# Semantics

> Is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning

# ✤ Meaning

Covers a variety of aspects of language, and there is no general agreement about the nature of meaning.

# Pragmatics

> Is the study of meaning that a sentence has in a particular context in which it is uttered.

# Sense

- > deals with the relationships <u>inside the language</u>.
- of an expression is its place in a system of semantic relationships with other expressions in the language.

## \* Reference

- > deals with the relationship between the language and the world.
- is a relationship between parts of a language (words and phrases) and things outside the language (in the world).
- > The relation between a referring expression and a referent

# \* Referent

▶ is the person or thing in the world speakers refer to by using a referring expression.

#### referring expression

▶ is any expression used in an utterance to refer to something or someone.

# \* Paradigmatic relations

➤ are those into which a linguistic unit enters through being contrasted or substitutable, in a particular environment, with other similar units. (vertical relation)

# Syntagmatic relations

> are those into which a linguistic unit enters by its co-occurrence with other units. (horizontal relation)

#### semantic field

> contains a group of words which are related in their meaning.

# \* Collocation

- can be seen as <u>part of the meaning of a word</u>
- ➤ is a relationship between words that specifically or habitually go together.

#### Synonymy

▶ is the relationship between two lexical units (words) that have the <u>same</u> sense.

# Antonymy

▶ is the relationship between two lexical units (words) that have the <u>opposite</u> sense.

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## Binary antonyms

> are lexical units which come in pairs and between them exhaust all the relevant possibilities.

## Gradable antonyms

> are two words at opposite ends of a continuous scale of values.

## Hyponymy

 is a sense relation between words in which the meaning of one word is included in the meaning of the other word.

## Polysemy

▶ is a sense relation in which the same word has several very closely related meanings (senses).

## Homonymy

is a sense relation in which several words have the same shape, but different meanings that are far apart from each other.

## componential analysis

 the total meaning of a word is being analyzed into a number of distinct components of meaning ( semantic features).

#### ✤ Utterance

- ▶ is any stretch of talk, by one person, before and after which there is silence on the part of that person.
- is the use of a piece of language ( one or more word / phrase / sentence ) by a particular speaker on a particular occasion.

# \* Sentence

- ➤ is neither a physical event nor a physical object. It is an <u>abstract</u> string of words put together by the grammatical rules of a language.
- > exists abstractly in the mind of language speakers before they say it or write it.
- can be thought of as the <u>ideal</u> string of words behind various realizations in utterances and inscriptions.

#### constatives utterance

▶ is an utterance with which the speaker describes something which may be true or false.

#### Performatives utterance

▶ is an utterance that does not report or "constate" anything and is not "true or false".

# \* Performative verb

is one which, when used in a positive simple present tense sentence with a 1<sup>st</sup> person singular subject, can make the utterance of that sentence performative.

# \* explicit performative

> contanins a performative verb naming the act. **E.g.** I order you to go.

# \* implicit performative

> does not contain a performative verb naming the act. E.g. Go

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## \* direct illocutionary

 of an utterance is the illocution most directly indicated by a <u>literal reading</u> of the grammatical form and vocabulary of the sentence uttered.

# ✤ indirect illocutionary

> of an utterance is any further illocution the utterance may have <u>other than what it expresses literally</u>

## ✤ Illocutionary acts

 can be classified into different categories, <u>depending on the type of interaction between the speaker</u> and the hearer that they perform.

#### directive act

 is any illocutionary act which essentially involves the speaker trying to get the hearer to behave in some required way.

## commissive act

➤ is any illocutionary act which essentially involves the speaker committing himself to behave in some required way.