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## The Importance of Semiotics and Polysemy in Linguistics

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**Abstract:** The article analyzes the lexical meanings, semantic structure, and polysemy of words in semantics and English words, which are the fields of linguistics.

**Keywords:** linguistics, linguistic units, semiotics, lexical unit, semantic meaning, polysemy.

At a time when cultural, political, economic and social ties between nations and states are growing, the need to learn English is also increasing. In this sense, there is a need to study language units - semas, which are a specific aspect of language. The branch of linguistics that studies the meaning of linguistic units is called semiotics. The term is derived from the Greek words "sēmasiā" (meaning) and "logos" (knowledge).

Linguist I.V. Arnold gives the following definition of the lexical meaning of a word: "The lexical meaning of a word is ... the realization of concepts, feelings, or relationships through the language system" [1, 151].

Linguist A.I. Smirnitsky defines meaning as "the mental reflection of an object, event, or relationship in a particular way (or a mental structure made up of individual elements of reality, alternating in character), which is part of the word as its inner side, and the sound of the word acts as a material shell; it is necessary not only for the expression of meaning and its transmission to other people, but also for its

emergence, formation, existence and development" [2].

The semantic structure of English is a complex system. There are four main aspects to it:

1. Each word combines lexical and grammatical meanings, e.g. to go – verb of motion. Grammatical meaning is the meaning of a part of speech to which a word belongs.
2. A word usually does not only mean an object, its semantic structure also includes a system of associations. With its help, the speaker expresses his attitude to something, event and process. The meaning of a word includes a denotative component, which is called an object, a concept (referent). The connotative component includes components of emotional, evaluative, expressive, and stylistic meaning.
3. The denotative meaning of a word is divided into semantic parts or components, which are called semantics.
4. A word is polysemantic, i.e. it can have several lexical-semantic variants and meanings in its semantic structure. All lexical-semantic variants (LSV) words are related to each other by a common sema and form the semantic structure of the word.

For example, to manage – 1. to succeed in doing something difficult; 2. To succeed in dealing with problems, living in a difficult situation etc.; 3. To succeed in buying things you need to live even though you do not have very much money; 4. to be



able to do something or carry something without help; 5. to do something that causes problems; 6. to direct or control a business and the people who work in it, to be the manager of; 7. to use your time or money effectively; 8. to succeed in keeping something neat and tidy; 9. to control the behavior of a person or animal; 10. to be able to do something because you are strong enough or healthy enough; 11. to be able to eat and drink something; 12. to make yourself say or do something when you do not really want to; 13. to have time for (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, Longman Dictionaries, 1995.).

The common sema that unites all these meanings is the sema of "success."

The term "concept" came into linguistics from logic and psychology. It means that objects and events are reflected in the consciousness of the most important feature and relationship. Each concept has its own boundaries and meaning. The boundaries of the concept are defined by all the objects of the real reality to which it belongs. The content of a concept includes all the features that distinguish it from other concepts. Lexical meaning and logical understanding cannot be equated.

The relationship between concept and meaning can change. Concepts are always emotionally neutral because they fall into the category of consciousness. Because language reflects all possible aspects of human consciousness in language, the meanings of many words reflect not only the objective reality itself, but also the connotations that reflect the state of the speaker and his attitude to what he is saying. The content of the emotional component of the concept may vary. Emotionally colored words represent a whole spectrum of positive and negative emotions: amazement, respect, gentleness, hatred, sarcasm, anger, and so on.

By defining, in general, the differences between concept and meaning, the lexical meaning of a word can be defined as the realization of a concept, emotion, or object using a specific language system

that is influenced by the grammatical and lexical features of the language. Words that name a concept can have an emotional or stylistic color. The specific features that distinguish lexical meaning from understanding depend on the linguistic nature of the word. Expression of meaning is one of the functions of a word, which is not its only function, because there are also words that do not name any concept. The development of lexical meaning is influenced by the whole complex system of connections and relationships between words within the structure and content of the dictionary, as well as other aspects of language.

Polysemy or polysemy is a common phenomenon in language. The ambiguity of words arises because language is a limited system compared to the infinite variety of real reality. In our minds, the phenomena of reality and concepts are more than the number of separate independent language units to reflect them through language. Russian linguist V.V. Vinogradov writes: "No language has the ability to express any definite idea with an independent word and root element. The specificity of the experience is limitless, and the resources of the richest language are strictly limited. Language is forced to propagate an innumerable number of meanings, it applies explicit or semi-explicit ideas on certain headings of one or another of the basic concepts, which act as intermediary functional connections" [3].

Consider a word belonging to the polysemantic network horse category. In the semantic structure of this word, the formation of a portable meaning is observed. It is a separate unit and belongs to the field of business communication and is formed as a result of the process of semantic derivation formed from the unit. This unit is stylistically neutral or used in another area; for example, in the field of engineering. The English network horse series has several LSVs: network 1. a complex system of roads etc. crossing each other. 2. a closely linked group of people, companies. 3. a group of broadcasting stations that link up to broadcast the same programmes at the same time. 4. a system of computers linked together.

(Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Oxford University Press, 1999, p. 780)

In terms of nomination, the denotation I involves a cross-linked system of complex inanimate objects that are interconnected to perform an operation. As a secondary nomination object, denotata II also participates as a complex and interconnected system, but it only participates as companies or affiliates, as well as organized company divisions to perform joint actions or operations in a single network.

At the same time, there is a shift in meaning on the basis of "interdependence, the joint performance of any action" that is common to both denotations. When analyzing the semantic structure of a word, M.N. It would be correct to use the division of semantic components proposed by Lapshina into groups of semantics (archisemes), semantics by type and potential semantics by type [4].

The lexical unit network performs the function of updating the concept of "business environment" because the semaphore "connection, crossing" implies finding different interconnected objects in space. It should be noted that this semaphore is invariant for all LSVs included in the semantic structure of a given word.

It is well known that the development of lexical semantics occurs due to the influence of two forces. These forces are knowledge about the ever-expanding world and the laws of knowing the world, reflect the cumulative and epistemological functions of language, and are the result of dynamic processes of assimilation and change of knowledge. As for the lexical unit of the network, in the process of development of meaning it is associated with the emergence of new objects of surrounding reality and has certain characteristics. That is, it is related to the spatial distance of objects and their interaction. This knowledge is manifested in the semantic structure of the existing unit.

It should also be noted that in this case, in the development of a new LSV there is a process of "inheritance" in the semantic structure of the

polysemant, i.e. a certain amount of conceptual information is transmitted, this information becomes the new LSV of the polysemantic word in the initial sense (connection, crossing). Due to the presence of different LSVs in its semantic structure, the word network can be polysemantic and used in a variety of syntagmatic environments.

For example, a rail/road/canal network; a network of underground cables/pipes; a communications/transportation/distribution network set up a network of financial advice centres (business style) the three big US television networks a local area network (computing) (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, p. 780).

In short, the problem of word polysemy has always attracted the attention of researchers because the processes of development of new meanings in words have occurred, are occurring, and will continue to occur due to changes in the realities around us. For the same reason, there will continue to be an interest in the study of various aspects of semiotics and polysemy in the future.

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