

Firth's theory of meaning hinges on the notion of context. He refuses to accept that words and phrases can have meanings in and by themselves and firmly believes that "the complete meaning of a word is always contextual, and no study of meaning apart from a complete context can be taken seriously".<sup>22</sup> Firth was deeply influenced by Malinowski's ethnographic studies of language, context and culture. This relationship between language and elements of the situation was systematic for Firth. Firth is noted for drawing attention to the context-dependent nature of meaning with his notion of "context of situation".