

SEMANTICS

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1. The study of meaning

1.1 The systematic study of meaning

1.2 The nature of language

1.3 Language and the individual

1.4 Demonstrating semantic knowledge

The systematic study of meaning

- Three disciplines are concerned with the systematic study of 'meaning' in itself: psychology, philosophy and linguistics.
- Linguists want to understand how language works. Just what common knowledge do two people possess when they share a language— that makes it possible for them to give and get information, to express their feelings and their intentions to one another, and to be understood with a fair degree of success?
- Linguistics is concerned with identifying the meaningful elements of specific languages. Linguistics also deals with the meanings expressed by modulations of a speaker's voice and the processes by which hearers and readers relate new information to the information they already have.

- Semantics is the systematic study of meaning, and linguistic semantics is the study of how languages organize and express meanings.

2. The Nature of Language

1. Human language vs animal language
 - a. Animals can communicate in response to some particular stimulus while humans language is stimulus-free.
 - b. Animals have only a fixed repertoire of messages, while human language is creative.
2. Language and individuals
3. Semantic Knowledge (p. 9-12)

- Semantic knowledge:
 - a. Can make their thoughts and feelings and intentions known to other speakers
 - b. Can understand what others say

Ten aspects of any speaker's semantic knowledge.