Investigating of the Etymology of the Term Synonymy
Bilingually in English and Arabic languages
(Contrastive study)

A thesis submitted to
Fulfillment for requirements for the Degree of MA in English Language (Linguistics)

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And We certainly know that they say, "It is only a human being who teaches the Prophet." The tongue of the one they refer to is foreign, and this Qur'an is [in] a clear Arabic language.
Dedication

To my dear brothers and sisters
Khalid, Muawya, Osama, Somia and Siham.
Acknowledgement

All thanks be to Allah first of all, then to my teachers through my trip in learning, that without their effort after Allah bless I wouldn’t be here. I am deeply indebted to my supervisor, Dr Mhmoud, for his recommendations, guidance and assistance from the earliest to the final stages of my research. He has been a great source of encouragement throughout my study. I am profoundly grateful to him. My thanks also go to the teaching staff in the Department of English at Sudan University for Science. I owe special thanks to the dean of College of Languages Dr Mohmed Ali Ahmed. I deeply thank Mr Salah Algozoli for his valuable advices, also thanks to the staff of my school Makka whom had supported me.
Abstract

This study aims to investigate the synonyms in English and Arabic. It aims to discuss the existence of identical synonyms in both languages, and the richness of synonyms in both languages. It’s limitation only in the area of synonyms. The study starts mentioning the definition of synonyms in both languages. Also it mentions the opinions of linguists in both languages about the existence of synonyms in language. Also it mentions the types of are: identical, propositional and near synonyms. synonyms in English they In Arabic they are: pure absolute and near (partial) synonyms. The study focuses on the reasons of synonyms in both languages. It also mentions the conditions of synonym which a state by linguists in both language. The analysis of the study discuses the identicalness and the richness in English contrast is Arabic. The main findings are: there are no identical synonyms in English and Arabic but, near synonyms. Arabic is richer in its synonyms more than English. The researcher puts some suggestions: the authors whom write unfamiliar synonyms for readers, they should explain it for their readers. The syllabus should contain many of synonyms, to make it known for students and enrich their vocabulary. Including texts written in authentic language to show the arts of using synonyms all that in both languages English and Arabic.
مستخلص البحث

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى التحقيق في ظاهرة الترادف في اللغتين العربية والإنجليزية. وتهدف إلى مناقشة وجود ظاهرة الترادف في اللغتين. حددت هذه الدراسة فقط في ظاهرة الترادف، بدأت الدراسة بذكر تعريف الترادف في اللغتين. وقد ذكرت الدراسة آراء اللغويين حول وجود الترادف في اللغتين العربية والإنجليزية. وكما ذكرت أنواع الترادف في اللغتين. وقد ذكرت الدراسة أنواع الترادف في اللغة الإنجليزية وهي: الترادف التام والترادف الجزئي وشبه الترادف. كما ذكرت الدراسة أنواع الترادف في اللغة العربية وهي: الترادف التام وشبه الترادف. كما ركزت الدراسة على أسباب وجود الترادف في اللغتين العربية والإنجليزية. وقد ذكرت الدراسة شروط وجود الترادف التي وضعها اللغويون في اللغتين. في التحليل ناقشت الدراسة التطابق والغني في المترادفات في كل من اللغتين. وأهم نتائج هذه الدراسة: لا يوجد ترادف تام في كلا اللغتين بل شبه ترادف. اللغة العربية في مترادفاتها أغنى من الإنجليزية. قام الباحث بوضع بعض التوصيات ومن أهمها: الكتاب الذين يستخدمون مترادفات غير مألوفة للفقراء، عليهم توضيحها للقراء. المناهج الدراسية يجب أن تحتوي على عدد من المترادفات لتصبح مألوفة للطلاب. المقررات الدراسية يجب أن تضمن فيها نصوص توضح استخدام المترادفات. كل هذه المقترحات تكون في كلا اللغتين العربية والإنجليزية.
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Chapter One

Introduction

2.0 Introduction:

Synonymy is a phenomenon that found in both English and Arabic language.

Synonymy is used to mean sequences of meaning [Palmer:88]. Through studying synonymy know words are related together in meaning. And also know context as any context need different word with the same meaning.

Through studying synonyms known the culture of the speakers and their abilities in using words. Also know the era of that time through synonyms.

1.2 Statement of the study:

Synonymy is a phenomenon in both languages exists as one of semantics relation.

Some synonyms can used in one place and give probable meaning and I other place not probable that’s drives to say:

1- The identicalness of Synonyms in both languages
2- The study attempts to specify which one is richer in synonyms, Arabic or English.

1.3 objective of the study:

The objectives of this study are to:

1- The study attempts to show the identicalness of synonyms in both languages English and Arabic.
2- The study attempts to show the richness of synonyms between both languages English and Arabic.

1.4 Questions of the study:

The study attempts to answer two questions.

1. To what extent do the Arabic and English synonyms are identified?
2. After identification which language is found richer than other Arabic or English?

1.5 Hypotheses of the study:

This study stands on two hypotheses:

1. Synonyms in both English and Arabic are partial not identical.
2. Arabic is in richer in its synonyms more than English.

1.6 limitation of the study:

There are many sense relations such as hyponomy, synonymy, antonym and polysemy.

The limit of this study is only be on synonyms and concerned about studying them.

1.6 Methodology:

This study adopts theoretical and qualitative method supported by opinions of linguists from both languages, research and some articles. Some topics from English references while others from Arabic references.

1.7 Significance of the study:

The important of this study that it improves the students awareness of differences between synonyms in both languages English and Arabic. It also helps in field of translation and education. Also it helps linguists in both languages English and Arabic.
Chapter two

Literature Review and Previous studies

2.0 Introduction

In this chapter the study will collect data about synonyms from books and researches to use it in discussion of the questions.

2.1 Definitions of synonyms:

A: English

Each scholar has definition their definitions are: Synonymy is one of the lexical relation that found between word.

Synonymy according to Longman Dictionary (2002) award which has the same, or nearly the same, meaning as another word. For example, in English bide and conceal. (P233)

Moreover Yule (2006) two or more words with very closely related meaning are called synonyms. They can often. Through not always, be substituted for each other in sentences. (P.104).

Cruse (2006) defines synonymy as award in the same language if one or more of its sense bears a sufficiently close similarity to one or more of the sense of the other word. (P.183)

Also Griffiths (2006) says that synonymy is equivalence of sense. When a single word in a sentence is a replaced by synonymy award equivalent in sense then the literal meaning of the sentence is not changed. (P39)

As all those scholars mentioned is related to the sameness of meaning.

B: Arabic

Also Arab scholars got many definitions of synonymy.

Ramadan (1983) he defines synonymy as utterance that convey the same meaning and are mutually interchangeable in all contexts. (P309)

Al-zayadi (1980) mention so that the meaning of synonymy has changed through history. It was initially introduced as the different of use of
vocabulary items that refer to the same meaning or object. He adds that this situation remained the same until the concept of synonymy was studied by modern linguists’ scholars who placed a limit on absolute synonymy and imposed more specific constraints concerning its use compared to those imposed by former linguists’ scholar.

Also we have an old linguist definition Alsoyoti (1998) the single utterances that refer to the same sense.

As it has been mentioned in the above definitions that synonymy refers to the sameness of meaning.

2.2 The opinions of linguists:

A: English

There are many English language spoken about phenomena of synonymy and its existence and their opinion are:

Murphy (2003) says that words can be less similar in two ways. They are more similar (than another pair) if they share more attributes in common (having the same denotation, connotation register, etc) or they are more similar because they match more closely on any one of these attributes. Also he says “the most relevant attribute in almost any context would be denotative meaning”. (P.137)

Also Palmer (1976) suggests two ways of testing synonymy one way is substitution and the other way is to investigate the opposites or antonyms.

In addition to that Ullman mentions these ways to test synonyms:

The first: substitution

The second: finding common antonym for pair of synonyms.

The third: arranging synonyms into a sense where the distinctive meanings and overtones will stand out by contrast.

As those linguistic mention these opinions about the phenomenon of synonymy. The most important two element loud in synonymy that replacement and closeness of meaning.
B: Arabic

Arab linguists through time study the phenomenon of synonymy between accepting and denying.

Al-Munjed (1997) defines synonyms as something that follows something else in the literal sense. The idiomatic meaning of synonymy in linguists is not as clear since there is consensus by linguists over what synonymy means. This holds to among modern linguists and scholars through history since they had fundamental difference between them regarding the definition of this phenomenon.

Sibawaihc (1988) was probably the first Arab linguists who pointed synonymy in speech he divided the semantic relationship between words and their meanings into three parts:

1- Two separate words for two different meaning.
2- Two separate words to convey the same meaning.
3- The same pronunciation for two separate words to convey two different meaning.

2.3 Types of synonyms:

A: English

According to English linguists there is more than type four synonym.

Lyons (1981) mention that there are two types:

A: completely synonyms if they have the same descriptive, expressive and social meaning. They may be described as absolutely synonym is and if they have the same distribution and are completely synonyms in all their meaning and in all their contexts of occurrence.

B: in complete synonyms: in particular lexemes may be descriptive synonyms without having the same expressive or social meaning. Descriptive synonyms (commonly called cognitive or referential synonyms). Is what many semanticists would regard as synonyms properly so called (P148.150).

Cruse(2000))states that there are three degrees synonym my:
A: absolute synonymy:

It refers to complete identity of meaning, and so for the notion to have any content we must especially what is to context as meaning. It also can be defined as times which are cognitive in all contexts.

B: propositional synonymy:

It can be defined as its name suggests, in terms of entailment. If two lexical items are proposition synonyms, they can be substituted in any express with truth conditional properties without offer on those properties.

C: Near synonymy”

The broad line between propositional synonymy and near synonymy is at least in principle clear, even it decision may be difficult in particular cases.

There are two points should be made

1. Language uses to have intuitions as to which pairs of words are synonyms and which are not.
2. It’s not adequate to say simply that there is a scale of semantics distance, and that synonyms are words whose meanings are relatively close (P156-159).

B: Arabic

Also synonyms in Arabic have types as in English. So that (2007) mentions that Alibi (1980) states linguists in both languages classify synonymy into two types:

1. Pure (absolute) synonymy:

This type refers to the words which can replace one another in all contexts without any little change in the conceptual and emotive value of their contents. Here also adds. This type is not exist in both languages.

2. Near (Partial) synonymy:

It can be of two types:

a. Words can be coextensive and inter changeable in some contexts.

b. Words which are inter changeable from the conceptual but not from the emotive angle (P.8)
2.4 Reasons of synonyms:

A: English:

As it has been mentioned synonyms are phenomenon in language and there are reasons behind it.

Palmer (1981) says that English is rich in it’s synonyms and the reason behind that is vocab comes from two different sources Anglo-Saxon an ahead and on the hand from French, Latin and Greek. He also adds “the Anglo-Saxon are native while French Latin and Greek are touring, borrowed from these languages” (P.88).

Also Roberstones (1938) says that borrowing does offer the users great possibilities for precise and complete expression. Thus, there exist in the English vocabulary two planes: one is made up of familiar words while the other is made up of rare words. The majority of familiar words are native while the majority of the learned words are borrowed ones.(P177).

B: Arabic

There many reasons for the phenomenon of synonymy in Arabic.

Sahar (2007) mentions seven reason for synonymy in Arabic:

1. Metaphor: Al-Mubarak states there are many social and psychological reasons that make people avoid using the real name of a thing especially that related to love, fear, sex, desert, death and catastrophe.

2. The prevailing adjectives: they are some great animals in society people describe the merits of these things by using adjectives. In the course of time, these adjectives become names denoting these thing or animals.

3. The variety of the Arab dialects. The standard Arabic is a mixture of all Arabic dialects.

4. Borrowing foreign words: it is stated that these words are borrowed either because they are easy to pronoun or that they are used as euphemisms.
5. Generating new words: in the past, some of the artist and poets were obliged to lie when they were asked about the meaning of a word that they did not know.

6. Exaggeration: linguistic try to prove that Arabic is the best language in the world since it has ability of presenting several words for each meaning.

7. The diachronic of synonymy: the traditional collected this synonymy from different periods of times. (P5.6).

2.5 Conditions of synonyms:

A: English:

As the opinions of linguistic agree about the existence of synonyms there are some of them suggest some conditions to say that words are synonymy or not.

Palmer (1981) suggests five ways for synonyms that can be different and they can be as conditions:

1- Some set of synonyms belong to different dialects of the language.
2- There is a similar situation, but a more problematic one, with the words that are used in different styles.
3- Some words may be said to differ only in their emotive or evaluate meanings.
4- Some words are collocation ally restricted i.e they occur only in conjunction with other words.
5- It’s obviously the case that many words are close in meaning, or that their meanings overlap (P 89-91).

B: Arabic

The struggle among Arab linguistic started at the 4th century as it has mention by (Saher 2006) so for that they adopt some conditions (Saher 2006):

1. When the word is used one society and speakers insist it is a synonymy.
2. The synonymy must belong to one or more close of the same language.
3. The synonymy must be synchronic.
4. The linguists argue that both metaphors and euphemisms cannot be considered as type of synonymy.
5. The phonetic development doesn’t consider as synonymy.

Also Ishrate (2006) mention condition for synonymy in Arabic.

1- Unity of time.
2- Unity of the linguistic environment.
3- Full correspondence of meaning between the items.
4- The word should be result of phonological evolution.

2.6 Previous Studies:

The following paragraphs review the previous studies in synonyms. Number of studies has been carried out about the synonyms.

The first study:

Ali, 2007, University of Mosul, Synonyms in English and Arabic Contrastive Study. The study says the term Synonym has no clear bases in English and Arabic. It says that there is no two words are identical in meaning or every occasion. Moreover partial synonyms are widely spread in both languages but they are more obvious in Arabic more than in English. I agree with this study that there is no any identical synonyms in both languages, because through research it is very rare and it can’t be exist with conditions that made by linguists.

The second study:

Alomani, AbuMelhim, 2014, Irbid University. Synonyms In English and Arabic with Reference to the Holy Quran: contrastive study. The study highlights the controversy that surrounds synonymy as debated by classical and modern Arab scholars comparing that to the various opinions held by modern and contemporary English linguists. Since the study is theoretical and qualitative in nature, the researchers relied mainly on different linguistic sources especially those in the field of semantics in the data collection process. Such sources included specialized dictionaries, linguistic encyclopedias, scholarly books in addition to the Arabic and English - translated versions of the Holy Qur’an. Its main findings that synonym is universal phenomenon not restricted to Arabic.
or English but in many languages. Also there is no absolute but near synonym and partial.

**The third study:**

Ishrateh, 2006, Al-Najah National University, The Translability of Cognitive Synonyms in Shakespeare’s Macbeth: A comparative\contrastive study. The study investigates the notion of cognitive synonyms in literary works in English Arabic translation. The study explores the translation of some cognitive lexical items in their original context of use. Some of its main findings it investigates notion of consistency in rendering cognitive synonyms, also the difficulty translators encounter when they deal cognitive synonym may be attributable to many factors: its complex nature, inadequacy of dictionaries, and the translator himself.
Chapter 3

Research Methodology

3.0 Introduction

This chapter will show the methodology which the study follows. It also gives description of this method qualitative and theoretical.

2.1 Methodology:

Some synonyms will be mentioned and discussed first the discussion will be about the identicalness of synonyms in both languages. Second the discussion will be about the richness of synonyms in both languages by mention the number of synonyms in each language.

The resources which the research depends on it are:

- Semantics and linguistics references.
- Anthologies and dictionaries in both languages.
- Articles about the topic from periodicals in both languages.
- Website for numbers to synonyms in English.
- Specialized Arabic glossary for number of synonyms in Arabic.

In analyzing the following procedures will be followed:

1- Using techniques to substitution to show the identicalness of synonyms in both languages.
2- Prove the statement with linguistics opinions.
3- Contrast between the synonyms in both language in table to show which one is richer.

This study consists of five chapters:

Chapter one consist of problem of the study, objective of the study, questions of the study, limitation of the study with the hypotheses of the study. Chapter two is the literature review it mentions the definition of synonyms, it also mention the opinions of linguistics also the types of
synonyms beside that it mentions the reasons of synonyms and the condition of synonyms.

All that in both languages: chapter three shows the method of this research (Methodology).

Chapter four is the analysis where the questions of research are discuss.

Chapter five contains the finding and the Biography.
4.0 Introduction

In this chapter the study will be applied on synonymy’s of certain words and will shows.

1\ The identicalness of synonymy’s is both languages.
2. The richness of synonymy’s between two languages use.

4.1 The identicalness of synonyms in English and Arabic.

As it has been mentioned in chapter 2.3 types of synonyms. Identical synonymy is one of these types, but is it exists in both languages.

A: English:

1.(tall, high)
Can say: A tall boy.
Can’t say: * A high boy.

2.(work-labour)
Can say: He finished his work.
Can’t say: * He finished his labour.

3. (happy-light)
Can say: This is a happy boy.
Can’t say: *This is a light boy.

4.(big-large)
Can say: The biggest decision I had made.
Can’t say: * The largest decision I had made.
5. (warm-cosy)
Can say: The tea is warm.
Can’t say: * The tea is cosy.

As shown above these are synonyms but they aren’t identical, that after substitute synonym in sentence.

**B: Arabic:**

Also in Arabic there is the same thing:

1. (الحرب and الهيجاء)
   Can say: الحرب النفسية
   Can’t say: * الهيجاء النفسية

2. (المهندس and السيف)
   Can say: استل السيف
   Can’t say: * استل المهندس

3. (القلم and اليراع)
   Can say: خط يراعه
   Can’t say: * خط قلمه

4. (فسيح and واسع)
   Can say: جلباب واسع
   Can’t say: * جلباب فسيح

5. (مديد and طويل)
   Can say: رجل طويل
Can’t say:  رجل مديد

Also in Arabic language there is no identical synonyms, and that’s through substitution.

### 4.2 The richness of synonymy’s between the two languages:

Here the study will contrast between the number of synonymy’s in each language.

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<td>20</td>
<td>Fox</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Scorpion</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Camel</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Cow</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Donkey</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Tall</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As shown above these are the synonymy’s of English us the Arabic ones.

The Arabic ones are taken from:
(Mujam Asmaa Alshya-Aldmshki)
معجم أسماء الشيماء الدمشقي

The English ones from
www.Thesowes.com

There are many words in Arabic has many synonymy’s contrast to English-like.

The word (milk) has 19 synonymies in English while it has 99 in Arabic.

The word (wine) has 20 in English, while it has synonymy’s 97 in Arabic.

Also the word (brave) has 47 synonymy’s in English while it has 79 synonymy’s in Arabic.

From these and others in the table it obvious that the richness of synonymy’s between the two languages.

It found that Arabic has many synonyms for some words much more contrast to English. These are examples of the richness between the two languages:
الشمس

الفيوم

الغيوم
nebulosity star  mare's tail star  brumestar  thunderhead star  smotherstar
woolpack star  pea soup star  ol' buttermilk sky star

4 river

estuary star  stream star  tributary star  beck star  branch star  brook star
course star  creek star  rill star  rivulet star  run star  runnel star  watercourse star

3 the river

4 the lynn

النهر

اللبن
5. milk

- buttermilkstar creamstar half-and-halfstar chalkstar condensedstar evaporatedstar formulastar goatstar homogenizedstar pasteurizedstar powderedstar rawstar skimstar wholestar laichestar low fatstar moo juicestar two-percent

6. الخمر

الممتعة المنقر يرقص العذّبة الغزوة العنزة الحفال السهل الجمع الفيقة الخطب الخاطط
الخمطة الشخب الشميط القرامص المهين القاطع التمبل الصائورة الصمارة الطخف
المضض المضبة السرير الحقلة الصقر الحائر المليسة السملج السمح السميق السمعج
السماج السهير الخليط السحرة الهادي العجلد العجلد الهجيس السمالخى السمالخى
المطية البابلية الصرخد الصهباء الخرطوم المدام المهامة السكر العقار العلق
النفيسة المصروفة العتيق الترياق الترياق السلاف خل السطر المسطارة المصطار المزة
الصراحية الخندريس الكميت الطابة الشمول الحميا الماذية اللذة اللذيذ الطلة

6wine
colorstar lavenderstar lilac starmauvestar periwinklestar plumstar
violetstar amethyststar heliotropestar magentastar mulberrystar
orchidstar pomegranatestar amaranthinestar blue-violetstar bluish
redstar persestar reddish bluestar violaceousstar
Chapter

five

Conclusion, Recommendations, and Main findings

5.0 Introduction:
In this chapter the study will show its findings and results of this research and the recommendations.

5.1 Conclusions:
The study investigates in synonym existence and to what extent synonyms are identical or not in both languages English and Arabic.

After mentioning the opinions of linguistics and types of synonyms, its reasons, and its condition which made by linguists in both languages English and Arabic. After discussion in chapter four here the study shows its main findings, recommendations and suggestions for further studies.

5.2 Main Findings:
The main findings of this study are:

1. Synonyms in English and Arabic aren’t identical.
2. Synonyms in English are less than in Arabic and that prove Arabic is richer than English.

5.3 Recommendations:

1. Syllabus must contain many of synonyms.
2. Explain unfamiliar synonyms in curriculums and other books.
3. Use authentic texts in both languages English and Arabic to enrich the language of students.

5.4 Suggestions for further studies:

1. Researchers should return to authentic texts in both languages.
2. There should be studies in the field of translation about identicalness of synonyms in both languages and which to choose in translation.
3. There should be studies about how synonyms are introduced in Sudanese curriculum and that in both languages.
5.6 Bibliography:


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