Overview of Language Learning in Sense Relation: Sameness

and Oppositeness

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Abstract

This article is about overview of language learning in sense relation. The aim of this article is to know sameness and oppositeness in sense relation of language learning. The method was based on library research. Study about language, so study about the meaning of that language because language is a tool of communication to each other. Semantic is study about the meaning, the meaning of a language could be seen from its relationship between words. The sense of one word is related to another sense. In this case, the result of this research is there are two main groups of sense relations. The first group is the sense relations with regard to the similarity or sameness (synonymy, hyponymy, entailment, paraphrase, metonymy, anaphora, presupposition). The second one is the sense relations of oppositeness (antonymy, anomaly, ambiguity, polysemy, homonymy, contradiction). Those are explained in this article.

Keywords: *sameness, sense relation, oppositeness.*

Introduction

Language is using to communicate to each other and to express the feeling or to give information to the others we must use language. Study about language so study about meaning. In linguistics there are some components need to be known, to study about pronounce, called phonology. Study about arrange the structure of the word and sentence, called morphology and syntax, study about meaning, called semantics.

As we know, semantics is a branch of linguistics that very important learning to study. According to (Saeed 2009) semantic is the study of meaning communicated through language. Lobner (2002) argues that semantic is the part of linguistics that is concerned with meaning. Semantic is a general explanation is about the study of the words, phrases, sentences, and discourse. So, Semantic has a close context with the meaning of language. If we talk about language, it is related to the way we communicate each other every time and everywhere. Through the language, we have to understand the intention of the speaker or the meaning of the word.

Based on state of Griffiths (2006) that semantics is the study of word meaning and sentence meaning, abstracted away from contexts of use, is a descriptive subject. It is an attempt to describe and understand the nature of knowledge about meaning in their language that people have from knowing the language. Semantic description of language knowledge is different from the encyclopedia maker's task of cataloguing general knowledge.

The meaning of languages is always interested to study since when we learn or use the language; it always deals with its meaning. The meaning of language is often seen from the relation of a word with other words. Hurford (2007, page. 29) states that the sense of an expression is a semantic relationship of an expression with other expressions in the language. The goal of sense relation in language learning is to train the student for strong communication ability and certain ability to understand and give an argument or conception through language by studying sense relation.

This paper discussed about the notions of sense relations between words, the first group is the sense relations with regard to the sameness or similarity (synonymy, hyponymy, entailment, paraphrase, metonymy, anaphora, presupposition). The second one is the sense relations of oppositeness (antonymy, anomaly, ambiguity, polysemy, homonymy, contradiction). This paper is to discuss both kinds of sense relations since they are important in semantics.

Language Learning

Language learning is the process by which humans acquire the capacity to use language. According to Meyer (2009) the study of language is conducted within the field of linguistics. The primary interest is the scientific study of

language. Like a biologist studying the structure of cells, a linguist studies the structure of language: how speakers create meaning through combinations of sounds, words, and sentences that ultimately result in texts – extended stretches of language (e.g. a conversation between friends, a speech, and an article in a newspaper). Like other scientists, linguists examine their subject matter – language – objectively.

They are not interested in evaluating "good" versus "bad" uses of language, in much the same manner that a biologist does not examine cells with the goal of determining which are "pretty" and which are "ugly." This is an important point because much of what is written and said about language is highly evaluative: many teachers tell their students not to use a word like *ain't* because it is "ignorant" or the product of "lazy" speech patterns; similar sentiments are expressed in popular books and articles on English usage.

Sense Relation

According to the definition in Linguistics : A Course Book (Hu Zhuanglin 1988:145), sense relates to the complex system of relationships that hold between the linguistic elements themselves, mostly the words. This is concerned only with intra-linguistic relations. Therefore sense relation can exist between both words and sentences.

Sense relations are one of important elements for learning semantics, in study of language meaning.

Kreidler (1998, page.303) defines sense relations as "the relations of meaning between words, as expressed in synonymy, hyponymy, and antonymy." Thus, sense relations can be seen from the similarity of meaning and the oppositeness of meaning. Whereas Cruse (2004, page.148) classifies sense relations into two groups. Those that express identity and inclusion between word meanings and those that expresses opposition and exclusion. The first group or class discusses the sense relations between words whose meanings are similar or included in other ones (Similarity). The second class discusses the sense relations between words whose meaning are opposite or excluded from other words (Oppositeness).

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Method

The method of this study is qualitative. Qualitative methods offer an effective way of describing phrases or expressions used by the visitors in the research sites. Data were gathered from library research. Library research involves the step-by-step process used to gather information in order to write a paper, read some books related to sense relation in language learning. Secondary sources are studies by other researchers. They describe,

analyze, and/or evaluate information found in primary sources.

Results and Discussion

Sameness

a) Synonymy

Richards and Schmidt (2002, p.533) define synonymy as "a word which has the same sense or nearly the same as another word." Griffiths (2006) that synonymy is equivalence of sense. The nouns mother, mom and mum are synonym.

Have a look the sentences below!

The patient is *sick/ill*   1

You are *great/wonderful*   2

In these examples, each pair of the italic words is synonymous. In (1) *sick* and *ill* are replaceable each other and the meaning of the sentence remains the same. Similarly, *great* and *wonderful* in (2) can replace each other and the meaning of the sentence does not change.

Some examples might be the pairs below:

Couch∕ sofa   boy∕lad

Lawyer/ attorney   toilet/ lavatory

b) Hyponymy

Richards and Schmidt (2002,p.243) define hyponymy is "a relationship between two words, which the meaning of one of the words includes the meaning of the other word."

This case can be found in the relation between dog and animal, cockatoo and bird, rose and flower. Dog is said to be a hyponym of animal, cockatoo is a hyponym of bird, and rose a hyponym of flower. On the other hand, animal is said to be the superordinate (also called hyperonym) of dog, bird the superordinate of cockatoo, and flower the superordinate of rose. The relations among rose, tulip, and orchid are called co-hyponyms.
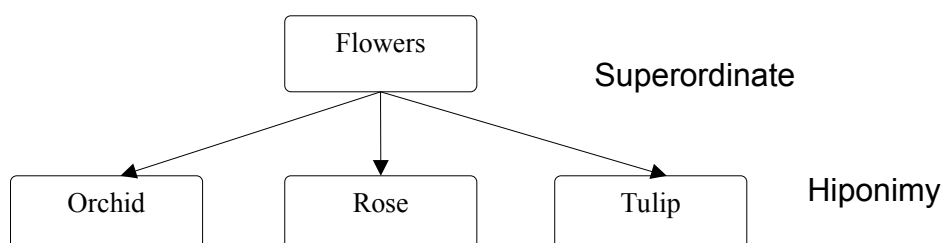
The other example, On the other hand, Fruit is said to be the superordinate (also called hyperonym) of Manggo, The relations among manggo, banana, and orange are called co-hyponyms.

| Fruit | Superordinate |

| Mango | Banana | Orange | Hiponimy |
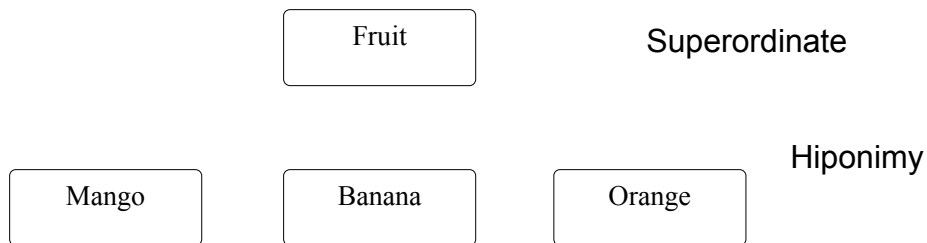
c) Entailment

According to Crystal (1998: 136) entailment as "a term refers to a relation between a pair of sentences such that the truth of the second sentence necessarily follows from the truth of the first, for example *I can see a cat* entails *I can see an animal*. One cannot both assert the first and deny the second". So, we can also say that Entailment is the truth of one expression that implies the truth of another.   Griffiths (2006) that Entailment is centrally important type of inference in semantics. While the pragmatic inferences called explicatures and impilcatures are cancellable.

Entailment means A entails B if:

(i)   Whenever A is true, B is true also; (but if B is true, A is not necessarily true).

(ii)   The information of B conveys is contained in the information A conveys.

(iii)   (A and not B) is contradictory.

For example:

John was killed entails *John is dead*

d) Paraphrase

Paraphrase refers two sentences are true under the same conditions. John is Mary's brother and Mary is John's sister is paraphrases. According Griffiths (2006) that sentences with the same meaning are called paraphrases. Paraphrase between two sentences depends on entailment, since it is defined as a two way entailment between the sentences. The main points of the previous paragraph are the entailments indicate sense relations between words, and sense relations indicate the entailment potentials of words. Other Example:

a. He's a bachelor.

He's an unmarried man.
b. John owns this car.
This car belongs to John.

e) Metonymy

Metonymy is the use of one word to describe a concept associated with the concept normally expressed by that word. For Examples:

a. The pianist was playing *Beethoven* (Beethoven=a work by Beethoven)

b. The *chair* is under the table (chair = seat of chair; table = tabletop)

c. They counted the *heads* at the meeting (heads = people)

a) Anaphora

In linguistics, anaphora is the use of an expression whose interpretation depends upon another expression in context. A is anaphorically related to B if its reference is derived from the reference of B.

John caught some **fish**, and Mary cooked **them**.

      antecedent   anaphor

- Antecedent: the expression to which a pronoun is anaphorically related;

- Coreferentiality: antecedent and anaphor have the identical referent.

b) Presupposition

Presupposition plays an important role in the production and comprehension of speech act. This is defined from different points of view, each of which is similar to each other in some way or another. Hudson (2000: 321) states that "a presupposition" is something assumed (presupposed) to be true in a sentence which asserts other information". In the sentences below, A presupposes sentence B.

A : My elder sister is a nurse .

B : I have an elder sister.

We can see that presupposition is similar to entailment in that when A is true; B is true in both cases. However, there is an important difference between them. Unlike entailment, presupposition is not vulnerable to negation. That is to say, when A is false, B is still true. And other sentences about the truth – value in presupposition are: When B is true, A can be either true or false. When B is

false, no truth – value can be said about A.

a. Oppositeness
a) Antonymy

According to Cruse in his book (1995, p.204), antonymy is exemplified by such pairs as long-short, fast-slow, easy-difficult- good-bad and hot-cold."

According to Griffiths (2006) that the term antonymy is sometimes employed to mean any kind of oppositeness. The term antonymy is used for oppositeness of meaning. The words that are opposite in meaning are antonyms (Hu Zhuanglin, 1988,p.146). As a matter of fact, there are several types of antonymy:

a. Complementarity

This is a relation between such pairs of lexical items that the positive of one implies the negative of the other . For example: Dead ╱ alive

single ╱ married

male ╱ female

b. Gradability

This is a relation between antonyms where the positive of one does not necessarily imply the negative of the other because there are usually intermediate terms between the pairs. For instance, between the gradable antonyms hot and cold, there are intermediate terms such as warm and cool : hot（warm cool） cold . Other examples may include:

Old ╱ young

long ╱ short

near ╱ far

big ╱ small

c. Relational opposites

This is a relation found with pairs of words that exhibit the reversal of a relationship between items. For example: Buy ╱ sell

push／pull

husband／wife

above／below

b) Anomaly

Anomaly involves incompatible presuppositions or knowledge about the world. Anomaly is the phenomenon that a sentence is meaningless because there is an incompatibility in the meaning of the words.

a. I ate three phonemes for breakfast.
b. That unicorn's left horn is black.
c. Colourless green ideas sleep furiously.
    In the sentence at least *colourless green*, and the ideas have incompatible meanings.

c) Ambiguity

Ambiguity is a language phenomenon that usually happens in human daily communication. It is a term which is against meaning properties of a language because it refers to an utterance (a word, a phrase, or a sentence) that has more than one meaning. As Farlex (2003) says that ambiguity is the possibility of interpreting an expression in two or more distinct ways. This means that the ambiguity happens when the words or the arrangement of the words in expressions fail to deliver one exact meaning. Sometimes, ambiguity happens accidently; in other words, a speaker sometimes does not realize that his/her utterance carries more than one meaning. According to Griffiths (2006) that there is an ambiguity if the same adjective could also be used to describe the nature of people as people.

However, ambiguity may also happen intentionally, which means the speaker consciously realizes he/she use is ambiguous utterances for various purposes. The speaker intentionally uses ambiguity to hide the fact, to create confusing situation, or to provide learning materials.

Structural/syntactic ambiguity is a sentence that has more than one possible syntactic structure resulting in a different meaning, even if all words have the same meaning. Look at the sentences below!

a. Linda [VP discussed [NP her relationship [PP with David]]].
b. Linda [VP discussed [NP her relationship] [PP with David]].

a. She has read many books on political affairs in recent years.
b. Her hobbies are traditional folk music and literature.
c. He said that you were a complete loser at the party.

Lexical ambiguity is a word or morpheme has more than one meaning, but the different meanings are not associated with different structures. The context may or may not favor one of the meanings.

She was at the *bank*. [river bank/financial institution]

The examples where both syntactic and lexical ambiguity are involved:

a. The crews are <u>revolting</u>. [-ing-participles can be verbs or adjectives]
b. He sold <u>her</u> flowers.

d) Polysemy

It is sometimes difficult to distinguish homonymy from polysemy because the later also deals with a pair of words which are written and pronounced in the same way. Richards and Schmidt (2002, p.406) define Polysemy as "word having two or more closely related meanings."

The sun is very *bright* today   a

She is a very *bright* student   b

In (a) bright means 'shining' and in (b) it means 'intelligent'. The related meanings are that the sense of bright student brings the sense of shine in that a bright student usually shines his/her intelligence.

e) Homonymy

Lyons (1982: 72; Oxford Wordpower 2000:366; Richards and Schmidt 2002:241; and for lexical items that are identical in spelling and pronunciation but have different meanings.

My house is on the west *bank* of the river   a

Dea want to save my first salary in the *bank*   b

Bank in (a) and (b) are homonyms. Even though they are written in the same way and sound alike, but their meanings are different. In (a) bank refers to 'the side of a river and the land near it', while in (b) it is 'an organization that provides various financial services'.

In the *ball*, the prince invites Cinderella to dance   c

The boys like to play with the *ball*   d

In the (c) and (d) ball are homonyms. So, they are spelled and pronounced in the same way, but they have different meanings. Ball in (c) means 'a large formal party with dancing', whereas in (d) it refers to 'a round

object used for throwing, kicking or hitting in games and sports'.

Homonymy, in general is expressed in two broad ways:

(a) Homography: identical spelling and different meaning (e.g., *desert* = arid region and *desert* = leave, etc.)
(b) (b) Homophony: different spelling and similar pronunciation (e.g., *too* and *two*, etc.).
(c)

f) Contradiction

Contradiction is a kind of semantic relation between sentences. Contradiction occurs when sentences are unlikely to be correct at the same time. For example, the contradiction happens between the sentence pair "Some people and vehicles are on a crowded street" and "Some people and vehicles are on an empty street"

Contradiction involves incompatible entailments between expressions put together.

a. The Morning Star is the Evening Star, and the Morning Star isn't the Evening Star.
b. My brother is an only child.

X and Y are contradictory if:

a. X and Y cannot both be true; whenever X is true, Y is false, and vice versa;

b. a situation describable by X cannot also be a situation describable by Y.

Conclusion

Sense relations need to know well for studying about semantic because those are related to the study of language meaning. The sense of the word can be understood from its similarity with another word. On the other hand, it can also be learned from its oppositeness with other words. By understanding sense relation, it can help us to communicate each other through language and to avoid misunderstanding that can occurs in a language.

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