SEMANTIC FIELD OF THE WORDS. TO THE QUESTION OF THE THEORIES OF LINGUISTIC SEMANTICS

L. V. Afanasieva, instructor
Dniepropetrovsk National University of Railway Transport named after Academician V.A. Lazarian

Abstract. *The paper gives a comprehensive overview of five major schools of lexical semantic theory. Also the article provides linguists with the background for understanding the lexicon within various schools of thought, and for comparing dominant ideas from one approach to another.*

Key words: *lexical field, conceptual domain, linguistics, development, systematic approach, create, analyses, polysemy, contemporary, meaning, methodological, meaning frames*

СЕМАНТИЧНЕ ПОЛЕ СЛІВ. ЩОДО ПИТАННЯ ТЕОРІЙ ЛІНГВІСТИЧНОЇ СЕМАНТИКИ

Л. В. Афанас'єва, викладач
Дніпропетровський національний університет залізничного транспорту

Анотація. *У статті подається детальний огляд п'яти основних шкіл лексико - семантичної теорії. Крім того, дана стаття забезпечує мовознавців знаннями для розуміння лексики всередині різних теоретичних шкіл, і для порівняння домінуючих ідей від одного підходу до іншого.*

Ключові слова: *лексичне поле, концептуальна сфера, лінгвістика, розвиток, систематичний підхід, створювати, аналізи, полісемія, сучасний, значення, методологічний, рамки значень*

СЕМАНТИЧЕСКОЕ ПОЛЕ СЛОВ. К ВОПРОСУ ТЕОРИЙ ЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКОЙ СЕМАНТИКИ

Л.В. Афанасьева, преподаватель
Днепропетровский национальный университет железнодорожного транспорта

Аннотация. *В статье дается подробный обзор пяти основных школ лексико - семантической теории. Кроме того, данная статья обеспечивает языковедов знаниями для понимания лексики внутри различных теоретических школ, и для сравнения доминирующих идей от одного подхода к другому.*

Ключевые слова: *лексическое поле, концептуальная сфера, лингвистика, развитие, систематический подход, создавать, анализы, полисемия, современный, значение, методологический, рамки значений*

A semantic field is a set of words (or lexemes) related in meaning. Also known as a word field, **lexical field**, field of meaning, and semantic system.

Linguist Adrienne Lehrer has defined semantic field more specifically as "a set of lexemes which cover a certain **conceptual domain** and which bear certain specifiable relations to one another" **[5]**.

Formally the history of **linguistics** development can be divided into five stages: Historical-philological Semantics, Structuralist Semantics, Generativist Semantics, Neostructuralist Semantics and Cognitive Semantics.

Lexical Semantics is about the meaning of words. Although obviously a central concern of linguistics, the semantic behaviour of words has been unduly neglected in the current literature, which has tended to emphasize sentential semantics and its relation to formal systems of logic. In this textbook D. A. Cruse establishes in a principled and disciplined way the descriptive and generalizable facts about lexical relations that any formal theory of semantics will have to encompass. Among the topics covered in depth are idiomaticity, lexical ambiguity, synonymy, hierarchical relations such as hyponymy and meronymy, and various types of oppositeness. Syntagmatic relations are also treated in some detail. The discussions are richly illustrated by examples drawn almost entirely from English. Although a familiarity with traditional grammar is assumed, readers with no technical linguistic background will find the exposition always accessible. All readers with an interest in semantics will find in this original text not only essential background but a stimulating new perspective on the field **[1, 2,3]**.

Historical-philological Semantics demonstrates the birth of linguistics. Back in the nineteenth century, the study of meaning emerges as a necessity for charting and documenting the systematic correspondences identified within the Indo-European family. Surveying, classifying and interpreting the mechanisms of semantic change based on etymological research inaugurates semantics with a historical, contextual and psychological twist that places meaning at the core of language and frames outstanding lexicographic projects. The theoretical premises

would radically change with the advent of structuralism, addressed in chapter two **[1]**.

Structuralist Semantics traces **developments** from the 1930s to the 1960s, when a "langue" (rather than "parole") oriented approach that prevails in the field moves the focus away from diachrony, and words and meanings fit into abstract, **systematic** mosaics. With a focus on literalness (rather than figurativeness) and linguistic structure (rather than extra-linguistic or encyclopedic context), structuralist semantics, the dominant **approach** at the time, gives way to lexical field theory, relational semantics and componential analysis. The mode would remain until late in the century, for generativism proceeds with an atomistic understanding of meaning.

The tension between maximalist and minimalist approaches to meaning frames Generativist Semantics. Katzian semantics brings the lexicon into the formal study of grammar and, in doing so, revolutionizes the discipline. Componential analysis blends with formalist, algorithmic representations of word meaning and with enquiries on the mental reality of semantic **analyses**, which engenders bitter disputes of far-reaching consequences for lexical semantics. The transformational interpretive orientation that would prevail from the 1970s demotes the study of word meaning and enhances the logical study of sentential, rather than lexical, semantics. However, mentalism also gives rise to a radically different understanding of meaning towards the end of the twentieth century, addressed in chapter five **[1]**.

Neostructuralist Semantics draws on the subsequent attempts at elaborating decompositional and relational approaches, with an emphasis on formalization on the one hand, and on delimiting the demarcation between word and world knowledge on the other, which **create**s distances between semantics and pragmatics. The post-generativist continuation of structuralist semantics brings forth various formal, componential theories for the description of lexical meaning,

as well as relational models connected to computational approaches (distributional corpus semantics and statistical semantics) of increasing relevance today.

Cognitive Semantics presents developments in semantic theory not yet systematically approached in earlier histories of lexical semantics. Born in the late 1970s as a reaction to a fracture within the generativist paradigm, and to the lack of usage-based pragmatic insights, Cognitive Semantics rediscovers the significance of meaning as the basis of structure, and, according to Geeraerts, currently stands out as the most productive approach in lexical semantic research. In focusing on lived experience, it addresses the epistemological problem of objectivity and aims at integrating contextual, experiential and cross-disciplinary insights into the study of word meaning. Modularity and independence thus give way to a heterogeneous continuum in which traditionally divorced domains meet: semantics and grammar, synchrony and diachrony, linguistic and encyclopedic knowledge.

The flexibility and **polysemy** of meaning and the regularity of semantic processes are the focus of what the author describes as a **contemporary** "return to hermeneutics." This reveals a cyclic process of rediscoveries within the history of lexical semantics in which two trends emerge. On the one hand, a minimalist view that argues for a distinction between usage and structure, pragmatics and semantics, context and system, flexibility and permanence, cognition and **meaning**. On the other hand, a maximalist view aims at integrating the dichotomies. The same ideological assumptions come up at different stages and, on every occasion, **methodological** advances unknown to previous traditions (or non-salient within them) find room and shape a field that "Theories of Lexical Semantics" portrays with precision**[1,4]**.

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