

Semantics and Pragmatics

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6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 - 11

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Instructor

Abdulrahman A. Alsayed

"Semantics and Pragmatics"

Introduces basic areas of Semantics and Pragmatics, with emphasis on lexical Semantics and Speech Acts theory.

The course covers the topics of structural semantics under collocation and semantic field, and main sense relations: hyponymy, synonymy, antonymy and polysemy.

It briefly introduces componential analysis and language universals. It also provides a preliminary coverage of Implicature of Speech acts theory and Grice's Maxims.

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Course Description

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Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- 1- Demonstrate knowledge of the theoretical and practical aspects of collocation and the semantic field.
- 2- Show knowledge of sense relations, language universals, Speech Act theory, Implicature and the Maxims of Grice.
- 3- Apply the above theories in analyzing and describing actual texts.
- 4- Be able to supply and use semantic and pragmatic notions in actual communication in various contexts.

Textbooks and References

- **Textbooks:**
Palmer, F. R. (1981). *Semantics*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- **References:**
Hurford, James R. et al. (2007). *Semantics: a Course Book*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
Alkhuli, Mohammed A. (2008) *An Introduction to Semantics*. Dar Alfalah.

Teaching Methods

The course makes use of the following teaching/ learning methods:

- 1- Recorded and live lectures given by the teacher.
- 2- Teacher-prepared PowerPoint presentations.
- 3- Weekly discussion topics posted on the course's online forum.
- 4- Monthly Homework given through Blackboard.

