Sustainable development of the enantonym meanings under the influence of the context (on the German language material)

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Abstract. The article explores the concept of enantiosemy as a semantic category of language. Along with other categories of language, enantiosemy exists at all language levels: morphemic, grammatical, lexical, phraseological and syntactic. The article deals with enantiosemy units at the lexical, phraseosyntactic and syntactic levels of the German language. For the actualization of enantonyms, the context plays a decisive role. The meaning of enantiosemy lexical units is realized in the so-called "mixed" context, when several actualizers determine the meaning of units. At the phraseosyntactic level, syntactic phraseological units capable of expressing enantiosemy meanings, namely communicames, are considered. Interrogative sentences with enantiosemy rethinking are presented at the syntactic level. As a result of such rethinking, they receive the secondary meaning opposite to the direct one: more often negative and less often positive. The linguistic and extralinguistic context contributes to this. The last type of context is predominant in determining the meaning of enantonyms of different levels in the German language. The sustainable development of opposite meanings of enantonyms under the influence of context at all levels of the language is traced. Keywords: Enantiosemy, Context, Enantonym, Sustainable development of Meanings, Vocabulary, Phraseological level, Syntax, German language

1 Introduction

From the dialectic point of view, each phenomenon has internal contradictions, each phenomenon combines properties and aspects that mutually exclude or negate each other. The development of all things in reality is built on this dialectical law of the struggle of opposites. Therefore, enantiosemy is of remarkable interest as a particular manifestation of this dialectical law.

The enantiosemy is a complex and ambiguous phenomenon; in linguistics, enantiosemy is a linguistic category that can be traced at all linguistic levels, namely, morphemic, lexical, phraseological and syntactic. This category is universal; it exists in many languages of different systems. This statement is confirmed by studies in the Russian language by L.V. Bessonova, E.Kh. Zharkova, V.N. Zoller and others; in the Ukrainian language - by T.A. Fedorenko; in the Belarusian language - by Yu.V. Romanchuk; in the

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Bulgarian language - by V.S. Chervonozhka; in German – by G.V. Yatskovskaya; in English – by U. Cerutti; in French – by M.Yu. Brodsky and in the Semitic languages – by Th. Noldeke. E.I. Shendels wrote about the possibility of correspondence of one plan of expression to several elements of content, referring to polysemy and based on the asymmetric dualism of the linguistic sign (S.O. Kartsevsky). She also mentioned cases when negation, having a positive meaning, turns into a “means of expressing modality” (uncertainty, assumptions, that is, forms of non-categorical statements) [1].

Lexicographic fixation of this phenomenon may appear in the future, because at the moment there is no special mark for such words in dictionaries. In some cases they are divorced as homonyms, and in others they are brought together as two meanings of a polysemantic word. Below are examples of modern fixation of enantiosemic German words in the dictionary. (Table 1)

Table 1. Fixation of enantiosemic German words in the dictionary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Homonymy</th>
<th>Polysemy</th>
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<td>abblitzen</td>
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To determine the meaning of enantiosemy units (enantonyms), the context plays a decisive role. Researchers often emphasize the influence of the context on their contrasting meaning (R.R. Gelgardt, E.S. Gritsaenko, N.K. Salikhova). According to Th. Schippan, word meanings are activated and actualized in a specific speech act with the help of a specific environment and context, and actual meanings are text meanings [2]. The context is linguistic and extralinguistic, where the first is divided into morphological, lexical and syntactic. The extralinguistic context, in turn, includes presuppositions (existential, pragmatic, communicative, linguistic) and consituation (a specific situation accompanying the production of a speech act).

2 Materials and Methods

The material for the study of this work was the prose texts of works of art of the 19th - 21st centuries, including those included in the national corpora of the German language (COSMAS, DWDS). As a result, the language material included over 1200 contexts (text fragments) of the use of the studied enantiosemy units in German-language texts.

The objectives of the study led to the use of a set of techniques, including the method of continuous sampling, descriptive, comparative methods and the method of component analysis.

3 Enantonyms at the lexical level

Enantiosemy meanings of German lexical units are most often actualized in a “mixed” context, where different actualizers coexist in the form of consituation, presuppositions and linguistic context. According to the degree of productivity, a combination of existential presupposition with various kinds of extralinguistic and linguistic means should be distinguished. We have not identified any specific relationship between the implementation of the enantiosemy meaning of lexical units and the combination of means for their implementation, although the prevalence of cases with existential transtextual information is undeniable. Further, in terms of the frequency of implementation of enantiosemy meanings, there follows a consituation in conjunction with various kinds of accompanying
linguistic and extralinguistic means. And this is explained by the fact that the consituation is closest to the existential presupposition in terms of informativeness, or rather the amount of information, since the most important thing for determining the enantiosemy meaning is knowledge: whether it is preliminary knowledge or knowledge that accompanies the production of a speech act. It should be added, that, in accordance with the traditional approach, consituation is in the first place among extralinguistic means.

As in the cases of a “pure” context, where examples with existential presupposition predominate, in a “mixed” context, cases of realization of enantiosemy meanings involving the same presupposition are also most frequent.

Let us consider the following example with the meanings of the verb anhalten 1) stop, bring to a state of rest, at (stop) and 2) last, continue as actualizers of the second meaning, a combination of an existential presupposition with a linguistic context.

Sollte die demographische Entwicklung anhalten, drohe nicht nur eine Überalterung, sondern auch ein Verlust an Arbeitsplätzen, weil die Wirtschaft in Ermangelung von Nachwuchskräften abwandere. (Merkur-online.de vom 15.07.2005)

The choice of the appropriate value in the analyzed example is based on the prior knowledge and analysis of the sentence structure. At the beginning of a complex sentence, there is a conditional subordinate clause that does not imply the “cessation” of the situation of the demographic decline, on the contrary, if it “continues”, there will be problems with the predominance of elderly people, loss of jobs, and others. The linguistic help here is "to threaten", which would not have appeared if the process of decline had "stopped".

Extralinguistic means can indicate the semantics of the units being updated also using consituation in combination with linguistic context types, such as:

In der Nacht vom 1. auf den 2. April 1867 starb er, ohne daß jemand bei seine Ableben anwesend gewesen wäre. Wie im Leben und Streben, war er auch im Sterben einsam. Erst am Morgen des 2. April fand man ihn entseelt in seinem Bette. (Honoré de Balzac: Pictures of life)

An unambiguous choice from two opposite meanings of the enantonym ableben 1) live (until the end) for a certain period of time, survive and 2) die in favor of the second meaning is carried out in this case with the help of a consituation that takes into account subjectively prevailing circumstances (description of the moment of death ). In addition, the implementation of this enantiosemy meaning is also facilitated by the lexico-semantic context in the form of lexical units of the semantic field death: Leben (life), sterben (to die), einsam (lonely), and entseelt (lifeless). It should be noted that in this example we have the substantiated infinitive Ableben from the verb ableben, which retains all its semantic features.

The enantiosemy noun Untiefe has two opposite meanings 1) shallow water and 2) abyss, which can be actualized depending on the appropriate context. For instance:

Es ist der Instinkt des Wassersportlers und Technikers, der vor Untiefen und Felsen warnt. (https://app.glosbe.com/source/406694)

In this example, the noun Untiefe realizes one of its opposite meanings 2) (immeasurably) great depth in water bodies, that is, abyss is based on the consituation of scuba diving and work in the depths of the sea (Wassersportler – underwater athlete), which determines the semantic direction of choice. The lexical-semantic accent', which is based on the antonym lexeme Felsen (rock), also belongs to the means of realizing this meaning.

In the following example, the meaning of the noun Untiefe is updated – an abyss, abyss, abyss. The specified meaning of deep is updated with the help of a specific situation and a set of vocabulary on the necessary topics, such as Katakomben - catacombs, verstecken - hide.

The lexical meaning of the enantonym Untiefe shallow water, stranded, which is the opposite of the previous one, is actualized in the specific navigation situation shown below.


In addition to the constellation, which is the main means of actualizing the meaning of shallow water, stranded, the realization of this enantiosemy meaning of the lexical unit Untiefe is also associated with the lexical-semantic (Schiff – ship, Boot – boat, rudern – row) and thematic environment (keine Bucht, keine Untiefe im Wasser - neither the bay nor the shallows on the water). Thus, the participation of the lexico-semantic and syntactic contexts in the realization of this meaning is confirmed.

4 Enantonyms at the phraseosyntactic level

Currently, researchers of syntax are increasingly turning to the communicative aspect, to the implementation and functioning of language units in speech [3]. Modern linguistics includes the so-called subsystem of syntactic phraseology, the units of which are communicame, phraseological schemes and stable models. These syntactic phraseological units are similar to lexical phraseological units by the structural and semantic fusion of their components. Such syntactic structures are used more in the colloquial style and often express enantiosemy meanings.

Communicemence is a word or a combination of words that is grammatically inseparable and has a non-conceptual semantic content. This syntactic unit often performs an aesthetic function in communication. There are various semantic groups of communicame, but only three of them are of interest in terms of enantiosemy. Communicémences with the meaning assessment, which can have enantiosemy meanings, are based on gradual opposition. Communiquémes with the meaning affirmation / negation can have opposite meanings if their opposition is privative. The enantiosemy meanings of etiquette communicame are based on the equivalence of oppositions. When determining one of the opposite meanings of enantiosemy units, including communicame, it is the context that plays a huge role, in the form of which a wide variety of linguistic means and extralinguistic factors can act.

Enantiosemy is divided into nominative and emotional-evaluative enantiosemy according to the nature of the opposed semes. There are also symmetrical and asymmetrical enantiosemy. If enantonyms express two antonymous meanings that are equal in volume and set of their semes, and occur in the same speech situations, then they are symmetrical. In any other case, they should be defined as unsymmetrical.

Nominative enantiosemy includes communicame with the meaning affirmation / negation and etiquette communicame. It is believed that “logical incompatibility receives a linguistic expression in binary series formed by the so-called “negative-affirmative oppositions”, the meaning structures of which are characterized by polar semes of “affirmation” and “negation” [4]. Opposite meanings are realized in such communicame in certain situations, as can be seen from the examples below.

For instance:
„Selbstredend“, sagte er gekränkt. »Mein Wort bindet mich doch«. (https://app.glosbe.com/source/406694)

Wed:
„Natürlich, ich bin eine Hündin und eine Katze, selvstredend“. (https://app.glosbe.com/source/406694)
In the first example, direct consent is expressed by using the communiceme **Selbstredend!** (*Of course!*), which conveys the surprise of a person who is offended by the distrust of his interlocutor. The fact that he will fulfill his promise confirms the lexical context in the form of the expression **Mein Wort bindet Mich** (*I am bound by my word*). The opposite meaning of the enantonym **Selbstredend!** is updated in a situation of imaginary agreement with the accusations and offensive words. The interlocutor repeats swear words, as if he agrees with them. She does not really agree with this, and when the names are called she reacts negatively, and her tongue-in-cheek reply **Selbstredend!** (*Of course!*) has the opposite meaning, that is, disagreement.

Enantiosemy etiquette communiqués mainly express greetings at meeting and parting, for example: **Grüβ Gott!** / **Grüβ dich!** / **Grüßt euch!** / **Hi!** / **Hallo!** / **Hallochen!** / **Küß die Hand!** / **Salute!** / **Servus!** / **Salü!** etc. They are used for everyday communication and often have either a dialect or slang character. These are peculiar clichés that are used depending on the context and situation. Other communicemes such as **Gut Blatt!** (*Gruß der Kartenspieler*), **Gut Heil!** (*Gruß der Gymnasten*), **Gut Holz!** (*Gruß der Kegler!*), **Gut Nass!** (*obsolete; Gruß der Schwimmer*), **Gut Ruß!** (*Gruß der Schornsteinfeger*), **Guten Schnitt!** (*Gruß der Schneider*), **Glück auf!** (*Gruß der Bergleute*), etc., are socially limited or archaic.

In evaluative enantiosemy, the opposite meanings of communicame are based on emotional-evaluative components. All studied enantiosemy communiceme are characterized by expressiveness. Particular expressiveness is determined by their certain linguistic properties and peculiarities of use, among which there are some belonging to the colloquial style and grammatical arrangement as in exclamatory and incentive sentences with an exclamation point at the end.

For example: **Ah!** (*Ah!*) / **Klasse!** (*Class!*) / **Super!** (*Super!*) / **Toll!** (*Wonderful!*) / **Um Gottes willen!** (*For God's sake!*), **Zum Donnerwetter noch einmal!** (*Damn it!*), **Warum nicht gar!** (*This was still not enough!*), etc. Such a property as the grammatical indivisibility of a communiceme also contributes to the vivid expressiveness of enantiosemy communiceme.

In the following examples, alternative situations of repentance and love require lexical confirmation in the form of the corresponding verbs **bereuen** and **lieben**. The **Oh Gott** communiceme expresses surprise, but has the opposite emotional coloring, in the first example it is negative, in the second it is positive.

– **Oh Gott**, *wie traurig ist das!* (From the conversation).
  Wed:
  – **Oh Gott**, *ich kann ohne dich nicht leben!* (From the conversation) [5].

Therefore, “it should not be surprising that ... speakers often subject something to a negative assessment, ironically, etc. However, cases of a positive assessment of this or that phenomenon are not uncommon” [6].

The meaning of this communicame can be conveyed by the expression **das ist unglaublich!**, which, as a synonym, is given by Duden's explanatory dictionary [7], where the plane of expression and the plane of content are equally negative.

### 5 Enantonyms at the syntactic level

At the present stage of linguistics development, lexical enantonyms are studied more often (Kiyko S.V. [8], Lutzeier P.R. [9], Nurtayeva A. [10]), less often – phraseological (Zoller V.N. [11]). However, there are works devoted to the study of enantiosemy at the syntactic level (Melikyan V. Yu., Melikyan A.V. [12], Ostrikova G.N. [13], Kolesnikova O.P. [14]). At the syntactic level, as well as at the lexical level, there are units that combine opposite enantiosemy meanings. The periphery of syntactic phraseology includes stable models of
sentences and stable turns (proverbs, sayings, winged expressions and clichés). V. L. Arkhangelsky wrote in his work: “phraseological templates are on the boundary line that separates the phenomena studied by phraseology from the phenomena studied by descriptive syntax, but they are nevertheless closer to the former than to the latter” [15].

Stable models and sentences with free word order (ordinary sentences) have a structural similarity, but differ in that stable models are characterized by a certain degree of idiomaticity, which refers them to the phrase-syntactic level. At the syntactic level, we consider it necessary to analyze ordinary sentences with a free word order (hereinafter referred to as syntactic constructions), which have enantiosemy. These can be both simple and complex sentences, differing in structure and purpose of the statement: narrative, motivating or exclamatory. Enantiosemy sentences are characterized by a mismatch of form and content: in form, a construction can be positive, but in content it can be negative, and vice versa. The asymmetry of form and content is actualized due to the context of the utterance [16].

Interrogative or exclamation sentences predominate among enantiosemy syntactic constructions. They are always subjectively marked and emotionally expressive. Division on the basis of affirmativeness/negativity is one of the parameters of the structural-semantic classification of simple sentences. What is typical for all three types of sentences: narrative, interrogative and incentive?

“Non-pronominal (general) questions, by their very nature, are closely related to the category of affirmation/negation. Asking a question, the speaker wants to know about the presence or absence of a particular phenomenon. The “affirmation/denial” alternative is the essence of questions of this type and finds its expression in the possibility of affirmative and negative answers “yes” or “no” [17].

The opposition of negativity/affirmation manifests itself differently in different communicative types of utterance, since different mental (logical) content is expressed by different functional types. If declarative and imperative sentences “distinguish positive and negative forms equally clearly”, then in interrogative sentences this distinction “loses its relevance and in a number of cases is essentially removed or acquires some specific meaning (Wed: Did you come to me today? - You didn’t come to see me today?)” [18].

From the point of view of enantiosemy, interrogative syntactic constructions are interesting, which, with enantiosemy rethinking, are capable of expressing positive or negative content. For instance:


2) “Hör mal. Guck nicht so. Was soll ich denn machen, wenn einer der Partner mich um Rat fragt? Soll ich vielleicht sagen, ich muss heim, meine Lebensgefährtin will auf die Juchhe?” Warum eigentlich nicht? Aber die Partner, die alten Luchse, die wissen schon, wie sie es machen müssen. Arbeit delegieren. Da kann ich echt noch was lernen. (S. Fröhlich, Freshly Made) (i.e. had to do it).

In these examples, we see the same syntactic construction (Aber) warum eigentlich nicht?, which translates Why not? Despite the negative particle, nicht (not), which is in this construction, in all examples this phrase has an affirmative content. But it is precisely thanks to the context that some semantic differences of this expression in different speech situations are understandable.

The sentence of the first example expresses consent, confirmation (perhaps, everything can be) with a negative form. In the second example, the sentence has the form of a
question-request and says that the addressee should agree with the interlocutor, should or could do as he was asked, but he has another argument for not performing this action. This is complemented by the fact that immediately after the expression under study in the right context, the conjunction aber (but) follows.

Interrogative constructions as a result of enantiosemy rethinking are often affirmative or negative in form, but not in content. For instance:

3) Ihr Minipimmelsohn Leon sammelt Autos. Er hat mindestens 80 verschiedene PKWs. Kompensation von Defiziten fängt früh an. Conny kann die Begeisterung für Autos zwar nicht teilen, hat aber kein Problem damit, auch ein 81. Auto zu kaufen. „Warum sollte ich ihm ein Puzzle schenken, wenn er ein Auto will“, argumentiert sie, „ich will auch keinen Mixer, wenn ich mir Ohrringe wünsche“. (S. Fröhlich, Freshly Made) (i.e. should not buy).

In the given example, a syntactic construction is considered, which is characterized by a mismatch of form and content. The design conveys negative content when it is positively designed. This is a complex sentence, where the main sentence, when rethought, acquires the secondary meaning, and the subordinate clause of the condition already acts as a right context, as it helps to make sure that the character really should not buy it.

Interrogative sentences that literally have the form of a question without an interrogative word can also be enantiosemy rethought [19]. The following examples show such interrogative constructions.

8) „Du bist meine Freundin fürs Leben“, überschüttte ich sie mit Dankbarkeit. „Ist das 'ne Drohung?“, macht sie einen kleinen Scherz und verspricht, in zwanzig Minuten bei mir auf der Matte zu stehen. (S. Fröhlich, Freshly Made) (i.e. not a threat)


10) Bis sie vielleicht einem Kranich ähneln. Oder einfach nur ineinandergewickelt sind wie ein Nest aus Würmern. „Ist das nicht lustig, Richter Hutschneider? Lachen Sie mit!“ Als Hutschneider seine Bücher verstaut und den Aktenkoffer geschlossen hat, ist Mia noch immer nicht fertig mit Lachen. (J. Zehn, Corpus Delicti: A process) (i.e. it's funny).

The interrogative construction Ist das 'ne Drohung? (Is this a threat?) is affirmative in form, but negative in content (This is not a threat!). Thanks to the right context, which describes the emotion with which this phrase macht sie einen kleinen Scherz (she joked), it becomes clear that there is no threat in the literal sense. In the second example, the construction Ist das wahrer Genuss? (Is this a real pleasure?) is also affirmative in form, but negative in content (This is not pleasure!). This is confirmed by the following in the form of a widespread sentence Ist ein Tag mit Will und Tim und der gehässigen Giselle denn ein wahrer Genuss?. The secondary members of this sentence reveal the reason why this day cannot really be a pleasure. In the third example, the interrogative construction Ist das nicht lustig, Richter Hutschneider? (This is not funny, Judge Hutschneider?) unlike the previous two examples, is negative in form and affirmative in content (This is funny). The fact that this syntactic unit has an affirmative content is evidenced by the right context, namely the sentence in the imperative mood Lachen Sie mit! and the complex sentence Als Hutschneider seine Bücher verstaut und den Aktenkoffer geschlossen hat, ist Mia noch immer nicht fertig mit Lachen, which confirm the positive direction of the enantiosemy rethinking.

Let us analyze the following examples.

12) Du siehst besser aus, – sagte er anklagend. – Solange du deine Hand nicht aus der Tasche nimmst, – warnte ich ihn noch einmal. – Es blutet nicht mehr, – brummelte er. – Kommst du wieder mit zurück? – Soll das ein Witz sein? Da kann ich auch gleich hier bleiben. – Ja, wahrscheinlich ... Also, wie sieht's aus bei dir dieses Wochenende – kommst du mit? Zum Strand? (Stephenie Meyer, Twilight) (i.e. this is not a joke)

These constructions, designed in the affirmative, convey a negative content. But it can also be the other way around, such as:

13) Täglich Stunden lang Mathematik, morgens und abends Mathematik, die mir nie etwas nützen wird, die mir stets fremd bleiben und vier Wochen nach dem Abiturium in Grund und Boden hinein vergessen sein wird – ist das keine Verschwendung?! (Emil Strauß, Friend Hein) (i.e. a waste of time)

14) Ist das keine Arbeit, bei Hinundler sechs Wochen unterwegs? (Hans Grimm, People without space) (i.e. "this is a job")

15) Wenn du zu Hause nackt bist, dann ist das keine Schweinerei? (Socialist project work in the Berlin school shop Rote Freiheit, Fischer Library,1971) (i.e. this is a disgrace)

16) Zolleinnehmer – war das kein guter Beruf? (Bernhard Schlink, The Reader) (i.e. good job)

The given examples are negative in form, but convey positive content. We are talking about the structural-semantic asymmetry of form and content, if general interrogative sentences are affirmative or negative in form, but not in content. Often, declarative sentences that have an affirmative form are reinterpreted in terms of enantiosemy into interrogative sentences with an emotional coloring of an exclamation that carry a negative content.

17) Und das soll eine Hand heißen?! (From the conversation) (i.e. that's not a hand!)

18) Hände sollen es sein?! (From the conversation) (i.e. these are not hands!)

Asymmetric syntactic constructions in the form of complex sentences with relative clauses with conjunctions require context to a lesser extent. In these sentences, the predicate is expressed in the form of Konjunktiv II, that is, the sentence is used in the conditional mood, which expresses unreal reality. Due to the unreality expressed in the syntactic construction, the asymmetry of form and content can be traced. Let us consider examples:

19) Im Alter von sechs Jahren traten bei Moritz Holl Symptome wie Blässe, Schwäche und Knochenschmerzen auf. Auch neigte er zu spontanen blauen Flecken.

Sein ganzer Körper war damit übersät«, sagt Mia. „Er sah immer aus, als wäre er verprügelt worden. Einspruch, Euer Ehren!, sagt Bell. »Ich sehe nicht, wieso diese unerfreuliche Darbietung ... (Juli Zehn, Corpus Delicti, Ein Prozess) (that is, in fact, no one beat him)

In the examples given, the syntactic constructions are affirmative in form and negative in content. The action of the heroes in these constructions does not actually take place, but only because of the pronounced unreality one gets such an impression. The asymmetry of form and content indicates the enantiosemy of these syntactic constructions.

Enantiosemy syntactic constructions are characterized by emotionally expressive coloring. A characteristic feature of such sentences is that the sentence member, the most important in terms of information, is always placed at the beginning of the sentence. It should also be noted the special intonation of the sentence and the presence of the modal words doch, wohl, ja, denn, bloß, etc.

Enantiosemy sentences can be either with or without a question word. When rethinking, they often acquire a negative content in the affirmative form of the sentence, less often vice versa. The choice and definition of one or another variant of a syntactic enantonym is possible only taking into account the context, both linguistic and extralinguistic.

6 Conclusion

The actualization of realized enantiosemy meanings, due to their opposite, reveals the effectiveness of different linguistic means and extralinguistic factors. It can be a variety of combinations of contexts and their subgroups. But still, the most productive means of actualizing the opposite meanings of enantonyms is the extralinguistic context. The predominance of the extralinguistic context, which is a kind of description of non-linguistic conditions for the implementation of linguistic units, can be explained by the fact that the information, which should update one of the enantiosemy meanings of these units, is predominantly extralinguistic in nature in order to save linguistic means of expression.

Extralinguistic context in the form of presuppositions, their combination with consituation or with linguistic means of implementing language units determines the choice of the appropriate meaning of the enantiosemy unit. More productive in this regard is an existential presupposition, which is often found in a "pure" form and serves as a kind of description of non-linguistic conditions for the implementation of linguistic units. In combination with various kinds of extralinguistic and linguistic means, it is more productive than other types of presuppositions. Other types of presuppositions and subtypes of contexts in a pure form are much less common when one of the opposite meanings is realized. The closest thing to existential presupposition in terms of extralinguistic informativeness is consituation, therefore, as an actualizer of enantiosemy meaning. It is also productive.

So, the extralinguistic context is decisive when choosing one of the opposite meanings of enantiosemy units, which significantly saves linguistic means of expression.

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