

STUDENT'S ID NO: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

(All rights reserved)

DEPARTMENT OF TEACHER EDUCATION

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP

COLLEGES OF EDUCATION

END OF SEMESTER ONE EXAMINATIONS FOR LEVEL 200, 2021/2022

B.ED. PROGRAMME

COURSE CODE: TEJS 213

COURSE TITLE: ENGLISH SEMANTICS

---

**Instruction:** Answer all questions in Section A and any three questions in Section B.

Time: 2 hours

SECTION A

[25 Marks]

Answer all the questions in this section.

*(Write all your answers in the answer booklet provided.)*

1. Semantics is best defined as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. the scientific study of meaning
  - b. the study of meaning in languages
  - c. the study of the relationship between signs and their meanings.
  - d. the term used to describe aspects of meaning that depend on or derive from the way in which the words and sentences are used

STUDENT'S ID NO: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

2. What are antonyms?
  - a. Words with opposite meanings
  - b. Words with same meaning
  - c. Words with similar meanings
  - d. Words with different meanings
3. Semiotics refers to the theory of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Signs
  - b. Signaling systems
  - c. Signs and signaling systems
  - d. Pictures
4. The word bachelor can be represented with the componential analysis in the following way \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. [+adult], [-male], [-married]
  - b. [+adult], [+male], [-married]
  - c. [+adult], [+male], [+married]
  - d. [-adult], [+male], [+married]
5. Some words have an actual concrete item or concept that the word refers to. That item is its \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Referent
  - b. Symbol
  - c. Sense
  - d. Reference
6. Which sense relation exist between the words 'nearly' and 'almost'?
  - a. Antonymy
  - b. Synonymy
  - c. Polysemy
  - d. Homonymy
7. Sabina went to the bank to transact business; Suzy was seen at the bank of the river at noon. The meaning relationship between the underlined words is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Hyponymy
  - b. Homonymy
  - c. Polysemy
  - d. Antonymy
8. The abstract notion of a word is what is referred to as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Lexeme
  - b. Lexicon
  - c. Lexical field
  - d. Lexical unit

STUDENT'S ID NO: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Utterance meaning is also known as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. contextual meaning
  - b. discourse meaning
  - c. semantic meaning
  - d. thematic meaning
10. Which of the following words can collocate with the expression 'with cold'?
  - a. Shivering
  - b. Shaking
  - c. Trembling
  - d. Shuddering
11. Examples of homographs EXCLUDE \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. agape and agape
  - b. scent and sent
  - c. bat and bat
  - d. wave and wave
12. The following pairs of words are homophones EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. raw and roar
  - b. caught and court
  - c. minute and minute
13. The semantic content of a simple declarative sentence is known as the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Sentence
  - b. Denotation
  - c. Proposition
  - d. Utterance
14. The relationship in which the meaning of one form is included in the meaning of another e.g. (animal/horse, insect/ant) is known as \_\_\_\_?
  - a. Synonyms
  - b. Homonyms
  - c. Hyponymy
  - d. Metonymy
15. The set of associations that a word's use can evoke is referred to as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Denotative meaning
  - b. Referential meaning
  - c. Semantic meaning
  - d. Connotative meaning

STUDENT'S ID NO: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

16. The term used to describe aspects of meaning that depend on or derive from the way in which words and sentences are used in context is called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Pragmatics
  - b. Semantics
  - c. Semiotics
  - d. Syntax
17. Mrs. Ansah, a Basic six teacher, explained the vocabulary *apology* to his pupils by making two of her learners demonstrate the action in the class. What type of meaning does Mrs Ansah apply?
  - a. Contextual meaning
  - b. Connotative meaning
  - c. Real meaning
  - d. Denotative meaning
18. Two words in which the negation of one term is equivalent to the other eg. Male /female are referred to as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Antonyms
  - b. Complementary
  - c. Directional opposites
  - d. Negatives

**Preamble: Identify the type of ambiguity in the following sentences.**

19. A good life depends on the liver.
  - a. Structural ambiguity
  - b. Lexical ambiguity
  - c. Polysemic ambiguity
  - d. Morphological ambiguity
20. Flying planes can be dangerous.
  - a. Structural ambiguity
  - b. Lexical ambiguity
  - c. Polysemic ambiguity
  - d. Morphological ambiguity
21. John and Mary are married
  - a. Structural ambiguity
  - b. Lexical ambiguity
  - c. Polysemic ambiguity
  - d. Morphological ambiguity

STUDENT'S ID NO: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Preamble:** State the thematic roles of the words in bold in the proposition “**Musah broke the ice with a hammer**”

22. What is the thematic role of Musah.
  - a. Agent
  - b. Instrument
  - c. Patient
  - d. Theme
23. What is the thematic role of hammer.
  - a. Experiencer
  - b. Beneficiary
  - c. Instrument
  - d. Theme
24. A stretch of talk, by one person, before and after which there is silence on the part of that person.is called a/an...
  - a. Clause
  - b. Sentence
  - c. Utterance
  - d. Word

STUDENT'S ID NO: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION B

[75 Marks]

Answer any three questions in this section.

1. a. Briefly explain the difference between lexical semantics and structural semantics.  
b. With two (2) examples for each, explain the following logical concepts.

- i. Entailment
- ii. Equivalence
- iii. Contradiction
- iv. Contraries
- v. Tautology

[25 Marks]

2. a. Briefly differentiate between semantic roles and semantic relations.  
b. With two (2) examples for each, explain the following semantic roles.
  - i. Agent
  - ii. Experiencer
  - iii. External Causa
  - iv. Goal
  - v. Instrument

[25 Marks]

3. a. Differentiate between Connotative and Denotative meaning. Provide two (2) examples each in support of your argument.  
b. Provide the componential analysis for the following words.
  - i. Mother
  - ii. Boy
  - iii. Wife

[25 Marks]

STUDENT'S ID NO: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

4. a. Briefly explain the difference between polysemy and homonymy.
- b. Indicate whether the following words with their corresponding meanings <sup>1</sup> and <sup>2</sup> are examples of polysemy or homonymy.
- i. Safe: <sup>1</sup>'protected, or free from danger'  
<sup>2</sup>'a strong steel box in which money and other valuables are kept for safety'
- ii. Crane: <sup>1</sup>'a bird with a long neck'  
<sup>2</sup>'machine with a long arm used for moving heavy objects'
- iii. Mummy: <sup>1</sup>'mother'  
<sup>2</sup>'dried up body kept in museum'
- iv. Rape: <sup>1</sup>'a kind of plant'  
<sup>2</sup>'crime of forcing sexual intercourse on a woman'
- v. Punch: <sup>1</sup>'a kind of alcoholic drink'  
<sup>2</sup>'a tool for cutting holes in paper'
- vi. Steer: <sup>1</sup>'young bull'  
<sup>2</sup>'to direct the course of a ship, car, etc.'
- vii. Film: <sup>1</sup>'tool for smoothing hard substances'  
<sup>2</sup>'holder for keeping papers'
- viii. Blubber: <sup>1</sup>'fat of whales and other sea animals'  
<sup>2</sup>'weep noisily'
- ix. Pen: <sup>1</sup>'instrument for writing'  
<sup>2</sup>'Small enclosure for cattle'
- x. Knot: <sup>1</sup>'Any of various fastenings formed by looping and tying a rope (or cord) upon itself or to another rope or to another object'  
<sup>2</sup>'A tight cluster of people or things'

STUDENT'S ID NO: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

[25 Marks]

5. a. Write short notes on the following:

- i. Denotation
- ii. Connotation
- iii. Sense
- iv. Reference
- v. utterance

b. Indicate the kind of semantic or meaning change/shift that each of the words in the table below has undergone. Write your answer in the answer booklet.(10 mks)

	Word	Old Meaning	New Meaning	Semantic Change
i.	Lady	'loaf-kneader'	'refined, polite woman" and a woman of high social position"	
ii.	Uncle	'mother's brother'	'a brother of one's father or mother'	
iii.	Nurse	'a female who cares for infants or the sick'	'a person formally educated and trained in the care of the sick or infirm'	
iv.	Villain	'a farm servant'	'a cruelly malicious person who is involved in or devoted to wickedness or crime'	
v.	Man	'Human beings'	'An adult male person'	
vi.	Care	'sorrow; anxiety; grief'	'serious attention; caution; protection'	
vii.	Lord	'loaf-keeper'	'a titled nobleman or peer'	
viii.	Brother	'son of the same mother or father'	'member of a fraternity'	
ix.	Friend	'lover; relative'	'a person who is on good terms with another; a person who is not hostile'	
x.	Nice	'silly; ignorant; incapable'	'pleasing; agreeable; delightful'	