

Semantics

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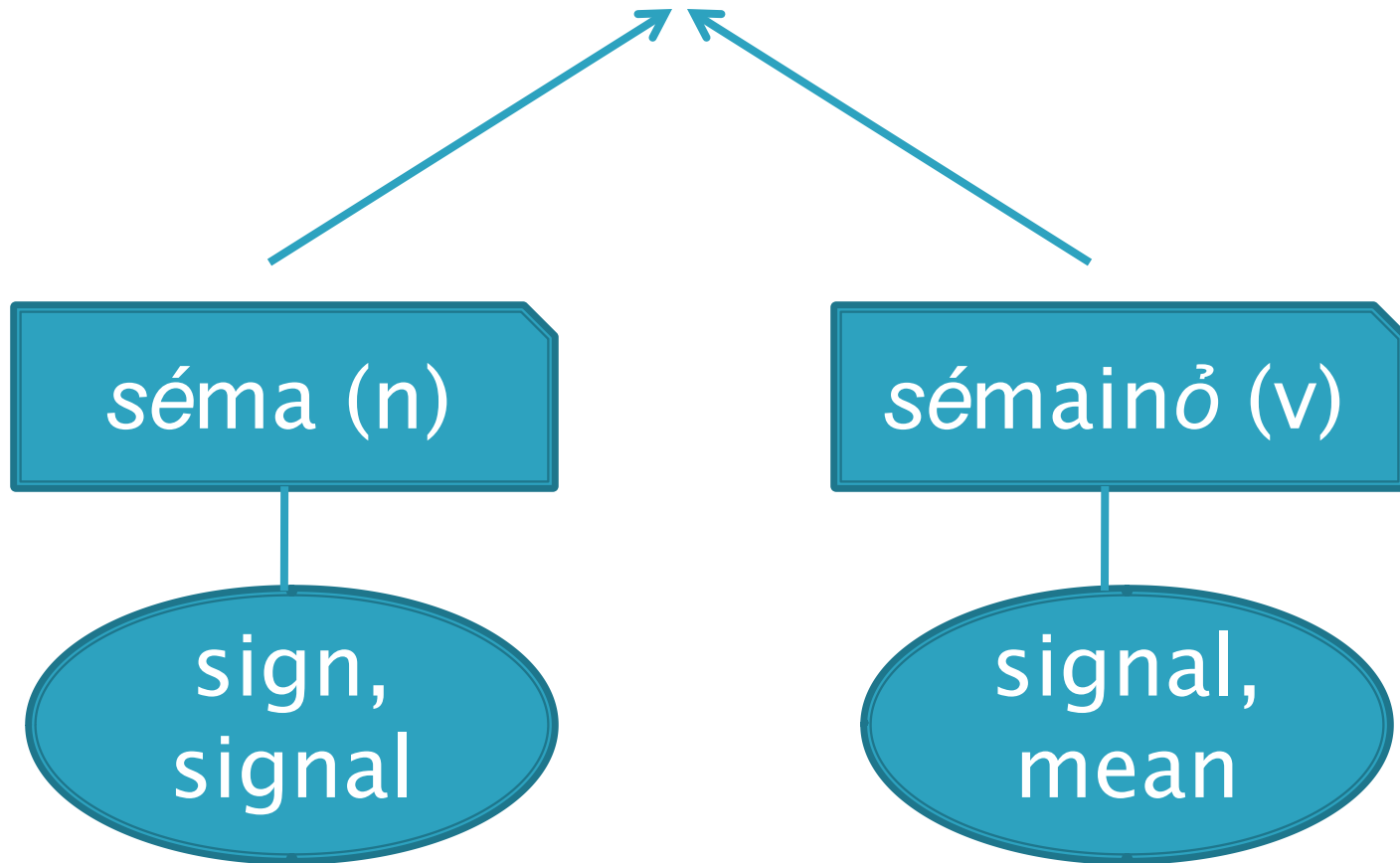
English Language and Literature Study Program

Yogyakarta State University

Semantics

Week 1

Semantics

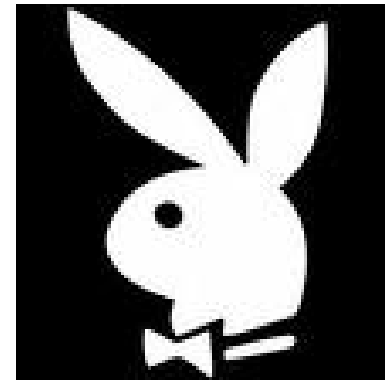


Definitions

- ▶ the study of meaning
- ▶ the study of linguistic development by classifying and examining changes in meaning and form
- ▶ the branch of semiotics studying the relationships between signs and symbols and what they represent (significs)
- ▶ the meaning, or the interpretation of the meaning, of a word, sign, sentence, etc. (semasiology)

Basic Terms

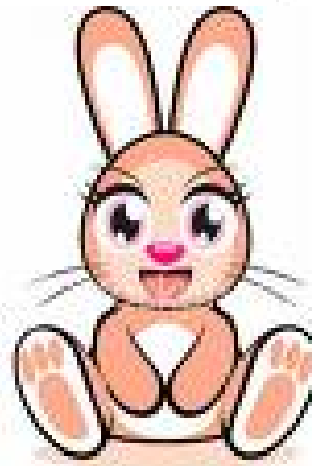
Meaning



Sign



Symbol



Topics Discussed

- ▶ Course outline

Task 1

What is MEANING??

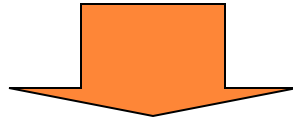


SEMANTIC ROLES / THEMATIC ROLES / PARTICIPANT ROLES

Week 9

SEMANTIC ANALYSIS

PROPOSITION =
PREDICATE + ARGUMENT (REFERRING
EXPRESSIONS)



PREDICATE: verb / adjective / preposition / NP
ARGUMENT: NP

Each has a different role

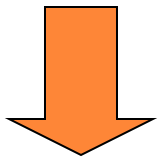
- The function of the predicate is to describe the specific relationship between the things, persons, etc. referred to, i.e. to describe how the things and/or people participate in the particular situation described

VALENCY

- An account of the number of arguments that a predicate has.
- A description of the semantic potential of predicates in terms of the number and types of arguments which may co-occur with them.
- *It is snowing.* Valency zero
- *A window broke.* Valency one
- *Tom broke a window.* Valency two

- The meaning of a predicate is determined in part by how many arguments it may have and what role those arguments have.

- *A window broke.*
A rope broke.
A plate broke. } predicate : *break*
A single argument

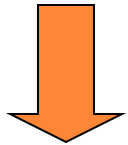


the affected

- A particular lexeme, such as break, can mean depends in part what lexemes it may occur with and what relation it may have with them.

○ *Tom* *broke a window.*

Dick *broke a plate.*



agent

- In the case of sentences, the parts of the sentence play specific roles in the meaning, as determined by the verb

e.g.

<u>John</u>	put	<u>the book</u>	<u>on the table.</u>
Agent		Affected	Goal (Location)

SEMANTIC ROLES

- **Also known as:** Semantic case, thematic role, theta role (generative grammar), and deep case (case grammar)
- the underlying relationship that a participant has with the main verb in a clause.
- the actual role a participant plays in some real or imagined situation, apart from the linguistic encoding of those situations.
- **Example:** If, in some real or imagined situation, someone named *John* purposely hits someone named *Bill*, then *John* is the agent and *Bill* is the patient of the hitting event.

SOME SEMANTIC ROLES (KREIDLR, P.70)

- Actor
- Affected
- Affecting
- Agent
- Associate
- Effect
- Place
- Theme

SOME THEMATIC ROLES (SIL.ORG)

- Accompaniment → a thing that participates in close association with an agent, causer, or affected in an event
e.g. I ate dinner *with* my wife.
- Agent → a person or thing who is the doer of an event, usu the grammatical subject of the verb in an active clause
e.g. *The boy* ran down the street.
He was chased by *the dog*.
- Beneficiary → a referent which is advantaged or disadvantaged by an event; the person for whose benefit or to whose detriment the action described by the sentence is carried out
e.g. John sold the car for *a friend*.



- Causer → the referent which instigates an event rather than actually doing it; usu the surface subject of the verb in a sentence.
e.g. *Peter* tripped John.
- Counteragent → a force or resistance against which an action is carried out
- Dative → a referent that is conscious of being affected by the state or action identified by the verb; also known as Recipient

- Experiencer → an entity (or referent) which receives, accepts, experiences, or undergoes the effect of an action; normally an entity that receives a sensory impression, or in some other way is the locus of some event or activity that involves neither volition nor a change of state
e.g. *He* was scared.

Lucretia saw the bicycle.

It was *Bill* who smelled the bacon first.

The explosion was heard by *everyone*.

- Factitive → a referent that results from the action or state identified by a verb
- Goal → the place to which something moves, or thing toward which an action is directed

e.g. John swam to *the raft*.

He threw the book at *me*.

- Instrument → something that aids Agent in doing; the thing (hardly ever a person) by means of which the action is carried out; an inanimate thing that an agent uses to implement an event; the stimulus or immediate physical cause of an event, usu nouns occurring in the noun phrase of a clause

e.g. Someone cut the bread with *a knife*.

- Location → identifies the location or spatial orientation of a state or action; does not imply motion to, from, or across the location; any expression referring to the place where the action described by a sentence takes place
e.g. The paper is in *the folder*.
The ship sank at *sea*.
- Manner → notes how the action, experience, or process of an event is carried out
e.g. The girl walked to school *slowly*.
- Measure → notes the quantification of an event
e.g. The new coat costs *\$70*.

- Path → describes the locale(s) transversed in motion or propulsion predications
e.g. The baby crawled *across the room*.
- Patient → usually the surface object of the verb in a sentence; also known as *affected, undergoer*
e.g. *The door* is open.
John is at home.
- Range → the entity that completes, is a product of, or further specifies an event
e.g. They sang *a song*.
- Result → refers to that which is produced by an event; usu encoded as the surface object of a sentence; similar to range
e.g. They baked a *cake*.

- Source → the place of origin (with verbs of motion, locomotion, and propulsion); the entity from which a physical sensation emanates (with verbs of sensation, attention, and speech); the original owner in a transfer (with verbs of acquisition, transfer, and grab)

e.g. John fell off *the chair*.

John smelled the odor of *onions*.

John obtained an application form from *the office*.

- Theme → a thing or person whose location is described, or a thing or person that is perceived by an Experiencer

e.g. My computer is sitting on that desk.

- Time → the temporal placement of an event

e.g. The whistle will sound at *noon*.

EXERCISE

1. Identify the Agents in the following sentences.
 - (a) *A burglar ransacked my house*
 - (b) *My mother's Imari bowl was broken by a thief*
2. Identify the Affected objects (or persons) in the following:
 - (a) *Muriel dealt the cards carefully to each player*
 - (b) *The tree was felled by a single blow from Paul's axe*
3. Identify the Instruments in the following:
 - (a) *Seymour sliced the salami with a knife*
 - (b) *Hamish used a screwdriver to open the tin*

Possible relation between semantic roles and grammatical position

	Subject	Object	Complement
Agent			
Affected			
Instrument			

DETERMINE THE THEMATIC ROLES

1. The park wardens killed the tiger.
2. Paul bought a car from Sue.
3. The premier entertained the guests in the lounge.
4. The boy carried the red brick from the wall to the wagon.
5. Max went from being a rational gentleman to being a stark raving maniac.



In each of the following sentences identify the participant role and the grammatical position (i.e. either Subject, Object, or Complement) of each referring expression.

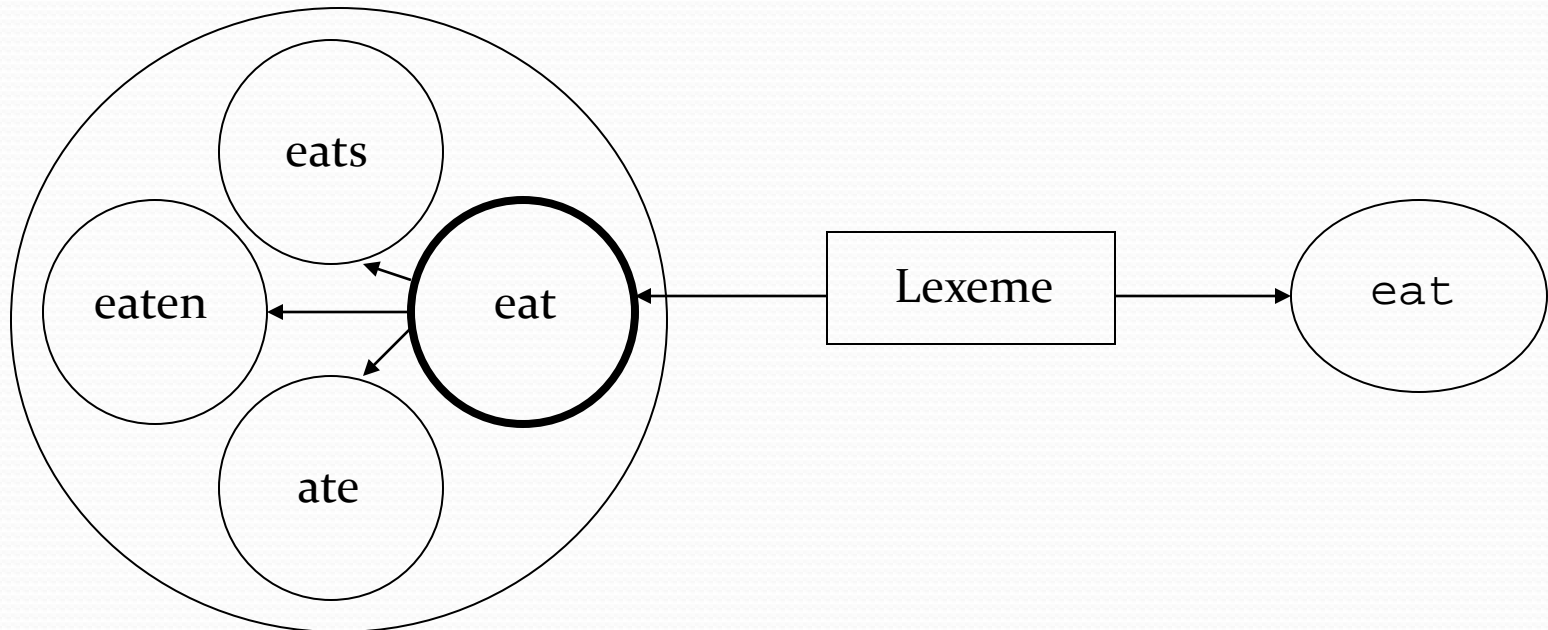
1. Mary roasted the duck
2. Jane smelled the burning dinner
3. The duck was roasted by Mary
4. The bomb destroyed the building
5. Jane kicked the tyre with her foot
6. Fred saw a comedy show in that club
7. I saw Mortimer in Detroit
8. Jane gave Mary the book
9. Mary was given the book by Jane
10. Jerry did the favour for me
11. Detroit is a big city
12. Jane gave the book to Mary



Semantics & Vocabulary

Words have structured meanings

- Lexeme – a pairing of a form with a sense
- Orthographic form – the way the lexeme looks on the page
- Phonological form – the way the lexeme sounds
- Lexicon – finite list of lexemes



Semantic Universals

- semantic categories that are shared by all cultures and referred to by all languages
- potential semantic universals: the lexicon, semantic “glue” (functional morphemes and composition principles), and pragmatics
- e.g.
- *Color*; eleven basic color terms: black, white, red, green, blue, yellow, brown, purple, pink, orange, and grey.

Semantics & the Dictionary

- function of dictionary: to list lexical items and to give any necessary information (phonological, syntactic, semantic, stylistic, etc.) about the way they fit into a language system
- dictionaries are open-ended and are continually being adapted to new requirements by the addition of new lexical entries
- lexical entry : the body of information given about one item
- some lexical entries are interconnected to others

- A lexical entry is a combination of three specifications:
 - a morphological specification (giving the form of the word in terms of stems and affixes)
 - a syntactical specification (classifying the word in terms of its distributional potential within sentences)
 - a semantic specification (or definition)
- Dictionary vs encyclopedia
 - Dictionary: describes the senses of predicates
 - Encyclopedia: contains factual information of a variety of types, but generally no information specifically on the meanings of words

Draw a diagram showing the interconnectedness of the following words.

(Rules: if the definition of X includes Y, draw an arrow from X to Y.)

wife

join

marry

marriage

husband

unite

What can you say about these?

adjective	verb
yellow	yellow
brown	brown
green	green
purple	purple

criteria to determine the original and derived words in conversion

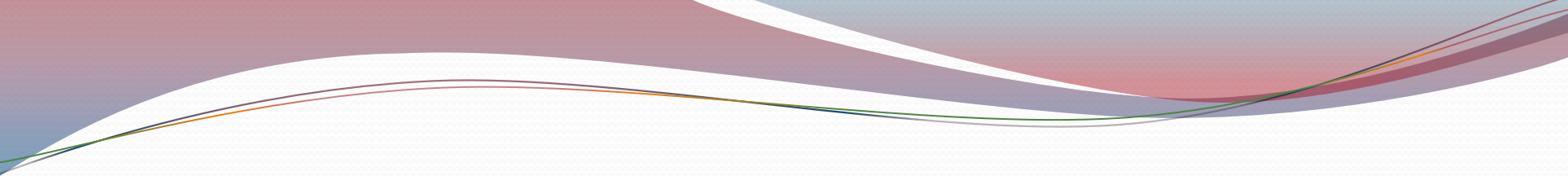
- the semantic dependence (the word that reports to the meaning of the other is the derivative)
- the range of usage (the item with the smaller range of use is the converted word)
- the semantic range (the one with less semantic fields is the shifted item)
- the phonetic shape (some suffixes express the word-class the item belongs to and, if it does not fit, this is the derivative).



Exercise

1. Identify the odd man out and describe as concisely as you can the common conceptual element in the following lexical entries.

- a) *sing, talk, dance, speak, shout, whisper, mutter*
- b) *ooze, trickle, drip, seep, slide, gush, squirt*
- c) *rub, scratch, graze, wipe, scrape, brush, push (all transitive verbs)*
- d) *at, of, in, on, under, below, near*
- e) *square, circular, triangular, spherical, hexagonal, rectangular, polygonal*

- 
2. Choose 10 lexical entries in your dictionary that undergo the process of conversion. Decide which one is the original word and which is the derived one.

Types of Meaning

Week 2

What is Semantics?

- the study of the relation between form and meaning
- Basic observation: language relates physical phenomena (acoustic blast we produce when we speak, chalk marks on the board, etc.) to meanings
- The crucial question of linguistics:
How are form and meaning systematically related in an adequate grammar of natural language?

Semantics

is the study of **meaning** in language.

People who use language

Words and sentences

intend

**be equivalent
to**

What is meaning?

- Meaning is a notion in semantics classically defined as having two components:
 1. *Reference*, anything in the referential realm denoted by a word or expression, and
 2. *Sense*, the system of paradigmatic and syntagmatic relationships between a lexical unit and other lexical units in a language.

Speaker meaning

what a speaker means (i.e. intends to convey)
when he uses a piece of language

Sentence (word) meaning

what a sentence (or word) means, i.e. what it
counts as the equivalent of in the language
concerned

Paraphrase (restate in your own words) each of the following uses of the word mean as it is employed in the sentences below. Which sentences are more reflective of speaker meaning and which are more reflective of sentence meaning? Briefly explain.

1. I mean to be there tomorrow.
2. A stalling car may mean a tune-up.
3. *Calligraphy* means beautiful handwriting.
4. It wasn't what he said but what he meant.
5. What does the German word *Hund* mean?
6. Those clouds mean rain.

Consider the following strained exchange between husband and wife.

Husband: 'When I go away next week, I'm taking the car'

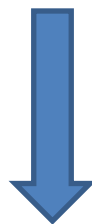
Wife: 'Oh. Are you? I need the car here to take the kids to school'

Husband: 'I'm sorry, but I must have it. You'll have to send them on the bus'

Wife: 'That'll be nice for the family. Up at the crack of dawn, (ironically) and not home till mid-evening! Sometimes you're very inconsiderate'

Husband: 'Nice day'

What is the meaning of 'Nice day' uttered by the husband?

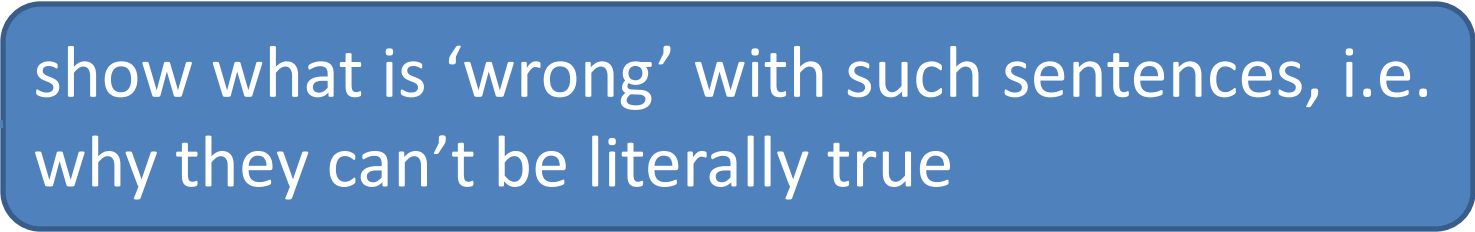


It is possible for a speaker to convey a quite intelligible intention by using a sentence whose literal meaning is contradictory or nonsensical.

Look at the following utterances and state whether they are intended to be taken literally.

1. Tired traveler: 'This suitcase is killing me'
2. Assistant in a shop: 'We regularly do the impossible; miracles take a little longer'
3. During a business meeting: 'It's a dog-eat-dog situation'
4. During a heated argument: 'Don't bite my head off!'
5. Hungry person at the dinner table: 'I could eat a horse!'

To analyze the sentences, it is necessary to analyze at two levels:



show what is 'wrong' with such sentences, i.e. why they can't be literally true



how speakers nevertheless manage to communicate something by means of them

Geoffrey Leech

- conceptual meaning (logical, cognitive, or denotative content)
 - the literal meaning of the word indicating the idea or concept to which it refers
 - deals with the core meaning of expression
 - essential for the functioning of language
 - to provide an appropriate semantic representation to a sentence or statement

- connotative meaning (what is communicated by virtue of what language refers to)
 - the communicative value of an expression over and above its purely conceptual content
 - something that goes beyond mere referent of a word and hints at its attributes in the real world
 - something more than the dictionary meaning

- social meaning (what is communicated of the social circumstances of language use)
 - the meaning conveyed by the piece of language about the social context of its use
 - related to the situation in which an utterance is used
 - concerned with the social circumstances of the use of a linguistic expression
- affective meaning (what is communicated of the feeling and attitudes of the speaker/writer)
 - emotive association or effects of words evoked in the reader/listener
 - what is conveyed about the personal feelings or attitude towards the listener
 - language is used to express personal feelings or attitude to the listener or to the subject matter of his discourse

- reflected meaning (what is communicated through association with another sense of the same expression)
- collocative meaning (what is communicated through association with words which tend to occur in the environment of another word)
- thematic meaning (what is communicated by the way in which the message is organized in terms of order and emphasis)

Types 2-6 are also categorized as associative meaning.

Connotative vs Denotative

- Connotative meaning is regarded as incidental, comparatively unstable, indeterminate, open ended, variable according to age, culture and individual
- Conceptual meaning can be codified in terms of limited symbols.

Charles Morris

- referential meaning (the relationship between signs and entities in the world)
- pragmatic meaning (the relationship between signs and their users)
 - identificational meaning
 - expressive meaning
 - associative meaning
 - social meaning
 - imperative meaning
- intralingual meaning (the relationship between different signs)
 - phonological meaning
 - graphemic meaning
 - morphological or lexemic meaning
 - syntactic meaning
 - discursal or textual meaning

Peter Newmark

- expressive meaning
- informative meaning
- vocative meaning

Roman Jakobson

- expressive meaning
- informative meaning
- vocative meaning
- aesthetic meaning
- phatic meaning
- metalinguistic meaning

Semantics

Week 3

Basic Notions: Meaning, Utterance, Sentence, & Proposition

Semantics

is the study of **meaning** in language.

People who use language

Words and sentences

intend

**be equivalent
to**

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Aspects of Semantic Knowledge

anomaly

- Speakers know whether something is or is not meaningful in their language.

paraphrase

- Speakers of a language agree as to when two sentences have essentially the same meaning and when they do not.

synonymy

- Speakers generally agree when two words have essentially the same meaning in a given context.

contradictory

- Speakers recognize when the meaning of one sentence contradicts another sentence

antonymy

- Speakers generally agree when two words have opposite meanings in a given context.

semantic feature

- Words can have some element of meaning without being synonymous or antonymous.

ambiguity

- Some sentences have double meanings; they can be interpreted in two ways.

adjacency pair

- Speakers know how language is used when people interact.

entailment

- Speakers are aware that two statements may be related in such a way that if one is true, the other must also be true.

presupposition

- Speakers know that the message conveyed in one sentence may presuppose other pieces of knowledge.

Say whether each of the following statements is true (*T*) or false (*F*).

1. Alive means the opposite of dead.
2. Buy has an opposite meaning from sell.
3. Caesar is and is not a meaningful English sentence.
4. Caesar is a prime number is nonsensical.
5. Caesar is a man is nonsensical.
6. Both of John's parents are married to aunts of mine is in a sense contradictory, describing an impossible situation.

7. If the sentence John killed Bill is true of any situation, then so is the sentence Bill is alive.
8. If someone says, 'Can you pass the salt?', he is normally not asking about his hearer's ability to pass the salt, but requesting the hearer to pass the salt.
9. If someone says, 'I tried to buy some rice', his hearer would normally infer that he had actually failed to buy rice.

Below are ten pairs of sentences. In each pair, assume that the first sentence is true. Then decide what you know about the second sentence, which has the same topic.

1. a. Rose is married to Tom.
b. Rose is Tom's wife.
2. a. David is an unmarried adult male.
b. David is a bachelor.
3. a. This knife is too dull to cut the rope.
b. This knife isn't sharp enough to cut the rope.
4. a. Victoria likes to sing.
b. Victoria doesn't sing.

5.
 - a. Harold has been here for an hour.
 - b. Harold is tired of waiting.
6.
 - a. Mr. Bond has given up smoking.
 - b. Mr. Bond used to smoke.
7.
 - a. Mr. Bond still smokes.
 - b. Mr. Bond used to smoke.
8.
 - a. Oil paintings are more expensive than watercolors.
 - b. Watercolors cost more than oil paintings.
9.
 - a. The Carlson Hotel is more than a century old.
 - b. The Carlson Hotel has operated for more than a century.
10.
 - a. Alice invited some friends to lunch.
 - b. Alice has friends.

Utterance

- any stretch of talk, by one person, before and after which there is silence on the part of that person
- the USE by a particular speaker, on a particular occasion, of a piece of language, such as a sequence of sentences, or a single phrase, or even a single word

e.g.

We walk in the park. (T)

Our walk in the park. (T)

Sentence

- a string of words put together by the grammatical rules of a language
- the IDEAL string of words behind various realizations in utterances and inscriptions
- something that expresses a complete thought

e.g.

We walk in the park. (T)

Our walk in the park. (F)

Utterance vs Sentence

- a specific event at a particular time and place involving at least one person; happens just once
 - the meaning is determined by the meaning of the sentence + the meanings of the circumstances (the physical-social context)
- not an event but a construction of words in a particular sequence which is meaningful
 - the meaning is determined by the language: the meanings of the individual words and of the syntactic construction in which they occur

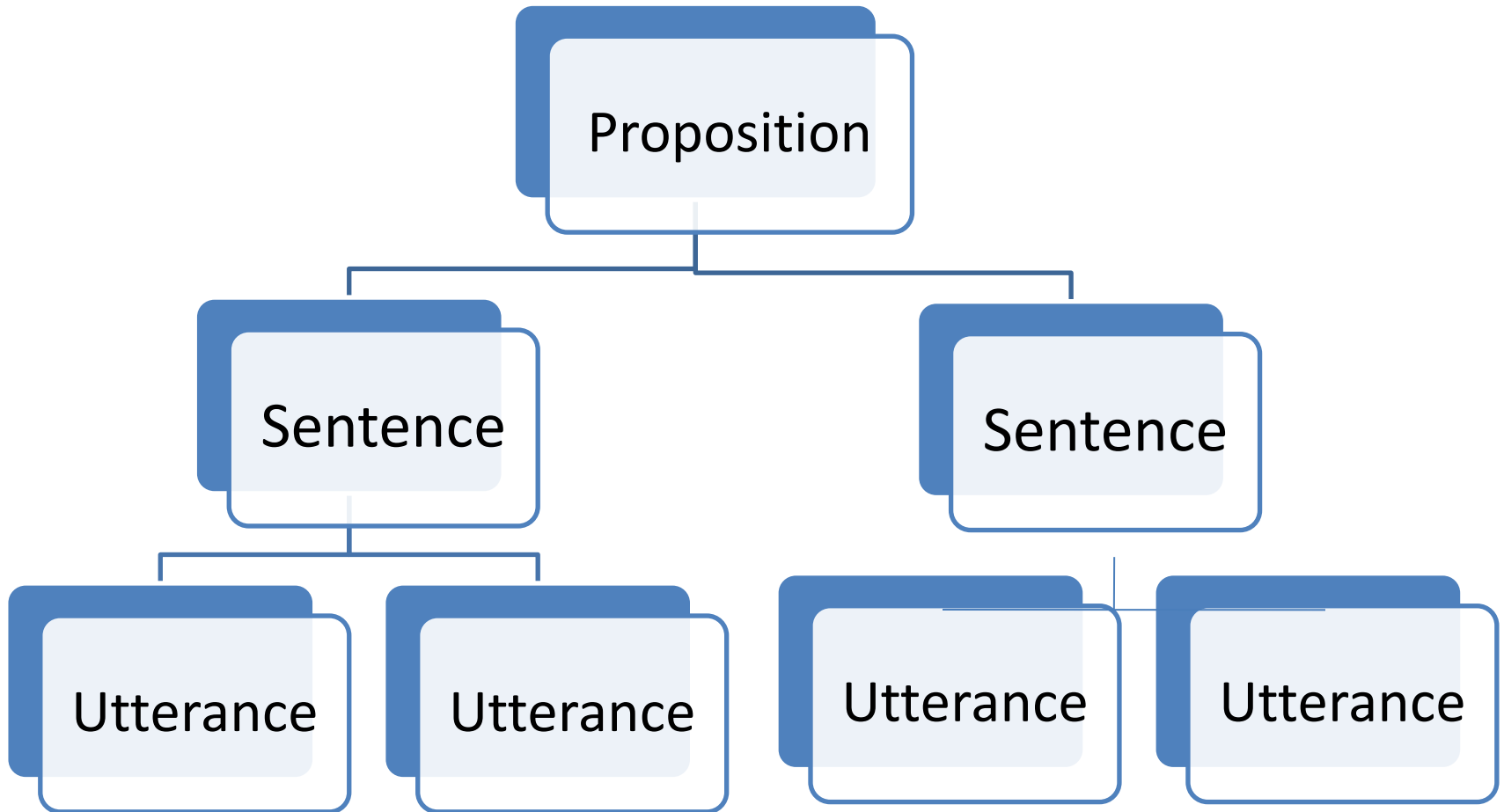
Proposition

- the part of the meaning of the utterance of a declarative sentence which describes some state of affairs, which typically involves persons or things referred to by expressions in the sentence and the situation or action they are involved in
- the information presented, apart from the way it is presented

e.g.

Richard wrote the report.

Richard is the one who wrote the report.



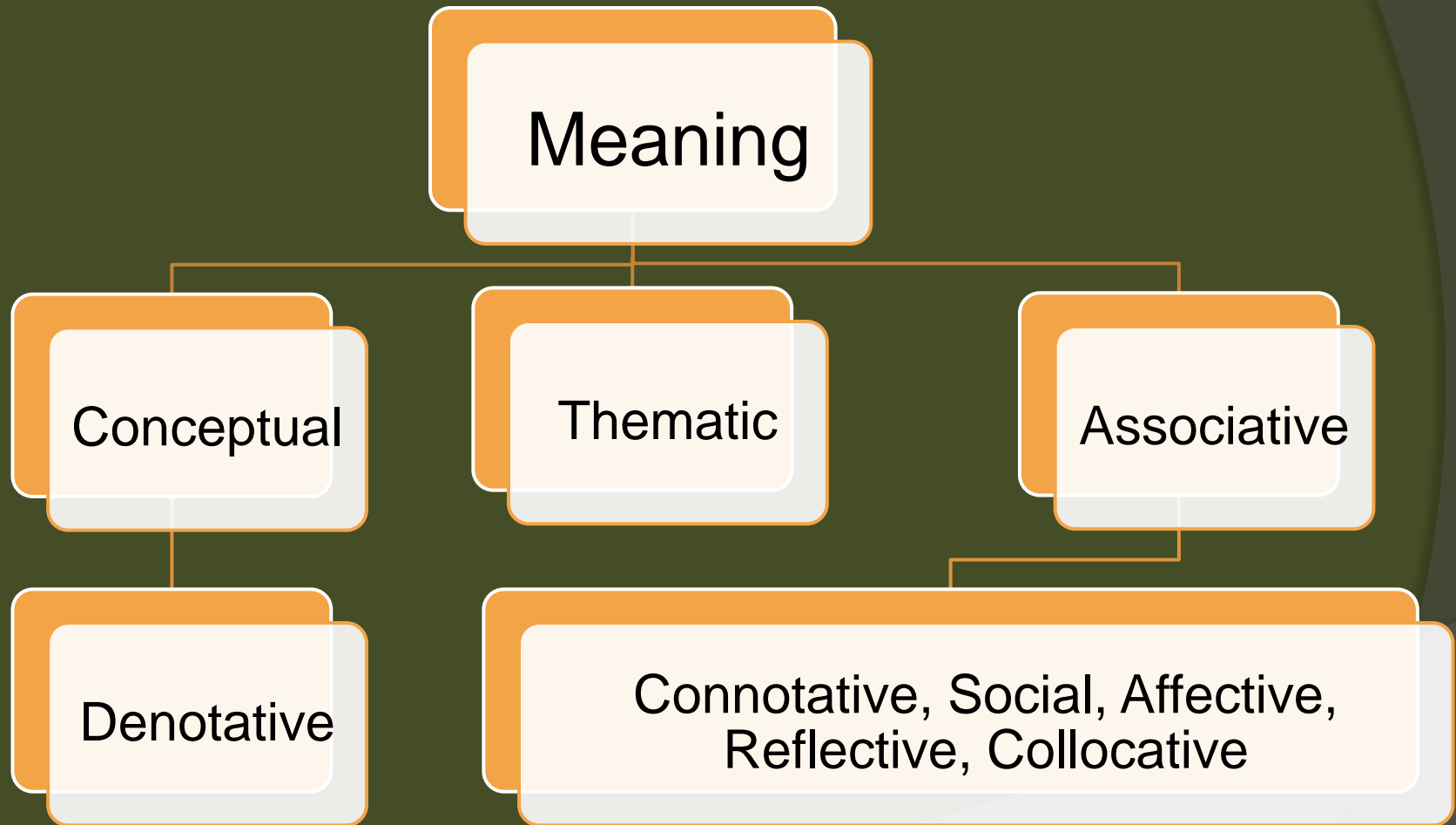
Fill in the chart below with '+' or '-' as appropriate.

	U	S	P
Can be loud or quiet			
Can be grammatical or not			
Can be true or false			
In a particular regional accent			
In a particular language			

Week 3

REFERENCE AND SENSE

Types of Meaning (Geoffrey Leech)



Conceptual Meaning

- ✓ The meaning of words in general
- ✓ Denotation, designation

Characteristics:

- ✓ One-to-one correspondence (denotative)
- ✓ Unlimited by time & space
- ✓ Logic

Thematic Meaning

- ✓ The meaning of words is defined by the theme/focus of utterances
- ✓ Depends on the context

Associative Meaning

✓ depends on association, it is situational

- Connotative
 - Individual, personal, situational
- Stylistic/Social
 - Speaker's style that can identify his background
- Affective
 - Related to feeling, shown by lexicon, intonation etc
- Reflective
 - Used to avoid vulgar/rude words
- Collocative
 - Due to the semantic aspect, certain words have to go along with others

Meaning

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graph TD;
  Meaning[Meaning] --- Sense[Sense];
  Meaning --- Reference[Reference];
  Sense --- Proposition[Proposition];
  Reference --- Designation[Designation];
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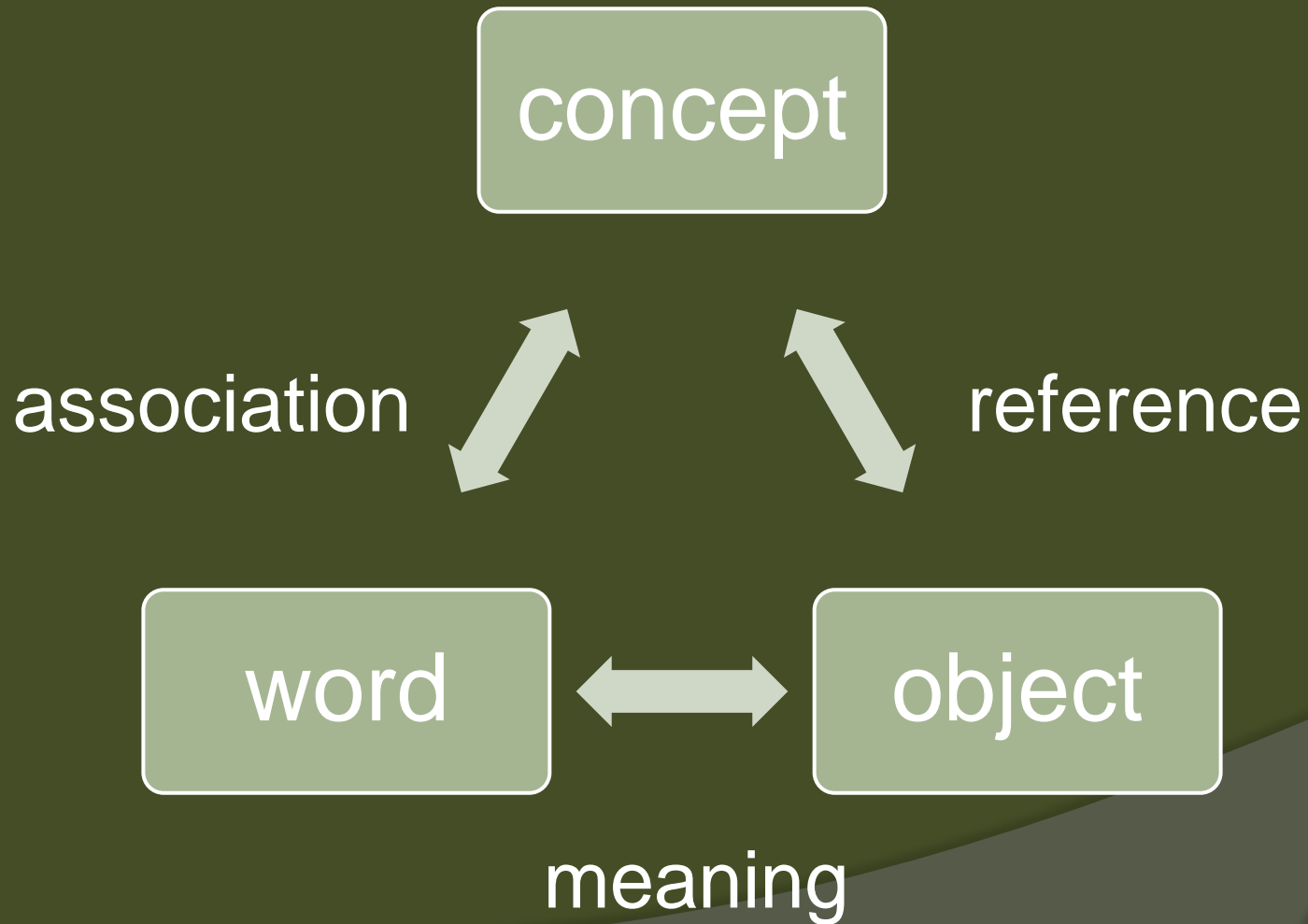
Sense

Reference

Proposition

Designation

Ogden & Richards



- ◎ Association: the bond between word & concept/designation
e.g. CHAIR : Signifier? Signified?
- ◎ Reference: the bond between concept & object/referent
→ related to the actual use of language in real context
e.g. The CHAIR is blue.
- ◎ Meaning: the bond between word & object/referent
→ no direct relation, only a convention

Relationship between word & object

- ◎ Onomatopoeic words

→ direct relation between the formal & semantic aspect

e.g. buzz

- ◎ Phonostemic words

→ direct relation between certain sound cluster and meaning

e.g. *thingil-thingil*, *thungul-thungul*,
thongol-thongol

Reference & Denotation / Designation

- ◎ Reference

- the relation between a language expression & whatever the expression pertains to in a particular situation of language use including what a speaker may imagine

- ◎ Denotation

- the potential of a word to enter into certain language expressions

- ◎ Reference

 - the way speakers and hearers use an expression successfully

- ◎ Denotation

 - the knowledge that speakers and hearers have that makes their use of language successful

e.g. see Kreidler, p 44

Denotation vs Connotation

- ◎ Denotation

- identifies the central aspect of word meaning, which everybody generally agrees about

- ◎ Connotation

- the personal aspect of meaning, the emotional associations that the word arouses

Sense

- ◎ The meaning that a lexeme has because of the relationship with other lexemes in a certain context
→ a lexeme: a minimal unit that can take part in referring/predicating
- ◎ In contrast with lexical meaning, which tends to be stable/fixed

e.g. see Kreidler, p 47

→ syntagmatic & paradigmatic relation

Referents & Referring Expressions

What do you think about these utterances?

1. Howard is your cousin, isn't he?
2. Howard is your cousin's name, isn't it?

- ◎ Referring expression

- a piece of language that is used as if it is linked to sth outside the language, some living or dead entity or concept or group of entities or concepts

- ◎ Referent

- the entity to which the referring expression is linked

Some important notes

- ⦿ A referring expression is not a referent
- ⦿ There is no natural connection between referring expression & referent
- ⦿ The existence of a referring expression doesn't guarantee the existence of a referent in the physical-social world
- ⦿ Two or more referring expressions may have the same referent, but they don't necessarily have the same meaning

Kinds of Referents

- ◎ Unique & non-unique
 - fixed & variable reference
- ◎ Concrete & abstract
 - context dependent: literal vs figurative meaning
- ◎ Countable & non-countable

Ways of Referring

- ⊙ Proper names

 - unique referent, no need to give determiner

- ⊙ Pronouns

- ⊙ Noun phrases

 - generic/non-generic, specific/non-specific, definite/indefinite reference



Deixis

Week 4

Reference

- the symbolic relationship that a linguistic expression has with the concrete object or abstraction it represents
- the relationship of one linguistic expression to another, in which one provides the information necessary to interpret the other

Reference

```
graph TD; Reference[Reference] --- Coreference[Coreference]; Reference --- Endophora[Endophora]; Reference --- Exophora[Exophora]; Endophora --- Anaphora[Anaphora]; Endophora --- Cataphora[Cataphora]; Exophora --- Deixis[Deixis]; Exophora --- Homophora[Homophora];
```

Coreference

Endophora

Exophora

Anaphora

Cataphora

Deixis

Homophora

What is deixis?

- reference by means of an expression whose interpretation is relative to the (usually) extralinguistic context of the utterance, such as
 - who is speaking
 - the time or place of speaking
 - the gestures of the speaker, or
 - the current location in the discourse
- Words pointing to 'things' in the physical-social context of the speaker and addressees and whose referents can only be determined by knowing the context in which they are used.

Classification of Deixis

- Classification
- Explanation

Examples

- Pronouns
 - 'point' to the participants in any speech act
- Locative expressions
 - designate space close to the speaker or farther away
- Temporal expressions
 - relative to the time when they are used

Be careful, words which can be deictic are not always so.

See page 145

Anaphora

- A kind of secondary reference in which a previous reference is recalled by use of special function words or equivalent lexemes. E.g. see page 145
- Refers to the referent of the primary referring expression, not to that expression itself

Referential Ambiguity

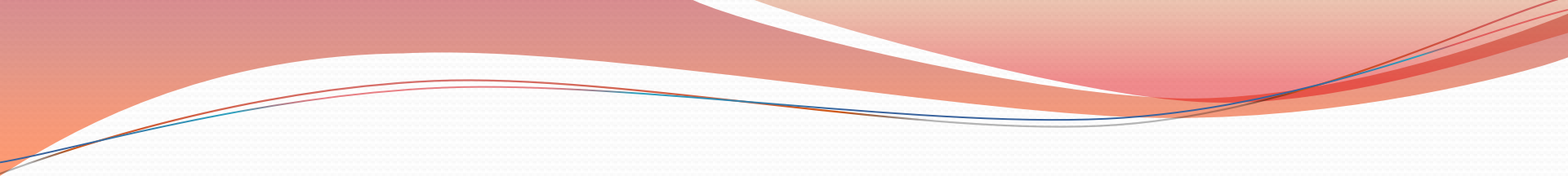
→ when a speaker has one referent in mind for a definite expression and the addressee thinks of a different referent

Occurs when:

- An indefinite referring expression may be specific or not
- Anaphora is unclear because a personal pronoun can be linked to either of two referring expressions
- The pronoun *you* is used generically or specifically

Exercises

1. Identify all the deictic expressions in the following sentences and be able to explain why they are deictic.
 - a. You noticed me standing there.
 - b. This book was written by that author over there.
 - c. Just set your briefcase to the right of mine.
 - d. Now we have to make plans for next week.
 - e. Her best friend was standing behind John.
 - f. All the guests arrived two hours ago.

- 
2. Think of a context in which it would be appropriate to use the following utterances, and one in which it would be inappropriate.
 - a. ‘I have to read an article for class tomorrow.’
 - b. ‘Mary wants to check out the book.’
 - c. ‘Did you meet her at a university?’

3. Write down two sentences bringing out clearly the two different meanings of :

- a. *The chicken is ready to eat.*
- b. *He greeted the girl with a smile.*
- c. *He turned over the field.*

Predicator & Predicate

Week 5

Remember???

- Reference
- Sense
- Proposition
- Referring expression
- Opaque context
- Equative sentence

Referring - non referring expression

Which of the following is the phrase a *tall tree*?

- a referring expression
- not a referring expression
- sometimes a referring expression and sometimes not, depending on context and circumstances of use

Which of the following could be used as referring expressions? Be able to explain why or why not.

- my table
- a unicorn
- Mary
- no love
- a book
- Travel
- Abraham Lincoln

Opaque Context

The Morning Star is the Evening Star: they are both in fact the planet Venus. Assuming that Nancy does not know this, do the following make the same claim about Nancy's wishes?

- 'Nancy wants to get married when the Morning Star is in the sky'
- 'Nancy wants to get married when the Evening Star is in the sky'
- *Is Nancy wants to get married when . . . is in the sky an opaque context?*

Equative Sentence

Which of the following sentences is equative?

- *Mahmoud is an Egyptian.*
- *I was telling you about Mahmoud the Egyptian.*
- *Mahmoud is the Egyptian I was telling you about.*
- *Mahmoud is a genius.*

Which of the following are equative sentences? Explain why.

- Fred is the man with the gun.
- William the Conqueror is the current King of England.
- Detroit is a nearby city.
- Mary is a genius.
- A box of cookies is what I would like.
- Detroit is not the largest city in the USA.

In the following sentences, delete the referring expressions and write down the remainder.

(1) My dog bit the postman.

(2) Mrs Wraith is writing the Mayor's speech.

(3) Cairo is in Africa.

(4) Edinburgh is between Aberdeen and York.

(5) This place stinks.

(6) John's car is red.

(7) Einstein was a genius.

- The referring expression: argument
- The remainder: predicator

PREDICATOR

- the word (sometimes a group of words) which does not belong to any of the referring expressions and which, of the remainder, makes the most specific contribution to the meaning of the sentence
- describes the state or process in which the referring expressions are involved.

Identify the predicators

(1) I am hungry.

(2) Joe is in San Francisco.

(3) The Mayor is a crook.

*(4) The man who lives at number 10 Lee
Crescent is whimsical.*

*(5) The Royal Scottish Museum is behind Old
College.*

- The predicators in sentences can be of various parts of speech:
 - adjectives (*red, asleep, hungry, whimsical*)
 - verbs (*write, stink, place*)
 - prepositions (*in, between, behind*)
 - nouns (*crook, genius*).
- Words of other parts of speech, such as conjunctions (*and, but, or*) and articles (*the, a*), cannot serve as predicators in sentences

Predicate

- any word (or sequence of words) which (in a given single sense) can function as the predicator of a sentence
- includes words from various parts of speech, e.g. common nouns, adjectives, prepositions, and verbs
- A simple sentence only has one predicator, although it may well contain more than one instance of a predicate.

e.g.

A tall, handsome stranger entered the saloon

In which of the following sentences does the predicate *male function as a* predicator?

- (a) *The male gorilla at the zoo had a nasty accident yesterday.*
- (b) *The gorilla at the zoo is a male.*
- (c) *The gorilla at the zoo is male.*

In which of the following sentences does the predicate *human function* as predicator?

(a) *All humans are mortal.*

(b) *Socrates was human.*

(c) *These bones are human.*

Valency / Degree of Predicate

- a number indicating the number of arguments it is normally understood to have in simple sentences
- The number of arguments that accompany a particular predicate
 - Degree one: one-place predicate
 - Degree two: two-place predicate
 - Degree three: three-place predicate
- A verb that is understood most naturally with just two arguments, one as its subject, and one as its object, is a two-place predicate.

Some examples

1. *Uncle smiles.*
2. *Martha hit the parrot.*
3. *Herod gave Salome a nice present.*

Compare with:

1. *Cairo is dusty.*
2. *The cat is under the table.*
3. *Dundee is between Aberdeen and Edinburgh.*

Are the following sentences acceptable?

- a. *Thornbury sneezed.*
- b. *Thornbury sneezed a handful of pepper.*
- c. *Thornbury sneezed his wife a handful of pepper.*

- a. *Martha hit.*
- b. *Martha hit the sideboard.*
- c. *Martha hit George the sideboard.*

What about: die, come, murder??

Conclusion

- the majority of adjectives are one-place predicates
- most nouns are one-place predicates, but a few nouns could be said to be ‘inherently relational’. These are nouns such as *father*, *son*, *brother*, *mother*, *daughter*, *neighbour*

Next week(s)..

- Syntactic vs semantic analysis of predicates
- Aspect
- A variety of predicates

- Transition & transfer predicates (to be discussed within semantic roles)

EXERCISE

1. Indicate the arguments and predicator(s) in each sentence. State the degree of the predicates.

- a. John is a linguist.
- b. John loves Mary.
- c. Mary loves John. (Are arguments ordered?)
- d. John gave Mary a ring.
- e. Chicago is between Los Angeles and New York.
- f. Jane is Mary's mother.
- g. Jones is the Dean of the College.
- h. John stood near the bank.
- i. Ed is a fool.
- j. Ed is foolish.

2. How does the concept of **predicate in the semantic sense** differ from the concept of **grammatical predicate**?

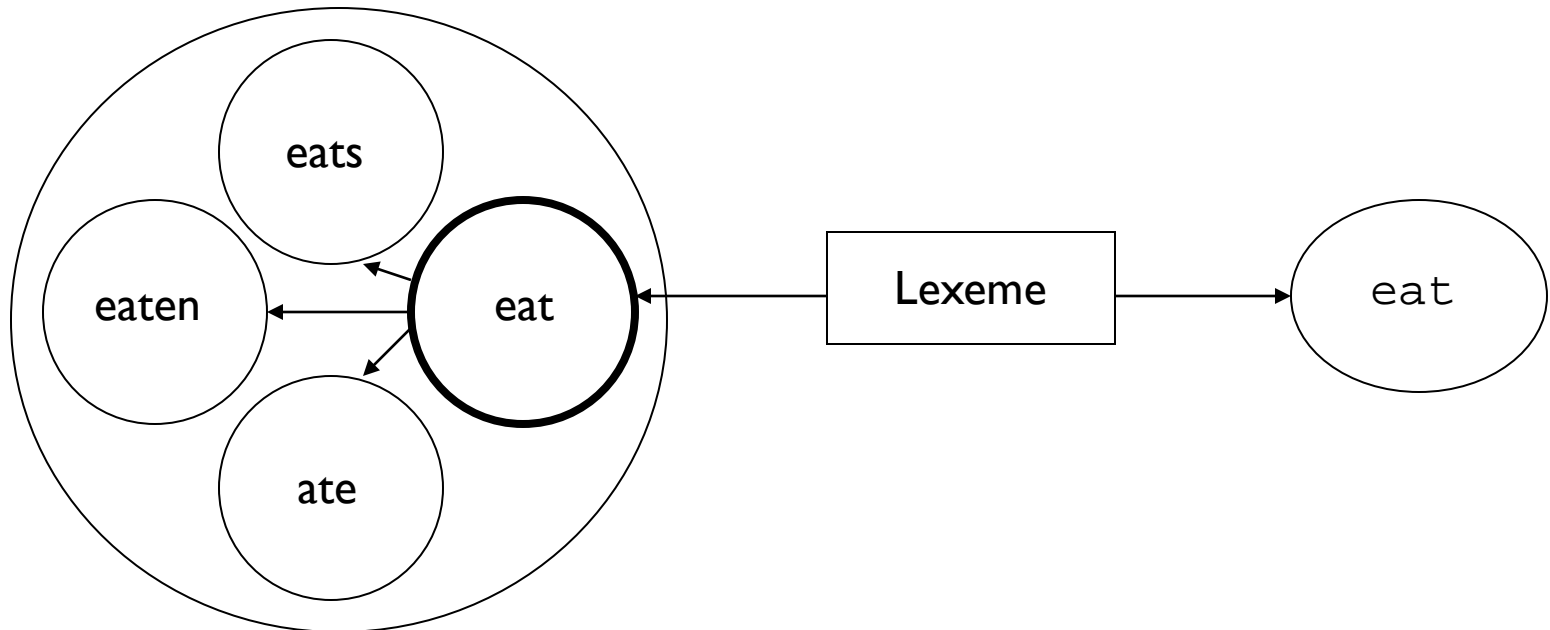


Lexical Relations

Week 8

Words have structured meanings

- Lexeme – a pairing of a form with a sense
- Orthographic form – the way the lexeme looks on the page
- Phonological form – the way the lexeme sounds
- Lexicon – finite list of lexemes



What do you think about these pairs of words?
Can you figure out their relationships?

- Father – paternal
- Father – mother
- Father – son
- Employer – employee
- Red – yellow
- Big – large

Semantic field
theory

Truth
conditional
semantics

Semantic field theory

- Classifies lexemes according to shared and differentiating features

e.g.

- Eat vs drink
- An ant vs an elephant
- Handsome vs beautiful

Truth conditional semantics

- Comparing predications that can be made about the same referring expression
- Paraphrase, entailment, contradiction

Paraphrase

- Two sentences that can have the same meaning

e.g.

- The police chased the burglar.
The burglar was chased by the police.
- I gave the summons to Chris.
- It is unfortunate that the team lost.
- The game will begin at 3.00 p.m.

Entailment

- A relation in which the truth of one sentence necessarily implies the truth of another

I gave him a cake.
I gave a cake to him.



mutual

Robin is a man.
Robin is human.



asymmetrical

Contradiction

- If one sentence is true, the other one must be false
- Two sentences which both cannot be true

e.g.

Charles is a bachelor.

Charles is married.

Below are ten pairs of sentences. In each pair, assume that the first sentence is true. Then decide what you know about the second sentence, which has the same topic.

1. a. Rose is married to Tom.
b. Rose is Tom's wife.
2. a. David is an unmarried adult male.
b. David is a bachelor.
3. a. This knife is too dull to cut the rope.
b. This knife isn't sharp enough to cut the rope.
4. a. Victoria likes to sing.
b. Victoria doesn't sing.

5.
 - a. Harold has been here for an hour.
 - b. Harold is tired of waiting.
6.
 - a. Mr. Bond has given up smoking.
 - b. Mr. Bond used to smoke.
7.
 - a. Mr. Bond still smokes.
 - b. Mr. Bond used to smoke.
8.
 - a. Oil paintings are more expensive than watercolors.
 - b. Watercolors cost more than oil paintings.
9.
 - a. The Carlson Hotel is more than a century old.
 - b. The Carlson Hotel has operated for more than a century.
10.
 - a. Alice invited some friends to lunch.
 - b. Alice has friends.



Lexical Relations

- Homonymy
- Polysemy
- Synonymy
- Hyponymy

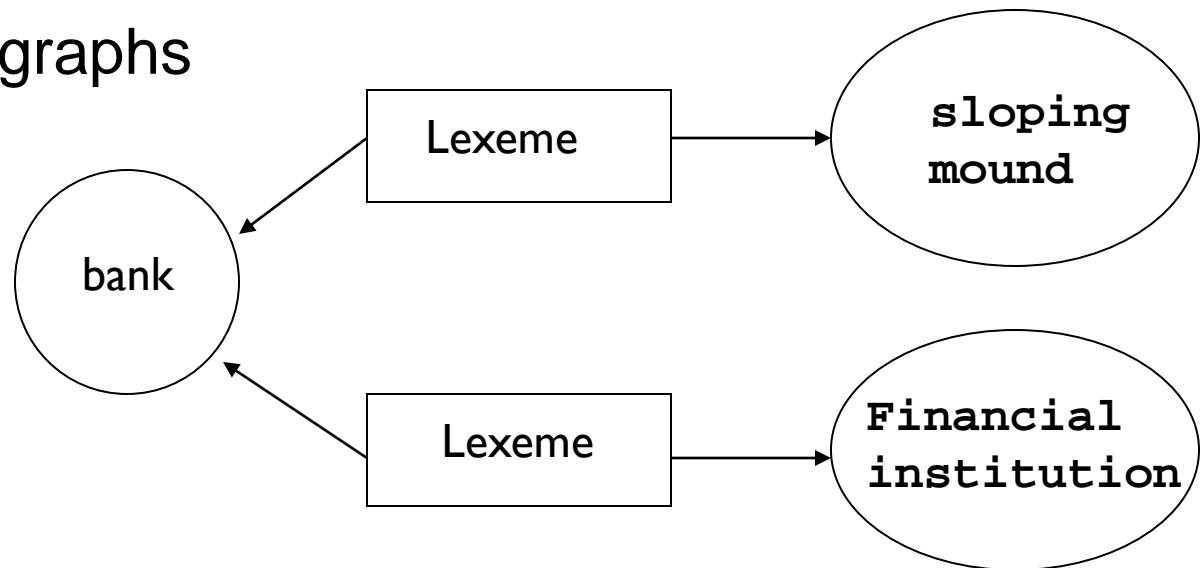
Homonymy

→ two words that sound (or are spelled) the same but have different semantic features (meaning)

e.g. bear – bare

→ A relation that holds between two lexemes that have the same form with unrelated meanings

- Homophones
- Homographs



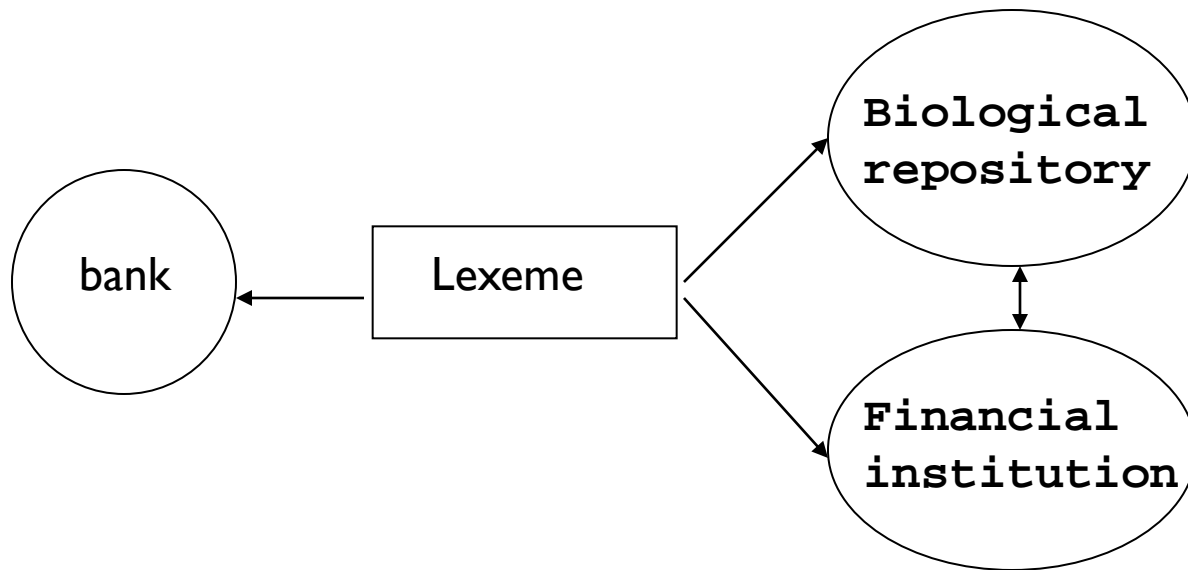
Homonymy causes problems

- Spelling correction
 - Confusables – *your vs. you're*
- Speech recognition
 - Homophones *and* pure homonyms
- Text-to-speech
 - Homographs – *conduct*
- Information retrieval
 - Homographs and pure homonyms

Polysemy

→ The phenomenon where a single lexeme has multiple related meanings

e.g. marry → to take as a spouse
→ declare to be married



Polysemy

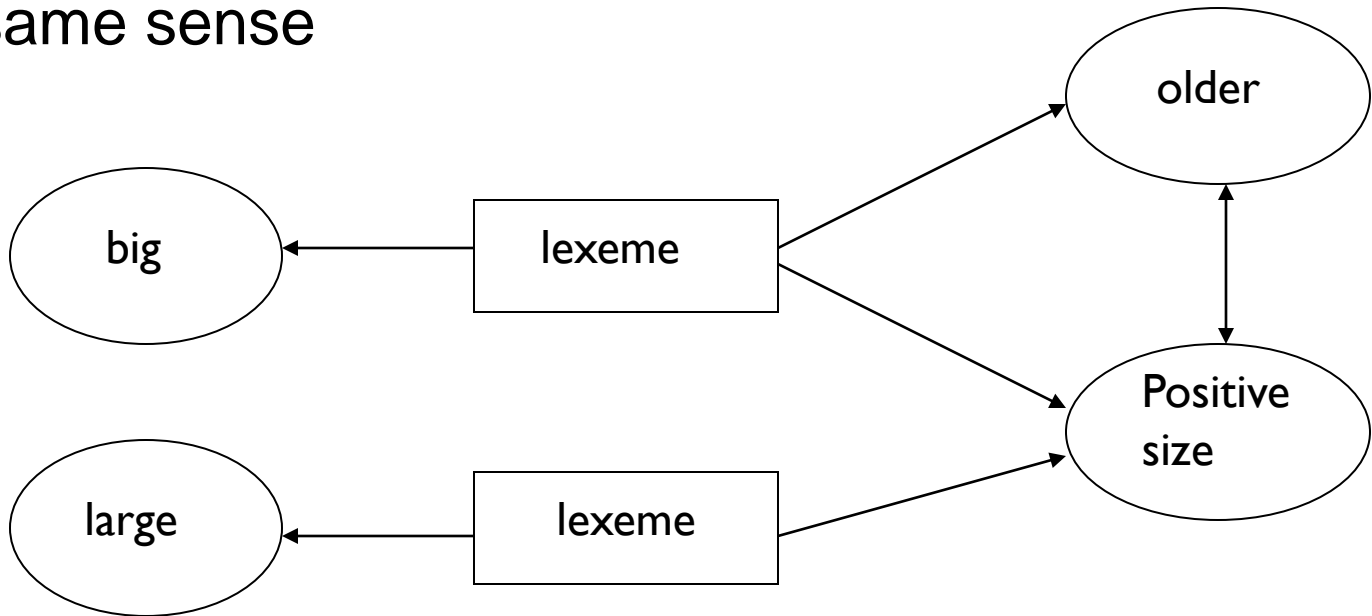
- How many senses does a word have?
 - *Does Midwest Express serve breakfast and Philadelphia?*
 - *Kim has an uncle and so does Sandy*
 - *Kim has a bat and so does Sandy*
- How are they related?
- How can you tell which sense should be attributed to a given word?

Synonymy

→ two words with the same semantic features (meaning) but which sound different

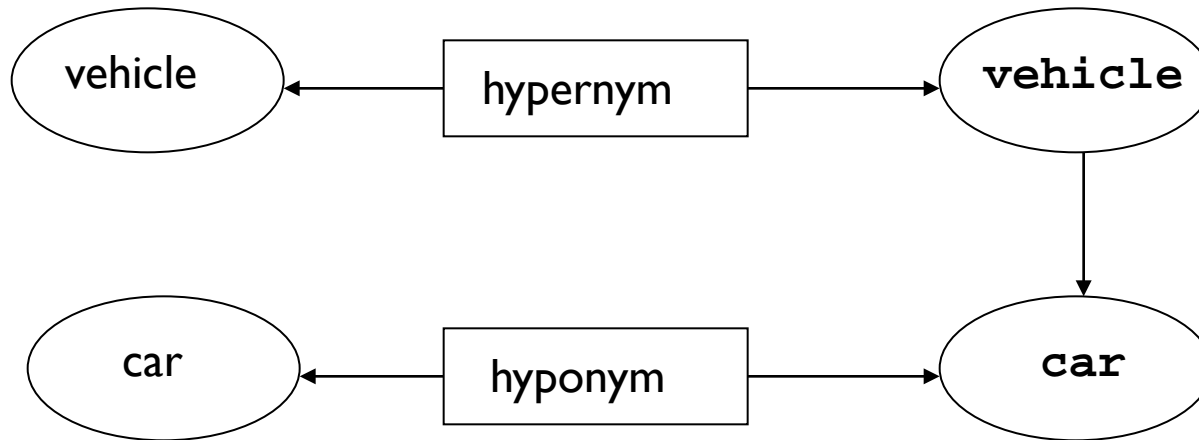
e.g. sofa – couch

A relation that holds between two lexemes with the same sense



Hyponymy

A relation that hold between two lexemes where one denotes a subclass of the other



- taxonomy
- object hierarchy

Draw the lexical relations

- Smart (synonymy)
- Kitten (hyponymy)
- Grass (polysemy)
- Leave (homonymy)

Antonymy

Week 8

Antonyms

- ▶ What is the antonym of *bachelor*?

?



husband



Adult
Married
Human
Male

wife



Adult
Married
Human
Female

Antonyms are NOT words with totally different meanings, but words which are different along ONE DIMENSION

Kinds of Antonyms

- ▶ Complementary pairs (X, not X)
e.g. dead–alive, awake–asleep
- ▶ Gradable pairs (opposite sides of a scale)
e.g. hot–cold, big–small, warm–cool
- ▶ Relational opposites (opposite roles in a relation)
e.g. teacher–pupil, buy–sell

Antonymy?

- ▶ Mutually contradictory: if one is true, the other must be false
 - Two sentences that differ in polarity
 - Two sentences having the same subject and antonymous predicates
- ▶ Antonyms
 - opposite in meaning
 - When occur as predicates of the same subject, the predications are contradictory

Antonymous pairs

- ▶ Marked
→ the meaning is very much dependent on the topics they are associated with
- ▶ unmarked
→ The global member of opposition

e.g.

old/young, long/short, wide/narrow

Antonymous Relations

- ▶ Binary

- no middle ground

- hemispheric antonyms: no space in between, only a line of demarcation

- complementary antonyms

- ▶ Non-binary

- opposite ends of a scale that includes various intermediate terms

- polar antonyms: opposite ends with territory between them

- contrary antonyms

Converses

- ▶ The predicates have valency of 2 or more
- ▶ Antonymy between 2 terms

Valency of 2

- ▶ If [a] is the X of [b], then [b] is the Y of [a]

e.g.

- ▶ Sally is Jerry's wife.
- ▶ Jerry is Sally's husband.

Common converse pairs

- ▶ Kinship
- ▶ Social roles
- ▶ Directional opposites

Valency of 3

- ▶ If A gives X to B, B receives X from A

e.g.

give-to/receive-from

sell-to/buy-from

lend-to/borrow from

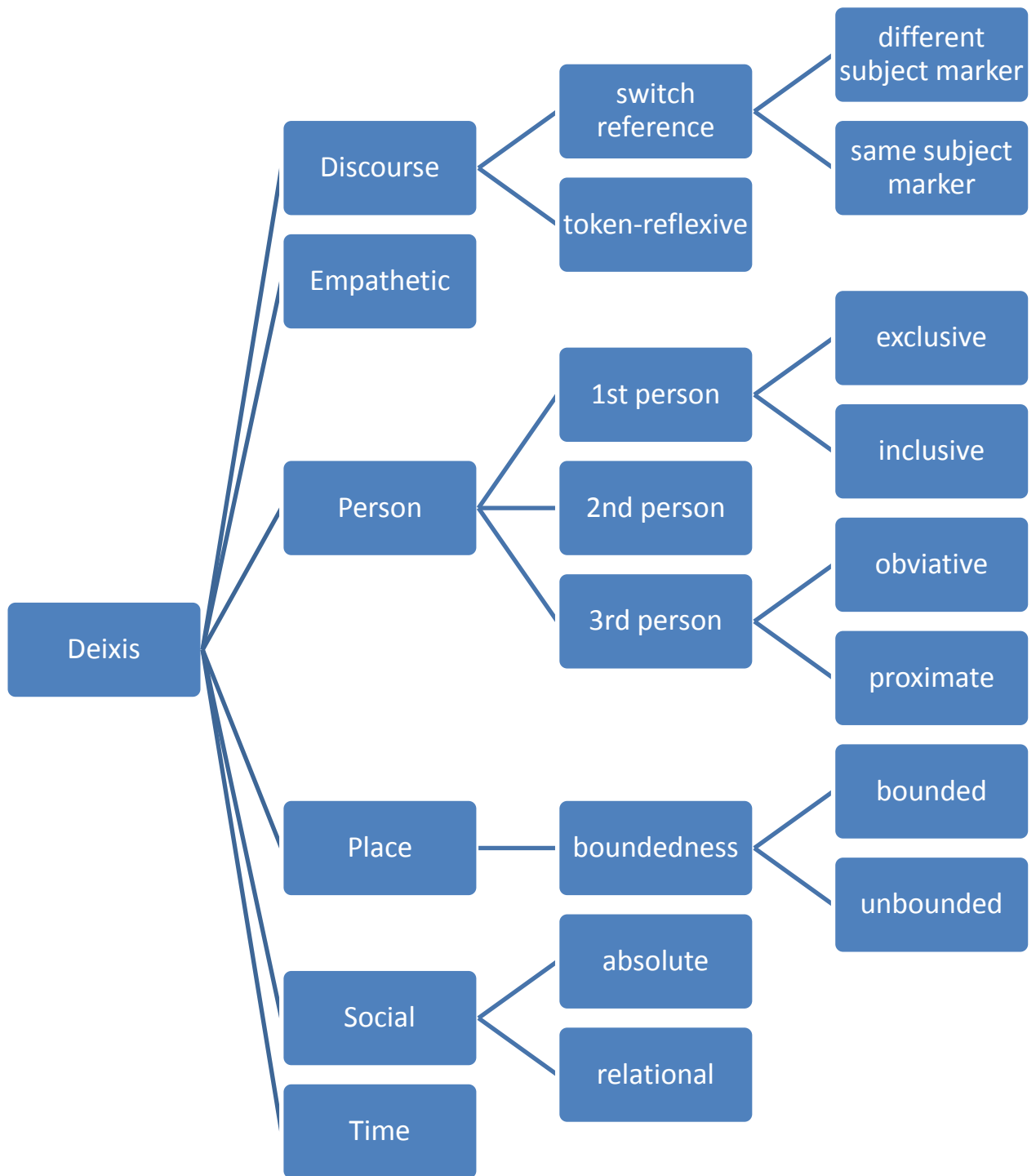
- ▶ Relationship: source-goal

What about this?

- ▶ A newspaper kiosk is in front of the Grand Hotel.
- ▶ Figure : a newspaper kiosk
- ▶ Ground : the Grand Hotel

Symmetry & Reciprocity

- ▶ Symmetrical predicate
 - $a X b = b X a = a \text{ and } b X$ (each other)
- ▶ Reciprocal predicate
 - $a X b$ does not entail $b X a$
 - $a \text{ and } b X$ entails $a X b$ and $b X a$



REFERENCE

Definition

1. Reference is the symbolic relationship that a linguistic expression has with the concrete object or abstraction it represents.
2. Reference is the relationship of one linguistic expression to another, in which one provides the information necessary to interpret the other.

Examples

A pronoun refers to the noun antecedent that is used to interpret it.

Kinds

1. Coreference, i.e. the reference in one expression to the same referent in another expression.
e.g. *You said you would come.* (both *you* have the same referent)
2. Endophora, i.e. coreference of an expression with another expression either before it or after it. One expression provides the information necessary to interpret the other. The endophoric relationship is often spoken of as one expression “referring to” another. Endophora consists of cataphora and anaphora.
 - a. Cataphora, i.e. the [coreference](#) of one expression with another expression which follows it. The following expression provides the information necessary for interpretation of the preceding one. This is often understood as an expression “referring” forward to another expression.
e.g. *If you need **one**, there’s a towel in the top drawer.*
 - b. Anaphora, i.e. coreference of one expression with its antecedent. The antecedent provides the information necessary for the expression’s interpretation. This is often understood as an expression “referring” back to the antecedent. The term anaphora is also sometimes used to include both anaphora, as defined here, and cataphora. When it is used that way, it becomes synonymous with endophora.
e.g. *A well-dressed man was speaking; **he** had a foreign accent.* (the relationship of the pronoun *he* to the noun phrase *a well-dressed man* is an example of anaphora)

Zero anaphora is the use of a gap, in a phrase or clause, that has an anaphoric function similar to a pro-form. It is often described as “referring back” to an expression that supplies the information necessary for interpreting the gap.

e.g. *There are two roads to eternity, a straight and narrow, and a broad and crooked.*

In this sentence, the gaps in *a straight and narrow* [gap], and *a broad and crooked* [gap] have a zero anaphoric relationship to *two roads to eternity*.

3. Exophora, i.e. reference of an expression directly to an extralinguistic referent. The referent does not require another expression for its interpretation.
 - a. Deixis

- b. Homophora is reference that depends on cultural knowledge or other general knowledge, rather than on specific features of a particular context.
e.g. The use of *the President* in the U.S, *the sun*, *the baby* (between parents to refer to their own baby), *Bees* make honey (refer generically to the class of bees)

DEIXIS

Definition

Deixis is reference by means of an expression whose interpretation is relative to the (usually) extralinguistic context of the utterance, such as

- who is speaking
- the time or place of speaking
- the gestures of the speaker, or
- the current location in the discourse.

Examples: *I, you, now, there, that, the following*, Tenses

Kinds

1. discourse deixis

Discourse deixis is deictic reference to a portion of a discourse relative to the speaker's current "location" in the discourse.

e.g.

- this* to refer to a story one is about to tell in *I bet you haven't heard this story*.
- Reference to Chapter 7 of a book by means of *in the next chapter* or *in the previous chapter*, depending on whether the reference is made from Chapter 6 or 8.
- this* in a creaky-voiced utterance of *This is what phoneticians call a creaky voice*.

Kinds:

a. switch reference

Switch reference is a grammatical category with the following features:

- It signals the identity or nonidentity of the referent of an argument of one clause, usually its subject, with an argument of another clause, which is likewise usually the subject.
- Switch reference functions to avoid ambiguity of reference; for example, it may distinguish between two referents that are third person and that, thus, may not be otherwise distinguished on the verb.
- It relates clauses, usually adjacent, that may be subordinate or coordinate to one another.
- It is expressed usually by inflectional affixes on the verb, sometimes by the same affixes that express subject-verb agreement within the clause, and rarely by a morpheme independent of the verb.

Kinds:

- Different subject marker

A different subject marker is a marker in the verb morphology of a clause which indicates that the subject of the clause is not the same as the subject of some other clause. The other clause is maybe a following clause, the final clause in a clause chain, or the main clause in a sentence.

b) Same subject marker

A same subject marker is a distinction in the verb morphology of a clause that indicates that the subject is identical to the subject of another clause, such as one of the following: a following clause, the final clause in a clause chain, and the main clause in a sentence.

b. token-reflexive deixis

Token-reflexive deixis is discourse deixis in which the deictic expression refers to the expression or speech act in which it occurs.

e.g. *This* is what phoneticians call "creaky voice." (the utterance itself is spoken with creaky voice)

I hereby apologize.

2. empathetic deixis

Empathetic deixis is the metaphorical use of deictic forms to indicate emotional or other psychological "distance" or "proximity" between a speaker and a referent.

e.g. The use of *this* to indicate the speaker's empathy

The use of *that* to indicate the speaker's emotional distance

3. person deixis

Person deixis is deictic reference to the participant role of a referent, such as the speaker, the addressee, and referents which are neither speaker nor addressee. Person deixis is commonly expressed by the following kinds of constituents: pronouns, possessive affixes of nouns, and agreement affixes of verbs.

Kinds:

a. 1st person deixis

First person deixis is deictic reference that refers to the speaker, or both the speaker and referents grouped with the speaker.

e.g. singular pronouns: I, me, myself, my, mine

plural pronouns: we, us, ourselves, our, ours

am, the first person form of the verb be

kinds:

a) Exclusive first person deixis, i.e. deixis that refers to a group not including the addressee(s)

b) Inclusive first person deixis, i.e. deixis that refers to a group including the addressee(s)

b. 2nd person deixis

Second person deixis is deictic reference to a person or persons identified as addressee.

e.g. you, yourself, yourselves, your, yours

c. 3rd person deixis

Third person deixis is deictic reference to a referent(s) not identified as the speaker or addressee.

e.g. he, she, they, the third person singular verb suffix –s such as in *He sometimes flies*.

Kinds:

- a) Obviative person deixis, i.e. third person deixis that distinguishes a less important referent in the present stage of the discourse from a referent that is more important
- b) Proximate person deixis, i.e. a third person deixis that distinguishes a referent that is more important at the present stage of the discourse from a referent that is less important

4. place deixis

Place deixis is deictic reference to a location relative to the location of a participant in the speech event, typically the speaker.

e.g. this (way), that (direction), here, there

characteristic: boundedness, i.e. the presence or absence of a component of meaning indicative of a border at the location indicated in an expression of place deixis, e.g. *out there, in there*.

- a) Bounded deixis, i.e. place deixis that has a component of meaning indicative of a border.
e.g. *out there, in there*
- b) Unbounded deixis, i.e. a distinction in place deixis that indicates the lack of a defined border.
e.g. The use of the word *there* in contrast to *in there* and *out there* indicates unbounded deixis

5. social deixis

Social deixis is reference to the social characteristics of, or distinctions between, the participants or referents in a speech event.

e.g. The distinction, found in many Indo-European languages, between familiar and polite second person pronouns is an expression of social deixis.

Kinds:

- a) Absolute social deixis, i.e. deictic reference to some social characteristic of a referent (especially a person) apart from any relative ranking of referents. Often absolute social deixis is expressed in certain forms of address. The form of address will include no comparison of the ranking of the speaker and addressee; there will be only a simple reference to the absolute status of the addressee.
e.g. Mr. President, Your Honor
- b) Relational social deixis, i.e. deictic reference to a social relationship between the speaker and an addressee, bystander, or other referent in the extralinguistic context.
e.g. Distinctions between the French second person pronouns *tu* and *vous*
Speech levels of Southeast Asian languages that depend on the relative status of the speaker and addressee

Distinctions between lexical choices made in the presence of certain kin in
Dyirbal

6. time deixis

Time deixis is reference to time relative to a temporal reference point. Typically, this point is the moment of utterance.

e.g. temporal adverbs (now / then / yesterday / today / tomorrow)
distinctions in tense