VYTAUTO DIDŽIOJO UNIVERSITETAS

ŠVIETIMO AKADEMIJA

KALBINIO IR MENINIO UGDYMO PROGRAMŲ GRUPĖ

Julija Nimirovskaja

Diachroninės anglų kalbos sinonimų išreiškiančių veiksmus ypatybės

Bakalauro baigiamasis darbas

Anglų filologijos ir kitos užsienio kalbos studijų programa, valstybinis kodas 612Q30007

Anglų filologijos studijų kryptis

Vadovas (-ė) Doc. dr. Eglė Petronienė _____ _____
(Moksl. laipsnis, vardas, pavardė) (Parašas) (Data)

Apginta doc. dr. ŽydronėKolevinskienė _____ _____
(Programų grupės vadovas) (Parašas) (Data)

Vilnius, 2020

Contents

Abstract 4

Introduction 5

1. LITERATURE REVIEW 8

1.1. Criteria of Synonymy in English 8

1.2. Types of Synonyms 9

1.3. Sources of Synonyms 11

2. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE 12

3. SEMANTIC CHANGE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE 14

3.1. Causes of Semantic Change 14

3.2. Types of Semantic Change 15

4. ANALYSIS OF SEMANTIC CHANGE IN SYNONYMY 18

4.1 Qualitative Analysis 19

4.1.1. Semantic changes of WALK and its synonyms 19

4.1.2. Semantic changes of JUMP and its synonyms 20

4.1.3. Semantic changes of CRAWL and its synonyms 22

4.1.4. Semantic changes of DUCK and its synonyms 23

4.1.5. Semantic changes of RUN and its synonyms 25

4.1.6. Semantic changes of PLAY and its synonyms 27

4.1.7. Semantic changes of PULL and its synonyms 28

4.1.8. Semantic changes of PUSH and its synonyms 30

4.1.9. Semantic changes of SPIN and its synonyms 32

4.1.10. Semantic changes of SLIP and its synonyms 33

4.1.11. Semantic changes of CLIMB and its synonyms 35

Conclusion 41

Summary in English 42

Summary in Lithuanian 43

References 44

Abstract

The development and evolution of the language occur in connection with linguistic, historical, and social factors, which leads to changes at all language levels. Interlanguage contacts lead to the borrowing of various lexical units in order to enrich the vocabulary, which subsequently serves as the reason for the formation of synonyms, due to the fact that the language already has similar lexical units for determining certain specific objects, concepts or phenomena. English synonyms not only differ etymologically but also demonstrate the various semantic changes that they underwent in order to be fixed in the English vocabulary. This paper examines the question of what is the relationship between the origin of words, the period of time in which the word entered the language, and the type of semantic changes the words underwent. To achieve this, the most frequently used 11 synonymic groups of the English language were selected from the wordlist in the British National Corpus. The eleven synonymic groups made a total of 62 words. The paper discusses and categorizes their diachronic features and analyzes the formation of the meaning of words within a synonymic group. The aim was achieved by employing qualitative research method. The research focused on two traditions of changes in meaning - broadening and narrowing as well as amelioration and pejoration, proposed and defined by a number of linguists: Yu, Ren (2013), Rayevska, N. M. **(**1979), Riemer, N. (2010). After the primary meanings of the words were found out, changes in the meanings of their synonyms were compared with their meanings in modern English; then, the patterning of the changes of word meanings was established. The analysis helped to identify the archetypal patterns of semantic change relating to the period of time when the words started functioning in the English language and its origin.

Introduction

The hypothesis of Semantic Change clarifies how etymological articulations may change their significance after some time. It is commonly agreed that the most exceptional accomplishment of linguistics in the nineteenth century was the evolution of the comparative method, which contained a lot of standards whereby dialects could be efficiently contrasted with deference with their sound systems, grammatical structure, and vocabulary and shown to be “genealogically” related. As a continuation of Historical and Comparative Linguistics of the nineteenth century, a few etymologists in the early twentieth century kept up an interest for language change of different structures including semantic.

Other languages shaped the formation of synonyms in English. Borrowing is an integral part of any language, that forms a large subset of the options for its use, which generates a variety of language in all its forms. But not all borrowings are successfully assimilated and fully accepted by the new language system into which they enter, due to many factors, including differences in both the grammatical structure and phonetic norms. As a result, following the acquisition by the language of borrowed elements, for one reason or another, many lexical units undergo a change in meaning. These changes mainly force words to acquire a broader, or vice versa, narrower meaning in order to gain a foothold and have a place in the language. Some lexical units even completely change their concept to the concept of another object or phenomenon based on the similarity or proximity of meaning.

Studying the processes of semantic changes, especially regarding interlanguage contacts in general, is relevant due to the fact that language and speech are constantly evolving, often changing in an unpredictable direction, which leads to the formation of new and existing lexical units. Semantic changes are determined not only in connection with variable lexical and morphological units, but also with such constant constants that make up the general basis of any language, such as factors affecting the language from the outside (extralinguistic) and occurring due to intralinguistic processes (intra-linguistic). In general, the linguistic processes that occur in the language are constantly changing and transforming, which creates the need for continuous observation, analysis and reporting of observed changes. Such observations are categorized and used in various fields, such as translation studies, the study of foreign languages, socio- and ethnolinguistics, as well as in the analysis and research regarding the processes of semantic changes in general.

Semantic changes have long been studied to identify their causes and classify the types. However, this research focuses only on two traditions that distinguish the following changes in meaning: amelioration and pejoration; broadening and narrowing. These particular changes are

chosen for the analysis as some scholars claim that broadening and narrowing are the main kinds of semantic change.

Considering that the language evolves slowly, but it is a continuous and unavoidable process, there is necessity of more extensive investigations on semantic change. Therefore, the **research questions** guiding this study are:

• What is the connection between origin of a word and the types of semantic changes the word experiences?

• What is the connection between the time (historical period) a word enters the language and the types of semantic changes the word experiences?

The **aim** of the research is to analyze the diachronic features of the English synonyms for actions of movement. To achieve the aim, the following **objectives** were set:

• identify the origin and describe the etymological diversity of English synonyms,

• determine semantic changes words of similar meanings undergo in their development,

• establish the prevailing patterns of semantic change.

The research is **relevant** because, using the diachronic approach, it is proposed to add new aspects to the study of synonyms of the English language. The analysis reveals the relationships and patterns of development of meaning of words within verbs for actions of movement by one's own energy in the English language. The research shows how the meaning of words of a language develop. This investigation can be valuable for showing semantic capability of the language.

Methods of the research

The analysis sets out to analyze English synonyms from the diachronic point of view. The aim of the research is achieved by employing qualitative research methods. First of all, the descriptive method is used as the words are analyzed and their origin and development of their meanings are described. Then, the most common patterns of formation of meaning of synonymy in English and relationship between semantic changes and such variables as origin and the period of time are identified.

The scope of the research

The research is based on 11 headwords and their synonyms, which were chosen according to their frequency of occurrence from the list in the British National Corpus. The headwords were derived from the research-based project *Word Frequencies in Written and Spoken English: Based on the British National Corpus* (Leech, Rayson & Wilson, 2001). On the list of the most frequently used words in English, the development of meaning throughout the history of some words was unknown; for this reason, these words were omitted. As a result, the selected 62 words include verbs for action of movement of owns energy. The qualitative analysis of all 11 synonymic groups is carried out. The Etymological dictionary (www.etymonline.com) is used for the analysis of development of meaning of 11 synonymic groups. 11 synonymic groups occurred to be enough and were chosen in order to obtain perceptible results and to establish the prevailing patterns of semantic change and relationship between semantic changes and such variables as origin and the period of time.

1. LITERATURE REVIEW

1.1. Criteria of Synonymy in English

The word synonym originates from a Greek word "*sunonumori*", which means "having the same name". Synonyms are regular and essential parts of everyday language that we use almost without thinking. Although, it is difficult to find one and exact definition of a word synonym on which all linguists would agree.

Yule (1996) states that synonyms are "two or more words with very closely related meanings". However, many researchers do not agree with this simple explanation. Rayevska (1979) defines synonyms as words "different in sound but identical or similar in meaning". This means that if two words have the same/similar meaning(s), then they must refer to the same reference in contexts. Meyer (2009) agrees with the definition that synonyms are considered words that are similar or identical in meanings. He continues with saying that synonymy can be tested by interchangeability, i.e., two or more words are synonyms if they can replace each other without changing the meaning. However, according to Crystal (1995) it is always possible to find something that differentiates synonyms, eg., context. Yule (1996) states that there are many cases when one word is suitable in a sentence, but its synonym would be odd. The author provides such example using the word "answer", which fits in the sentence "Sandy had only one answer correct on the test." Using the word "reply" in such context would sound odd. This can be explained by Palmer (1997) who notes that historically many English words originated from other languages. Consequently, English has pairs of native and foreign words that refer to the same things, for example "buy" and "purchase". Commonly the native words are shorter and less formal. As stated by Saeed (2003), synonyms may reflect positive or negative standpoints of the speaker, as well as the formality of his language. The detailed and accurate definition of a synonym is presented by Arnold (1986) "synonyms are two or more words of the same meaning, belonging to the same part of speech, possessing one or more identical meaning, interchangeable at least in some contexts without any considerable alteration in denotational meaning, but differing in morphemic composition, phonemic shape, shades of meaning, connotation, affective value, style, emotional coloring and valency peculiar to one of the elements in a synonymic group".

It is evident that there are many different views on synonymy. All definitions are acceptable, justifiable, and equitable. It depends on the researcher, which definition of synonymy to consider. In this study synonyms are considered as words that have nearly the same meaning as

another in the same language; but cannot completely substitute for each other in every context; and may have different expressive meanings.

1.2. Types of Synonyms

Synonyms are mainly categorized into three types (wording may differ): **absolute synonyms, propositional (cognitive) synonyms** and **near-synonyms (plesionyms)**.

Cruse (2006) claims that "words would be absolute synonyms if there were no contexts in which substituting one for the other had any semantic effect". Lyons (1981), in turn, defines absolute synonymy as follows: "lexemes can be said to be completely synonymous (in a certain range of contexts) if and only if they have the same descriptive, expressive and social meaning (in the range of contexts in questions). They may be described as absolutely synonymous if and only if they have the same distribution and are completely synonymous in all their meanings and in all their contexts of occurrence." Here he claims that absolute or complete synonymy is quite rare, and hardly exists. This means that if there were absolute synonymy, it would be possible to use those synonyms in all contexts, because those synonyms would be identical and would have the same semantic characteristics. Unfortunately, synonyms cannot be used in all contexts, and perhaps an absolute synonym for any word does not exist. There are several factors that control and prevent the identification of synonyms in most circumstances and contexts. So synonymy is becoming one of the most controversial issues in modern linguistics. The most confusing feature of synonyms is their duality. They are somewhat identical, but nevertheless they are clearly different. According to Cruse (1986) “natural languages abhor absolute synonyms just as nature abhors a vacuum”. This means that the meanings of words are constantly changing and that language works to eliminate absolute synonyms.

Thus, absolute synonymy is either very rare or non-existent, but propositional (cognitive) synonymy and (near-synonym) plesionymy are common. Propositional synonymy means that substituting two words for one another would have no effect on the propositional meaning of the utterance. This can be exemplified with “false” and “untrue”: What they have told him was false/untrue. Cruse (1986) defines such notion as "cognitive" synonymy. Cognitive synonymy is sometimes described as incomplete synonymy (Lyons, 1981). Words that can be exchanged without changing the meaning of the sentence are cognitive synonyms, e.g., the nouns *violin* and *fiddle.* Cognitively synonymous words refer to the same thing regardless of context. Thus, words are cognitively synonymous if they express the same exact thing, and the referents are necessarily identical, which means that the interchangeability of words does not depend on the context.

Plesionyms on the other hand change the true value of an utterance. DiMarco et al. (1993) define near-synonymy as words that are similar in meaning, but different in denotation, connotation, implication, emphasis or register. The question arises how close words have to be in meaning to be considered near-synonyms. Cruse (1986) suggests a test for near-synonymy (plesionymy) using the words *more exactly* and *not exactly*: Was there a fog that day / Not exactly, more of a mist. They sound unnatural if the words used are cognitive synonyms: Is that your daddy? / Not exactly, it's my father.

Raevskaya (1979) proposes another classification of synonyms — **ideographic** synonyms and **stylistic** synonyms. The first one she describes as synonyms that "denote different shades of meaning or different degrees of a given quality" (Raevskaya, 1979). Ideographic synonyms are almost equivalent in one or more denotative senses; therefore, they can be used in at least some contexts, for example, *different — various*.

On the contrary, stylistic synonyms differ in their evaluative, emotional-expressive value and stylistic scope (Raevskaya, 1979). This can be illustrated by words that are divided into formal words, which are limited to formal situations, and informal words, for example: verbs *commence* and *receive* are more formal than *begin* and *get*. Another important element in meaning is evaluative and emotional-expressive value a word possesses. Murphy (2003) defines connotation as follows: "It involves associations that do not directly affect the conditions on reference, but which may give some slant to the description". The connotation of a word can be based on individual experiences because it is a set of ideas that is associated with its expiate meaning. For example, the verbs *kill*, *murder*, *assassinate*, and *execute*. Although all these words are synonyms, they share same meaning of *take away life*, but they are clearly not total synonyms, because each have different connotations.

Cruse (1986) presents one more type of synonyms — contextual synonyms. These are words that are similar in meaning only under certain conditions, when the difference of the meaning between two words is contextually netrulized. e.g. *buy* and *get*.

When comparing the meanings of words, one should always indicate in which meanings they are compared, since, due to the polysemy, the same word can belong to different semantic groups, acting as a synonym for different words.

1.3. Sources of Synonyms

Synonymic groups in English may reflect the history of the formation of the English vocabulary, especially the participation of different languages in its formation. English vocabulary is very rich in synonyms, which is explained by a large number of borrowed words. According to Rayevska (1979) the following sources of synonymy are distinguished:

- Synonyms from native language denoting different shades of denotative meaning, examples: f*ast — speedy — swift; handsome — pretty — lovely.*
- Synonyms from different dialects and variants of the English language: *radio (British English) — wireless (American English), long ago — langsyne (Scot.)*
- Borrowing from other languages, examples: *end (Native) — finish (French) — complete (Latin)*;
- Synonyms, liked with the non-literal figurative use of words in pictorial language, examples *walk of life — occupation; star-gazer — dreamer.*
- Euphemisms - emotionally neutral words and phrases used instead of synonymous words and phrases that seem rude, tactless, examples: *sweat — perspiration; drunkenness — intoxication; naked — in one's birthday suit; poor — unprivileged*.

Moreover, in most cases, synonyms differ in stylistic colouring: usually native synonym are stylistically neutral, more general in their denotational meaning and with no specific connotations. Synonyms of Latin or French origin are often marked stylistically and refer to the bookish style.

2. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Modern language is the product of a long historical development, during which the language undergoes versatile changes due to various reasons.

The history of the language reveals all the processes that took place in the language at different stages of its existence, the reasons for the changes that are inherent in the language itself are called linguistic (or interalinguistic), and the factors associated with the history of the people, with the general development of human society, are extralinguistic. These two concepts and two sides of the history of the language are constantly in contact.

Speaking of English, two main trends in its development should be noted. The first is further unification for the purpose of international use, which leads to a reduction in the volume of lexical units and simplification of grammatical forms so that it can become a convenient and simple means of international communication. The second trend is the internal development of the language, a change in the norm within the English-speaking community.

The history of the English language begins with the invasion of Germanic tribes on the British Isles in the 5th-7th centuries, but linguistic development before this period is poorly studied due to insufficient data (Grygiel M. et al., 2007). At that time, the islands were inhabited by the Celts, who came to Britain from the European continent. The conquest of the British Isles by Germanic tribes (Angles, Saxons, Jutes) began in 449 AD, when the conquerors invaded the islands under the leadership of two German kings - Hengist and Horsa. The struggle of the Celts with the conquerors lasted a long time, and Anglo-Saxon rule was finally established only at the end of the 6th century. By about 700, the Anglo-Saxons occupied most of England. Although the conquerors belonged to different Germanic tribes, their languages and cultures were very similar, and they considered themselves to be one people. For example, the word “Engle” called all the German conquerors. Breaking away from the continental Germanic language, the West Germanic dialects spoken by the conquerors merged, which led to the emergence of a new Germanic language - English.

The boundaries between the periods of development of the English language are associated with historical events that influenced the language. According to this approach, the history of the English language is divided into the following periods:

1. **Old English** - begins with the conquest of Britain by Germanic tribes (5th century AD); ends with the Norman conquest (1066).

As new owners, the Anglo-Saxons competently approached the issue of government of the country. They created a council under the king to resolve difficult issues, divided the territory of England into districts and introduced a three-field system of agriculture. The language of the conquerors almost completely supplanted Celtic and Latin. A significant amount of Latinisms in Old English vocabulary was the result of the penetration of Christianity into England (from the 6th century), as well as translations of works of various authors from the Latin language. The raids of the Scandinavians (at the end of 8th century) ended in the submission of England in 1016 to the king, and the creation of the Scandinavian settlements. This in turn led to the interaction of English and Scandinavian languages, which resulted into the presence of a significant number of words of Scandinavian origin in Modern English. At this, the first stage of the formation of the English language can be considered completed.

2. **Middle English** - begins with the Norman conquest and continues until the end of the 14th century.

The Norman conquest led to a long period of bilingualism: French functioned as an official language, and English continued to be used as the language of the common people. French became the official language, all official documents were compiled in it. But the English language not only survived, but gradually replaced the French, although, undoubtedly, it absorbed a huge number of words of the Norman-French language. By the end of the 14th century, English was the language of law and was taught in schools.

3. **Modern English** - begins in the 15th century and continues to this day.

In 1485, the War of the Roses ended, which meant the decline of feudalism and the emergence of capitalism in England. In the 15th century printing appeared (1475), which was an important event in the social and linguistic spheres. Since the 16th century, the inhabitants of the islands had been introduced to the culture of continental countries through Latin and Greek. This is a period of development of relations between England and other countries, and, as a result, the language is replenished with borrowings from the fields of industry, trade and art.

It is evident that etymologically English vocabulary is not homogeneous, because it consists of both native English words and borrowings. At the moment, there are more borrowings in English than native words, which make up only 30% of the total. As a result of such borrowings, a large number of semantic changes, have occurred in the English vocabulary. The process of semantic change is going to be discussed in the next section.

3. SEMANTIC CHANGE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

3.1. Causes of Semantic Change

Changing the meaning is a fairly common type of evolution and expansion of vocabulary. In most cases, the causes of such processes are ambiguous, and therefore linguists often tended to ignore such phenomena, and the science of the study of semantic changes appeared only relatively recently.

Such phenomena are associated with semantic changes or shifts, and it is studied by a science called Historical Semantics. This discipline traces all the meanings that words had throughout their history, trying to find out the reasons for their changes. Although it may seem that most of the changes happen by chance, there are certain classifications that help to trace the most typical trends in the change of the meaning of words.

Semantic changes relate to how the meaning of a word changes over a period of time. This process can be motivated either internally, under the influence of changes in the language itself, or externally, under the influence of contacts with other languages (Yu & Ren, 2003).

The change in meaning occurs due to the fact that words continue to be used throughout the history and find themselves in different communicative situations. If a different meaning of the word, in comparison with its original, begins to acquire constancy in certain areas of society and is fixed in use, in this case occurs semantic change of the word. Semantic changes, like other forms of language evolution, are continuous, gradual, universal and rarely occur suddenly (Yu & Ren, 2003).

Moreover, due to the great uncertainty in the processes of semantic changes in the past, at the moment it is almost impossible to predict how these processes will occur in the future. However, there are certain trends due to which a transition from one value to another can occur.

The reasons for semantic changes can be divided into two groups: intra-linguistic and extra-linguistic. The first group is associated with the constant interdependence of lexical units in language and speech, such as synonymous differentiation, semantic changes that occur in connection with specific contexts, and changes caused by ambiguity in certain situations. The semantic change due to synonymous differentiation is observed in the course of the history of the development of the language as a constant and gradual change (Stockwell & Minkova, 2001). According to Yu and Ren (2003), extra-linguistic causes refer to the changes that happened as a result of external factors such as social, historical and environmental reasons. Other processes that generate semantic changes occur when native speakers find it necessary to use a new expression for

an already known concept or when working with taboo vocabulary. The general strategy for avoiding taboos is to replace the taboo element with another, often euphemistic, expression that is only semantically appropriate (Blank A., & Koch P.,1999).

In addition, ellipsis also can cause the semantic change. In this case the evaluative words in frequently repeated phrases are omitted over time. For example, sale is used instead of “cut-price sale”. The central word of the phrase can also gradually become obsolete, as in the case of “mineral waters”, which was replaced by “minerals” (Blank A., & Koch P.,1999).

Hock H. H. (1991) presents another process of semantic change that relates to the tendency of the younger generation to use slang expressions, i.e., attempts are made to evade established norms, which is directly reflected in language preferences. As an example, you can take the well-known *cool*, used in the meaning of "super" or "fashionable", although the initial meaning of the word is "low temperature” (Hock H. H., 1991).

Yu and Ren (2003) claim that another reason is that English borrowed foreign words from almost all languages of the world, for example, many words associated with music, architecture and poetry came from Italy, which has long been the centre of European culture. The majority of legal terms, as well as expressions related to fashion and food, are French borrowings.

As a result, we can conclude that, since language is an invention of man, it depends on its speakers and, accordingly, on all the accompanying social and cultural factors. All this leads to a change in denotative and connotative meanings, depending not only on intra-linguistic, but also on extra-linguistic factors, such as, for example, the social status of communicants in a certain sphere of communication.

3.2. Types of Semantic Change

Semantic **broadening**, **narrowing**, **amelioration** and **pejoration** are the most traditional types of semantic changes (Riemer, 2010), which is confirmed by many linguistic studies, as well as the development of semantics as a science in general. For this reason this research is based on these categories of semantic change.

Considering the classification data in more detail, it can be noted that semantic broadening (also known as generalization or widening) is a process of semantic change in which the meaning of a word becomes more general, i.e., it begins to cover more concepts and referents (Riemer, 2010). According to Rayevska (1979) broadening is common within words that have specific meanings. However, those specific meanings are lost over the period of time and become extended and generalized (Rayevska 1979). This type of change leads to quite obvious transformations. It is

important to note that during the broadening process, the original meaning of the word is retained as part of the newer meaning. There are many examples of semantic broadening in English. One of the most common is the word *dog*, derived from the Old English *dogge* with the meaning of "*a particularly powerful breed of dog that originated in England"*. (Online Etymology Dictionary).

On the other hand, narrowing (also known as specialization) the meaning of a word is the process of changing the meaning, the opposite of broadening. Subjected to semantic narrowing, the meaning of the word becomes more concretized. Rayevska (1979) claims that in the process of semantic narrowing, a new meaning often becomes one of the concretized meanings that were originally part of a more general one. Riemer (2010) states that in the process of narrowing, the word meaning narrows in range of reference. As an example, the word *meat "food in the form of animal flesh"*, which in the Old English period had the meaning of *"food"* in general (Online Etymology Dictionary). This noun underwent the opposite process compared to *dog* and narrowed the meaning.

In addition to semantic narrowing and broadening the word may undergo the processes of amelioration or pejoration. According to Riemer (2010) the process of amelioration is improving the meaning in which the newfound meaning is more positively valued than the original. This includes the word *pretty*, which has significantly changed from its original meaning "cunning or crafty". It acquired the modern meaning of "attractive" around the 15th century (Online Etymology Dictionary). Another example of amelioration is provided by the English word *knight*. Knight (at that time - chiht) in Old English meant "a boy or a servant" (Online Etymology Dictionary). It underwent such changes, because in the Middle Ages it began to mean "a man who rose to an honorable military rank after being a servant to a nobleman."

Pejoration is the opposite of amelioration when the new meaning of a word becomes more negative (Rayevska, 1979). The process of pejoration has affected many words in connection with their transition to euphemisms, i.e., words in any way associated with generally accepted taboos. In the case of euphemization, the original taboo vocabulary is gradually replaced by a neutral one, and thus the neutral word also acquires a negative meaning (Stehling D., et al., 2013). An example of pejoration is in the history of the word *silly*, which in the Old English period had a positive definition, as it meant "happy," "lucky," or "blessed by God." However, in the later Middle Ages they began to associate it with "simplicity" and "stupidity", in connection with which the meaning of the word was reduced to "foolish". Another example is the word *villain*. *Villain* comes from the Latin villa - "a country house". Originally it had the meaning of "a feudal". The word got its negative meaning when native speakers began to use it as a derogatory word for the lower classes of the population, which later became associated with "a person who committed a crime".

Another possible classification of semantic changes is whether they result from metaphor or metonymy. A more rare classification is metaphorization, known as a literary device used in literature and poetry in order to give a work of art a more fascinating and colorful character, but which is also a type of semantic change. According to Riemer (2010), metaphors are based "…on similarity or analogy", i.e., metaphorization is the use of perceived similarities between two objects or concepts to create a new meaning. When such a comparison is used often enough, it is accepted by native speakers as valid, which leads to the acquisition of a new meaning by the word. Therefore, unlike processes such as semantic narrowing and widening, as well as pejoration and amelioration of meaning, in this case the word does not lose its original meaning, but acquires a new one, which leads to two or more meanings that exist together, that is, the lexical unit becomes ambiguous. English *foot* is a good example of a metaphor-based meaning change. *Foot* is "the part of the body at the bottom of the leg on which a person or animal stands", but the word is also used in many expressions, such as "a foot of a hill". Another example is the word *eye. Eye* in the meaning of "an organ of sight" also has secondary meanings, as in the expression "an eye of a needle". They have the same shape, but differ in meaning and use. Changing the meaning, or rather adding a new one based on the similarity of two objects, often occurs when there is a need for a new name for an object or invention (Stockwell & Minkova, 2001).

Metonymization is a type of semantic change based on the contiguity of two concepts (Riemer, 2010). For example "replacing part by whole or whole by part" (Blank A., & Koch P.,1999). Words that acquire a new meaning through metonymization usually retain their original meaning. As an example of the type of metonymization with the replacement of part of something with the whole, we can take the expression "factory hands" or "field hands", where hands means much more than "the part of the body". The reason that these meanings have become a regular part of the language is logical, because hands has a secondary definition of "getting things done." Not surprisingly, the word hand can be used in many other similar expressions, such as "Do you need a hand?" (Meaning "Do you need help?") Or a slightly modified form - handy, meaning "useful or convenient for easy usage " (Blank A., & Koch P.,1999).

On the whole, the main goal of this study is to deepen into semantic changes, such as broadening, narrowing, amelioration and pejoration. For this reason, this study is based on these four types of semantic changes. As stated by Riemer (2010) they are the traditional categories of semantic changes. In general, when a word loses its original meaning and refers to other things, it can lead to semantic changes (Yu & Ren, 2013). Understanding types and stories will help to understand how the language behaves. In addition, it is important to mention that knowing the changes the meaning of the words undergo will not explain the reasons of the latter.

4. ANALYSIS OF SEMANTIC CHANGE IN SYNONYMY

To achieve the goal of the study and ensure the success, accuracy and reliability of the study, the following data collection procedures and data processing methods were used.

The exploration consists of qualitative method. The qualitative analysis is carried out in two stages: first, the word is described from the etymological point of view; then, the semantic change the word underwent is identified. Finally, the dependence of the change types on the origin and the time period is considered to establish the tendencies in semantic progression. The four types of semantic progression of interest herein are: generalization, specialization, amelioration and pejoration.

Generalization refers to the type of semantic progression that is characterized by the tendency of word meanings to embrace a broader range of referents over time (Di Marco et al., 1993). Conversely, specialization is the semantic change involving the evolution of word use from broader applicability to specific contexts (Puncevic, 2016). Finally, amelioration and pejoration occur when the meaning of a word transforms over time from positions of low to high significance and vice versa (Di Marco et al., 1993). The above constitutes the primary variables at the core of this study's subsequent analysis.

The analysis is founded on data extracted from *Oxford Learner's Thesaurus. A dictionary of synonyms. (2008)* and *The Online Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*. The resultant dataset focused specifically on verbs, namely on verbs for actions of movement by one's own energy. Broadly, the exploration is founded on 11 words with their synonyms drawn from the source mentioned above. The list of verbs consists of the following eleven words: *walk, jump, crawl, duck, run, play, pull, push, spin, slip* and *climb*.

Additionally, the selection of the 62 words (11 headwords and their synonyms) is justified by their frequency of incidence for every one million words in extant collections of English vocabularies. The analysis draws the said frequency data from Word Frequencies in Written and Spoken English: based on the British National Corpus.

After selecting the word groups, the study collected and examined the available lexical information on each of the focal terms. The primary sources of the lexical data were the online Oxford Learner's Dictionaries. Furthermore, a reference was made to the Online Etymology Dictionary to generate etymological definitions and descriptions of the sampled synonymic groups.

4.1 Qualitative Analysis

This section provides a qualitative analysis of the selected verbs for actions of movement and their synonyms. As indicated in the research design section above, the qualitative analysis targets semantic progressions. It qualitatively ascertains whether the identified type of change is defined meaningfully by the period in which the sampled words were incorporated into the English language and/or by the source from which the word came into the language.

4.1.1. Semantic changes of WALK and its synonyms

According to the Oxford Learners Dictionary, the verb *walk* means "to move or go somewhere by putting one foot in front of the other on the ground, but without running". The word is a merger of two verbs: *wealcan* (meaning *roll, toss and move around*) and *wealcian* (*to roll up, curl*). Both words come from Proto-Germanic and were used in Old English. The first known use of the word was registered in 1200 and the meaning of the word was "to travel on foot" (Online Etymology Dictionary). Therefore, a possible preliminary observation concerning the meaning of the headword *walk* and its development over time is that it underwent a progression of generalisation or broadening of meaning. Selected synonyms are: *advance*, *proceed*, *move*, *stroll*.

The verb *advance* means "to move forward towards somebody/something, especially in order to attack or threaten them or it". *Advance* is derived from Old French word *avancir* which meant "to move forward, go forward, set forward". In mid-14th century the meaning "move forward, move further in front*"* came into the language (Online Etymology Dictionary). It is clear from the above, therefore, that the word underwent narrowing of meaning.

The verb *proceed* is used to mean "to move or travel in a particular direction". *Proceed* is derived from Old French *proceder*. The first known use of the word was registered at the end of the 14th century and the meaning of the word was "to go on" (Online Etymology Dictionary). Looking at the aspect of meaning and its development, the word underwent the narrowing of meaning.

The verb *move* is used to mean **"**to go or pass to another place or in a certain direction with a continuous motion". The word is derived in 13th century from Old French *movoir*, which meant "to move, get moving, set out, set in motion, introduce" (Online Etymology Dictionary). The development of the meaning associated with the verb *move* has undergone no change in meaning.

The verb *stroll* means "to walk somewhere in a slow relaxed way". In early 17th century the word was probably borrowed from German *stroller* in the meaning "roam as a vagrant" (Oxford

English Dictionary). Looking at the aspect of meaning and its development, the word underwent the amelioration of meaning.

Table 1.

Word	Origin	Period	Broadening	Narrowing	Amelioration	Pejoration	No change
WALK	Germanic	Middle English	1				
ADVANCE	French	Middle English		1			
PROCEED	French	Middle English		1			
MOVE	French	Middle English					1
STROLL	Germanic	Modern English			1		

The table above (see Table 1) summarizes the analysis of the verb "walk" and its synonyms. The most common semantic change for this group is **broadening** (1/5) **narrowing** (2/5) and **amelioration** (1/5) and the period when synonyms appeared are **Middle English** (3\4) and **Modern English** (1/5) the verbs are either of **Germanic** or **French** origin.

4.1.2. Semantic changes of JUMP and its synonyms

According to the Oxford Learner's Dictionary, the verb *jump* means "to move quickly off the ground or away from a surface by pushing yourself with your legs and feet". The first known use of the verb was in 1520 and was used to mean "to make a spring from the ground" (Online Etymology Dictionary). It is assumed that the word is of Proto-Germanic origin from the term *gempana* or *gembana* that used to mean "to hop, skip, jump" but Oxford English Dictionary finds no basis for the relationship. Looking at the aspect of meaning and its development, the headword underwent no change of meaning. The synonyms of interest herein are: *leap, bound, spring, hop, skip*.

The Oxford Learner's Dictionary indicates that the verb *leap* means "to jump high or a long way". The verb is of uncertain origin. It is assumed that the word is derived from Proto-Germanic *hlaupanan* and has no known cognates beyond Germanic. The first known use of the verb was recorded in 1200 and was used in a sense *"*to jump, spring clear of the ground by force of an initial bound; run, go; dance, leap upon (a horse)" (Online Etymology Dictionary). It is clear from the above that the verb *leap* underwent the semantic progression of narrowing.

The verb *spring* is used in a sense "to leap or jump up suddenly". The word is from Old English *springan* of Germanic origin, which meant "to leap, burst forth, fly up; spread, grow" (Online Etymology Dictionary). Evidently, the word underwent the narrowing of meaning.

The verb *bound* means "to move by leaping". *Bound* is derived from the Middle French *bondir*. The first use of the verb *bound* was recorded in 1590, which was used to mean *"*to leap, spring upward, jump" (Online Etymology Dictionary). Looking at the aspect of meaning and its development, the word underwent the no change of meaning.

The verb *hop* means "to move by a quick springy leap or in a series of leaps". The word came into use in Old English as *hoppian*, of Germanic origin, and was used in a sense "to spring, leap" (Online Etymology Dictionary). It is clear from the above, therefore, that the word underwent no change in meaning.

The verb *skip* is defined as "to move forwards lightly and quickly making a little jump with each step"; "jump over rope". It is assumed that the word is from Old Norse term *skopa*, which was used in the meaning "to take a run" or "jump over". In the 13th century the verb began to be used with the meaning "to spring lightly" (Online Etymology Dictionary). It is evident from the above, therefore, that the word underwent narrowing of meaning.

Table 2.

Word	**Origin**	**Period**	**Broadening**	**Narrowing**	**Amelioration**	**Pejoration**	**No change**
JUMP	Germanic	Modern English					1
LEAP	Germanic	Middle English		1			
SPRING	Germanic	Old English		1			

Word	Origin	Period	Broadening	Narrowing	Amelioration	Pejoration	No change
BOUND	French	Modern English					1
HOP	Germanic	Old English					1
SKIP	Germanic	Middle English		1			

The table above (see Table 2) summarizes the analysis of the verb "jump" and its synonyms. The most common semantic change for this group is **narrowing** (2/6), the period when synonyms appeared are (2 from OE; 2 from ME; 1 from NE) and the verbs are mostly of **Germanic** and **French** origin.

4.1.3. Semantic changes of CRAWL and its synonyms

According to the Oxford Learners Dictionary, the verb *crawl* means “to move forward on your hands and knees or with your body close to the ground”. The first known use of the word was registered in 1200 and the meaning of the word was “to move slowly by drawing the body across the ground” (Online Etymology Dictionary). *Crawl* is derived from Old Norse *krafla,* which meant “to claw (one’s way)”. It is evident from the above, therefore, that the word underwent no change in meaning. Selected synonyms are: *creep, wriggle, squirm*.

The verb *creep* is defined as “to move with your body close to the ground; to move slowly on your hands and knees”. The verb is derived from Proto-Germanic term *kreupanan*. In Old English the verb was used in a sense “to move the body near or along the ground as a reptile or insect does” (Online Etymology Dictionary). It is clear, from the above, that the word underwent no change in meaning.

The verb *wriggle* means “to move somewhere by twisting and turning your body or part of it”. The word has its roots in Proto-Germanic origin. The first use of the verb was registered in late 15th century, from Middle Low German *wrigglen* in a sense “to wriggle” (Online Etymology Dictionary). It is clear from the above, therefore, that the word underwent no change in meaning.

The verb *squirm* means “to move around a lot making small twisting movements, because you are nervous, uncomfortable, etc.”. The first know use of the verb *squirm* was in 1690, which referred to eels (Online Etymology Dictionary). The verb is of unknown origin. In a figurative sense

of writhing movement associated to humans the word came to the language in 1804 (Online Etymology Dictionary). Looking at the aspect of meaning and its development, the word underwent the broadening of meaning.

Table 3.

Word	Origin	Period	Broadening	Narrowing	Amelioration	Pejoration	No change
CRAWL	Germanic	Middle English					1
CREEP	Germanic	Old English					1
WRIGGLE	Germanic	Modern English					1
SQUIRM	Unknown	Modern English	1				

The table above (see Table 3) summarizes the analysis of the verb "crawl" and its synonyms. The most common semantic change for this group is **broadening** (1/4), the period when synonyms appeared are **Old English** (1/4) and **Modern English** (3/4) and the verbs are mostly of **Germanic** origin.

4.1.4. Semantic changes of DUCK and its synonyms

According to the Oxford Learner's Dictionary, the verb *duck* means "to move your head or body downwards to avoid being hit or seen". The word has its roots in Proto-Germanic *dukjanan*. The first known use of the verb was in early 14th century and meant "to plunge into" (Online Etymology Dictionary). In mid-14th the verb was used in a sense "to suddenly go under water and immediately withdraw" (Online Etymology Dictionary). The sense of "to lower or bend down suddenly, stoop quickly" began to be used in 1520s (Online Etymology Dictionary). Therefore, observation regarding the meaning of the headword and its development over time is that the word underwent the semantic progression of broadening by which the meaning accorded to the word broadened over time. Synonyms of interest herein are: *bob, bow, crouch, bend, stoop.*

The verb *bob* means “to move up and down in a short quick movement”. *Bob* is of unknown origin. The word is derived from Middle English term *bobben* and was used in a meaning “move up and down with a short, jerking motion” (Online Etymology Dictionary). It is clear, from the above, that the word underwent no change of meaning.

The verb *bow* means "to move your head or the top half of your body forwards and downwards as a sign of respect or to say hello or goodbye”. The verb is derived from Old English term *bugan*, and was used in a sense “to bend, become bent, have or assume a curved direction; to bow down, bend the body in condescension or reverence, to submit, also to turn back” (Online Etymology Dictionary). The verb is of Proto-Germanic origin. It is clear from the above, that the word undergone the narrowing of meaning.

The verb *crouch* means “to put your body close to the ground by bending your legs under you”. The verb is derived from the Old French term *crochir*. The first known use of the verb was in 14th century and was used in a sense to “to stoop low, lie close to the ground”. (Online Etymology Dictionary). It is evident, from the above, that the word underwent no change in meaning.

The verb *bend* means “to lean, or make something lean, in a particular direction (especially of somebody’s body or head)”. *Bend* is of Germanic origin. The verb is derived from Old English *bendan*. In the meaning “curve or make crooked” related to the notion of bending a bow to string it is used from early 14th century (Online Etymology Dictionary). However, in the figurative meaning “to bow” the verb is used from late 14th century. From the above, it is clear, that the word underwent the broadening of meaning.

The verb *stoop* means “to bend your body forwards and downwards”. The word is from Old English *stupian* and meant “to bow, bend” (Online Etymology Dictionary). The word is of Proto-Germanic origin. From the above, it is clear, that the word underwent no change of meaning.

Table 4.

Word	**Origin**	**Period**	**Broadening**	**Narrowing**	**Amelioration**	**Pejoration**	**No change**
DUCK	Germanic	Middle English	1				
BOB	Unknown	Middle English					1
BOW	Germanic	Old English		1			

Word	Origin	Period	Broadening	Narrowing	Amelioration	Pejoration	No change
CROUCH	French	Middle English					1
BEND	Germanic	Middle English	1				
STOOP	Germanic	Old English					1

The table above (see Table 4) summarizes the analysis of the verb "duck" and its synonyms. The most common semantic changes for this group are **broadening** (2/6) and **narrowing** (1/6), the period when synonyms appeared are **Old English**(2\5) and **Middle English** (3\5) and the verbs are mostly of **Germanic** and **French** origin.

4.1.5. Semantic changes of RUN and its synonyms

According to the Oxford Learners Dictionary, the verb *run* means “to move using your legs, going faster than when you walk”. The modern form of the verb is a merger of two related Old English words: *rennin* (to run, flow, run together) and *ærnan* (ride, run to, reach, gain by running) (Online Etymology Dictionary). Probably reinforced in Middle English by Old Norse term *rinna* “to run”. Based on the above, the headword underwent no change of meaning. Selected synonyms are: *sprint, race, dash, scamper, jog.*

The verb *sprint* means “to run or go at top speed especially for a short distance”. The first know use of the verb was recorded in 1560s and was used in a sense “to spring, dart” (Online Etymology Dictionary). It is assumed that the verb is a variation of Old Norse *spretta* and 14th century *sprenten* “to leap, spring”. The meaning “to run a short distance at full speed” was first recorded in 1871 (Online Etymology Dictionary). Looking at the development of meaning, the word underwent broadening of meaning.

The verb *race* means “to move very fast”. *Race* is derived from Old Norse term *rās*. The first know use of the verb was registered in 1200 as *rasen* and meant “to rush” (Online Etymology Dictionary). In the meaning “to run swiftly” the verb was firstly used in 1757 (Online Etymology Dictionary). Looking at the development of meaning, the word underwent broadening of meaning.

The verb *dash* means “to go somewhere very quickly”. The verb is of Scandinavian origin. The first known use of the verb was in 1300 and was used in a meaning “to move quickly, rush violently” (Online Etymology Dictionary). It is evident, from the above, that the verb underwent no change of meaning.

The verb *scamper* means “to move quickly with short light steps”. The verb is derived from Old North French term *escamper* that was used to mean "to run away, flee, quit the battlefield, escape”. The first recorded use of the verb was in 1680 in the meaning “to run quickly” (Online Etymology Dictionary). Based on the above, the verb undergone the narrowing of meaning.

The verb *jog* means “to run slowly and steadily for a long time, especially for exercise”. The verb is of unknown origin. The first know use of the verb dates back to 1540 and was used to mean “to shake up and down” (Online Etymology Dictionary). The meanings “touch or push slightly, stir up or stimulate by hint or push, and walk or ride with a jolting pace” came into the English language in the 16th century (Online Etymology Dictionary). The modern meaning in relation to running as training mostly dates from 1948 (Online Etymology Dictionary). According to the development of the word, the verb underwent the broadening of meaning.

Table 5.

Word	**Origin**	**Period**	**Broadening**	**Narrowing**	**Amelioration**	**Pejoration**	**No change**
RUN	Germanic	Old English					1
SPRINT	Germanic	Modern English	1				
RACE	Germanic	Middle English	1				
DASH	Germanic	Middle English					1
SCAMPER	French	Modern English		1			
JOG	Unknown	Modern English	1				

The table above (see Table 5) summarizes the analysis of the verb "run" and its synonyms. The most common semantic changes for this group are **broadening** (3/6) and **narrowing** (1/6), the

period when synonyms appeared are **Middle English** (3/5) and **Modern English** (2/5) and the verbs are mostly of **Germanic** and **French** origin.

4.1.6. Semantic changes of PLAY and its synonyms

According to the Oxford Learner's Dictionary the verb *play* means "to do things for pleasure, as children do; to enjoy yourself, rather than work". All it is know is that English adopted the word *plegian* meaning "move rapidly, occupy or busy oneself, exercise; frolic" from Proto-West Germanic in the Old English (Online Etymology Dictionary). The original connotation of play has been mostly untouched by time. From Old English it can be said that a living being *played* if they moved about in a lively, irregular, or capricious motion. It is evident, from the above, that the verb underwent no change of meaning. Synonyms of interest herein are: *frolic, frisk, clown, gambol, caper.*

The verb *frolic* is defined as "to play and move around in a lively, happy way". The first time the word was registered was in 1580 in the sense "to make merry, have fun, romp playfully" (Online Etymology Dictionary). The word is derived from Middle Dutch term *vrolyc* "happy". Based on the above, the word undergone no change of meaning.

The verb *frisk* means "to run and jump in a lively and happy way". The verb is from Middle French adjective *frisque* "lively". The first known use of the word was in 1510 and meant "to dance, frolic" (Online Etymology Dictionary). It is clear from the above that the word underwent no change in meaning.

The verb *clown* means "to behave in a silly way, especially in order to make other people laugh". *Clown* is of Germanic origin. The first known use of the verb was registered in 1600 and was used in a sense "to play the clown on stage" (Online Etymology Dictionary). In a sense "to behave silly" the verb is used from 1928 (Online Etymology Dictionary). From the above, it is clear, that the word underwent the broadening of meaning.

The verb *gambol* means "to jump or run about in a lively way". The word is derived from Middle French term *gambader*. The first known use of the verb was in 1510 and was used in a meaning "to skip about in sport" (Online Etymology Dictionary). From 1590 the verb began to be used as "to frolic and merrymaking" (Online Etymology Dictionary). From the above, it is evident, that the verb underwent broadening of meaning.

The verb *caper* means "to run or jump around in a happy and excited way". The verb is of uncertain origin. The first know use of the verb was registered in 1580 with the meaning of "leaping, skipping, prancing"(Online Etymology Dictionary). Although, in the sense of "jumping

playfully" the verb is being used since 1590 (Online Etymology Dictionary). Based on the development of meaning, the word underwent amelioration of meaning.

Table 6.

Word	Origin	Period	Broadening	Narrowing	Amelioration	Pejoration	No change
PLAY	Germanic	Old English					1
FROLIC	Germanic	Modern English					1
FRISK	French	Modern English					1
CLOWN	Germanic	Modern English	1				
GAMBOL	French	Modern English	1				
CAPER	Unknown	Modern English			1		

The table above (see Table 6) summarizes the analysis of the verb "play" and its synonyms. The most common semantic changes for this group are **broadening** (2\6) and **amelioration** (1\6), the period when synonyms appeared is **Modern English** (5\5) and the verbs are mostly of **Germanic** and **French** origin.

4.1.7. Semantic changes of PULL and its synonyms

According to the Oxford Learner's Dictionary the verb *pull* means "to take hold of something and use force in order to move it or try to move it towards yourself". The verb is from Old English *pullian* "pluck, snatch". The origin of the verb is uncertain, presumably the verb is related to Low German *pulen*. In 1300 the sense has developed from "expressing a short sharp action to one of sustained force" (Oxford Dictionary of English). From the above, it is evident, that the headword underwent the broadening of meaning. Selected synonyms are: *draw, haul, drag, lug, tow*.

The verb *draw* is defined as “to cause to move continuously toward or after a force applied in advance”. In this sense of “giving motion to by the act of pulling” the verb is used since 1200 (Online Etymology Dictionary). The verb is of Proto-Germanic origin and is derived from the term *draganan*, which meant “to draw, pull”. Based on the above, the verb undergone no change in meaning.

The verb *haul* means “to pull something/somebody with a lot of effort”. The word is derived from Middle English *halen*, which was used in a sense "to drag, pull”. In 1580 the first known use of the verb was registered with the meaning “pull or draw forcibly” (Online Etymology Dictionary). According to the above, the verb underwent no change of meaning.

The verb *drag* means “to draw or pull slowly or heavily” and “to cause to move with slowness or difficulty”. The verb is of Proto-Germanic origin. The first know use of the verb was registered in late 14th century and was used in a sense "to draw a grapnel along the bottom of a river, lake, etc., in search of something” (Online Etymology Dictionary). In late 15th century the verb acquired the meaning of "to draw away by force, pull haul” (Online Etymology Dictionary). The sense “ to draw along slowly" is from 1580s; and the sense of “to move heavily or slowly, hang with its weight while moving or being moved" is from 1660s (Online Etymology Dictionary). Based on the development of meaning of the verb, the word underwent broadening of meaning.

The verb *lug* means “to pull with effort”. The word is of Scandinavian origin. The first know use of the verb was in late 14th century and meant "pull (something) with effort” (Online Etymology Dictionary). It is evident, from the above, that the word underwent no change in meaning.

The verb *tow* means “to draw or pull along behind”. The word is of Proto-Germanic origin. The verb is derived from Old English term *togian*, which meant “to drag, pull” (Online Etymology Dictionary). Based on the above, the verb underwent no change in meaning.

Table 7.

Word	**Origin**	**Period**	**Broadening**	**Narrowing**	**Amelioration**	**Pejoration**	**No change**
PULL	Germanic	Middle English	1				
DRAW	Germanic	Middle English					1
HAUL	Germanic	Modern English					1

Word	Origin	Period	Broadening	Narrowing	Amelioration	Pejoration	No change
DRAG	Germanic	Middle English	1				
LUG	Germanic	Middle English					1
TOW	Germanic	Old English					1

The table above (see Table 7) summarizes the analysis of the verb "pull" and its synonyms. The most common semantic change for this group is **broadening** (2\6), the periods when synonyms appeared are **Old English, Middle English** and **Modern English** and the verbs are mostly of **Germanic** origin.

4.1.8. Semantic changes of PUSH and its synonyms

According to the Oxford Learners Dictionary the verb *push* means “to use your hands, arms or body in order to make somebody/something move forward or away from you; to move part of your body into a particular position”. As a verb, the word entered the English language in an early 14th century (Online Etymology Dictionary). The verb is derived from Old French *pousser*. The early sense was “to exert force on”, which later gave a rise to “ make a strenuous effort, endeavour”. Looking at the development of the meaning, the headword underwent broadening of meaning. Synonyms of interest herein are: *thrust, shove, drive, propel, nudge*.

The verb *thrust* as “to push something/somebody suddenly or violently in a particular direction”. As a verb, the first use of the word was recorded in late 12th century (Online Etymology Dictionary). The word is, perhaps, from Old Norse *þrysta* "to thrust, force, press”. Based on the above, the verb underwent no change of meaning.

The verb *shove* means “to push somebody/something in a rough way”. The verb is from Old English *scufan* "push away, thrust, push with violence” (Online Etymology Dictionary). The verb *shove* is of Proto-Germanic origin. Based on the above, the verb underwent no change of meaning.

The verb *drive* means “to force something to go in a particular direction or into a particular position by pushing it, hitting it, etc.”. The verb is from Old English *drifan* "to compel or urge to

move, impel in some direction or manner". The verb is of Proto-Germanic origin. It is clear, from the above, that the verb underwent no change of meaning.

The verb *propel* means "to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction". The first known use of the verb is from mid-15th century in the sense "to drive away, expel" (Online Etymology Dictionary). The word is derived from Latin *propellere* "push forward, drive forward, drive forth". It is evident, from the above, that the verb underwent broadening of meaning.

The verb *nudge* means "to push somebody gently, especially with your elbow". It is assumed that the word is of Scandinavian origin. The first known use of the verb was registered in 1670 and was used in a sense "to push slightly with the elbow" (Online Etymology Dictionary). It is clear, from the above, that the verb underwent no change of meaning.

Table 8.

Word	**Origin**	**Period**	**Broadening**	**Narrowing**	**Amelioration**	**Pejoration**	**No change**
PUSH	French	Middle English					1
THRUST	Germanic	Middle English					1
SHOVE	Germanic	Old English					1
DRIVE	Germanic	Old English					1
PROPEL	Latin	Middle English	1				
NUDGE	Germanic	Modern English					1

The table above (see Table 8) summarizes the analysis of the verb "push" and its synonyms. The most common semantic change for this group is **brodening** (1/6), the periods when synonyms appeared are **Old English** (2\5), **Middle English** (2/5) and **Modern English** (1/5) and the verbs are mostly of **French**, **Germanic** and **Latin** origin.

4.1.9. Semantic changes of SPIN and its synonyms

According to the Oxford Learners Dictionary, the verb *spin* means “to turn round and round quickly”. The verb is from Old English term *spinnan* of Germanic origin, which was used in a sense “to draw out and twist fibers into thread”. The senses "to form threads from fibrous stuff; to twist, writhe" developed in late Old English. Later, in 1660, the meaning of the verb evolved into “to revolve, turn around rapidly” (Online Etymology Dictionary). Therefore, a possible preliminary observation concerning the meaning of the headword *spin* and its development over time is that it underwent a progression of broadening of meaning. Synonyms of interest herein are: *twirl, whirl, turn, revolve* and *gyrate.*

The verb *twirl* means “to move or dance round and round”. The first known use of the verb was recorded in 1590 and was used in a meaning “to move round rapidly”. The origin of the verb is unknown (Online Etymology Dictionary). It is evident, from the above, that the verb *twirl* undergone no change in meaning.

The verb *whirl* means “to move, or make somebody/something move, around quickly in a circle or in a particular direction”. The verb was first time used in 1300 and is, perhaps, from Old Norse *hvirfla* which meant “to go round, spin” (Online Etymology Dictionary). It is clear, from the above, that the verb *whirl* underwent no change in meaning.

The verb *turn* means “to go in a circle around a central point”. The verb is from late Old English *turnian*, which meant “to rotate, revolve” (Online Etymology Dictionary). The word is derived from Latin term *tornare*. It is clear, from the above, that the verb *turn* underwent no change in meaning.

The verb *revolve* means “to go in a circle around a central point”. The verb is derived from Latin *revolvere.* The first known use of the word was recorded in late 14th century and was used in a meaning “to change direction, bend around, turn (the eyes) back” (Online Etymology Dictionary). In the 15th century the verb was used in the sense “to cause to travel in an orbit around a central point. In the meaning “to travel around a central point” the verb was first recorded in 1660. Therefore, the observation concerning the meaning of the verb *revolve* and its development over time shows that it underwent a progression of broadening of meaning.

The verb *gyrate* means “to move around in circles”. The first know use of the verb was in 1763, which meant “move in a circle or spiral” (Online Etymology Dictionary). The verb is, probably, derived from Latin term *gyrare*. It is clear, from the above, that the verb *gyrate* underwent no change in meaning.

Table 9.

Word	Origin	Period	Broadening	Narrowing	Amelioration	Pejoration	No change
SPIN	Germanic	Old English	1				
TWIRL	Unknown	Modern English					1
WHIRL	Germanic	Middle English					1
TURN	Latin	Old English					1
REVOLVE	Latin	Middle English	1				
GYRATE	Latin	Modern English					1

The table above (see Table 9) summarizes the analysis of the verb "spin" and its synonyms. The most common semantic change for this group is **broadening** (2/6), the periods when synonyms appeared are Old English (1/5), Middle English (2/5) and **Modern English** (2/5) and the verbs are mostly of **Germanic** and **Latin** origin.

4.1.10. Semantic changes of SLIP and its synonyms

According to the Oxford Learners Dictionary, the verb *slip* means “to slide a short distance by accident so that you fall or nearly fall”. *Slip* is, perhaps, of Middle Low German term *slippen* “to glide, slide”. The verb is used since mid-14 century, with meanings “lose one's footing” and “slide out of place”. The meaning of “slide, glide” is from 1520. It is clear, from the above, that the verb *slip* underwent broadening of meaning. Selected synonyms are: *slide, skid, glide* and *slither*.

The verb *slide* means “to move easily over a smooth or wet surface”. The verb is from Old English term *slidan*, which was used in a sense “to glide, slip, fall, fall down”. The verb *slide* is of Germanic origin (Online Etymology Dictionary). It is clear, from the above, that the verb *slide* underwent narrowing of meaning.

The verb *skid* means “to slide forward or to one side in a way that shows a loss of control”. The verb is derived from the noun “skid”, presumably from the Old Norse term ***skið*.** The sense “to slide along” was first recorded in 1838. In extended sense of “slip sideways” the word was first time recorded in 1884 (Online Etymology Dictionary). It is clear, from the above, that the verb *skid* underwent broadening of meaning.

The verb *glide* means “to move smoothly and quietly, especially as though it takes no effort”. The verb *glide* is from Old English *glidan*, which was used to mean “move along smoothly and easily, glide away, vanish, slip, slide” (Online Etymology Dictionary). The verb is of Germanic origin. Based on the above the verb *glide* underwent no change of meaning.

The verb *slither* means “to move somewhere without much control” and “to move smoothly over a surface”. The verb is derived from the Middle English term *slidder*, which means “to slip, slide”. *Slither* is of Proto-Germanic origin. The first known use of the verb was recorded in the early 15th century (Online Etymology Dictionary). Based the above the verb *slither* underwent no change of meaning.

Table 10.

Word	**Origin**	**Period**	**Broadening**	**Narrowing**	**Amelioration**	**Pejoration**	**No change**
SLIP	Germanic	Middle English	1				
SLIDE	Germanic	Old English		1			
SKID	Germanic	Modern English	1				
GLIDE	Germanic	Old English					1
SLITHER	Germanic	Modern English					1

The table above (see Table 10) summarizes the analysis of the verb "slip" and its synonyms. The most common semantic changes for this group are **broadening** (2/5) and **narrowing** (1/5), the periods when synonyms appeared are **Old English** (2/4) and **Modern English** (2/4) and the verbs are mostly of **Germanic** origin.

4.1.11. Semantic changes of CLIMB and its synonyms

According to the Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, the verb *climb* means "to move somewhere, especially with difficulty or effort, using hands as well as feet"; "to go up something towards the top". The verb is from the Old English term *climban,* which means "to raise oneself using hands and feet, rise gradually, ascend, make an ascent of" (Online Etymology Dictionary). The verb *climb* is of Germanic origin. From the above, it is evident, that the verb *climb* underwent no change of meaning. The synonyms of interest herein are: *mount, ascend, scale, clamber* and *rise.*

The verb *mount* means "to go up something, or up on to something that is raised". The verb is derived from the Old French term *monter*. In 1300 the verb *mount* came into the English language with the meaning "to get up on a horse" (Online Etymology Dictionary). In mid-14th century the meaning "to rise up, ascend" came into use (Online Etymology Dictionary). Therefore, the observation concerning the meaning of the verb and its development shows that it underwent the broadening of meaning.

The verb *ascend* means "to rise, to go up, to climb up". The verb is derived from Latin term *ascendere* to "climb up, mount". The verb *ascend* was first time used in late 14th century with a meaning "to move upward" (Online Etymology Dictionary). From the above, it is evident, that the verb *ascend* underwent no change in meaning.

The verb *scale* means "to climb to the top of something very high and steep". The verb is of Germanic origin. The first known use of the verb was recorded in late 14th century with a meaning "to climb by or as by a ladder " (Online Etymology Dictionary). From the above, it is evident, that the verb *scale* underwent broadening of meaning.

The verb *clamber* means "to climb or move with difficulty or a lot of effort, using your hands and feet". The verb is probably derived from Middle English *climben.* The first use of the verb was registered in late 14 century as "to climb with difficulty using hands and feet" (Online Etymology Dictionary). Based on the above the verb *clamber* underwent no change of meaning.

The verb *rise* means "to come or go upwards". The verb is of Germanic origin and is derived from Old English term *risan*. The meaning "move from a lower to a higher position, move upward" is attested from 12th century (Online Etymology Dictionary). From the above, it is evident, that the verb *rise* underwent no change in meaning.

Table 11.

Word	Origin	Period	Broadening	Narrowing	Amelioration	Pejoration	No change
CLIMB	Germanic	Old English					1
MOUNT	French	Middle English	1				
ASCEND	Latin	Middle English					1
SCALE	Germanic	Middle English	1				
CLAMBER	Germanic	Middle English					1
RISE	Germanic	Middle English					1

The table above (see Table 11) summarizes the analysis of the verb "climb" and its synonyms. The most common semantic change for this group is **broadening** (2/6), the period when synonyms appeared is **Middle English** and the verbs are mostly of **Germanic**, **French** and **Latin** origin.

Table 12. Distribution of semantic changes in Old, Middle and Modern English

Broadening	Narrowing	Amelioration	Pejoration	No change	Period	Number of changes
0	3	0	0	11	Old English	4
12	4	0	0	13	Middle English	15
7	1	2	0	9	Modern English	10

As the table above presents (see Table 12), broadening is the prevailing type of semantic change for verbs for actions of movement by one's own energy. In addition, the total number of semantic changes was calculated in each time period. It can be argued that the words in the period of the Middle English language underwent the greatest variety of changes in comparison with the words of Old English and Modern English. In the period of the Middle English language, the predominant semantic change is the broadening of meaning (12 words); 4 words went through a process of narrowing the meaning; there were no found cases of amelioration or pejoration. In the case of words that began to function during the period of the Old English language, the results show that the narrowing of meaning is the most common semantic change (3 words); while no cases of broadening, amelioration and pejoration were found. As for Modern English, the predominant semantic change is, also, the broadening of meaning (7 words); 1 word went through a process of narrowing the meaning; 2 cases of amelioration were identified; no cases of pejoration. To summarize, the most common semantic change in Middle and Modern English periods is broadening of meaning, while the most common semantic change in Old English is narrowing of meaning.

The pattern observed above suggests that the time period may influence the type of semantic progression that synonyms experience. This can, in turn, be explained logically not only by the influence of the length of time during which a particular word is used, but also the functional purpose of the semantic change (Petcharat & Phoochareinsil, 2017). With respect to the length of time, the longer the duration of word usage the more likely it is for its semantics to change (Petcharat & Phoochareinsil, 2017). However, this change cannot occur in a vacuum but must, rather, should be caused by the corresponding functional need for language and communication. Together, the two dynamics above combine to generate new synonyms for existing words.

Stated more succinctly, as a word is used for an increasingly longer period of time, the probability of the emergence of a new need for communicating additional, detailed meanings also increases. At the same time, the tendency may move in the opposite direction such that a need arises for conveying context-specific sense meanings. In the first scenario, the corresponding semantic progression that emerges is broadening by which the meanings of synonyms are broadened to encompass a wider range of related ideas. Conversely, the second scenario gives rise to narrowing, by which synonyms are differentiated subtly in their underlying sense meaning. Functional language needs arising within the same synonymic group in a short period of time (a single era), and which result in semantic changes are likely to diverge. For instance, within a shorter period of time, as one synonym changes to serve the need for broader detailed meaning, the other would be

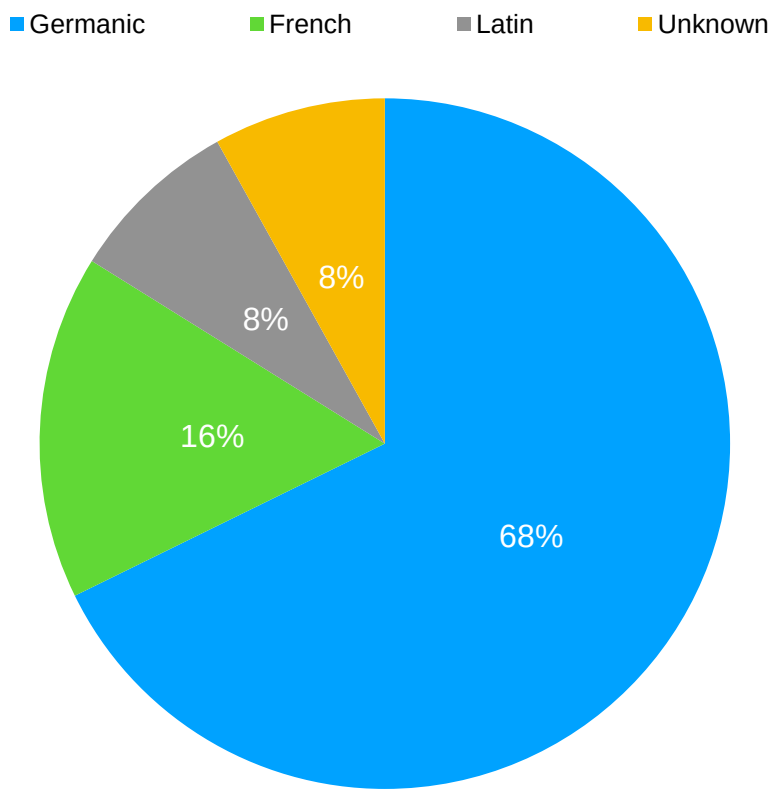
progressing towards refining sense meanings within a specific context. This explains why there is a tendency to alternate such semantic changes occurring in the same era.

Conversely, functional needs that emerge over longer periods of time such as across eras are reflective of broader evolutions in the language. Therefore, they need not serve competing functional language needs. This explains why, for example, broadening occurs within the same synonymic group but ,usually, in different era. More importantly, the qualitative analysis in this section of the paper proves that time has an influential effect on semantic changes in synonymy.

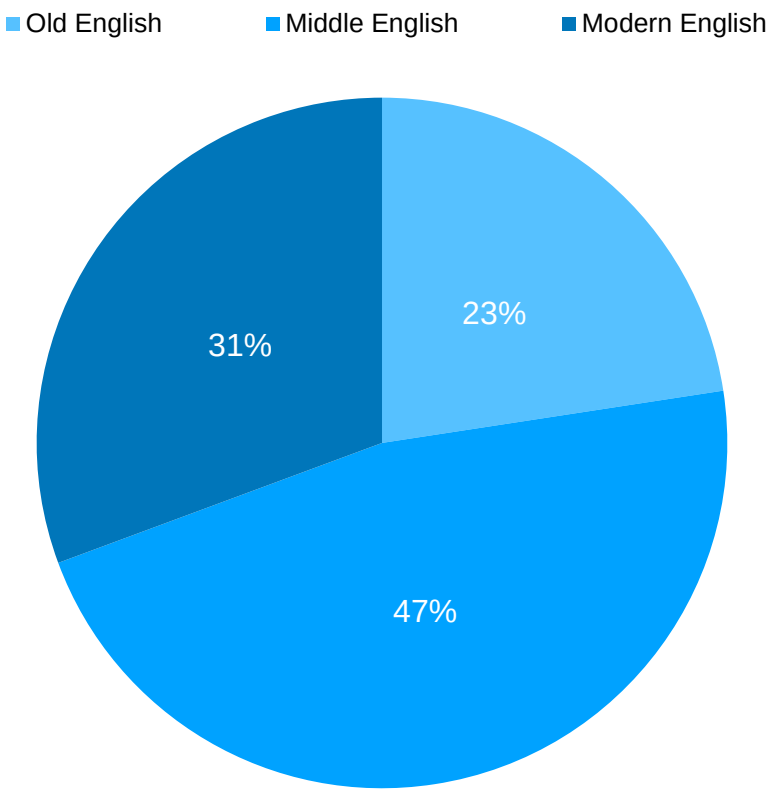
Additionally, the following chart (see Fig. 1) shows the origin of synonymy of 62 keywords. This shows that 68% of the synonyms analyzed are of Germanic origin; 16% of French origin; 8% of Latin and 8% of unknown origin.

The results showed that the most commonly used verbs for actions of movement in English are of Germanic (these include Anglo-Saxon, German and all the Scandinavian languages) origin and most of them have synonyms of Germanic origin.

Figure 1. Origin



The chart below (*see Figure 2*) illustrates the period of time when the words analyzed started functioning in the English language. According to the chart, 23% of words (14 words) came to English in the period of Old English; 47% (29 word) of words started functioning in the English language in the period of Middle English and 31% of words (19 words) started functioning in the period of Modern English. Based on the results presented, it can be stated that a considerable number of words was borrowed to English during the period of Middle English.



Additionally, it was noted that the most prevailing tendency is that words within synonymic group came to English in different periods of time. 7 out of 11 synonymic groups are made of synonyms that came to English in Old English, Middle English and Modern English; 2 synonymic groups are formed of words that came in the period of Old English and Middle English; and 1 synonymic group is formed of words that came to English in the period of Middle English and Modern English, and, Old English and Modern English; no synonymic groups were found that are formed of the words that came into English at the same period of time. Recapitulating, it can be stated that synonymic groups cannot be formed of words that started functioning in English in the

same period of time. In addition, the words that started functioning in Old English and Modern English, Middle English and Modern English are less likely to form synonymic groups.

Conclusion

The objective of this analysis, as indicated at the beginning, was to establish the intricacies involved in the semantic changes in synonymy. Accordingly, the qualitative aspect of the analysis sought to develop in-depth understanding of the types of semantic changes that indicate the diachronic dynamics of synonyms in the English language. The analysis investigated sample data drawn from a variety of reliable sources with the overarching objective of examining the emergence of generalization, specialization, amelioration, and pejoration as the four focal archetypes of semantic change. Eleven head words were selected randomly for further analysis, namely *walk, jump, crawl, duck, run, play, pull, push, spin, slip* and *climb*. Their synonyms were selected based on their frequency in the International Corpus of English.

Accordingly, through the qualitative analysis, each synonym was temporally located to not only its origins, but also the period of time during which it became functional within the English. Three origins of synonymy were identified in this regard, namely Germanic, French and Latin languages. The time periods that emerged over the course of the qualitative analysis were the Old English, Middle English, and Modern English eras.

Broadly, the prevailing semantic progression of the analyzed synonyms is the generalization. In addition, no instances of pejoration were observed in the data.

Furthermore, the qualitative component of the analysis focused on establishing direct relationships between origin of synonymy, and the time period of a word's functionality in English as independent variables. In this regard, the analysis established that:

- There is no significant relationship between the semantic changes of English words in synonymic groups and their origin.
- Words in the period of Middle English underwent the biggest variety of changes.
- No synonymic groups were found that are formed of the words that came into English at the same period of time. It is infrequent either for a synonymic group to consist of verbs that came into the English language in Old English and Modern English, Middle English and Modern English only.

Additional research is required to validate whether the relationships and associations proposed by this study are statistically significant.

Summary in English

The aim of the thesis is to investigate the changes in the meanings of English synonyms and to determine whether they occur in a regular way. To achieve the aim, the following objectives were set: (1) identify the origin and describe the etymological diversity of English synonyms; (2) to determine semantic changes words of similar meanings undergo in their historical development; and (3) to establish the prevailing patterns of semantic change. The aim was achieved by employing qualitative research method. An analysis of the meanings of the 11 most frequently used words in written and spoken English and their synonyms was performed. The eleven synonymic groups made a total of 62 words. The research focused on two traditions of changes in meaning - broadening and narrowing as well as amelioration and pejoration.

The results of the analysis showed that the meanings of English synonyms tend to broaden. Furthermore, the qualitative component of the analysis focused on establishing direct relationships between origin of synonymy, and the time period of a word's functionality in English as independent variables. In this regard, the analysis established that: English synonymic groups are composed of words that came into the language at different historical periods; words in the period of Middle English underwent the biggest variety of changes; English has no synonymic groups consisting of words that came into the language at the same historical period. It is important to mention that semantic changes in synonymic groups do not depend on the origin of the words.

Summary in Lithuanian

Baigiamojo darbo tikslas yra ištirti angliškų sinonimų reikšmių pokyčius ir nustatyti, ar jie vyksta reguliariai. Tikslui pasiekti buvo iškelti šie uždaviniai: (1) nustatyti angliškų sinonimų kilmę ir apibūdinti etimologinę įvairovę; (2) nustatyti semantinius pokyčius, panašios reikšmės žodžius, vykstančius jų istorinėje raidoje; ir 3) nustatyti vyraujančius semantinių pokyčių modelius. Tikslas buvo pasiektas panaudojant kokybinį tyrimo metodą. Atlikta 11 dažniausiai vartojamų žodžių, vartojamų rašytine ir šnekamąja anglų kalba, reikšmių ir jų sinonimų analizė. Vienuolika sinonimų grupių sudarė 62 žodžius. Tyrime pagrindinis dėmesys buvo skiriamas dviejų prasmių pokyčių tradicijoms - praplečiant ir susiaurinant, taip pat žodžio reikšmės atnaujinimas bei sumažinimas. Analizės rezultatai parodė, kad angliškų sinonimų reikšmės paprastai plečiasi.

Be to, kokybinis analizės komponentas buvo skirtas nustatant tiesioginius ryšius tarp sinonimijos kilmės ir žodžių, kaip savarankiškų kintamųjų, funkcionalumo laikotarpyje anglų kalboje.

Taigi, po analizės išnagrinėjimo nustatyta, kad: anglų sinonimų grupes sudaro žodžiai, atėję į kalbą skirtingais istoriniais laikotarpiais; vidurio anglų kalbos žodžiai patyrė didžiausią pokyčių įvairovę; anglų kalba neturi sinonimų grupių, susidedančių iš žodžių, atėjusių į kalbą tuo pačiu istoriniu laikotarpiu. Svarbu paminėti, kad sinoniminių grupių semantiniai pokyčiai nepriklauso nuo žodžių kilmės.

References

Arnold, I. V. (1986). *The English Word*. Moscow: Vyšaja škola.

Blank A., & Koch P. (1999) *Historical Semantics and Cognition*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Cruse, D. A. (1986). *Lexical Semantics*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge..

Cruse, D. A. (2006). *A Glossary of Semantics and Pragmatics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Crystal, D. (1996). *Encyclopedia of the English Language*. Cambridge.

DiMarco, C., Hirst, G., & Stede, M. (1993, March). *The semantic and stylistic differentiation of synonyms and near-synonyms*. In AAAI Spring Symposium on Building Lexicons for Machine Translation (pp. 114-121).

Stockwell, R., & Minkova D., (2001). *English Words, History and Structure*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Grygiel, M., & Kleparski, G.A. (2007). *Main Trends in Historical Semantics*. University of Rzeszow.

Hock H. H. (1991). *Principles of Historical Linguistics* (2nd edition). Berlin/ New Yourk: Mouton De Gruyter.

Leech, G., Rayson, P., & Wilson, A. (2001). *Word Frequencies in Written and Spoken English: Based on the British National Corpus (*1st ed.). Retrieved from: http://ucrel.lancs.ac.uk/bncfreq/

Murphy, M. Lynne. (2003). *Semantic Relations and the Lexicon*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Online Etymology Dictionary. (2001-2020). Retrieved from: http://etymonline.com

The Online Oxford Learner's Dictionaries. Retrieved from: https:// www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com

Oxford Learner's Thesaurus. A dictionary of synonyms. (2008). Oxford University Press.

Lyon, J. (1981). *Language and Linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Meyer, C. F. (2009). *Introducing English linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Palmer, F. R. (1997). *Semantics*. Great Britain: Cambridge University Press.

Petcharat, N., & Phoocharoensil, S. (2017). *A corpus-based study of English synonyms: Appropriate, proper, and suitable*. LEARN Journal: Language Education and Acquisition Research Network, 10(2), 10-24.

Puncevic, K. (2016). *Patterns of Semantic Change in Formation of English Synonyms*. Vilnius: Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences.

Rayevska, N. M. (1979). *English Lexicology* (4th ed.). Kiev: Vysca Skola Publishers.

Riemer, N. (2010). *Introducing Semantics*. Cambridge University Press

Saeed, J. I. (2003). *Semantics* (2nd ed.). Oxford: Blackwell.

Stehling D. (2013). *Semantic Change in the Early Modern English Period: Latin Influences on the English Language*. Anchor Academic Publishing.

Yule, G. (1996). *The study of language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Yu, H., & Ren, Ch. (2013). *Analysis of English Semantic Change*. Higher Education of Science, 5(2), 61-64.