Semantics: How Language Makes Sense

Terminology
You should be able to simply define or explain the following terms and concepts.

Antonymy  Presupposition
Connotation  Profile
Contrary  Proposition
Denotation  Propositional content
Entailment  Prototype
Exonym  Reference
Frame  Script
Hyponymy  Sense
Icon  Sign
Index (noun)  Signified
Metaphor  Signifier
Metonymy  Symbol
Polysemy  Synonymy

Skills
On completion of this chapter, you should be able to perform the following tasks:

• Distinguish between sense and reference
• Distinguish between icons, indexes, and signs
• Identify inferences, entailments, and presuppositions associated with lexemes and propositions, and provide arguments for your analysis using the “contradiction test”
• Identify semantic relations of synonymy, hyponymy, and antonymy that hold between lexemes
• Define the term ‘prototype’ as it relates to semantics and discuss its role in contributing to meanings of particular lexemes
• Identify semantic frames associated with a group of lexemes and distinguish between frames and profiles
• Give examples of how particular semantic components of a word are activated in particular contexts
• Distinguish between vagueness and polysemy, and for polysemous lexemes, state whether the polysemy is based on metonymy or metaphor