



## SEMANTIC FIELD OF WORDS IN LINGUISTICS ARTICLE

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**ABSTRACT:** - In today's world as everything is changing, the science of language that is to say linguistics is also getting developed. However, the main core of linguistics or any branch of this science can not survive without "word". The term "word" means a lot to every field of linguistics, for this reason any linguistic subject is aimed at studying one of the features of words or combination of words. Thus, in this article, we provide information about semantics to be more clear, the semantic field of words.

**KEYWORDS:** Meaning, semantics, symbol, lexeme, language.

### INTRODUCTION

"Semantics is the study of meanings. The term is derived from Greek *semanen* (to signify or mean). It concerned with the relation between words or other symbols and objects or concepts to which they refer. As an empirical study of word meaning in existing language, semantics is a branch of linguistics"<sup>1</sup>.

For the beginning of our article, we would like to define what is semantics it self. a great number scholars have done their research works on this field, yet there are a lot to do. Semantics studies the meanings of the words. It is obvious that meaning plays a very important role in any situation of speech acts. Without meaning, all the utterances of a language are useless or without meaning there will be no language, or if a language is not intended to communicate meaning, there will be no interaction of thought as we do in

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<sup>1</sup> american encyclopedia

daily life. Meaning is concerned with the relation between words and objects to which they refer, this statement leads us to presuppose that: Meaning is the relation between words and objects to which they refer.

Semantics is one of the richest and most fascinating parts of linguistics. Among the kinds of questions semanticists ask are the following:

- What are meanings — definitions? ideas in our heads? sets of objects in the world?
- Can all meanings be precisely defined?
- What explains relations between meanings, like synonymy, antonymy (oppositeness), and so on?
- How do the meanings of words combine to create the meanings of sentences?

The theory of semantic fields assumes that the lexemes that are semantically related, whether paradigmatically or syntagmatically, within a given language system belong to the same semantic field. A semantic field is therefore a paradigmatically and syntagmatically structured subset of the lexicon. The lexical items of language can be classified into sets which are related semantically and divide up the semantic field in various ways<sup>2</sup>.

In English includes such lexemes as: “sell”. “buy”, “trade”, “exchange”, ‘give’, ‘receive’. - ‘lend’, ‘borrow’, ‘inherit’, ‘lease’, ‘hire’ and ‘rent’. In English, the lexemes that denote colour fall under the general term “Colour” and include: “red”, “blue”, “green”, “white”, “scarlet” and dozens of others. Thus the object of the analysis of semantic fields is to collect all the lexical items that belong to a

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<sup>2</sup> Katz, j.j. and Postal, p.m. an integrated theory of linguistic descriptions, cambridge, mass.: m.i.t. press. (1964.),

particular field and show the relationship of each of them to one another and to the general term. Although there are certain lexical gaps and some disagreements and indecisions among the native speakers in deciding whether two lexemes overlap in meaning or contrast, these are of a very limited type and do not invalidate the theory. Looking closely at semantic fields, it is possible to describe the gaps and overlaps<sup>3</sup>.

The development of semantic field theory stems from the writings of German and Swiss linguists in the first half of the twentieth century, notably: Ipsen (1924); Trier (1934); Jolls (1934) and Porzig (1934). Those and other scholars were writing about the regularities of the semantic links between linguistic units and the systematic nature of the lexicon. The origins of the theory, however, can be traced back at least to the middle of the nineteenth century and to the ideas of Humboldt (1836) and Saussure (1916). Among German linguists Trier was the most important and Influential and his version of field theory "opened a new phase in the history of semantics" . Despite some criticisms that are sometimes directed against it. <sup>4</sup> In a number of works he not only developed new principles for the systematic analysis of the lexicon, but he applied them to an extensive amount of factual material.

Trier expressly acknowledged his espousal of the Humboldtian conception of language as a determinant of its speakers' world view and as an organic totality wherein all parts are conceptually related to one another. He also associated himself with the modern expression of the idea of inner structure in

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<sup>3</sup> LEHRER, A. (1969), 'Semantic Quisinel, Journal of Linguistics, Vol. 5, pp. 39- 5

<sup>4</sup> Humboldt, w.v. (1836), über die verschiedenheit des menschlichen sprachbaues. Berlin

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language as formulated by Saussure. Following his teachers, Humboldt and Saussure, Triier begins with the notion of the synchronic state of the language as a closed, stable system, defining the substance of all its components: "In the system all the parts receive their meanings only from the whole. That means that a word, lexeme, in any language is not an isolated carrier of meaning; on the contrary, each has a meaning only because there are others adjacent to it"<sup>5</sup>.

Thus, a lexeme alone has no meaning but acquires one only through the opposition it has with neighbouring lexemes in the pattern. For example the lexeme *weisel* ("wise") would mean something entirely different in modern German if "*klug*" ("intelligent"), "*gescheit*" ("sensible"), "*gerissen*" ("sly"), "*schlaul*" ("cunning"), "*gewitzigt*" ("shrewd") and many others did not stand next to it. Similarly, in the grading of examination results as "excellent", "good", "fair", "poor", "very poor", the lexeme 'poor' acquires meaning only when one knows that the scale of grading consists of five degrees and that 'poor' lies in the lower half between "fair" and "very poor".

To conclude, semantics is one of the important field of linguistics. Semantic analysis have a lot to do in Linguistics and at the same time with Lexico-didactics.

For this reason, we hope our research work will be a great help to future researchers.

## REFERENCES

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<sup>5</sup> TRIER, J. (1934), 'Das Sprachliche Feld. Eine Auseinandersetzung' - *Neue JahrbUcher fur Wissenschaft und Jungenbildun g*, Vol. 10, pp. 428-49.

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- Other resources :
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