

What is semantics? associated with what the words conventionally mean concerned with linguistic meaning that is shared by all competent users of a language interested in the widely accepted objective/factual meaning of words rather than their subjective/personal meaning.

☐ Meaning (referential vs. associative) ☐ Referential meaning (denotation) refers to the basic components of meanings conveyed by the literal use of a word; i.e. the type of meaning described in dictionaries ☐

Associative/emotive meaning (connotation) refers to the different associations with the conceptual meaning ☐ E.g. needle = 'thin, sharp, steel instrument' is associated with 'pain', 'blood' or 'illness' How can we analyze the meaning of different words? There are three types of semantic analysis: ☐

Semantic features ☐ Semantic roles ☐ Lexical relations

Semantic features ☐ The basic elements involved in differentiating the meaning of each word in a language from every other word

☐ The meaning of a word is a collection of properties/features typically with two possible values (+ / -)

(i.e. words are containers of meaning) ☐ Example of a feature analysis: boy is [ +animate, +human, -female,

-adult] ☐ The approach of feature analysis does not work with all words in a language; there is more to the meaning of words than the basic types of features. ☐ Instead of thinking of words as containers of

meaning, they may be viewed as fulfilling roles in events Semantic/Thematic/Case roles ☐ Words are described according to the roles they fulfill within the situation described in a sentence. A- Agent and

Theme: The boy kicked the ball verb: indicates action Boy : The entity that performs the action = agent Ball : The entity that is affected by the action = theme The theme can also be an entity (The ball) that is

simply being described (e.g. The ball was red) B- Instrument and Experiencer ☐ If an agent uses

another entity in order to perform an action - - - - instrument. The boy cut the rope with an old razor.

He drew the picture with a crayon. ☐ An entity is the person who has a feeling, perception or state - - -

- - - experiencer. The boy feels sad. ☐ If we see, know or enjoy something, we're not really performing an action (hence we are not agents). We are in the role of experiencer. C- Location, Source and Goal: ☐

Where an entity is (on the table, in the room) fills the role of location. ☐

Where the entity moves from is the source (from Chicago) . ☐ Where it moves to is the goal (to New York) We drove

from Chicago to New York. Lexical relations ☐ Words have relationships with each other; the meaning of

a word can be explained in terms of its relationship with other words. ☐ e.g. the meaning of 'big' can be described as the same as that of 'Large' or the opposite of 'small'. ☐ Analysis in terms of lexical relations

includes: 1) Synonymy 4) Prototype 6) Polysemy 2) Antonymy 3) Hyponymy 5) Homophones and

Homonyms 7) Metonymy Synonymy ☐ Words that have the same meanings or that are closely related in

meaning ☐ Examples of synonyms: answer/reply almost/nearly broad/wide buy/purchase freedom/ liberty

car/automobile ☐ Synonyms can often, though not always, be substituted for each other in sentences

(e.g. what was his answer/reply?) ☐ 'sameness' is not necessarily 'total sameness'; only one word would be appropriate in a sentence. (e.g. Sandy only had one correct answer (NOT reply) on the test. ) ☐

There are also regional differences in the use of synonyms: (e.g. American English: candy, chips,

diaper, gasoline VS British English: sweet, crisps, nappy, petrol) ☐ Synonyms might differ in terms of

formal versus informal uses. (e.g. My father purchased a large automobile VS My dad bought a big car)

Antonymy ☐ Words with opposite meanings ☐ Three main types: 1) Gradable antonyms: (opposites

along a scale) > > Used in comparative forms (e.g., I am smaller than you) >> The negative of one

member does not necessarily imply the other. (e.g. "My car isn't old", doesn't necessarily mean that "My car is new". Non-gradable antonyms: (direct opposites/complementary pairs) > >Can't be used in comparative forms (e.g., \*He is more alive than you) >>The negative of one member of a non-gradable pair does imply the other member. (e.g. "My grandparents aren't alive =My grandparents are dead).

Reversives (one is the reverse action of the other) (e.g. enter/ exist, pack/unpack, lengthen/shorten, raise/lower, tie/untie, ascend/ descend) 2) 3) Hyponymy ☞ The meaning of one word is included in the meaning of the other. ☞ Examples are pairs like: horse / animal rose / flower carrot / vegetable ant / insect boil / cook stab / injure ☞ There is some type of hierarchical relationship( e.g. a rose is a type of flower) ☞ The words of a higher level are called superordinate terms (e.g. flower) whereas those of a lower level are called hyponyms(e.g. rose); if two or more words share one superordinate term, they are called co-hyponyms Prototypes ☞ Of co-hyponyms, the one which presents the best example/most characteristic instance of a superordinate term is called a prototype. ☞ Examples are pairs like: robin / bird shirt / clothing / chair / furniture Homophones and Homonyms ☞ Homonymy: A word with one form(written & spoken) has two or more unrelated meanings. ☞ Examples are like: Bank: 'financial institution' ; 'of a river'. Bat: 'flying creature' or 'used in sports' Race: 'contest of speed' or 'ethnic group' ☞ Homophones: words with different forms and pronunciation (e.g. two/ to / too; right /write) the same Polysemy ☞ A Word with the same form and two or more related meanings ☞ Examples are like bright: 'shining' ; 'intelligent' 'Foot'ofaperson,ofamountain,of abed. ☞ In dictionaries: polysemy (single entry) Homonymy (separate entries) ☞ Polysemy, homonymy and homophones are the basis of a lot of word play Polysemy & homonymy ☞ A word like "Date" can represent homonymy and polysemy: Homonyms: (two unrelated meanings/two entries) Date (= a thing we can eat) Date (= a point in time). Polysemy:( related meanings/ a single entry) day and month (= on a letter), an arranged meeting time (= an appointment) social meeting (= with someone you like) Metonymy ☞ A word used in place of another word with which it is closely connected in everyday experience, e.g. He drank the whole bottle (=the liquid Not the glass object). ☞ That close connection can be based on: 1.a container–contents relation (bottle/water, can/juice) 2.a whole–part relation (car/wheels, house/roof) 3.a representative–symbol relationship (king/crown, the President/the White House) ☞ Metonymy is used when talking about: 1.filling up the car, 2.answering the door, 3.boiling a kettle 4. giving someone a hand, 5. needing some wheels. Collocation ☞ Wordsthatfrequentlyoccurtogether(e.g. table/chair, butter/bread, salt/pepper, hammer/ nail.) ☞ In recent years, the study of which words occur together and their frequency of .occurrence has received a lot of attention in corpus linguistics