

Introduction Semantics is the study of meaning in language.... The part-whole relation is not a unitary one, but rather comprises a number of subtypes, like the relation between component parts and the material entity to which they belong (keyboard/computer), the relation between a member and the collection to which it belongs (soldier/army), the relation between a material and the object of which it forms an ingredient or a constituent element (wood/ door), or the relation between a component action and the overall activity of which it forms part (paying/shopping) [10]. Seen by Breal, in the late 19th century, as an emerging science (French, „semantique") opposed to phonetics („phonetique") as a science of sounds: similarly for Bloomfield in 1930, it was a field covering, as one account of meaningful forms, and the lexicon. Also seen more narrowly, in a tradition lasting into the 1960s, as the study of meaning in the lexicon alone, including changes in word meaning. Later, in accounts in which the study of distribution was divorced from that of meanings, opposed either to grammar in general; or, within grammar and especially within a generative grammar from the 1960s onwards, to syntax specifically. Of the uses current at the beginning of the 21st century, many restrict semantics to the study of meaning is abstraction from the contexts in which words and sentences are uttered: in opposition, therefore, to pragmatics. Others include pragmatics as one of its branches. In others its scope is in practice very narrow: thus, one handbook of „contemporary semantic theory", in the mid-1990s deals almost solely with problems in formal semantics, even the meanings of lexical units being neglected [1]. As David Crystal puts it, out of these, the most important one is the linguistic approach, which "aims to study the properties of meaning in a systematic and objective way, with reference to as wide a range of utterances and languages as possible" [7].

**Special semantic relations ? Plesionymy** A word is a plesionym if it is a near-synonym, but substitution of the word does not leave the same truth-conditions. For example, in It wasn't misty, just foggy, the words misty and foggy are plesionyms of each other. Other examples would be: "he was murdered, or rather executed"; "he's a farmer, or strictly a stockman"; or "it's a pie, or actually a savoury tart". Two words are philonyms if they collocate in an acceptable and expected way: "the speaker can speak French"; "the pregnant woman"; "fine and dandy". Antonyms, if used in a coherent sentence, can be philonymous. ?

**Xenonymy** Words which are not used philonymously are xenonyms if they create semantic dissonance: "fat water"; "the inexorable sadness of pencils"; "whispering lunar incantations dissolve the floors of memory". "Like many other names of branches of linguistics, the word semantics reflects the origins of the Western tradition of linguistic analysis in the writings of Greek thinkers from the fifth century BC onwards", adds Riemer [5]. And today's semanticists have at their disposal certain modern techniques (e.g. symbolic logic, new theories of grammar such as cognitive and generative grammar, and research in psychology and cognitive science, to name just a few) not available to the ancients." This is the question we ask and attempt to answer at the level of semantics. Semantics is that level of linguistic analysis where meaning is analyzed. It is the most abstract level of linguistic analysis, since we cannot see or observe meaning as we can observe and record sounds. Meaning is related very closely to the human capacity to think logically and to understand. So, when we try to analyze meaning, we are trying to analyze our own capacity to think and understand our own ability to create meaning. Semantics concerns itself with „giving a systematic account of the nature of meaning" [6]. Though subtle, the reality of plesionymy can be illustrated by considering some odd

examples that are cast in the right form but are not lexical plesionyms: "'? My brother's a shopkeeper, or more exactly a policeman'; '? She bought a dog, or more exactly, a cat'; '? It wasn't misty, just sunny'" [8]. "Of course, it is easy to imagine contexts in which these tautonymous phrases could be communicatively valid, demonstrating again that connotations and associations are imported along with denotations whenever words are brought together". Semantics is sometimes described as concerned with the relation of linguistic forms to states of the world; more sensibly, it may be seen as concerned with the relation of linguistic forms to non-linguistic concepts and mental representations, as well as with relationship, of meaning between linguistic forms, such as synonymy, antonymy and hyponymy. Semantic theories have influenced approaches to describing word meaning, and are thus particularly relevant to Lexicography and vocabulary teaching. Plesionyms are often used to indicate that the speaker is grappling for precision, but perhaps does not possess the precise vocabulary or technical term for the object in mind. Tautonyms Two words are tautonyms if they merely repeat without adding new value, creating a tautology: "the speaker is speaking"; "boys will be boys"; "war is war". A tautology is conceptually uninformative by the juxtaposition of two synonyms within the same sentence: e.g. "He is his father's son". However, cognitive linguistics tends to disclaim this difference between pragmatics and ??? semantics. Philonymy All closely located words in coherent discourse usually exhibit philonymy