti-perevoda-lozhnyh-druzey-perevodchika-s-angliyskogo-yazyka-na-russkiy/viewer> (accessed 03.05.2022).

6. Krasotkina E.Y. False friends of the translator // International Scientific Review. – 2015. – No.7. – PP. 45-48. URL: <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/lozhnye-druzya-perevodchika-2> (accessed 03.05.2022).
7. Krupnov V.N. In the translator's creative laboratory. – M.: International Relations. – 1976. URL: <https://www.booksite.ru/fulltext/krupnov/text.pdf> (accessed 03.05.2022).
8. Smirnova T.P. Problems of translation of "false friends of the translator" in English-language computer-related texts // Modern scientific research and innovation. – 2017. – No.4. URL: <http://web.snauka.ru/issues/2017/04/81092> (accessed 03.05.2022).
9. Tomilova A.I. The phenomenon of interlanguage pseudo-equivalence in Russian and French: theoretical and applied aspects. – Yekaterinburg. – 2018. URL: <http://elar.uspu.ru/bitstream/uspu/10126/1/mon00113.pdf> (accessed 03.05.2022).