

ING218  
Lecture 5  
Lexical Relations

Siti Mahripah, M.App.Ling

Today, our discussion will cover topics on:

1. Lexical field
2. Kinship
3. Hyponymy
4. Synonymy
5. Antonymy
6. Binary and non-binary antonyms
7. A comparison of four relations
8. Converse antonyms
9. Symmetry and reciprocity
10. Expressions of quantity

Two approaches to the description of lexical relations:

- ❑ Semantic field theory
- ❑ Truth conditional semantics

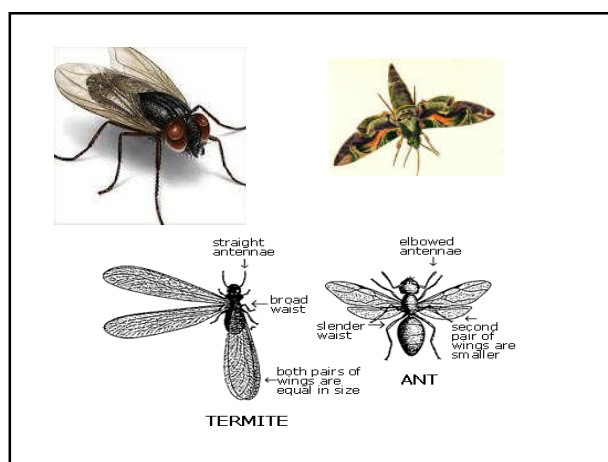
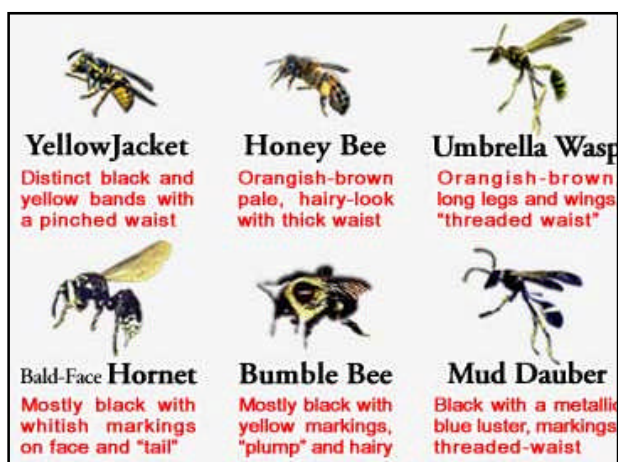
Field theory

It is an attempt to classify lexemes according to shared and differentiating features.

Examples:

*Wasp, hornet, bee* → flying, stinging insects  
*Moth, housefly* → insects that fly but do not sting

*Ant, termite* → insects neither fly nor sting



### Truth conditional semantics

It studies lexical relations by comparing predications that can be made about the same referring expression. Its task is to account for the meaning relations between different expressions in a language.

Three such relations are **entailment**, **paraphrase**, and **contradiction**.

### Componential analysis

A way to determine semantic features using square brackets as to indicate members of a certain set from one another.

Example:

[male/female]

[adult/child]

### Advantage of componential analysis

➤ It reflects the system through which lexemes have their respective senses. To tell what something is requires us to tell what it is not, what it contrasts with and what features make the contrast possible.

### Possible disadvantage of componential analysis

➤ We may find ourselves unduly concerned with classification of the phenomena represented in language, forgetting that our concern is language itself.

## Kinship

Kinship is universal since all humans are related to other humans through blood ties and through marriage.

A relationship is a kind of predicate.

## Kinship

Sentences such as *Harold is Alice's father*, and *Rose is Jerry's sister* have a propositional content that we represent this way.

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Predicate</i>	<i>Associate</i>
Harold	father of	Alice
Rose	sister of	Jerry

## Hyponym

A kind of relation which exists when a word have a referent in which it is included in the referent of a more general word, called **superordinate**.

Example:

Rose is a hyponym of flower, and flower is a superordinate of rose

### Co-Hyponym

Two or more lexemes that have the same superordinate.

Example:

Rose, jasmine, and lavender are **co-hyponyms** of the same **superordinate**, flower.

### Synonym

A word that is equivalent in sense to another word (in a particular context or contexts); *select* is a synonym of *choose* in "Will you help me choose a new suit?" (but not in "I don't choose to wait.").

### Antonym

A word that is opposite in meaning to another word

Example:

*good* and *bad*

Antonym

#### Binary antonym

No middle ground

Examples:

Open/shut; Dead/alive

#### Non-Binary antonym

Having various intermediate terms

Examples:

Young/old, wide/narrow

### Symmetry and reciprocity

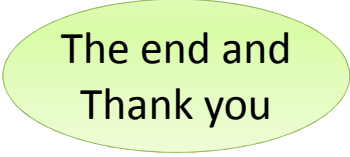
To generalize, if  $X$  is a symmetrical predicate, the relationship  $a X b$  can also be expressed as  $b X a$  and as  $a$  and  $b X$  (*each other*). Here 'a' and 'b' interchange the roles of Theme and Associate. The features [sibling] and [spouse] are each symmetrical ( $C$  sibling-of  $D \rightarrow D$  sibling-of  $C$ ;  $E$  spouse-of  $F \rightarrow F$  spouse-of  $E$ ).

If  $X$  is a reciprocal predicate, the relationship  $a X b$  does not entail  $b X a$  but  $a$  and  $b X$  does entail  $a X b$  and  $b X a$  (leaving aside the possible ambiguity).

Consider the following sentences:

- 35b The truck and the bus collided.
- 36b Tom and Ann agreed.
- 37b Prescott and Dudley correspond.
- 38b The market research department and the sales department communicate.

More detail examples, please go and read your **reference book**.



The end and  
Thank you