

# Semantics & Pragmatics

## Lecture 1

### Semantic relations among words and phrases.

To understand the meaning of words you must study some aspects of meaning relevant to linguistic analysis.

**Synonyms:** They are words or expressions that have the same meaning in some or all contexts. The pair of words in the following table provide good examples of synonyms in English:

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| 1-youth    | A-adolescent |
| 2-begin    | b-start      |
| 3-remember | c-recall     |
| 4-purchase | d-buy        |
| 5-vacation | e-holiday    |
| 6-big      | f-large      |

Although pairs of words we mentioned are synonyms in English, there is still slight difference in meaning. For example, Christmas and Spring Bank holidays are holidays but they are not necessarily part of one's vacation. Similarly, although youth and adolescent are used to refer to people of the same age, only the word adolescent has the meaning of the word immature in a phrase such as

**He is such an adolescent!**

So, some linguists believe that it would be inefficient for a language to have two words or phrases whose meaning is absolutely identical in all contexts.

### Antonymy

Antonyms are words and phrases that are opposites with respect to some component of their meaning. The next pairs of words provides examples of antonyms:

|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| 1-dark | a-light |
| 2-boy  | b-girl  |
| 3-hot  | c-cold  |
| 4-up   | d-down  |

5-in e-out

6-come f-go

Opposites are opposites with respect to at least one component of their meaning. The meaning of boy and girl are opposites with respect to gender, although they are alike with respect to species (both are human).

Similarly, **come and go** are opposites with respect to direction although both involve the concept of movement.

### Polysemy

**Polysemy** occurs where a word has two or more related meanings. The following words are example of polysemous words in English:

1-bright b- shining & intelligent.

2-to glare b-to shine intensely&to stare angrily.

3-A deposit c-minerals in the earth&money in the bank.

Due to the speed of technological age, words in English acquire additional related meanings to accommodate the new concepts and perpectives.The word surfers are found not only on the ocean wave but also on the web in cyberspace.

### Homophony

Homophony exists where a single form has two or more different meanings. Let's see the following examples:

1-bat a-flying mammal bird b- a piece of equipment used in baseball.

2-bank a-a financial institution b-the edge of a river

3-club a-a social organization b-a blunt weapon

4-plot a-a plan of literary work b- a small piece of ground.

5-pen a- a writing instrument b- a small cage

In fact polysemy and homophony create **lexical ambiguity** as it has two or more meaning.

**Tom bought a pen.**

The previous sentence is ambiguous because the Meaning can either be a writing instrument or it can be a small cage to keep his pet animal in.

## Semantic relations involving sentences.

Like words, sentences have meanings that can be analyzed in terms of their relation to other meanings. We consider such relations here-**paraphrase-entailment** ,and contradiction.

### Paraphrase

Two sentences that have the same meaning are said to be paraphrases of each other. The following pairs of sentences provide examples of paraphrases:

A-The police chased the thief.

B-The thief was chased by the police.

A-I gave the book to Chris.

B-I gave Chris the book.

A-It is unfortunate that the team lost.

B-Unfortunately, the team lost.

A-Paul bought a car from Sue.

B-Sue sold a car to Paul.

A-The game will begin at 3 p.m

B-At 3 p.m ,the game will begin.

The previous sentences are paraphrases and related to each other and they have the same **truth conditions**.

However ,the only difference between each pair of sentences lies in the fact that emphasis differs from one sentence to another. In A sentence ,the emphasis on the word (**police**) but in the B sentence the emphasis on the word (**thief**) .

## Lecture 2

## Semantic relations involving sentences.

**Entailment**: It is a relation in which we not have a complete truth condition between sentences.The following two examples illustrate this:

**A- The park guards killed the tiger.**

B-The tiger is dead.

A-Wesam is a man.

B-Wesam is a human.\_

The **A** sentences entail the **B** sentences if it true that the park guards killed the tiger, then it must be true that the tiger is dead. However, the reverse is not correct since the tiger could be dead without the park guards having killed it. For the second one if it is true that Wesam is a human ,the reverse is incorrect since if Wesam is a human but he may be a child or a woman not necessarily a man.

**Contradiction:** It is a case in which if one sentence is true, then another sentence must be false:

A-Charles is a bachelor.

B- Charles is married.

It is true that charles is a bachelor and then it cannot be true that he is married. When two sentences cannot be true ,we say there is a contradiction.

**Connotation:**

It is a set of associations that a word's use can evoke. For people living in Europe, the word **winter** evokes thoughts of snow, bitter cold, short evenings, frozen fingertips and the like.

Collocation depends on the linguistic context of words .A good example is by Nida discussing the word **chair** :

A-Sat in a chair b-the baby's high chair.

A-The chair of philosophy b-has accepted a University chair.

A-the chairman of the meeting b-will chair the meeting.

A-The electric chair. B- condemned to the chair.

**Collocation** is not simply a matter of association of ideas.\_

Although it is very largely determined by meaning.It can simply be predicted in terms of the meaning of the associated words. We can say blond hair but can not say a blond door or a blond dress, even if the color is exactly that of blond hair. Also,although milk is white, we should not often say white milk though the usage white paint is common enough.

**Denotation:** is the equation of the meaning or phrase with the entities, to which it refers. The denotation of the word winter, for example ,corresponds to the season between autumn and spring. Similaly,the word **tuna** corresponds to the kind of fish.That leads us to distinguish between **extension** and **intension**

**Extension:** of a word or a phrase refers to the set of entities that it belongs to in the real world while

**Intension:** is the attempt to break it down into smaller components. This approach is called **componential analysis or semantic decomposition.**

Some examples of semantic decomposition are:

**Man** human -male -major

**Boy** human male minor

**Woman** human female minor

## **Semantic decomposition:**

**Semantic decomposition** can also be used to analyze verb meaning. The following examples help, show the change off the verb **Go** can be manifested in different ways:

**A-Positional:** Fahd went from Dammam to Al-Hasa.

**B-Possesional:** The inheritance went to Fahd.

**C-Identificational :** My cousin went from a rash adult to a rational gentleman.

## **Presupposition:**

**Presupposition** is the speaker's belief that one action has taken place or not.

**A- Have you stopped exercising regularly?**

**B-Have you tried exercising regularly?**

The speaker in example **A** has his own belief that the listener has been exercising regularly. No such assumption is associated with the verb **try**

**A- Nick admitted that the team has lost**

**B-Nick said that the team had lost.**

The speaker in example **A** is presupposing the truth of the claim that the team lost. The speaker uses the verb admit because he is certain that the team lost. In Example **B** it is not the speaker's actual saying but it is what Nick said and the speaker try to convey Nick's words.

## Semantics and logic

John is either at home or in his office.

John is not at home.

Therefore, John is in his office.

The terms logic and logical are often used simply to mean **reasonable** or **sensible**. The learner of English tries to guess the meaning or come to the conclusion after he gets some given interferences. In a sense, when you are given some pieces of information, you can come to a logical result or conclusion.

**All men are mortal. Tom is a man. Therefore ,Tom is mortal.**

## Semantics and intonation

Intonation is the rise and fall of the voice. It can make a difference in meaning. For example: if you say He's coming with a falling voice at the end, you are making a statement ,Again, if you say it with a rising voice ,you are asking a question.

He's coming. He's coming.

## Semantic & Metaphor:

-It is a compressed simile or a simile which is a lie.

If instead of saying Her eyes are like two bright stars: we say Her eyes are two bright stars, We have moved from simile to metaphor.

It is the attempt to treat something abstract as if it were concrete. The concept of time time is treated metaphorically in the following examples:

A-You 're wasting your time.\_

B-How do you spend your time these days?

C- I have invested a lot of time in this project.

D-He's living out on borrowed time.

Another metaphor is related to the use of spatial terms to talk about emotions and physical health.

**Emotions:** Happy is up ,Sad is down

**I'm feeling up . I'm feeling down.**

## Idioms:

Idioms involve collocation of a special kind. Consider for example, **Kick the bucket**. For here we not only have the collocation of kick and the bucket, but the combination as a whole, keeping in mind that the whole phrase is nearer to the meaning of a single word (thus kick the bucket equals die). A very common type of idioms in English is what is usually called the phrasal verb, the combination of verb plus adverb: make+up, give+in, and put+down.

The meaning of this combination can not be predicted from the individual verb and adverb.

Trace the meaning of the following phrasal verb:

Ask someone out= invite someone to an entertainment or to a meal-she was usually asked out in the evening.

Back out= withdraw –He agreed to help but backed out when he found how difficult it was

## Idioms: Phrasal Verbs

Be over= be finished

The storm is over now, we can go on.

Blow up=destroy by explosion

They blew up the bridges so that the enemy couldn't follow them.

Break down=collapse

He broke down when telling me about his son's tragic death.

Bring up= educate

She brought up her children to be honest.

Burn down=destroy or to be destroyed, completely by fire. The hotel burnt down before help came.

Call at=visit / call in=look in

Carry out=perform / catch up with=overtake

Come along = come on come with someone

Be fed up=be completely bored (slang)

Fix up=arrange / get through=finish a piece of work

Give up =abandon / jump at = accept

Let out = make wider

Make out =understand=see

Rub up =revise one's knowledge of a subject.

Stand for =represent.

Turn out= be revealed.

Wear off = disappear gradually.

Partial idioms or funny idioms are sometimes used where one of the words has its usual meaning; the other has a meaning that is peculiar to the particular sequence. When someone asks us to make a bed, don't search for a set of carpenter's tools. Some other examples are:

White coffee (Not white in color)

Raining cats and dogs (no cats and dogs are falling from the sky)

Black coffee (not black in color)

Raining old women and sticks (in welsh ,no old women and sticks are falling from the sky)

## Lecture 3

### **Idioms: a pocket of resistance – a redneck:**

**A quickie:** a quick game or visit.

**A raw deal:** an unfair contract, paying too much.

**A red –letter day:** special day –memorable day.

**A redneck :** a person who is intolerant of other opinions or cultures.

### **Idioms: age before beauty –airy –fairy.**

Age before beauty :the older person has the priority.

**A pocket of resistance.:** a small group resisting.

**A poker face:** a face with no expression and no emotion.

**A pop:** per person or per ticket.

**A pretty penny:** a lot of money , a high price.



**A question of:** the important factor, the issue.

**A quick study:** a person who tries to learn much in short time.\_

**Idioms: age before beauty –airy –fairy.**

**Age of majority:** the age when you can vote, come of age.

**Ahead of the curve:** having higher grade, having better performance\_

**Ahead of the game:** finished your work, paid the bills.

**Air rage:** angry or violent.

**Airy-fairy:** not real-impractical.\_

**More examples of English idioms:**

**Absence makes the heart grow fonder:**

**Meaning**

The lack of something increases the desire for it.

**Origin**

The Roman poet Sextus Propertius gave us the earliest form of this saying in *Elegies*:

"Always toward absent lovers love's tide stronger flows.

**Birds of a feather flock together**

**Meaning**

Those of similar taste congregate in groups.

**Origin**

This proverb has been in use since at least the mid 16th century.

**\*Be a piece o cake:**

**Meaning:** To be very easy. If something is a piece of cake it is very easy to do.

**Case Grammar:**

Case grammar was first proposed by Fillmore 1968. It refers to the functions of words and phrases in sentences, Fillmore suggests different cases:

**-Agentive:** It is the subject ,the agent,the actor or the doer of the verb e.g. John opened the door with a key.

**Instrumental** : it is inanimate force or object used as a means to carry out an action.

**Dative**: It is the indirect object in a sentence that can be preceded by the preposition (to) in other saying

e.g .I gave a present to **my sister**.

**Genitive**: It is the noun in the possessive case that denotes the owner or the possessor. e.g This is peter's book.

**Objective**: it is the noun used in the direct object or the noun affected by the action itself. For example I delivered a speech.\_

*However ,the focus or the stress can be shifted*

## **Focus:**

Semantically, focus can be divided into end focus and contrastive focus. English sentences normally have end focus and contrastive focus:

English sentences normally have end-focus which means that the last words in the sentence is often the most prominent. The following sentence is a good example of end-focus.

Robert is driving to LONDON.

## **Another definition:**

Focus is most commonly understood in **linguistics** to refer to that part of a sentence which expresses the centre of attention or assertion of the utterance, that part of its meaning which is not presupposed in discourse. Related terms for the same, or highly similar concepts, are **Comment** and **Rheme**

## **Historical semantics:**

**Historical semantics**, as it emerges in this brief sketch, is concerned with two distinct histories. One is the transformational processes which refract and displace a basic concrete material sense, and then leave traces in the structure of features that constitute the effective meaning of the word. This transformational formula is, however, not always known or not to the same degree by everyone in a community, and it gives only an ideal form of the relevant structure.

It has a heuristic(**guiding**) value, not any absolute or definitional status; but that heuristic value is very great, because, as the fate of a word like 'discourse' shows, such structures of meaning, once they have been laid down, can be surprisingly stable - more so than is the case with phonological

structures. But this kind of history interacts with another kind: the history of various appropriations of the complex, the agents, contexts and purposes which can leave their traces in what we call the 'meaning' of the word.

The historical semantics of this kind does not have a one-dimensional view of meaning (a word as a signifier bound to one signified that is its true meaning) nor even a two-dimensional view, which concerns a 'field' of meanings. A 'keyword' must be seen as a kind of syntagm, **a sequence of linguistic units in a syntagmatic relationship to one another** with a massively deleted surface form which is the site of extensive transformational processes which are used by the set of features that specify it.

### Discussion Question:

Describe how semantics is related to linguistics?

## Lecture 4

### On Semantics.

#### What is semantics?

Semantics is the study of meaning. It is a wide subject within the general study of language. An understanding of semantics is essential to the study of language acquisition (how language users acquire a sense of meaning, as speakers and writers, listeners and readers) and of language change (how meanings alter over time).

It is important for understanding language in social context, as these are likely to affect meaning, and for understanding varieties of English and effects of style. It is thus one of the most fundamental concepts in linguistics. The field of semantics includes the study of how meaning is constructed, interpreted, clarified, obscured,

simplified, negotiated, contradicted and paraphrased.

**Some important areas of semantic theory or related subjects include these:**

- 1-Symbol and referent.
- 2-conceptions of meaning.
- 3-words and lexemes.
- 4-pragmatics.

5-Detonation, connotation, implication.

6-Ambiguity.

7-metaphor, simile and symbol.

8-Semantic fields.

9-Synonym, antonym and hyponym.

10-Collocation, fixed expression and idiom.

11-Semantic change and etymology.

12-Polysemy.

13-Homonymy, homophones and homographs.

14-Lexicology and lexicography.

15-Thesauruses, libraries and web portals.

16-Epistemology.

17-colour.

We will find the following explanations of these related to the theoretical study of semantics:

### **Symbol and Referent:**

These terms may clarify the subject. A symbol is something which we use to represent another thing

It might be a picture a letter, a spoken or written word-anything we use conventionally for the purpose. The thing that the symbol identifies is the referent. This may sometimes be an object in the physical world (the word Rover is the symbol; real dog is the referent). But it may be something which is not at all or not obviously present like freedom or Hamlet.

### **Conceptions of Meaning**

**Words--- things:** This view is found in the Cratylus of Plato (427-347BC). Words 'name' or 'refer to' things. It works well for proper nouns like London, Everton and Ford Fiesta.

**Words---concepts---things:** This theory states that there is no direct connection of symbol and referent, but an indirect connection in our minds. For each word there is a related concept.

**stimuli**), which is a speech act. To the hearer the speech act is also a stimulus (s), which leads to response (R) which may be an action or understanding.

**Example:** Alia is hungry ,sees an apple (S) and asks Jack to bring it her (R).This new language stimulus. Jack's hearing(S) leads to his action (R) of bringing her the apple.

## Words and lexemes

As a lexical unit may contain more than one word, David crystal has coined the term lexeme. This is usually a single word , but may be a phrase in which the meaning belongs to the whole rather than its parts, as in verb phrases tune in, turn on, drop out or noun phrase(a) cock up.

## Denotation

This is the core or central meaning of a word or lexeme ,as far as it can be described in a dictionary. It is therefore sometimes known as the cognitive or referential meaning. It is possible to think of lexical items that have a more or less fixed denotation (sun, denoting the nearest star, perhaps)but this is rare. Most are subject to change overtime .Denotation is thus related to connotation, which leads to semantic change.

## Connotation

Theories of denotation and connotation are themselves subject to problems of definition. Connotation is connected with psychology and culture as it means the personal or emotional associations aroused by words. When these associations are widespread and become established by common usage, a new denotation is recorded in dictionaries. A possible example of such change would be vicious.

In modern British usage, it is commonly used to mean 'fierce 'as in the brown rat is a vicious animal.

## Implication:

This is meaning which a speaker or writer intends but does not communicate directly. Where a listener is able to deduce or infer the intended meaning from what has been uttered, this is known as (conversational) implicature. David Crystal gives this example:

Utterance: A bus --- Implicature (implicit meaning)

We must run.

## Pragmatics:

Pragmatics is not a coherent field of study.It refers to the study of those factors which govern our choices of language-such as our social awareness, our culture and our sense of etiquette.How do we know to express gratitude for a gift or hospitality.

Pragmatics can be illustrated by jokes or irony which rely on the contrast between expected and subsequently revealed meaning.

### Ambiguity:

Ambiguity occurs when a language element has more than one meaning. If the ambiguity is in a single word it is a lexical ambiguity. If in a sentence or clause it is grammatical or structural ambiguity.

Structural ambiguity can often be seen in punning headlines, like the wartime example CHURCHILL FLIES BACK TO FRONT. The late polar explorer, Dr. Vivian Fuchs, was the subject of similar headline: Dr. FUCHS OFF TO ANTARCTIC.

In this case, the structural ambiguity is not present to a reader who knows standard spelling, but might confuse hearer, if the headline is spoken aloud. The absence of linking grammatical words (articles, conjunctions, prepositions) in headlines makes such ambiguity likely.

Another example that combines lexical and structural ambiguity is in a joke. Two men are looking at televisions in a shop-window.

One says: 'That's the one I'd get' Around the corner comes a Cyclops, who thumps him. The lexical ambiguity works best in speech—if we read it we must 'hear' the speech to get the point. If you still are puzzled, you may lack awareness of the denotation of Cyclops. They have only one eye. Get (like-git) is an insult in some regional varieties of spoken English (especially in north-west England)

### Metaphor, simile, symbol:

Metaphors are well known as a stylistic feature of literature, but in fact are found in almost all language use, other than simple explanations of physical events in the material world.

All abstract vocabulary is metaphorical, but in most cases the original language hides the metaphor from us. Depends means "hanging from" in Latin, pornography means "writing of prostitutes" in (Greek) and even the hippopotamus has a Metaphor in its name, which is Greek for 'river horse'

A metaphor compares things, but does not show this with forms such as as, like, or more (+qualifier a pig, like two peas in a pod. **Similes**) than. These appear in similes: fat as

**Similes are comparisons that show how two things that are not alike in most ways are similar in one important way. Similes are a way to describe something. Authors use them to make their writing more interesting or entertaining.**

**Similes** use the words "as" or "like" to make the connection between the two things that are being compared.

Examples:

1. Playing chess with Ashley is like trying to outsmart a computer.

The activity “playing chess with Ashley” is being compared to “trying to outsmart a computer.” The point is that Ashley can think in a powerful manner that resembles the way a computer operates, not that she is like a computer in any other way.

2. His temper was as explosive as a volcano.

His temper is being compared to a volcano in that it can be sudden and violent.

A **symbol** is something that represents an idea, a physical entity or a process but is distinct from it. The purpose of a symbol is to communicate meaning. For example, a red octagon may be a symbol for "STOP". On a map, a picture of a tent might represent a campsite. Numerals are symbols for numbers. Personal names are symbols representing individuals. A red rose symbolizes love and compassion.

### Semantic fields:

A semantic field is a technical term in the discipline of linguistics to describe a set of words grouped by meaning in a certain way. The term is also used in other academic disciplines, such as anthropology and computational semiotics together.

## Lecture 5

### Synonym, antonym and hyponym

Synonym and Antonym are forms of Greek nouns which mean, respectively, same name and opposed or different name. We may find synonyms which have an identical reference meaning, but since they have different connotations. They can never be truly synonymous. This is particularly the case when words acquire strong connotations of approval or disapproval. We can see this by comparing terrorist with freedom fighter or agnostic.

Some speakers will not be aware of synonyms, so cannot make a choice. But those with a wide lexicon will often choose between two or among many, possible synonyms. This is an area of interest to semanticists. What are the differences of meaning in toilet, lavatory, WC, closet, privy, bog, dunny and so on? Intelligent reflection on lexicon will show that most words do not have antonyms.

Hyponymy is an inclusive relationship where some lexemes are co-hyponyms of another that includes them. As cutlery includes knife, fork, spoon these are co-hyponyms of the parent or superordinating term. This traditional term denotes a grouping similar to a semantic field. So cod, guppy, salmon, and trout are hyponyms for fish, while fleet has the hyponyms battleship, aircraft carrier, cruiser, destroyer and frigate.

David Crystal points out that this is a linguistic, not a real-world, relationship-so it varies from one language to another. In English potato is a hyponym of vegetable but in German the lexeme *Gemüse* doesn't include *Kartoffel*=potato.

### Collocation, Fixed Expression and Idiom

Some words are most commonly found paired with other words, to create a semantic unit or lexeme.

Thus false is often found together with passport, teeth or promise. These pairs are known as collocations. They are very helpful in establishing the meanings of the words in the pair. Porn is likely to be followed by customer, operative or minister. After estate you expect agent. How often have you seen whole new as collocation?

### Synonym, antonym and hyponym

Think of collocations including these words:

American, British, coffee, dirty, mad, millennium, native, Ninja, prime, police, rotten, speed, surf.

When words become grouped in almost predictable ways these are fixed expressions. Examples include jewel in the crown, desirable residence, criminal mastermind, world of work, address the issues, I put it to you. Sometimes, the group is so well rooted in the language that the meanings of

The component words are ignored, or metaphorical meanings are never visualized. Such a group has a meaning that is not to be found in analysis of its parts, and is an idiom. Examples include: keep your nose clean, stick your nose in beneath your station bed of roses, load of crap not my cup of tea, a piece of cake etc..

### Semantic change & Etymology

Over time lexemes may change their meaning. This kind of change is semantic change. Perhaps a connotation will take the place of the original denotation. More often a second or a third meaning will develop side by side with the original. In time, this may come to be the primary reference meaning. Gay has both the sense of happy and homosexual. In spoken British English today the primary meaning is more likely to be the second of these.

Etymology is the systematic study and classification of word origins, especially as regards forms and meanings-it is therefore an important concept both for semantics and the study of language change. The etymology of a given lexeme denotes an account of its historical-linguistic origin.

We can illustrate semantic change through the etymology of gentle. In the 14th century gentle had the meaning of noble, referring both to social class

and to character. Because a noble person was supposed to be kind and considerate, the adjective today has the sense of tender, careful or delicate. The older meaning is preserved in gentleman



,genteel and gentility. Until recently public toilets in the UK were designated Gentlemen or ladies- where now we usually see a male or female picture representation. See the picture



### Polysemy

**Polysemy** refers to a [word](#) that has two or more similar meanings:

The house is at the *foot* of the mountains

One of his shoes felt too tight for his *foot*

'Foot' here refers to the bottom part of the mountains in the first [sentence](#) and the bottom part of the leg in the second.

### Homonymy.

**homonymy** the state or quality of a given word's having the same spelling and the same sound or pronunciation as another word, but with a different meaning, as *race* 'tribe' and *race* 'running contest.' Cf. **heteronymy**. — **homonym**, *n*. — **homonymous**, *adj*.

### Homographs:

[Homographs](#) are words of like spelling but with more than one meaning. A homograph that is also pronounced differently is a [heteronym](#).

Some words are nouns or adjectives when the accent is on the first syllable and verbs when it is on the second. When the prefix "re-" is pretended to a monosyllabic word, and the word gains currency both as a noun and as a verb, it will probably fit into this pattern, although, as the list below makes clear, most words fitting this pattern do not match that description. End of lecture five

# Lecture 6

## Homographs

Homographs are words with different pronunciation, meanings and origins but the same spelling. They are not to be confused with [homonyms, homophones and heteronyms](#). In order to work out which pronunciation and which meaning is appropriate, you need to be aware of the context. Here are a few homographs and their meanings:

agape – with mouth open OR love

bass – type of fish OR low, deep voice

bat - piece of sports equipment OR an animal

bow – type of knot OR to incline

down – a lower place OR soft fluff on a bird

entrance – the way in OR to delight

evening – smoothing out OR after sunset

fine – of good quality OR a levy

learned – past tense of learn OR knowledgeable

minute – tiny OR unit of time

moped – was gloomy OR motorcycle

number – more numb OR numerical value

row – line OR argument OR propel a boat

sewer – drain OR person who sews

wave – move the hand in greeting OR sea water coming into shore

wound – past tense of wind OR to injure

Linguist John Higgins has prepared a comprehensive [list of homographs](#) in various categories, including those where the meanings are related but the part of speech and pronunciation change.

## Important Definitions:

**Semantics:** It is the technical term used to refer to the study of the meaning. Unfortunately 'meaning' covers a variety of aspects of language, and there is no very general agreement either about what meaning is or about the way in which it should be described. I shall try to indicate both what topics are included in semantics and some of the ways in which they have been or can be handled.

## **Semantics and linguistics:**

We can assume that semantics is a component or level of linguistics of the same kind as phonetics or grammar. Moreover, nearly all linguists have explicitly or implicitly accepted a linguistic model in which semantics is at one end and phonetics at the other with grammar somewhere in the middle.

## Homophones:

A homophone is a word that is pronounced the same as another word but differs in meaning. The words may be spelled the same, such as rose (flower) and rose (past tense of "rise"), or differently, such as carat, caret, and carrot, or *to*, *two*, and *too*

Homophones that are spelled the same are also both homographs and homonyms. Homophones that are spelled differently are also called heterographs. The term "homophone" may also apply to units longer or shorter than words, such as phrases, letters or groups of letters that are pronounced the same as another phrase, letter or group of letters.

The word derives from the Greek *homo-* (ὅμο-), "same", and *phōnē* (φωνή), "voice, utterance". The opposite is heterophony: similar, but not phonetically identical words.

this is list of British-English homophones. Some examples from the list:

ad, add

ail, ale

air, heir

aisle, I'll, isle

all, awl

allowed, aloud

alms, arms

altar, alter

arc, ark

### Lexicology:

"Lexicology deals not only with simple words in all their aspects but also with complex and compound words, the meaningful units of language. Since these units must be analysed in respect of both their form and their meaning, lexicology relies on information derived from morphology

the study of the forms of words and their components, and semantics, the study of their meanings. A third field of particular interest in lexicological studies is etymology, the study of the origins of words. However, lexicology must not be confused with lexicography, the writing or compilation of dictionaries, which is a special technique rather than a level of language studies.

### lexicography

Lexicography is divided into two related disciplines:

Practical lexicography is the art or craft of compiling, writing and editing dictionaries.

Theoretical lexicography is the scholarly discipline of analyzing and describing the semantic, syntagmatic and paradigmatic relationships within the lexicon (vocabulary) of a language

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه قال : قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم : من قال : " سبحان الله وبحمده مائة مرة غفرت له ذنوبه ولو كانت مثل زبد البحر "

أختكم

السالفة مليون