

## Concepts and words

- 1, One concept corresponding to more than one word
  1. My bank manager has just been murdered.
  2. My bank manager is dead.
  3. My bank will be getting a new manager

## Entailment

- 1 entails 2, e.g. 2 follows automatically from 1 so that #2 is necessarily true.
- In this case, this is because both words map to the concept of 'die'. They differ in some stylistic implications which modify further the concept.
- Sentence 3 can be true pragmatically (in a certain context) but does not automatically follow from either 1 or 2. Therefore it is NOT entailed.

## Entailment

1. This is a dog.
  2. It is an animal.-entailment.
  3. This is an animal.
  4. It is a dog.-not an entailment
- There are other cases of entailment not necessarily involving the same concept. In the sentences above, sentence #2 is also necessarily true (it is entailed and follows from #1 ) but #4 does not follow from # 3. In the first case, 'dog' includes the meaning of 'animal', while in the second case, if something is an animal it is not necessarily a dog.

## Words and concepts

Words corresponding to two or more concepts?

See also examples in textbook!

foot 1: part of the leg below the ankle

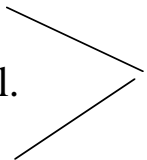
foot 2:base or bottom of something

foot 3: unit of length

bank 1: financial institution

bank 2: area adjacent to a river

## Words and semantic words (lexemes)

- James is walking.
  - James walked to school.
  - James likes walking.
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- One semantic word/lexeme for 'walk'

Lexeme:

- the smallest meaningful unit
- Usually a word (difficult to define it: see textbook)
- Part of a word (in compounds etc)

## Necessary and Sufficient Conditions (cont)

Mother

- [Female]
- [Parent]

Father

- [Male]
- [Parent]

### ‘Bachelor’

- Adult
- human
- Male
- not married.
- has reached legal age of marriage

### game

- [has winners and losers]
- [involves players]
- [has rules]
- [played for enjoyment]
- [competitive]?

## Prototypes (cont)

- Is word meaning stored in the mind as a prototype?
- How are prototypes acquired? Experience, cultural life?

## vegetable

- Carrot!
- Typical examples are considered prototypes. It is easier to memorize a word if the prototype is used.

## Different types of concepts

Basic-level concepts:

- more frequent
- not abstract
- specific interaction can be visualized

Examples:

Animal, vegetable, human : not a basic level,  
more abstract.

Horse, dog, cat, man, carrot: basic level

## Compounds

- ‘Canadian winter’ -compound (consists of two words)

Are compounds stored as a separate concept?

If we use *prototype theory* we might have to say that.

If we use *features/necessary conditions*, we might say that compound meaning is derived from the meaning of ‘Canadian’ and ‘winter’.