

## **Important change!**

Session with librarian is moved to **Monday, Feb. 4** and will take place in **THIS** room, **430 Simard**.

Come with questions and possibly with some concepts you might want to include in your search.

1. Give an example of two words that map to the same concept!
2. Give an example of a concept whose meaning can be given by using the necessary and sufficient criteria.
3. What are the problems with this approach?  
2 problems
4. Given an example of a concept whose meaning can be given by using the prototype theory?
5. Why do compounds pose a problem to the prototype approach?

6. What are the two aspects of linguistic signs?

7. What is the name of the more general field studying signs?

8. Which part of the sign relates to meaning?

9. Why is it not a good idea to use definitions in order to define the meaning of words?

10. Consider the following sentences:

A. Socrates is Socrates.

B. Socrates is a Greek philosopher.

Why is A less informative than sentence B.

What is Frege's account of the difference in meaning between the sentences above?

11. Consider the following sentences:

A. Everybody loves a woman.

B. A woman is loved by everybody.

How many:

utterances? \_\_\_\_\_

Sentences? \_\_\_\_\_

Propositions? \_\_\_\_\_

12. The proper name 'John' is defined:

As \_\_\_\_\_ in Russell's account

13. Language and thought:

Is language richer than thought or viceversa?

Use at least two arguments to support your answer

14. A woman arrived.

Choose the right answer from the alternatives given below:

A. Specific indefinite

B. Definite specific

C. Non-specific indefinite.

15. Everybody loves *a woman*.

- A. Specific indefinite.
- B. Non-specific indefinite
- C. Both (ambiguous)

16. The meaning of idioms is derived:

- A. compositionally, as in sentences.
- B. Non-compositionally, as in words.

## Lexical relations

### Homonyms

Same phonological word, unrelated meaning/  
concept

'pear' and 'pair' ?

<http://www.m-w.com/dictionary/htm>

## Lexical relations

Polysemy of words(one word maps to several concepts)

Words with related meanings.

Example :plant<sub>1,2,3</sub> (in the dictionary they are listed with different indices)

Compare: for homonyms meaning is unrelated and they are listed as separate entries.

Facets of meaning: 'book' as a physical object and as text.

## Lexical relations

Synonymy

Words which map the same concept.

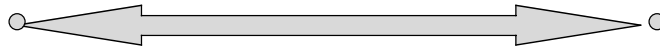
Is it possible to have exact synonyms?

**Registers (styles of language)**

**Example: Wife**  
**Spouse**

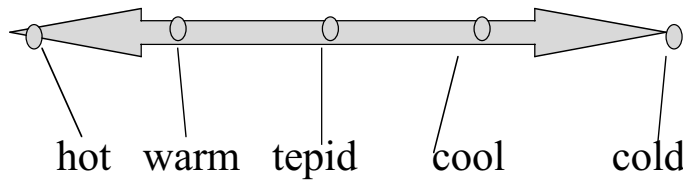
## Lexical relations

Antonymy: incompatible concepts on two opposite sides of a scale.

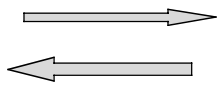


1. Binary pairs: pass/fail; dead/alive  
(the scale contains only two members)

2. Gradable antonyms:  
(the scale contains more than one member)



**Reverses:** scale involving opposite movements or reversible processes



Right-left; up/down,  
ascend/ descend

Inflate/diflate (reversible  
process)

**Converses:**

Scale involving opposite points of view

Example: own/belong; lend/borrow;  
employer/employee; up/down

### **What are taxonomies?**

Horizontal sisterhood relation scale of terms, usually open lists (but the days of the week are an example of a closed list):

Names of animals: dogs, cats, cows...

Names of colors: red, blue, purple...

Names of word processors : MS Word, WordPerfect...

Why do we say that they have *incompatible meaning*,  
If we have a dog, it cannot be a cat. If we have MS  
Word, it cannot be at the same time WordPerfect!

The meaning of one, excludes the meaning of the  
other one because they are members of the same scale.

Compare: gradable scales (same meaning effects)

\*It is warm but it is tepid.

\*It is a dog and it is also a cat.

?This dog is (in fact) a cat: informative/ not odd only if  
the referent is changing, e.g. the other member of the  
scale is chosen.

Other taxonimies:

Old-young pairs:

Dog/ puppy

Cat/ kitten

Male/female:

(notice that the general name can vary and be  
either the male or the female name)

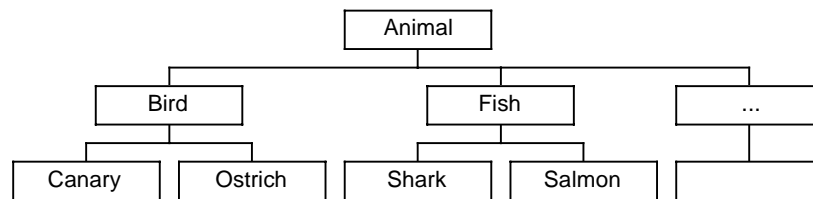
Bull/cow

Hog/sow

Drake/duck

Dog/bitch

## Conceptual networks, hierarchies and hyponymy



### Conceptual hierarchies

Collins and Quillian 1969.

Concepts are represented by nodes in a network. A subordinate link inherits all the attributes from a super ordinate node. (therefore entailment is possible!)

This is the model used in psychological literature

**Hyponyms and hypernyms:  
words lower/higher in the hierarchy**

Dog and cat are hyponyms of animal.

Animal is a hypernym of dog.

**Meronyms: hyponyms which express  
a part-whole relationship**

Engine is meronym of car.

Door is a meronym of house etc.

Difference from pure hyponyms: transitivity

**Other relations**

Member-collection

Sheep-flock

Portion-mass

Strand/hair

lump/coal

## Derivative words and grammatical relations

**Semantic relations are not preserved across grammatical categories!**

**State:**open (adj)

**Change of state (inchoative) :**open (intr.verb)

In some languages (Romance, Slavic)  
marked with 'se'. Patient of the action.

**Causative:**open (transitive verb)

**Resultative:** opened (past participle)

**State:**hot (adj)

**Change of state (inchoative) :**heat (intr.verb)

In some languages (Romance, Slavic)  
marked with 'se'. Only patient.

**Causative:**heat (transitive verb)

**Resultative:** heated (past participle)

**State:**dead (adj)

**Change of state (reflexive) :**kill oneself (intr.verb)

In Romance and Slavic marked with 'se'. Both  
patient and agent.

**Causative:**kill, deaden (transitive verb)

**Resultative:** killed (past participle)