

# SENSE RELATIONS

- SEMANTICS

- science dealing with meanings

- linguistics: roots, affixes, words, phrases, sentences, larger units of discourse

- lexicology: **lexical units**; the meaning of words, their parts and combinations

- lexical unit = not only words but also sub-words/sub-units (affixes, compound words and phrases)

# SYNONYMY

- Words of the same language having the same meaning
- FULL/TOTAL synonyms – rare (*noun = substantive, kind = sort, ...*)
- **Cognitive (descriptive) synonymy**  
every word – its own history, motivation, context  
synonyms = words not absolutely identical but just similar in meaning,  
belonging to the same part of speech and interchangeable in some contexts  
(*quick – fast – rapid, scarcely – hardly, begin – start*)
- **Near-synonyms** – lexemes whose meaning is close or similar  
(*mist/fog, stream/brook, ...*);  
overlapping, but not completely;  
unlike cognitive synonyms, they can contrast in certain contexts  
(*he was killed but not murdered*);
- **Contextual synonyms** – similar in meaning only under some specific conditions, in the context (*I'll go to the shop and **buy/get** some bread.*)

# SYNONYMS

- GROUPPED: (1) hope – (2) expectation – (3) anticipation

(1) synonymic dominant, general, native, neutral

(2) and (3) formal and literary (Romance origin)

- CLOSE RELATION BETWEEN COLLOCATIONS AND SYNONYMS

they differ in collocation (arrangement or joining together)

*to lose hope X ~~to lose expectation/anticipation,~~*

*Jane began/started to cry soon after they had left.*

*I couldn't ~~begin~~ my car; the battery was flat.*

*Before the world ~~started~~, only God existed.*

# SYNONYMS

- EMOTIONAL COLOURING: alone – lonely
- VALENCY: *win (a victory, a war) – gain (a victory, ~~a war~~)*
- STYLE: *begin* (neutral) – *commence* (literary)
- TRIAD: ascending formality from:  
  
(1) native words to (2) the French words and (3) Greek/Latin words  
*to ask – to question – to interrogate, belly – stomach – abdomen*

# SYNONYMS

## DIFFERENT FUNCTIONAL STYLES:

professional/non-professional, e.g. *variola/smallpox*

formal/neutral/informal, e.g. *offspring/children/kids*

formal/informal, e.g. *insane/loony*

informal/technical, e.g. *salt/sodium chloride*

## DIALECT DIFFERENCE:

American/British English, e.g. *autumn/fall*

standard/regional, e.g. *sandwich/butty*

## SLANG:

*money (bread), police (cop), drunk (legless), stupid (nerd), lavatory (loo/john),*

*drugs (grass/vitamin A/snow), racial and national slang*

*(wasps/privileged white American, jungle bunnies/Blacks, slant eyes/Asian, ...)*

## PROFESSIONAL SLANG: (US truckers)

*grandma lane (slow lane), doughnuts (tyres), motion lotion (fuel),*

*five finger discount (stolen goods), eyeballs (headlights, super cola (beer), ...)*

# ANTONYMY

- Lexemes opposite in meaning
- Do not differ in style, emotional colouring or distribution
- Word – different antonyms in different context,  
e.g. single/return ticket, she is single/married
- Classification according to word-derivational structure (based on the form)
  - root (absolute) antonyms
  - derivational antonyms
  - mixed



## COMPLEMENTARY/RELATIONAL ANTONYMS

- complementarity = binary opposition
- two members only
- the denial of one member means the assertion of the other, e.g.  
*not **male** means **female**, not **true** means **false***  
*buy – sell, wife – husband, borrow – lend, absent – present, below – above*
- relationship = reciprocal
- converses → one and the same subject – from different points of view  
e.g. subj. – obj., family – social relations, space – time relations:  
*borrow – lend, husband – wife, before – after*



# DERIVATIONAL ANTONYMS

- affixes X quality in the stem, e.g. happy – unhappy
- negative prefixes: *dis-*, *il-*, *im-*, *in-*, *ir-*, *un-*, *mis-*, *non-*
- suffix:        ***-less*** is contrasting to the suffix ***-ful*** (not the stem!)  
                  *hopeful – hopeless, useful – useless*  
  
                  contrasting to the stems  
                  *hope – hopeless, selfish – unselfish, not selfish – \*~~selfishless~~*

# CONTRONYMS

- words which are their own antonyms

*to dust*      to remove fine particles, e.g. *Dust the cabinets.*  
                  to add fine particles, e.g. *Dust the bread with flour.*

*fast* – rapid/unmoving, e.g. *fast asleep, stuck fast*

*handicap* – advantage (in golf); permanent physical/mental disadvantage

*fix* – restore/castrate (veterinary medicine)

*wind up* – start up (a watch); end something, ...



# POLYSEMY

- *to run* = to go by moving the legs quickly, e.g. *I began to run.*

- other meanings:

The bus *runs* between X and Y.

This shop is *run* by the co-op.

The car *runs* on petrol.

The bank of the river *runs* up steeply.

- basic meaning – the process of thinking – appropriate for its new meaning
- process is not finished, e.g. *\*The Internet runs slowly.*
- connection: old - new meaning

# SPECIALISED meanings

## GENERAL MEANING

*case* = circumstances in which a person or a thing is

## SPECIALISED MEANINGS

LAW terminology:

question decided in a court

MEDICINE t.:

a patient, an illness

GRAMMAR t.:

paradigm

*e.g. There are seven cases in the Czech language.*

# GENERALISATION of the meaning

- *ready* = prepared mentally or physically for some experience or action  
original m.: *to be prepared for a ride*
  
- *fly* = to move in or through the air or space;  
to move, pass or act swiftly  
original m.: *to move in or through the air by means of wings*

# HOMONYMY

- relation among lexemes  
(*liver* = 1<sup>st</sup> *living person*, 2<sup>nd</sup> *the organ that produces bile*)
- two or more words/lexical units/items
- the same form (spelling, pronunciation)
- different meaning
- Etymology
  - divergent development of several meanings (split of polysemy),  
e.g. *flower* X *flour*
  - convergence of sounds (two or three words of different origin coincide in sound)  
e.g. *I* X *eye*
  - borrowing  
e.g. *port*: *porto* – *Portuguese (Oporto)*, *portus* – Latin „*heaven, harbour*“)
  - clipping, e.g. *fan* (OE<L *fann, vannus*; 19th ct. (US) *fanatic*)

# HOMONYMY TYPOLOGY

homonyms proper, homophones, homographs

- HOMONYMS PROPER  
identical in pronunciation and spelling  
e.g. bank, fair, toast, ball, seal
- HOMOPHONES  
identical in pronunciation but different in spelling and meaning  
e.g. *buy – bye, rain – reign, steel – steal*

lexical (*son – sun*), grammatical (*he asked – he was asked*),  
word-class (*to spring – spring, to fall – fall, to earn – urn*)

3 element groups: *write – right – rite; sew – sow – so*

## HOMONYMIC CLASH

basis for jokes, riddles and puns

e.g. *What is ill eagle/illegal /ɪ'li:gl /? The eagle that is ill.*



# HOMONYMY TYPOLOGY

homonyms proper, homophones, homographs

- HOMOGRAPHHS

identical in spelling but different pronunciation and meaning

e.g. 1 bow /baʊ/ to move your head or the top half of your body forwards and downwards as a sign of respect or to say hello or goodbye  
2 bow /bəʊ/ a weapon used for shooting arrows, consisting of a long curved piece of wood or metal with a tight string joining its ends

1 lead /li:d/ to direct or guide

2 lead /led/ a heavy soft metallic chemical element, Pb

to tear/tear, a row/first row, to wind/wind

# HYPONYM & HYPERONYM

- a word with a particular meaning that is included in the meaning of a more general word, for example 'dog' and 'cat' are hyponyms of 'animal'

Hyperonym	Hyponyms
vehicle	van, car, lorry, motorcycle
car	hatchback, saloon, coupé, SUV
season	spring, summer, autumn, winter
walk	stroll, amble, trudge, plod
flower	daffodil, rose, tulip, dandelion

## Other sense relations:

- Parts and wholes: clothing (*zip, button, ...*), food (*leaf, seed, ...*), vehicle (*wheel, brakes, ...*), animal (*feather, tail, ...*), house (*cellar, loft, ...*)
- Series: *numbers, days of the week, months of the year, colours, ...*
- Hierarchies: army (*lieutenant, captain, ...*) church (*priest, bishop, archbishop, cardinal, pope*), measurements (*millimetre, centimetre, decimetre, metre, kilometre*)

# PARONYMS

- false friends
- a cognate word
- a form of surface lexical interference within one language,  
e.g. *invaluable* – neoceniteľný (vysoké hodnoty)

or between different languages,  
e.g. *evidence* – dôkaz, *records* – evidence

# TRANSFER OF MEANING

- similarity in temporal, spatial or other relation,  
e.g. *neck* of the body/of the violin
- METAPHOR
- METONYMY
- SYNECDOCHE

# METAPHOR

- a word or phrase used to describe somebody/something else, in a way that is different from its normal use, in order to show that the two things have the same qualities and to make the description more powerful, e.g. a game of football used as a metaphor for the competitive struggle of life
- external similarity of denotates – shape (*mouth* of a river), colour (*chalk* white), location (*foot* of the mountain), function (the *key* to the mystery), behaviour (*a Don Juan*)
- other types of transfer:
  - concrete** → **abstract**, e.g. *to catch an idea*
  - animate** → **inanimate** objects (animistic metaphor),  
e.g. *wing of an aircraft, eye of a tornado*
  - human** → **non human** objects (humanizing, anthropomorphic)  
e.g. *hands of watch*
  - animal qualities to people (*fox*), animals to plants (*catkins*),  
body parts to things (*eye*), things to the body (*heart chambers, ear drum*)

# METONYMY

- the act of referring to something by the name of something else that is closely connected with it, for example using *the White House for the US president*
- semantic change when an attribute is used for the whole
- closeness, proximity, contiguity
- material for product/article (glass, iron, oil),  
symbol for thing (the crown – monarchy),  
a part for the whole/pars pro toto (word – honor),  
the whole for the part (Czechia won the Cup),  
common names from proper names (voltage, Wellingtons),  
place names for its policy (Kremlin, Langley – CIA, 10 Downing St., the Pentagon),  
goods from the geographical names (bikini, tweed),  
quality to its bearer (green/zeleň),  
contextual metonymy (play Dvořák, read Walter Scott)

# SYNECDOCHE

- a word or phrase in which a part of something is used to represent a whole, or a whole is used to represent a part of something, e.g. *'The Czech Republic lost by two goals'*, Czech Republic is used to represent the Czech team
- *wheels → cars, creatures → cats, 50 head of cattle → 50 cows, the army → a soldier*