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Second stage
Lexical Relations

Introduction

- **Lexical Relations** are the relationships between words based on their meanings.
They are studied in **Semantics**, which is the branch of linguistics concerned with meaning.
- **Understanding lexical relations helps us:**
 - Expand vocabulary
 - Understand texts better
 - Improve translation skills
 - Analyze language scientifically

Synonymy

- **Definition**
- **Synonymy** is the relationship between two or more words that have very similar meanings.
- **Examples**
 - Big – Large
 - Buy – Purchase
 - Begin – Start
 - Child – Kid
 - Broad – Wide

Important Note

- Absolute synonymy (exact same meaning in all contexts) is very rare.
- **Example:**
- He bought a car. ✓
- He purchased a car. ✓ (more formal)
- But:
- Big mistake ✓
- Large mistake ✗ (less natural)

Antonymy

- **Definition**
- **Antonymy** is the relationship between words with opposite meanings.

Types of Antonyms

- **1. Gradable Antonyms** التضاد المتدرج
- They allow comparison and have degrees between them.
- Examples:
 - Hot – Cold
 - Tall – Short
 - Big – Small
 - (We can say: warm, cool, medium, etc.

2. Complementary Antonyms التضاد التكاملي

- **2. Complementary Antonyms**
- They are absolute opposites. No middle state.
- Examples:
- Alive – Dead
- True – False
- Married – Single

Hyponymy

Definition

- Hyponymy is the relationship between a general word and a more specific word.
- The general word is called **Superordinate**
- The specific word is called **Hyponym**

Examples

- Animal (superordinate)
 - Dog
 - Cat
 - Horse

- Dog
 - Poodle
 - Bulldog
- Flower
 - Rose
 - Tulip
 - Lily
- A poodle is a dog.
A dog is an animal.
- But not every animal is a dog.

Polysemy

Definition

- Polysemy occurs when one word has two or more related meanings.

Examples

- Head
- The head of a person (body part)
- The head of a company (leader)
- Foot
- Part of the body
- Foot of the mountain
- Foot of the stairs
- The meanings are connected.

homonym

- Definition
- Homonymy occurs when two words have the same spelling or pronunciation but completely different meanings.

Examples

- Bank
- Bank (financial institution)
- Bank (side of a river)

Collocation

Definition

- Collocation refers to words that naturally occur together.

Examples

- Strong tea ✓
- Powerful tea ✗
- Make a decision ✓
- Do a decision ✗
- Heavy rain ✓
- Strong rain ✗

Importance of Lexical Relations

- Studying lexical relations helps in:
- Vocabulary development
- Language teaching
- Translation studies
- Dictionary writing
- Artificial Intelligence and NLP

Conclusion

Synonymy (similar meaning)

Antonymy (opposite meaning)

Hyponymy (inclusion relationship)

Polysemy (multiple related meanings)

Homonymy (same form, different meaning)