LECTURE 7

ENGLISH HOMONYMY

- Homonyms and their classifications.
- Sources of homonyms.

Homonyms

are words different in meaning but identical in sound or spelling, or both in sound and spelling.

Walter Skeat according to their spelling and sound forms

- **perfect homonyms** that is words identical in sound and spelling, such as: *«school» «косяк рыбы» and «школа»;*
- homographs, that is words with the same spelling but pronounced differently, e.g. «bow» -/bau/ «поклон» and /bou/ «лук»;
- homophones that is words pronounced identically but spelled differently, e.g. «night» «ночь» and «knight» «рыцарь».

A.I. Smirnitsky added one more criterion: grammatical meaning

- **perfect** which are identical in their spelling, pronunciation and their grammar form, such as: «spring» in the meanings: *the season of the year* 'весна', а leap 'прыжок', а source 'источник'
- homoforms which coincide in their spelling and pronunciation but have different grammatical meaning, e.g. *«reading» Present Participle, Gerund, Verbal noun.*

I.V. Arnold

classified only perfect homonyms and suggested four criteria of their classification:

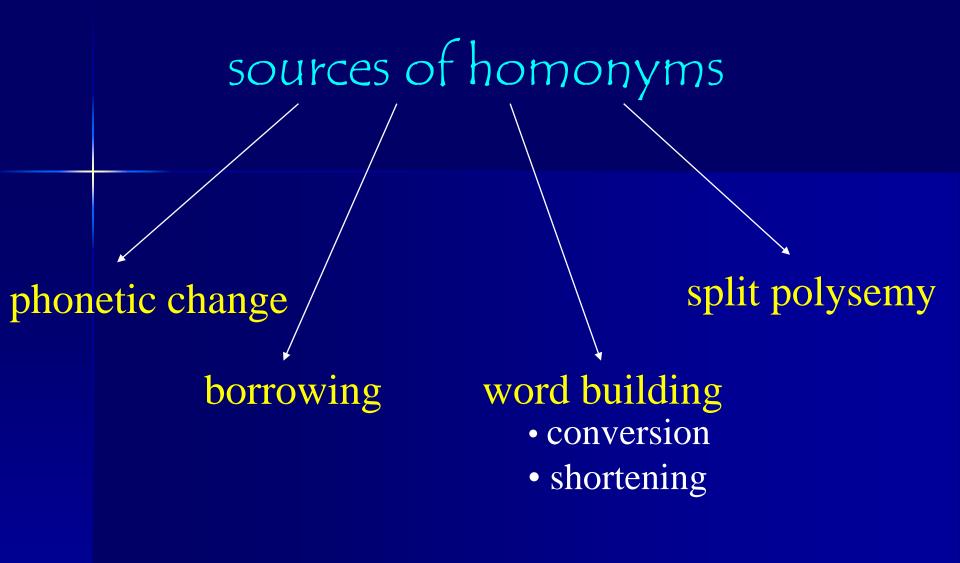
- ✓ lexical meaning
- ✓ grammatical meaning
- ✓ basic forms
- ✓ paradigms

- homonyms identical in their grammatical meanings, basic forms and paradigms and different in their lexical meanings
 - e.g. «board» in the meanings «a council» комиссия, совет and «a piece of wood sawn thin» доска;
- homonyms identical in their grammatical meanings and basic forms, different in their lexical meanings and paradigms
- e.g. to lie lied lied, and to lie lay lain;

 homonyms different in their lexical meanings, grammatical meanings, paradigms, but coinciding in their basic forms

e.g. *«light» - свет /«*lights»/, *«light» - светлый / «*lighter», *«*lightest»/

homonyms different in their lexical meanings, grammatical meanings, in their basic forms and paradigms, but coinciding in one of the forms of their paradigms
e.g. «a bit» and «bit» (from *«to bite»*)



phonetic change

- "Night" and "knight", for instance, were not homonyms in Old English (O.E.) as the initial "k" in the second word was pronounced.
- * The verb "to write" in O.E. had the form "to writan" and the adjective "right" had the form "reht" or "riht".

borrowing

- in the group of homonyms rite n − to write − right adj. the second and third words are of native origin, whereas "rite" is Latin borrowing (Latin "ritus");
- bank n ("a shore") is a native word, and bank n (a financial institution) is an Italian borrowing.

word building

the most important type of it being conversion.

Such pairs of words as

- "comb" n "comb" v;
- "pale" adj. "pale" v;
- "make" v "make" n, etc.

are numerous in vocabulary.

shortening

- rep = repetition

- e.g. "fan" is a shortening produced from "fanatic" [f nætik]. Its homonym is a Latin borrowing "fan" – an element for waving and producing some cool wind. e.g. "rep", a kind of fabric (репс), has 4 homonyms: - rep = repertory; - rep = representative; - rep = reputation;
 - (in school slang smth, need to know by hard)

split polysemy

The 3 following homonyms of the word "spring", means:

- the act of springing, leap;
- a place, where a steam of water comes up out to the sky;
- a season of the year.

Historically all three originate from the same verb with meaning 'to jump, to leap'. This is the Old English word "springun".