Meaning, lexical relations

In linguistics, **meaning** is the information or concepts that a sender intends to convey, or does convey, in communication with a receiver.

Semantic meaning

relationship between words and their referents called The is semantic.^[3] Semantics is the study of how meaning is conveyed through signs and language. Understanding how facial expressions, body language, and tone affect meaning, and how words, phrases, sentences, and punctuation relate to meaning are examples. Various subgroups of semantics are studied within the fields of linguistics, logic and computing. For example, linguistic semantics includes the history of how words have been used in the past; logical semantics includes how people mean and refer in terms of likely intent and assumptions.

During the 19th century, John Stuart Mill defined semantic meaning with the words "denotation" and "connotation".^[4] A denotation is the literal or primary meaning of a word. Connotations are ideas or feelings that a word invokes for a person in addition to its literal or primary meaning.

The original use of "meaning" as understood early in the 20th century occurred through Lady Welby, after her daughter translated the term "semantics" from French.

Conceptual meaning

Languages allow information to be conveyed even when the specific words used are not known by the reader or listener. People connect words with meaning and use words to refer to concepts. A person's intentions affect what is meant. *Meaning* (in English) as *intent* harkens back to the Anglo-Saxons and is associated today still, with the German verb *meinen* as to think or intend.

Lexical Relations

The branch of semantics that deals with word meanings is called lexical semantics. (GeorgeYule,).The lexical relation is used to indicate any paradigmatic relation among words. It is not just asemantic relation; so, it includes phonetic relations such as rhyme and alliteration, morphological relations such as inflectional variations and morpho-syntactic relations such asco-membership in a grammatical category. The term lexical relation

is ambiguous in that it could refer to relations among words or torelations among lexical items within the mental lexical. (M.Lynne Murphy, 2003).Psychologist have determined that some types of semantic relations e.g. antonyms are easierfor adults and children to comprehend and process than others. (Chaffin & Herrman, 1987;Herrman & Chaffin, 1986).Murphy (2003) stated that most lexical semantic relations have some kinds of similarity and contrast elements e.g. synonyms are similar in meanings but different in lexical forms and antonyms have contrasting position on the same dimensions.

Synonymy:

Synonymy means the "sameness of meanings". The sets of words that have same meanings are called the synonymy of one another(F. R. Palmer: p.88).

Antonyms:

According to George Yule, antonyms are words which are "opposite" in meanings. it is useful to identify several different types of relationship under opposition. "/" sign is used to indicateantonymy. As Good/bad, life/death, come/go, dead/alive, pass/fail.

There are four types of antonyms which are as follows:

1. Contradictory antonyms: These are terms opposed dichotomously e.g. alive-dead.

2.Contrary antonyms: These are terms are opposed symmetrically on a continuous dimension. E.g. hot-cold.

3.Directional antonyms: These are concepts opposed in time or space. E.g. before-after, above-below.

4.Reverse antonyms: Reverse antonyms, sometimes called converses, represent opposed actions. E.g. buy-sell.

Homonymy:

Homonyms are un-related senses of same phonological word. Homophones and homographscome under homonyms (Yule, 1996). As Bear (to carry) and bear (animal), tale and tail, etc. theterm homonymy adds two further categories in it which are homophones and homogragrph. These terms show the sameness in words.

Polysemy:

This term refers that not only different word have different meanings but it is also the case thatsame word may have a set of different meanings. This is called polysemy and such a word iscalled polysemic. (F.R. Palmer, p.100).Examples:

There is a word "flight" and dictionary defines it in many ways which are as follows:

Passing through the air, power of flying, air journey, unit of the air force, volley, digression, series of steps, etc. "The term polysemy refers to multiple senses of the same phonological word. It is the word with two or more meanings". (George Yule, p.64). E.g. foot in:

1. He hurt his foot

2. She stood at the foot of the stairs.