

Revision: Introduction to Linguistics II

A. Semantic/thematic roles

Identify the semantic roles played by each of the underlined noun phrases in the following sentences. Also identify the word(s) that assign this role:

- (a) The man heard a strange noise in the kitchen.
- (b) My sister found her lost key under the sofa.
- (c) His doctor received an award from the Institute.
- (d) She was offered her current job by one of her friends.
- (e) Mother shouted very loud.

B. Semantic relations: homonymy, homophony, hyponymy, synonymy, antonymy

Identify the semantic relation between the members of the following pairs. Specify the particular type of antonymy involved and the level of categorisation in cases of (co)hyponymy.

- (a) mistaken – wrong
- (b) walk – crawl
- (c) lighten – darken
- (d) dress – undress
- (e) rose (flower) – rose (past tense of rise)
- (f) flower – vegetable
- (g) abundant – scarce
- (h) begin – start
- (i) present – absent

C. Meaning extension mechanisms: metonymy and metaphor

Determine whether the following are cases of homonymy or polysemy (from: http://www.benjamins.com/jbp/series/Z/156/workbook/exercise_6.2.html)

- (a) fine:
'superior in quality'
'a sum of money paid as a penalty'
- (b) bank:
'an incline of land adjoining a river'
'a financial institution'
- (c) school:
'an institution for instruction'
'a large group of fish'
- (d) leech: '
a bloodsucking worm'
'a hanger-on, a sycophant'
- (e) horn:
'a structure projecting from the head of an animal'
'a musical instrument'
- (f) spell: '
'to name or write the order of the letters in a word'
'a period of time'

D. Deixis

Identify all deictic expressions in the following passage and classify them according to type:

She was supposed to be home by eight yesterday. I had already told her that I'd be late for dinner. But it's ten o'clock and she's still not here. We're flying for Berlin tomorrow and we should be getting ready for our presentation. The arrival is at 12 in the evening and it'll be too late to do it then.

E. Presupposition

Say what is presupposed by each of the following sentences and identify the presupposition trigger(s).

- (a) It's really sad that she is leaving.
- (b) Jane is cleverer than Martha.
- (c) I stopped playing the trumpet after I had the accident.
- (d) She intended to leave her job by autumn.
- (e) When did Mary go back to university?

F. Speech acts

Identify type of speech act performed by each of the following utterances and say whether it is performed directly or indirectly.

- (a) I shouldn't have said that, I'm sorry!
- (b) Eating so much will eventually kill you.
- (c) You're making a lot of noise.
- (d) I implore you to save my child.
- (e) What a lovely flat!

G. Theory of implicatures

Find and discuss the conversational implicature involved in each of the following exchanges. Specify also which maxim(s) is/are flouted in each case.

- (a) A: The river Nile is in South America, isn't it?
B: Sure, and Rio de Janeiro is a kilometer from the Egyptian Pyramids.
- (b) A: Have you found any work?
B: Is supper ready?
- (c) A: Did you manage to see Mary and phone John?
B: I saw Mary.
- (d) A: How did the exam go?
B: At least we could go after 15 minutes.
- (e) A: I think the best solution now is a war.
B: Sure, but war is war.

H. Politeness theory

Decide whether the speaker is appealing to the addressee's positive or negative face and determine which politeness strategy is employed in each utterance:

- (a) You must be very tired. You've been up since 6 in the morning. Why not sit down for a cup of coffee?
- (b) So, when are you coming to see us mate?
- (c) You don't have a stapler, do you by any chance?

- (d) That was the best supper in months.
- (e) I'm sure you must be very busy, but could I ask you a quick question?

I. Cohesion

Identify referring expressions in the following utterances. Specify which ones are cataphoric and which anaphoric and for the latter category specify antecedents. Identify instances of co-reference, lexical repetition, inference, and ellipsis.

- (a) This house is comfortable. The rooms are spacious.
- (b) She came out to see me but when she saw me Jane started to cry.
- (c) John is a good man, but sometimes he can be quite boring.
- (d) She took a short nap and then went out to the park to read on her favourite bench.
- (e) She climbed up, opened the door of the attic and then the woman looked out of the window.

J. Coherence

Identify the coherence relations in the examples below and specify the connectives, if applicable:

- (a) She was very young; therefore, she couldn't live on her own.
- (b) You must paint the house and then clean it.
- (c) Although I had studied hard, I didn't manage to answer any of the questions.
- (d) If you need to leave early, let me know.
- (e) She missed the appointment even though she had woken up early.