

Handout - week 7

SEMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN LEXICAL UNITS (SENSE RELATIONS): POLYSEMY, HOMONYMY, HYPONYMY, SYNONYMY AND ANTONYMY (complementarity, converseness).

Semantic fields - every word is determined in its meaning by the presence of other words in the vocabulary (those that are related to the same or associated ranges or phenomena).

Items in the field occur in **sequences** or **cycles**, some exhibit a **part-whole relationship**, some are ordered **hierarchically** or by **taxonomy**.

Polysemy (Greek *polúsémos* = having many meanings) - words with two or more senses.

Hyperlexeme (Filipec) - a polysemic lexeme with several meanings.

Homonymy

Homonyms - two or more words that are identical in form but different in meaning.

Real homonyms - sound and look (in written form) identical:

bank (= slope), *bank* (= an institution where people deposit or borrow money)

Homophones - they sound identical, but are spelled differently:

through x *threw*

Homographs - they have identical spelling, but different pronunciation:

lead [li:d] x [led], *wind* [wind] x [waɪnd]

Exercise 1: *Are the following expressions real homonyms, homophones, homographs, or polysemous lexemes?*

dear - deer

bank (of a river) - bank (financial institution)

bar (of chocolate) - bar (of metal) - bar (room) - bar (unit of pressure) - to bar

fair - fare

lie (be in a horizontal position) - lie (not tell the truth)

cue (a tool) - cue (hint) - queue

bear - bare

peace - piece

tap (for water) - tap (on barrel) - tap (light knock or blow)

head (someone in charge) - head (part of the body) - head (in a tape/video recorder)

no - know

reed - read

read (*pres.*) - read (*past*)

Exercise 2: *Can you give more examples of English homonyms?*

Exercise 3: *Can you adduce any homonyms from different word classes?*

Exercise 4: *Why are homonyms apparently more numerous in English than in Czech?*

False friends (*faux amis*) - interlanguage homonyms.

Exercise 5: *Examples of Czech-English false friends:*

Paronymy - words similar in form, but totally different in meaning.

Exercise 6: *Examples of paronyms:*

Hyponymy

Exercise 7: Can you list any hyponyms or hyperonyms of the following expressions (if applicable)?
dog thing vehicle brown

Meronymy - the semantic relation between a lexical item denoting a **part** and that denoting the corresponding **whole**.

Special types of the part-whole relation - the **group-member** relation, **substance - particle** relation, the **feature - whole** relation, **class - member** relation → **hyponymy/hyperonymy**.

Taxonomy - a subspecies of hyponymy.

Synonymy

Synonyms - words or phrases with the same or nearly the same meaning.

Few true synonyms; most pairs or rows of synonyms have nearly the same denotation and a different connotation.

Exercise 8: Give examples of the following types of synonyms:

Absolute synonyms - words agreeing in denotation, connotation and distribution:

Close synonyms differing in a single seme:

Synonyms differing in intensity:

Stylistic synonyms:

Near-synonyms - words which are closely related with the members of a synonym group (or a semantic field):

Antonymy

Oppositeness (Lyons) - two words have opposite meanings.

Exercise 9: List some words which, in your opinion, have no antonyms:

Exercise 10: What are the antonyms of:

old soft short light (*adj.*)

- **antonymy (contrary antonyms)**

- **complementarity (contradictory/complementary antonyms)**

- **converseness**

Exercise 11: Which of the following are gradable antonyms, which are complementary pairs and which are converses?

alive - dead	dark - light	beautiful - ugly
day - night	fall - rise	simple - difficult
lend - borrow	give - get	give - take
absent - present		

Exercise 12:

A polysemous word has more than one antonym.

What are the antonyms of the following polysemous words?

catch	smart
hard	right

Handout - week 8

LANGUAGE FIGURES: METAPHOR, METONYMY, SIMILE, TABOO, EUPHEMISM, DYSPHEMISM, UNDERSTATEMENT, HYPERBOLE, SYNECDOCHE, LITOTES. LOAN WORDS.

Exercise 1: Complete the following definitions where necessary and give examples.

Figurative language - an expressive use of language when words are used in a non-literal way to suggest illuminating comparisons and resemblances (**figures of speech**).

Metaphor - a figurative expression in which one notion is described _____
_____.

Metonymy - a semantic change where an _____ is used for the whole.

Simile - a figurative expression that _____.

Taboo - expressions which people _____ using in polite society because they believe them _____.

Euphemism – a figure of speech in which an unpleasant, offensive, harsh or blunt word or expression is avoided and _____ is used instead.

Dysphemism – the substitution of _____ for a _____.

Understatement – (an unduly) restrained statement or expression, representing the facts as being _____.

Hyperbole – a figure of speech consisting in _____.

Synecdoche - a figure of speech in which the part is used _____
or _____.

Litotes - a figure of speech where something is _____.
E.g. an affirmative is expressed by the negative of the contrary.

Irony - language that expresses a meaning other than _____.

Paradox - an _____ that contains a truth.

Exercise 2: Which figure of speech is represented by the following expressions?

adult video

outplacement

to downsize

tax haven

a dead good book

The new boss' task is to **break the ice** with staff.

It's unwise of you to **take a step** like that without discussing it with me first.

the tip of the iceberg

Argentina shares with Venezuela the memory of past wealth.

Denmark will take its turn as the EU's president in the second half of this year.

to stage Stoppard

They have **kept us in the dark** about their intentions. Now, however, they'll have to **put us in the picture**.

Well, this is a really cosy flat. (*when I'm thinking of moving away*)

He's a little fish.

ladies' man

to have teeth like pearls

She's out of form. (*when she's totally exhausted*)

He isn't poor. (*said of a millionaire*)

not to escape the long arm of the law

She will never be as good as her older sister.

(That was) an absolutely gorgeous meal.

I don't know what she sees in a gorilla like the guy at the bar.

political storm

I'm as fit as a fiddle again.

as good as gold

put your John Hancock at the bottom of the list

Exercise 3: Identify the source area of the following metaphors (and their current use).

The electronics industry **is blossoming** in the south of Bavaria.

They can never **win a price war** since we have enough reserves to **retaliate**.

Companies have to be able to cope with the **ebb and flow** of demand.

It's necessary to **branch out** into new activities.

The government is criticised for **moving the goalposts**.

The **ailing** manufacturer does not seem to benefit from the recent **recovery** in the industry.

The young actress is going to use all **the weapons in her arsenal** to **win**.

The funding has **dried up**.

The market is already **saturated**.

Since the coup last year, the country has been completely **paralysed**.

Very soon Italy and Spain will **be flooded** with North African immigrants.

If fares are raised, it could be a **knockout blow** for smaller agencies.

My brother is **a casualty** of a recent **wave** of delayering.

European producers have already **launched their counter-offensive**.

They are expected to **join forces** with ecological activists.