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The antonymy in Macedonian and French legal language

Abstract:

This paper aims to analyse the characteristics of the legal language antonymy. The analysis starts with a definition of this linguistic phenomenon, with a distinction of different antonym types and then focuses on the complementary antonyms predominant in this field. The paper also presents the different French and Macedonian prefixes important for the establishment of antonym pairs as well as suffixes that have minor role as far as antonymy is concerned. After the short presentation of Macedonian and French non grammar antonyms the conclusion brings up the common points and the differences between Macedonian and French legal antonyms, and finishes with a short insight in the mutual relation between the antonymy and the social processes.

Key-words: antonymy, legal terms, word formation, French, Macedonian

Introduction - antonymy

The phenomenon of antonymy was analysed in antiquity by Aristotle who considered that the antonymy is based on two principles: *the law of contradiction* and *the absence of a third member*.

Antonyms are incompatible, without an exception, and if we say that a person is married or is not married than we can't say that that person is married and unmarried at the same time. Still, two terms can be antonyms only if they belong to the same conceptual field[2]. Thus, the Macedonian terms *адвокат* (attorney) and *пресуда* (judgment) are incompatible, but they are not antonyms because they do not share the same conceptual field. Because of that, the antonyms are usually defined through the co-hyponymy i.e. two word can be antonyms if they share the same hyperonym (generic word). For example, the terms *communism* and *capitalism* are antonyms because they share the hyperonym *economic system*.

Kocurek (Kocurek: 1982) elaborates this problem through the smallest semantic (meaning) features. According to him, terminology antonyms are two terms whose meanings are opposite. This opposition is based upon a pair of opposite semantic features, while the terms share other semantic features. So, two terms are antonyms if:

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[2] The conceptual field is a group of concepts corresponding to a certain field of experience. (Depecker:2002, 147)

- They have a certain number of common semantic features and

- Semantic features that they not share are opposite.

For example, the words *brother* and *sister* share the semantic features *human being* and *born by the same parents,* but are opposed through the semantic feature *sex.*

This definition indicates that the notion of *antonymy* is based upon the opposition between the terms and the terms have to resemble at first in order to be opposed.

Antonymy types

There are three antonymy types: gradable, complementary and converse. The antonyms belonging to the gradable type are at the ends of a semantic axe, and usually there is a neutral term in the middle. So between the antonym pair *лево ориентирани партии (left-wing parties) ≠ десно ориентирани партии (right-wing parties)* is the term *партии на центарот (center parties)*. If terms *унилатерален* (unilateral) and *мултилатерален* (multilateral) are at the ends of a semantic axe, than among them one can find series of terms like *билатерален* (bilateral), *трилатерален* (trilateral) etc. Between the minimum and the maximum penalty for a crime, the judge can award a series of punitive measures placed on the axe between them. So, a person can be released (acquité), sentenced to imprisonment (condamné à prison), but also conditionally released (condamné à prison avec sursis).

The gradable antonyms are mostly present in everyday language whereas complementary antonyms, dividing the common domain exclusively in two, dominate the legal language. This is due to the fact that legal field implies a certain vision of the world, so that, not only terms are in a relation of contradiction, but also the area division in two is based on certain principles. So, for example, according to the law, the child can be legitimate (брачно) or (вонбрачно) illegitimate or in French *tout enfant est soit naturel, soit légitime.* Such a pair is also formed by the complementary antonyms *оригинал ≠ фалсификат* (*authentic ≠ fake*). On the other hand, in general language, pairs of complementary antonyms are rare.

The dual antonymy distinguishes two subgroups: the converse antonyms and real, proper, dual antonyms. Antonyms like *купува ≠ продава (acheter ≠ vendre) (buy ≠ sell)*; *татко ≠ син (père ≠ fils) (father ≠son)*; *маж ≠ жена (mari ≠ femme) (husband ≠ wife)* can be placed in the first subgroup. This subtype concerns generally the processes (or their results) and the role of different agents: the agent of one term is patient of another or vice-versa. For example, if Peter is Paul's father it presupposes that Paul is Peter's son. Or, is someone is selling it presupposes that someone is buying.

The real dual antonyms are characterized by a symmetry due to the cultural functions or to spatial and temporal characteristics. Thus, the culture links the words like *сонце ≠ месечина (soleil ≠ lune) (sun ≠ moon)* or the pair *раѓање ≠ умирање (naissance ≠ décès) (birth ≠ death)* is characterized by a temporal antonymy expressing the passage from one state to another.

Antonyms can also be absolute and partial. Only monosemic words (words having only one meaning) can be absolutely contrary to other monosemic words. For example: *присутен ≠ отсутен / present ≠ absent (présent ≠ absent)*.

On the other hand, if one of the words is polysemic (has more meanings) the antonymy is established between one of the meanings of the polysemic word and the unique meaning of the other monosemic word. If that is the case the antonymy is partial.

For example, the Macedonian term *отпушти*, forms two antonym series: *отпушти ≠ вработи* when the common semantic feature refers to labor relations and another: *отпушти ≠ стегна* referring to a certain state. Similar examples can be found in French:

public

1.public ≠ privé (private)

2. public ≠ secret.

The partial antonymy is not very productive in the specialized terminology because the specialized context in which the terms are used indicates the meaning we are referring to when using polysemic terms.

The prefixation and the antonymy

The prefixation is a phenomenon that is closely related to the antonymy. In fact, antonymy can be analyzed on a word formation level, in regard to prefixes for example. Thus, in French, the prefixes *ante-* and *post-* are antonyms as well as Macedonian prefixes *пред-* and *по-*. The prefixes *ante-* and *пред-* usually indicate something that comes first in time, whereas the prefixes *post-* and *по-* usually indicate that something comes after something else. Still, this type of antonymy is not of particular interest for this paper, because it focuses on legal terms, and in the next chapters we will analyze the role of different prefixes in forming antonymous pairs in French and in Macedonian.

The prefixation and legal antonyms in French

In French, there are different prefixes indicating opposition in general i.e. adversity, contradiction, inversion, privation, negation etc. Cornu (Cornu: 2005) indicates the prefixes *contre, dé-, non* and *a-* as prefixes indicating an opposition. Still, these prefixes are not

always forming an antonym pair. For example, *contradiction* is not an antonym of *diction,* or *contrebande (contraband)* is not an antonym of the word *bande (band).* Antonymous pairs are:

enquête (investigation) ≠ contre-enquête (counter-investigation);

preuve (proof) ≠ contre-preuve (counterproof).

A very productive French prefix is the prefix *dé- , dés-* indicating an undoing of something that is already done or that an element is deprived of some of its characteristics:

centralisation (centralization) ≠ décentralisation (decentralization);

armement (armament) ≠ désarmement (disarmament);

naturalisation (naturalization) ≠ dénaturalisation (denaturalization);

raisonnable (reasonable) ≠ déraisonnable (unreasonable);

accord (agreement)≠ désaccord (disagreement).

There are also numerous antonymous pairs formed with the prefix *non* followed by a dash:

application de la loi (application of the Law) ≠ non-application de la loi (non-application of the Law);

intervention ≠ non-intervention;

réciprocité (reciprocity) ≠ non-réciprocité (non-reciprocity);

usage ≠ non-usage ;

violence ≠ non-violence.

There are also three prefixes of Greek origin that play a role in formation of words with negative meaning and thus creating antonym series *a-, an, anti-*:

normal ≠anormal (abnormal);

constitutionnel, (constitutionnellement) (constitutional)≠ anticonstitutionnel, (anticonstituellement) (unconstitutional).

Some prefixes characteristic for the general language are not mentioned in the Cornu's list, such as *in-, i-, dis-, mal-, extra-:*

légale (légalement) (legal, legally)≠ illégale (illégalement) (illegal, illegally) ;

légale (legal)≠ extralégal (extra-legal);

légitime (legitimate) ≠ illégitime (illegitimate) ;

inculpation ≠ disculpation (exoneration);

juste (just) ≠ injuste (unjust);

honnête (honest)≠ malhonnête (dishonest).

In the above given examples the antonymous pairs consist of one non-prefixed and one prefixed term and the prefix enables the relation of opposition. Still, there are example when the opposition between the prefixes establishes the antonym pair:

antérieur (anterior) ≠ posterieur (posterior);

sous-enchère (lower bid) ≠ surenchère (higher bid);

sous-estimer (underestimate) ≠ surestimer (overestimate).

We can also mention the antonymous Greek prefixes playing role in the creation of antonymous terms:

monogamie (monogamy) ≠ polygamie (polygamy);

monocratie (monocracy) ≠ polycratie (polycracy).

The prefixation and legal antonyms in Macedonian

As well as in French, there is a certain number of Macedonian antonyms whose negative meaning is due to the use of different prefixes.

There is a group of semantically close prefixes indicating negation, absence, an opposite meaning of that designated by the basic noun or adjective. These prefixes are: *не-, против-, без-* and the prefixes of foreign origin: *а-, анти-, дис-, контра-.*

The negation *не-* in Macedonian is commonly used as a prefix in order to negate the meaning of the noun or of the adjective. In Macedonian there are numerous legal antonyms formed with this prefix. That is the case of the nouns:

вистина ≠ невистина;

морал ≠ неморал;

партиец ≠ непартиец;

правда ≠ неправда.

There are also a lot of adjectival antonym pairs formed with this prefix:

законски ≠ незаконски;

легален ≠ нелегален;

основан ≠ неоснован;

партиски ≠ непартиски;

пристрасен ≠ непристрасен;

уставен ≠ неуставен.

The term *легален* has two antonyms: *нелегален* and *илегален*. In fact, the term *легален* is internationalism and when borrowed, the negative prefix of Latin origin was also

borrowed. Still, the form *нелегален* testifies of the creative role that Macedonian plays even with foreign terms trying to domesticate their form.

Verbs negated with the prefix *не-* are rare in Macedonian. There are some examples of polyprefixation where two or more prefixes are used in the word formation. That is the case of the antonym in the antonym pair

овозможи≠оневозможи.

According to Koneski (Конески: 1995, p.114) when the prefixed antonym and the antonym that does not have the same root coexist, the negated adjective represents a lower level of quality than the other one. For example, antonyms of the adjective *вистинит (true)* are the adjectives *невистинит (untrue)* and *лажен (false)*. Still, there is a certain gradation *вистинит/ невистинит/ лажен* and the term *невистинит* is not as negative as *лажен*.

Another prefix with negative meaning is the prefix *против-,* very productive in the legal terminology, and used with nouns and adjectives:

доказ ≠ противдоказ;

законски ≠противзаконски;

кандитат ≠ противкандидат;

мерка ≠ противмерка;

правен ≠противправен;

уставен ≠ противуставен.

The antonyms of the terms *уставен* and *законски* can be formed with two prefixes *против-* and *не-* thus forming doublets: *неуставен/противуставен* and *незаконски/противзаконски* giving a certain synonymous variety to the usually uniform legal language.

The prefix *без-* indicates the absence of something designated by the basic noun or adjective. The antonym has usually undergone some changes in its form due not only to prefixation but also to suffixes:

власт ≠ безвластие;

закон ≠ беззаконие;

партиец ≠ беспартиец;

ред ≠ безредие.

The prefix *без-* is found in the antonymous pair *правен ≠ бесправен* or usually with some other prefix when used with verbs:

вооружи ≠ обезоружи;

осили ≠ обессили.

Rarely used prefixes in Macedonian legal language are: *вон –* and *зло-* forming pairs like: *брачен ≠ вонбрачен* and *употреба ≠ злоупотреба.*

As we already mentioned there are some prefixes of foreign origin very productive in the legal language. That is the case of the prefix *анти-* giving antonym pairs like:

држквен ≠ антидржавен;

патриот ≠ антипатриот;

социјален ≠ антисоцијален;

тероризам ≠ антитероризам;

фашист ≠ антифашист.

This prefix has the same semantic content as the Slavic prefix *против-,* so some terms can be negated by both prefixes:

теза ≠ антитеза ≠противтеза;

уставен ≠ антиуставен ≠противуставен.

Контра- is also foreign prefix used to form antonyms like:

офанзива ≠ контраофанзива;

шпионажа ≠ контрашпионажа;

револуција ≠ контреволуција.

Today, new terms formed with this prefix are very popular thus confirming it productivity:

протест ≠ контрапротест;

штрајк ≠ контраштрајк.

The prefix *дис-* of Latin origin is usually used with nouns that are also borrowed. For example:

пропорција ≠ диспропорција;

паритет ≠ диспаритет.

Finally, there are some, not very numerous examples, were the antonym of an adjective is formed with the prefix *а-:*

морален ≠ аморален;

политички ≠ аполитички;

социјален ≠ асоцијален.

Two prefixes are characteristic for antonyms verbs: *де (дез-), дис-* and *раз-.* The first one implies an action opposite to the action indicated by the second verb:

блокира ≠ деблокира;

квалификува ≠ дисквалификува;

мобилизира≠демобилизира;

организира ≠ дезорганизира.

The prefix *дез-* can be found in the antonymous pair that consists of two nouns:

информација ≠ дезинформација.

In the examples given above the antonymy is based on the negative meaning of the prefix, but there are also antonym pairs where both terms are prefixed and the relation of oppositeness is based on the opposite meaning of these prefixes like *еднопартиски≠повеќепартиски* where the antonymy is based on the opposite meaning of the prefixes *едно* and *повеќе*. That is also the case of the prefix *раз-* is used to signal a liberation, a privation of a certain quality characteristic for the basic verb, usually forming an antonymous pair with verb prefixed with *в(o)* :

вооружи ≠ разоружи,

вдоми ≠раздоми.

Finally, we can also mention Greek prefixes *моно-* and *поли-* forming pairs like:

монократија ≠ поликратија;

моногамија ≠ полигамија.

The suffixes and French legal antonymy

Suffixes can play a certain role in forming the opposite meaning. Still, they are not as important as prefixes as they concern only antonymous nouns and different suffixes do not always indicate antonymous relation.

In French, the suffix *–eur* is used to denote the action, the initiative or the active position. On the other hand, the suffix *–é* is present in nouns deriving from the past participle forms thus indicating rather passive position. Still, the antonymous pairs formed by the suffixes -*eur* and *–é* are not numerous: *employeur (employer) ≠ salarié (employee), assureur (insurer) ≠ assure (insured).*

Legal antonyms can very often be terms having the same suffix *–eur* marking a certain activity but from an opposite position:

accusateur (accuser) ≠ défenseur (defender);

emprunteur (lander)≠ prêteur (borrower) ;

travailleur (worker)≠ chômeur (unemployed person) ;

vendeur (seller)≠ acheteur (buyer).

The suffix *–aire,* indicates a person receiving a profit or enjoying some benefit. Nouns formed with this prefix can be found in relation of antonymy with those formed with the suffix *–eur,* like:

locateur (lessor) ≠ locataire (tenant)

donneur (donor)≠ légataire (legatee)

donateur (donor)≠ donataire (donee).

Still there is not a strict rule defining the suffix type and the semantic relation of antonymy. So, we can mention different examples like:

créancier (creditor) ≠ débiteur (debtor) ;

testateur (testator) ≠ héritier (heir).

The suffixes and Macedonian legal antonyms

The suffixes do not play a significant role in the antonymous pairs' formation. The Macedonian suffix *-ач* usually indicates the performer of an action, so one can find the same suffix for the two nouns in the antonymous pair. For example:

налогодавач ≠ налогопримач;

купувач ≠ продавач.

The endings *–тел* and *–ник* mark also an active relation:

доверител ≠ должник;

обвинител ≠ бранител;

работодавач ≠ работник;

јавен правобранител ≠ јавен обвинител.

The suffixes create an antonymous relation when one of the suffixes denotes the patient of the action, and the other one like *–тел, -ник, -ач,* the agent. The patient, usually a verbal noun, is indicated by the endings *–т, -н:*

обвинител ≠ обвинет;

тужител ≠ тужен.

Still, two verbal nouns can also be a part of the same antonymous pair:

обвинет ≠ ослободен;

вработен ≠ отпуштен.

The suffix *–ец* is used with the abbreviations *ВМРО* and *СДСМ* thus forming antonymous pair:

ВМРО-овец ≠ СДСМ-овец.

Non grammar antonyms in French legal terminology

The non-grammar antonymy is a language phenomenon when the relation of oppositeness between two words is not due to affixes i.e. the two antonyms have different roots. That is the case of noun pairs like:

absolutisme (absolutism) ≠ démocratie (democracy);

mariage (marriage) ≠ divorce;

syndicat (trade union) ≠ direction (management).

There are also adjective pairs like:

civil ≠ pénale (penal);

permis (permitted) ≠ interdit (forbidden);

and antonyms verbs like :

acquitter (relaxer) (to acquit) ≠ condamner (to sentence) ;

travailler (to work) ≠ chômer (to be unemployed);

grève (strike) ≠ lock out.

The pair *grève ≠ lock out* shows clearly the influence of the social processes on language, and the fact that when the language does not dispose of a term reflecting a social phenomenon it will borrow it or forge a new one.

Non grammar antonyms in Macedonian legal terminology

In Macedonian, there are also non grammar antonyms used without an affix. There are antonyms nouns like:

апсолутизам ≠ демократија;

власт ≠ опозиција;

десница ≠ левица;

награда ≠ казна;

оригинал ≠ копија;

судија ≠ обвинет;

унитаризам ≠ федерализам;

and antonyms verbs like:

вработува ≠ отпушта;

докажува ≠ побива;

обвинува ≠ се брани;

осудува ≠ ослободува;

тврди ≠ одрекува.

There are also antonyms adjectives:

граѓанско ≠ казнено (право);

локална ≠ централна (власт).

A very specific antonymous pair *де факто ≠ де јуре* is also present in the Macedonian legal terminology, testifying of the influence of the Latin heritage in this domain.

Conclusion

The objective of this paper is to represent the antonymy as a linguistic phenomenon and the role of the word forming elements in the creation of antonymous pairs. The above given analysis brought us to several conclusions.

First of all, the particularity of the legal antonymy is the predominance of complementary antonyms that is due to the very nature of the legal domain. Or, legal experts view the world through the prism of legality and illegality, and there is no grey zone between these two.

As far as word formation is concerned, we could conclude that prefixes play a very important part in the creation of antonymous pairs. Of course, the prefixes are different in Macedonian and in French, but they share the frequent use of the negative prefix *non-* in French and *не-* in Macedonian. Both languages use also prefixes of foreign origin, French of Greek origin and Macedonian of Greek and of Latin origin. They even share the same Greek prefixes *mono-* and *poly-,* or the prefix *a-.* On the other hand, suffixes do not play an important role in the creation of antonyms, and usually the same suffixes can be found in an antonymous pair indicating agents that participate in the same action, but from a different point of view. Finally, there is a list of both French and Macedonian non grammar antonyms whose opposite meaning is not due to the word formation elements.

Antonymy as lexical phenomenon that reflects reality and enriches along with the changes that occur in the reality. The appearance of new antonymous relations is particularly influenced by political or historical factors. For example, today we talk about two political blocks *левица* and *десница*, but these antonyms did not exist before the independence of the Republic of Macedonia. The fact that antonyms are socially conditioned can be also illustrated by the antonyms *ВМРО-овец ≠ СДСМ-овец* purely a result of the new political events. Or, this also becomes evident through the pair *штрајк ≠ контраштрајк* because the second term is forged to meet the new social phenomenon. The close link between the social turbulences and anotnyms is also evident in French were we found the term *lock-out* as an antonym of the term *grève,* an English borrowing taken in order to denote a new concept.

Finally, antonyms are very important for terminology, during the process of creation of terminology lists and dictionaries because the properly indicated antonyms can help professionals as well as students to structure well the terms for the legal concepts, and to find the corresponding equivalents in the foreign language.

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