



7 Study Guide

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