



## THE ACTUAL PROBLEMS OF CREATING BILINGUAL THESAURUS

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Annotation: Creating bilingual thesaurus and trying to find solutions of its problems is considered one of the most actual and challenging issues in modern linguistics. Creating a bilingual thesaurus that can meet all the requirements of two different languages is one of the most important tasks of linguists. Bilingual thesaurus is the most necessary and important resource especially for translators and language learners. They allow for a deeper study of the language, increase vocabulary and a broader understanding of the language which is being studied.

Key words: thesaurus, bilingual thesaurus, terminology, monolingual, polysemy, homonymy.

Nowadays, more and more language users, learners, linguists, philologists and many others are effectively using thesauruses for different purposes which in turn increase demand for reliable thesauruses. We must know that there are many types of thesauruses such as general, specialized, in terms of used language: monolingual and bilingual. General thesauruses are designed for everyday use and contain synonyms and antonyms for a wide range of words. A general thesaurus is a reference tool that provides synonyms and antonyms for words. Synonyms are words that have the same or similar meanings, while antonyms are words that have opposite meanings. A general thesaurus can help you find alternative words to express your ideas, avoid repetition, or enrich your vocabulary. A general thesaurus may also include related words, such as common, accepted, inexact, approximate, comprehensive for the word general. Specialized thesauruses: These focus on a particular subject area, such as medicine, law, or business. They provide more specific vocabulary and terminology relevant to the chosen field. A specialized thesaurus is a reference tool that provides synonyms, antonyms, and related words for a specific topic or field. For example, a specialized thesaurus for medicine might list terms related to anatomy, diseases, treatments, and drugs. A specialized thesaurus can help writers, researchers, and students to find the most appropriate words for their purposes. Some examples of synonyms for specialized are: exhaustive, thorough, concentrated, detailed, and functional.

The above-mentioned types are the main types of thesauruses in general not considering the language tool. But what about monolingual and bilingual thesauruses? Let's look at them in detailed way. In terms of monolingual thesaurus, it is a thesaurus that focuses on synonyms and antonyms within a single language. While a traditional thesaurus might include synonyms from other languages, a monolingual thesaurus strictly focuses on words within one language. There isn't a specific need for linguists to create monolingual thesauruses, as most online thesauruses are already monolingual. However, linguists can provide valuable insights into how synonyms and antonyms function within a language, which can inform the creation of

these resources. The next big one is bilingual thesaurus it is a reference tool that provides synonyms and antonyms for words, but in two different languages. This can be helpful for people who are learning a new language or who need to translate text between languages. There are many online bilingual thesauruses available, as well as some print versions. There are several online thesauruses that can be used to find synonyms for bilingual in both English and other languages. Some popular options include:

WordHippo

Thesaurus.com

SpanishDict (for Spanish synonyms)

Larousse (for French synonyms)

These thesauruses allow you to enter a word in one language and find synonyms in that language or another language. For example, if you enter "bilingual" into WordHippo, you will see synonyms such as "multilingual," "diglot," and "bilingualist." You can then click on any of these synonyms to see their definitions and additional synonyms.

Especially, creating this kind of thesauruses is considered one of the most challenging and difficult one for linguists. Now, we highlight the most problematic sides of creating bilingual thesauruses and try to find some reliable solutions for them. Here are some of the main problems encountered when creating a bilingual thesaurus:

**Linguistic Differences:** Languages don't always have perfect one-to-one or exact correspondence between words. A single word in one language might have several synonyms or even require a phrase to express the same concept in another. This can make it difficult to establish clear relationships between words. For example, the languages can differ in many ways and they can be related with word or sentence structure: they may put words together to form a sentence in different ways pronunciation: they may use different sounds, grammar, lexis, morphology, syntax and others. The structure of a language can be very difficult to work out. In order to create a bilingual thesaurus, we use comparative method to distinguish the differences and similarities of languages.

**False Equivalents:** Sometimes, words look similar across languages but have different meanings. For instance, the English word "actually" might be translated to a similar-sounding word in another language, but that word might mean "in fact" or "really." These false cognates can cause confusion for users of the thesaurus. Another exact example of this can be false friends of the translators in translation theory because these all are directly connected with each other. False friends are words that look or sound the same in two different languages but have different meanings. For instance, the English word "angina" can be understood by Uzbek and Russian people as a disease which related with throat but according to Longman dictionary it is a medical condition in which one may have bad pains in chest because his heart is weak. Actually, it will be sore throat in English not angina as we know.

**Cultural Specificity:** Concepts might exist in one culture but not another, making it hard to find equivalent terms. For example, a thesaurus might struggle to include words specific to a particular regional cuisine or social custom. According to Michael Gasser from Indiana University, modern languages also differ from each other in these ways. Amharic has the word *agelgil* meaning a leather-covered basket that Ethiopians used traditionally to carry prepared food when they traveled. Other languages don't have a word for this concept. English now has the word *nerd* to refer to a particular kind of person who is fascinated with technology and lacking in social skills. This is a relatively new concept, specific to certain cultures, and there is



probably no word for it in most languages. One more example, Languages such as English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, and Japanese have many specialized terms for computers and their use, whereas many other languages, such as Tzeltal and Inuktitut, do not.

**Polysemy and Homonymy:** Words can have multiple meanings within a single language (polysemy) or even sound the same but have different meanings (homonymy). This makes it challenging to determine the correct sense of a word for inclusion in the thesaurus. Polysemy is a linguistic phenomenon where a single word has multiple related meanings. These meanings are typically connected by a historical thread, even though they may seem distinct in contemporary usage. Here are some examples of polysemy:

The word "bank" can refer to a financial institution (e.g., "I went to the bank to deposit a check") or the edge of a river (e.g., "We sat on the bank and fished").

The word "run" can refer to the act of moving quickly on foot (e.g., "She started to run when she saw the dog"), a competition involving running (e.g., "The marathon runners started the race"), or a period of operation or control (e.g., "The company has been under new management for a year"). The next term, homonymy is a linguistic term for words that share the same form (spelling or pronunciation) but have different meanings. There are two main types of homonyms: homophones and homographs. Homophones are the words which sound the same but have different spellings and meanings. For example, "bat" can mean a flying mammal and "bat" is a noun which used to hit a ball. Moreover, homographs have the same spelling but different pronunciations and meanings. For example, "bow" (the front of a ship) and "bow" (to bend at the waist) are homographs. Some words can be both homophones and homographs, sharing the same spelling and pronunciation but having different meanings. An example of this is the word "bank," which can refer to the edge of a river or a financial institution. Homonymy can sometimes lead to confusion in communication, and also creating bilingual thesaurus in two different languages.

**Keeping it Up-to-Date:** Languages are constantly evolving, with new words and phrases emerging and existing terms acquiring new shades of meaning. Maintaining an accurate and current bilingual thesaurus requires ongoing effort.

Creating a bilingual thesaurus involves compiling synonyms and related terms in two languages. Here are some solutions to consider:

**Manual Compilation:** This is a time-consuming approach but allows for high-quality control. You can leverage existing monolingual thesauruses and dictionaries as a starting point.

**Corpus-based Methods:** Utilize bilingual corpora (large collections of text) to identify word associations and synonyms. This approach requires computational tools and expertise.

**Machine Translation Techniques:** Employ machine translation engines to generate synonym suggestions, but be sure to verify their accuracy due to potential errors.

To sum up, bilingual thesauruses are valuable tools for learners, translators, and bilingual writers. They provide a deeper understanding of vocabulary in two languages by showing synonyms, antonyms, and related words. This can help users find the most accurate and natural way to express themselves in the target language. Bilingual thesauruses can also be helpful for identifying false friends – words that look similar in two languages but have different meanings. Here are some of the benefits of creating bilingual thesauruses:

**Improved vocabulary development:** Bilingual thesauruses can help learners expand their vocabulary in both languages by showing them a wider range of words and their relationships.



Enhanced translation accuracy: Bilingual thesauruses can help translators find the most appropriate word choices in the target language, leading to more accurate and natural-sounding translations.

Richer writing style: Bilingual writers can use bilingual thesauruses to find synonyms and related words in both languages, allowing them to express themselves more precisely and creatively.

Despite these challenges, bilingual thesauruses can be valuable tools for translators, language learners, and anyone working with two languages.

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