

Ling 130: Semantics: the structure of concepts

Midterm review

Ambiguity.

Question 1.

The following headlines may be lexically or structurally ambiguous, or both.

1. Provide unambiguous paraphrases showing you comprehend all the meanings
2. State whether the ambiguity involved is lexical or structural (or both)
3. For lexical ambiguities, circle the ambiguous word.

- A) POLICE BEGIN CAMPAIGN TO RUN DOWN JAYWALKERS
- B) DRUNK GETS NINE MONTHS IN VIOLIN CASE
- C) FARMER BILL DIES IN HOUSE
- D) STUD TIRES OUT
- E) SQUAD HELPS DOG BITE VICTIM
- F) LACK OF BRAINS HINDERS RESEARCH
- G) MINERS REFUSE TO WORK AFTER DEATH
- H) QUEEN MARY HAVING BOTTOM SCRAPED

Lexical relations.

Question 2.

Consider this unordered set of words:

{**artifact, sleeve, headgear, turban, building, T-shirt, footwear, wheel, hat, clothing, blouse, sandal, motorcycle, blouse, bandana, apparel, fez, boot, vehicle**}

- a) Mark all meronym-holonym pairs in this set.
- b) For each pair, indicate whether the meronym denotes a part or a piece. Mention the criteria you use to determine the answer
- c) Arrange all the terms in this set into a hierarchy of hyponyms and hypernyms. You can skip those words which are meronyms of other words in the set.

Question 3.

Each pair of words below denotes some kind of opposition. Mark each pair with “**gr**” if the words are gradable antonyms, “**cp**” if the words are complementaries, “**cv**” if the words are conversives, and “**rv**” if the words in the pair are reversives of each other. (a) below is an example.

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| a) | good | bad | <u> <i>gr</i> </u> |
| b) | expensive | cheap | _____ |
| c) | parent | offspring | _____ |
| d) | beautiful | ugly | _____ |
| e) | false | true | _____ |
| f) | lessor | lessee | _____ |
| g) | gather | disperse | _____ |
| h) | pass | fail | _____ |
| i) | hot | cold | _____ |
| j) | legal | illegal | _____ |
| k) | poor | rich | _____ |
| l) | fast | slow | _____ |
| m) | asleep | awake | _____ |
| n) | husband | wife | _____ |
| o) | rude | polite | _____ |
| p) | stand up | sit down | _____ |

Lexical functions (Mel'chuk)

Question 4.

Provide the values for the lexical functions of the arguments below. (a) below is an example.

- a) **Juven (horse)** = foal
- b) **Magn (shave)** = _____
- c) **Magn (condemn)** = _____
- d) **Juven (cat)** = _____
- e) **Juven (goose)** = _____

Generative lexicon

Question 5.

Provide a Generative Lexicon analysis (argument, event, qualia structure, whichever ones apply) for these words:

- a. **write**
- b. **rock**
- c. **knife**

Sense and reference

Question 6.

- (a) the President of the United States in 1999.
- (b) The Morning Star is the Evening Star.

1. Give an example of an expression that has the same reference as (a).
2. Give an example of an expression that has the same reference as (b).
3. Give an example of an expression that has the same sense as (a).
4. Give an example of an expression that has the same sense as (b).
5. Give an example of an expression that could have variable reference.
6. Give an example of an expression that normally have constant reference.
7. Give an example of an expression that has no reference in this world, but might have one in another possible world.
8. Give an example of an expression that has no reference in any world, possible or impossible.

Entailment vs. implicature

Question 7.

Does the proposition denoted by sentence (a) entail the proposition denoted by sentence (b)?

Does the proposition denoted by sentence (b) entail the proposition denoted by sentence (a)?

- | A | B |
|---|---|
| 1. Eliza plays a fiddle. | Someone plays a musical instrument. |
| 2. All of the students came to the party. | Some of the students came to the party. |
| 3. Some books are hard-cover. | Not all books are hard-cover. |
| 4. John picked a tulip | John didn't pick a rose |
| 5. Mary owns three canaries | Mary owns a canary |