SEMANTIC RELATION ANALSIS IN

SELECTED TEXTS

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ABSTRACT

This study presents the most familiar semantic relations in English language. Although scholars do not agree on the final number of the semantic relations ,the most used ones in books and other sources are dealt with. The aim of this study is to give a full theoretical explanation of the semantic relations like synonymy, antonym, hyponymy, polysemy, metonymy, collocation, and homonymy.

Their application on literary works is also presented, that is how they are used in texts. Two different works are selected, one is the short The Black Cat and the other is Waiting for Godot.
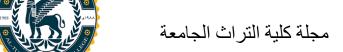
1. **Introduction**

The present paper deals with the semantic levels of language to create sense as an important category within the area of conceptual or cognitive words meaning. Scholars and linguists argue about the number of these semantic or lexical relations.

The most familiar ones are synonymy, antonym, homonymy, polysemy, homonymy, homophone, collocation ...etc.

This term paper is mainly dedicated for the investigation of these semantic relations that are also called meaning relations or lexical relations. They refer to the relationship between concept and meaning. Synonymy and antonym are Greek names which mean "same name" and "opposite name".

They have identical reference meaning and opposite meaning respectively. Homonymy includes words of the same pronunciation and spelling but different meaning. On the other hand, hyponymy involves a word that its meaning is included in the meaning of another. Polysemy is referred to when a word has two or more related meaning and metonymy is a word used instead of another that is closely related. While homophones includes words of the same pronunciation but different spelling and collocation involves words grouped together as a single unit. The word "school" is a kind of education institution but it can also be used with other expressions like "school house" that means a place of teaching. So, they have synonymous relation. If it is used to mean a group of people who share common characteristics of outlook, a school of thought, then it has a homonymyous relation. These relations are mixed under the head "semantic relations" (Lyons, 1968: 447).

2. Sense and Sense- relationships in Semantics

The sense of a word means that its place in a system of relationships in which it contracts with other words in the vocabulary (lyons,1968:427).

Lyons suggests that these relationships that hold between vocabulary items do not carry presuppositions with them "about the existence of objects and properties outside the vocabulary of the language in question"(ibid).

In order to refine sense- relation, it is necessary to differentiate here between sense-related and denotation-related lexemes. Lyons enunciates the point by saying that:

"A lexeme which is related to other lexemes is related to them in sense and that a lexeme which is related to the outside world is related by means of denotation."(Lyons, 1981:152)

3. Semantic Relations in English

Semantics can be defined as "the study of the meaning of words, phrase and sentences".(Yule, 2010:112). Words have relationships with each other. If someone asks about the meaning of certain word, the answer would be either by defining the word or describing it by giving its opposite or synonymy. So, the relationships of meaning between words are known as lexical relations or semantic relations (ibid:117).
There are several different kinds of semantic relations and the most familiar ones are going to be explained.

3.1 Synonymy

Farrokhpey (1998:311) states that synonymy includes words that sound different but have the same or nearly the same meaning.

Aitchison (1999:87) states that way lexical words or items can be interchanged without changing the meaning of the utterance is known as synonymy as in:
He **snapped** the twig in half.
He **broke** the twig in half.

It is agree that synonymy is two or more lexical items which have the same meaning if they can replace each other without any change in the meaning of the context (Lyons,2002:533). Example of synonymy are answer / reply, almost / nearly, big / large, board / wide ,buy /purchase.

3.2 Antonymy

Saeed (2016:63) states that antonym is also called opposite in meaning which is the relation involves words that are related in meaning ,Yet incompatible or contrasting one another. According to (Yule,2010:117 and Aitchison, 1999:88) there are several different types antonym:

1-Gradable antonym: this type is a kind of opposite that is not absolute, but relative to same standard. For example big / large "what are large mouse! What a big house !" This type always implies companion and used in comparative construction as in " I am bigger than you."

2-Non- gradable: it is called complementary pairs in which the comparative construction is not used as in the words dead/ alive, single / married or in the sentences " He is not married :he is single", "my grandparents are not alive : they are dead."

3. One word is the **converse** of the other. The choice of words here depends on the angle from which the speaker views the situation being descanted as in :
I **gave** you the book.
You **take** the book.

3.3 Hyponymy

Lyons (1982:27) defines 'homonymy' as a term used in semantics for lexical items that are identical in spelling and pronunciation but have different meanings. Examples of homonyms are "lie" as in "you have to lie down" and "lie" in "Don't lie, tell the truth". The above definition does not involve anything about homophones and homographs; in addition, it creates a problem with polysemy.

Aitchison (1993:52) and Fromkin et al. (2003:71) agree that homonyms are different words with the same pronunciation that may or may not be identical in spelling. Thus, they give them a definition that is partially similar to that of homophones. On the other hand, Watkins et al.(2001: 269) defines it just like defining homophones, as "words that sound exactly like other words but have different spelling "in spite of the fact of not naming them "homophones" in addition to "homonyms" as Fromkin et al.(2003: 71) do.

3.3.1 Types of Homonyms
1. <u>Complete (full, absolute)</u>
Those are homonyms that have the same pronunciation and the same spelling i.e. the identity covers spoken and written forms. Classic examples are bank (embankment) and bank (place where money is kept) (Lyons 1982:72).

2. Partial homonyms
They are those where the identity covers a single medium, as in homophony and homographic. Thus ,homophones and homographs are considered partial homonyms (Crystal,2008:230).

Watkins et al (2001: 269) differentiate between homonyms and what they call "near homonyms". According to them homonyms are words that are "exactly" alike in pronunciation but differ in spelling and meaning , e.g. morning and mourning ; there and their ;while near homonyms do not sound exactly alike, e.g. except and accept ; loose and lose.

3. <u>Word homonyms</u>
These are homonyms where all the forms of a paradigm and its collection possibilities are identical. Thus, one does not get any indication of their belonging to one word or the other. Such homonyms are generally found in words belonging to the same part of speech. Examples are seal and seals (plural of seal which is an animal) and seal and seals(plural of seal which is an impression placed on things to legalize them). In addition, the possessive forms of these words, i.e. seal 's are identical (Singh, 1982 :24).

4. <u>lexical Homonyms</u>
Singh (1982: 25) states that when the homonyms belong to the same part of speech , they are called lexical homonyms. The difference is only in their lexical meaning. They can be found under one entry in the dictionary. For example , trunk (part of an elephant) and trunk (a storage chest).

3.4 Hyponymy
Hyponymy which may be defined as the inclusion of the meaning in a lexical item is a fundamental sense relation. Classes of lexical items are established according to the relationship they hold between them. By paraphrasing and implication one will arrive at marked and unmarked members of a certain class. Thus, one of the semantic relationships that is derived by paraphrasing is called hyponymy (leech, 1974:100).

Hyponymy is a relationship that exists between two meanings "if one componential formula contain all the features present in the other formula." It shows that "woman" is homonymous to "grown- up", because the two features make up the definition "grown up"(ibid).

Lyons (2002: 454) suggests that hyponymy applies to :

It is important to realize that hyponyms as a relation of sense which holds between lexical items applies to non- referring terms in precisely the same way as it applies to terms that have no reference.

Leech (1974:100-101) also seems to disapprove of "inclusion" :

"Inclusion" is a confusing word to use ….. because while in one respect…. "woman" includes " grown-up", in another respect, the opposite is the case; " grown-up" includes "woman" in the sense that a general term might be said to include the meaning of the more specific term.

Palmer (1971: 44) shows as suggested earlier that English has no masculine or feminine words for elephant: " Alongside , lamb , ewe , ram, we have elephant calf , elephant cow and elephant bull". He contributes this phenomenon of having two words to describe the baby , the female or the male of any species to cultural reasons. In the case of elephant, he suggests that "we are less familiar in our culture…. with elephants than with sheep". Snow in Eskimo has more lexicalized items or "hyponyms" than English which tends to make distinctions through "fine snow", "dry snow", "soft snow" etc. on the other hand , English lexicalizes words denoting specific kinds of sheep (lamb, awe, ram).(ibid: 45).

3.4.1 Co- hyponymy

Co- hyponyms can be defined as the set of terms which are hyponyms of the same superordinate term are co-hyponyms, e.g. flute, clarinet , trumpet. A term which is a hyponym of itself, in that the same lexical item can operate at both superordinate and subordinate levels , is an auto- hyponym: for example, cow contrasts with horse , at once level, but at a lower level it contrasts with bull (in effect, 'a cow is a kind of cow').(Crystal,2008:233).

Cruse (2004:162) adds that Co-hyponyms are often but not always related to one another by the relation of incompatibility. For example ,"apple", 'peach' and 'plum' are co-hyponyms of fruit. However, an apple is not a peach, which is also not a plum. Thus , they are incompatible. Nevertheless, co-hyponyms are not necessarily incompatible in all senses. A 'queen' and 'mother' are both hyponyms of woman but there is nothing preventing the queen from being a mother.

3.5 Metonymy

Yule (2010:121) states that metonymy is a word that is used in place of another with which it is closely related. It is often confused with the part of speech synecdoche but Metonymy is the substitution of the name of an attribute or adjunct for that the thing meant. Examples of meaning are using the word "crown" in place of royal person, "the white house" in place of the president or other who work there, "the suits" in place of business people.

Crystal (2008:303) defines Metonymy as " a term used in semantics and stylistics, referring to figure of speech in which the name of an attribute. For example, the word "the bottle" is used for drinking of alcohol.

3.6 Other Types of Semantic Relations

Polysemy is defined as two or more words with the same form and related meaning. It is one form having multiple meaning that is related by extension. For example, the word "head" is used to refer to the object on top of a body, one top of a glass of beer, person at the top of company and many things. Another example is foot (of person, bed, of mountain) (Yule, 2010:120).

Collocation is another type of lexical relations which seems to organize the knowledge of words on the bases of the words that co-occur with other. It is the relationship between words

that frequently occur together as in "fast food", " a quick meal" , "salt and pepper" and " vice-versa" (ibid:121-122).

Homophones is also another type of semantic relations that two or more words having the same pronunciation but different meaning , origin and spelling as in the words "new" and "knew" or "to", "two" and "too"(ibid).

4. THE INVESTIGATION of SEMANTIC RELATIONS in POE'S <u>THE BLACK CAT.</u>

Edgar Allan Poe's short story is <u>The Black Cat".</u> This story is based on the idea of murdering and violence toward animals and human beings. The sentences are chosen from the text chronologically.

Extract No.1

There was nothing left of the building the next morning. All the walls fell down during the night, except one - a wall in the middle of the house. I realized why this wall did not burn: because there was new plaster on it. The plaster was still quite wet.

(Morning and night are co-hyponym of time or day, while the word "except" is regarded as a kind of grammatical homonym with "accept."

Extract No.2

One night, as I sat in a dark and dirty drinking-house, I noticed a black object on top of a cupboard, near some bottles of wine. I was surprised when I saw it. 'I looked at those bottles a few minutes ago,' I thought, and I am sure that object was not there before. (The Black Cat).

The word "object" carries more than one meaning, so it is a homonymy, either syntactic meaning or general meaning which means "thing".

Extract No.3

I got up, and went to see what it was. I put my hand up, touched it, and found that it was a black cat - a very large one, as large as Pluto. He looked like Pluto too - in every way but one: Pluto did not have a white hair anywhere on his body; this cat had a large white shape on his front.

More than body parts are used above, the words "front, hair are subordinate of the major part "Body", the word "body" would rarely mean a friend" or "mate" in English slang with the word "buddy".

Extract No.4

But the more I hated the cat, the more he seemed to love me. He followed me everywhere, getting under <u>my feet</u> all the time. When I sat down, he always sat under my chair. Often he tried to jump up on <u>my knees</u>, I wanted to murder him when he did this, but I did not. I stopped myself because I remembered Pluto, but also because I was afraid of the animal.

In these lines, a sematic relation of hyponymy is exposed by the use of the words "feet" and "knees" which are co-hyponyms of the "body."

Extract No.5

I waited all <u>evening</u>, but I did not see the evil animal. He did not come back during the night either. And so, for the first time in a long time, I slept well. When I woke up the <u>next morning</u>, I was surprised to see that the cat still was not there. Two, <u>three days</u> passed.

The word "Cat" is a sub-ordinate of "animal", whereas other words occurred in the above text like ('evening' and 'morning') are co-hyponyms of the sub-ordinate word "day".

Extract No.6

There was nothing left of the building the next morning. All the walls fell down during the night, except one - a wall in the middle of the house. I realized why this wall did not burn: because there was new plaster on it. The plaster was still quite wet.

Antonyms are (morning and night).

Extract No.7

I got up, and went to see what it was. I put my hand up, touched it, and found that it was a black cat - a very large one, as large as Pluto. He looked like Pluto too - in every way but one: Pluto did not have a <u>white hair anywhere</u> on his body; this cat had a large white shape <u>on his front.</u>

Synonyms are (look and see).

Metonymy (Pluto= Referring to the cat) for the speaker Pluto refers to a typical cat that he has in his mind.

Antonyms are (black and white).

Extract No.8

But the more I hated the cat, the more he seemed to love me. He followed me everywhere, getting under my feet all the time. When I sat down, he always sat under my chair. Often he tried to jump up on my knees. I wanted to murder him when he did this, but I did not. I stopped myself because I remembered Pluto, but also because I was afraid of the animal.

Antonyms are (Hate and Love).

Near-synonyms are (follow and get).

Extract No.9

I waited all evening, but I did not see the evil animal. He did not come back during the night either. And so, for the first time in a long time, I slept well. When I woke up the next morning,

I was surprised to see that the cat still was not there. Two, three days passed.

Antonyms are (slept and woke up).

4.1 Semantic Relations in Waiting for Godot

Extract No.1

"The tears of the world are a constant quantity. For each one who begins to weep somewhere else another stops. The same is true of the laugh."

The above speech contains a relation of synonyms in which two general words are used under the subordinate of sadness. The two words are "tears" and "weep". And other relation is between "begin" and "stop".

Extract No.2

VLADIMIR: There's man all over for you, blaming on his boots the faults of his feet.

In this sentence, Valdimir uses a metonymic expression that is occurred with that man "and" feet".

Extract No.3

POZZO: He's stopped crying. (To Estragon) You have replaced him as it were. (Lyrically) The tears of the world are a constant quantity. For each one who begins to weep, somewhere else another stops. The same is true of the laugh. (He laughs.) Let us not then speak ill of our generation, it is not any unhappier than its predecessors. (Pause) Let us not speak well of it either. (Pause) Let us not speak of it at all. (Pause Judiciously.) It is true the population has increased.

The words "tears, crying, and weep, laugh, unhappy" are all used to refer to a relation of metonymy in which they are all included under the category of "sadness".

Conclusion

This paper presents the semantic or lexical relations theoretically by explaining what each one means provide by simple examples to show how they are used. Each of these lexical units has an underlying structure that descents the relationship that senses with in a lexical relation set have with each other.it is very important to distinguish between then because they are somehow confusing if not studied well so they belong to the branch of semantics that deals with the word meaning . words are not only treated as contains of meaning or as fulfilling roles in events, but they also have close relationship with each other. These relationship among the words whether they are relate, unrelated or completely different are shown and explained.

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