

## SEMANTIC ROLES AND RELATIONS OF CONSTITUTIVE WORDS IN COMMUNICATION

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**Abstract:** *it is important to remember that meaning plays a big part in human communication. As a result of this, semantics as a discipline has come under scrutiny. There is still no agreement among linguists on a single, practical definition of semantics. Numerous endless attempts to define semantics have resulted from this dispute. As a backdrop or theoretical framework, this study focuses on the semantic functions of words in a particular setting that supports extensionalist viewpoints. According to the notion, language is made up of words that are used in a certain context to improve communication among people who share the same linguistic boundaries. Given the foregoing, the research primarily examines the functions of words in communication.*

**Key words:** *semantics, linguistics, word, text, prototype, communication, meaning*

### Introduction

There has long been disagreement about the meaning idea in relation to semantics research. It goes without saying that philosophers and modern linguists continue to struggle to agree on the nature of meaning and how it influences human language. According to Lord (1966), meaning is rife with contradiction, ambiguity, and conflict. As a result of the challenge of establishing a single, widely accepted definition, several efforts at redefinition have become possible. Since it would act as a starting point for our investigation, it might not be out of place to provide a brief explanation of what semantics is. Semantics' etymology may be traced back to the ancient Greek word *semantics*, which means "significant" and refers to the linguistic and philosophical study of meaning. It examines the connection between signifiers—such as words, phrases, signs, and symbols—and the meanings they convey. Semantics, to put it simply, is the study of meaning (Agbedo 2015). According to him, it refers to how native or proficient speakers of a particular language utilize and comprehend words and phrases with different grammatical structures. The interpretation of signals used in the environment within a certain circumstance or context is the focus of

semantics in linguistics. The study of the relationships between various language units and compounds, as well as homonymy, synonymy, antonymy, hypernymy, hyponymy, menomyny, metonymy, and homonymy, is another purposeful goal of semantics as a subfield.

### **Main Part**

Both of the aforementioned definitions revolve around meaning. It is abundantly evident that the problem with semantics is not unrelated to meaning. The question of what meaning is therefore crucial. This means that the study's focus is on semantic roles as a foundational element to explain and/or understand words in a communication. Over time, semantic roles have been a contentious topic. Regardless of this claim, the research aims to recognize, repeat, and/or reaffirm the widely held belief that language is functional and that word meaning is contextual.

Every definition is an attempt to fill a gap, making it incomplete. Palmer (1981) defines meaning as the movement of concepts from one person's thinking to another through language. Critics argue that the above is insufficient to sustain the classic conceptualist theory of meaning due to its vagueness and generality. According to Katz (1972), previous attempts to provide immediate responses to meaning have faced obstacles. Furthermore, too many theories confound the idea of meaning, including referential theory, stimulus response theory, and use theory. Each theory associates sentence constituents with observable objects, events, and actions.

Linguists formerly prioritized lexical meaning over sentence structure. According to Bienwisch (1969), the study of 'meaning' examines how words and sentences connect to objects and processes in the world, as well as their relationships to one another through synonyms, entailments, and contradictions.

Obviously, lexeme and sentence provide complimentary functions. A clause or sentence's meaning is determined by its component lexeme and the context in which it appears. According to renowned philosopher Weitingenstien, the meaning of a word or statement is typically associated with its use. Lyons (1969) describes aims rather than definitions. Semantic analysis explains how sentences in a specific language are understood, interpreted, and connected to state, processes, and things in the world.

In education, understanding the meaning of a statement and its relevance to other expressions requires knowledge of lexical components and their interrelationships. Words should not be viewed as 'containers' of meaning (Yule, 1996), but rather as functional components within a sentence's context.

### **Semantic Roles**

A semantic role is an encoder's underlying notion or knowledge that corresponds to the actions that words take in a particular context. Aside from the language encoding of that scenario, it is the actual activity performed by the person in some real or imagined circumstance. It is also known as the underlying connection between a patient and the primary verb in a phrase.

Gawron (2013) defines semantic roles as the roles that individuals play in events and circumstances. Because they are part of language communication, prototypes are used to define them, and labels are approximate representations of their semantic responsibilities.

#### Characteristics of semantic roles

Semantic roles (SR) also thematic roles (TR) attempts to identify the similarities and dissimilarities in verb meaning that are reflected in argument expression with emergent generalizations that will contribute to the mapping from semantics to syntax.

#### Characteristics of SR

1. Completeness; the argument of every verb is designated TR or the other.
2. Uniqueness; designated only on TR.
3. Distinctiveness; every verb is differentiated from the other argument by the role it is assigned.
4. Independence; each role is given a consistent semantic definition that applies to all verbs and all situations [8. 4p]

Scholars have long contested the validity of the semantic function in linguistic theory. The topic is whether semantic roles should be classified as syntactic, lexical, semantic, or conceptual entities, or as a primordial component of language knowledge (1968; 77). Despite current debate, widespread understanding recognizes semantic roles as conceptual aspects (Jac. 1990). The research focuses on the roles of words in context, hence a linguistic theory that explores word meaning is suitable. Lexical semantics is a theory that emphasizes meaning in context.

According to Cruse (1986), the meaning of a word is determined by its contextual relation; hence, a distinction is drawn between degrees of involvement and codes of participation. He emphasizes that in order to achieve this difference, each portion that bears a meaning and integrates it with the meanings of other constituents is labeled as a sentence constituent. Semantic components that cannot be reduced down into simpler constituents are referred to as minimum semantic constituents.

Words and sentences complement each other, therefore they should not be viewed just as reservoirs of meaning, but rather how they interact within a

context. The semantic role refers to a participant's underlying relationship with a word in a sentence.

**Conclusion:** This study demonstrated the relevance of assigning roles to lexemes as a formative aspect in good communication. Effective communication requires understanding both the denotative and connotative meanings of words, as well as the context of the speech. Every lexical word has meaning, but its social application, as determined by its role, can either improve or degrade communication. Communication is meaning-oriented, whether written or spoken. To avoid ambiguity, misunderstanding, or misconception, the semantic responsibilities of words in situations must be carefully explained. Words have several functions in daily encounters, both formal and informal, due to their multifunctionality and polysemous nature. In other words, words can have several meanings.

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