

Onomasiological / Semasiological Modes of Word Analysis

Introduction

Semasiology *Signifier*

dog

Word form

- polysemy
- homophony

Onomasiology *Signified*

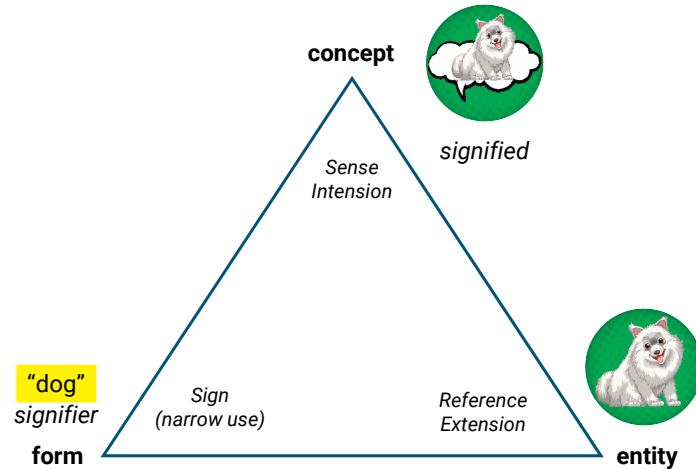


Concept evoked

- synonymy
- antonymy

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Semiotic Triangle



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Synonymy (Onomasiology)



- Concept (**signified**) stays the same.
- Corresponding forms (**signifiers**) vary.

There's really no such thing as absolute synonymy.

Lawyer
Attorney
Barrister
Solicitor
Shyster
Ambulance-chaser

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Onomasiology Answer



Ambulance-chaser

Ambulance-chaser is:

- ☐ A) metaphor
- ☒ B) metonymy
- ☐ C) metaplasma
- ☐ D) all of the above
- ☐ E) none of the above

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Semasiology Answer



Ambulance-chaser

Ambulance-chaser is:

- ☐ A) blend
- ☐ B) clipping
- ☐ C) morphological
- ☒ D) compounding
- ☐ E) conversion

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Antonymy (Onomasiology)

- up/down
 - black/white
 - boy/girl
 - stop/go
 - cat/dog
 - student/professor
- } experiential
- } cultural

- Antonyms are two words that are very similar in meaning, but diverge on one crucial semantic feature
- Some antonyms are experiential: they are grounded in our common experience of the world
- Others are culturally derived



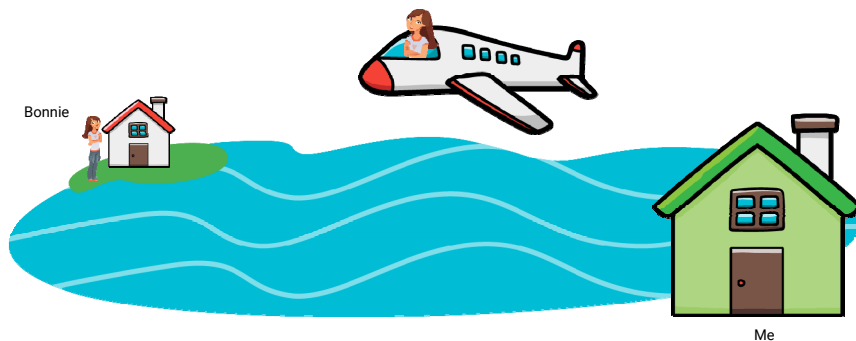
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Homophony (Semasiology)

Lies

- That's where she lives; "lies" = "lives".
- Don't believe her on a transatlantic flight; "lies" = "tells fibs"

"My bonnie **lies** over the ocean"

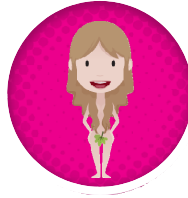


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Homophony (Semasiology)

Two (or more) words (therefore, two or more meanings) that happen to sound the same; a product of coincidence.

- Bear as in ursidae.
- Bare as in naked.
- Bear as in carry.



Different spelling is a good indication of homophony.

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Polysemy (Semasiology)

Polysemy	vs.	Homophony
One word		Two (or more) words that happen to sound the same
A group of related meanings		Product of coincidence

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Polysemy (Semasiology)

Bear

Tolerate: *I can't bear his jokes.*

Give testimony: *I bear witness.*

Have as an identification: *We bear the same name.*

Give birth: *She can bear children.*

Produce as yield: *It has been known to bear fruit.*

Support the weight: *That pillar bears the weight of the whole first floor.*

Maintain: *They bear me a grudge.*



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Polysemy (Semasiology)

Lies

- Is supine

- Dwells

The place where one is habitually supine.

Polysemy

- One word

- A group of related meanings

- The default case in language

Language is highly polysemous



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Polysemy (Semasiology)

Over

- My Bonnie lies **over** the ocean. (lies = fibs)
- My Bonnie lies **over** the ocean.
- My Bonnie lies **over** the couch.
- My Bonnie sails **over** the ocean.
- My Bonnie jumps **over** the couch.
- My Bonnie talks **over** the problem.
- My Bonnie talks **over** the phone.
- My Bonnie and I, we are **over**.
- My Bonnie and I, we are **over** the flu.

x is over y ← prototype



y

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x is over y = x is on the other side of y



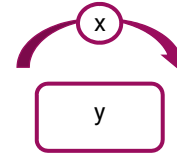
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x goes over y ← passage above



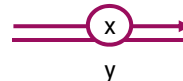
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x goes over y ← passage on top



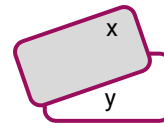
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x is (all) over y = x is covering lots of y



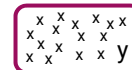
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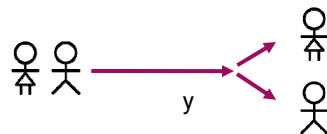
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We are over ← our relationship



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Conceptual Metaphor

Time is money

- **spent** a month
- **invested** hours
- **cost** me the weekend

Relationships are journeys

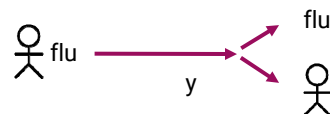
- "we've only just **begun**..."

Polysemy (Semasiology)

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I am over the flu = the flu is over



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Polysemy (Semasiology)

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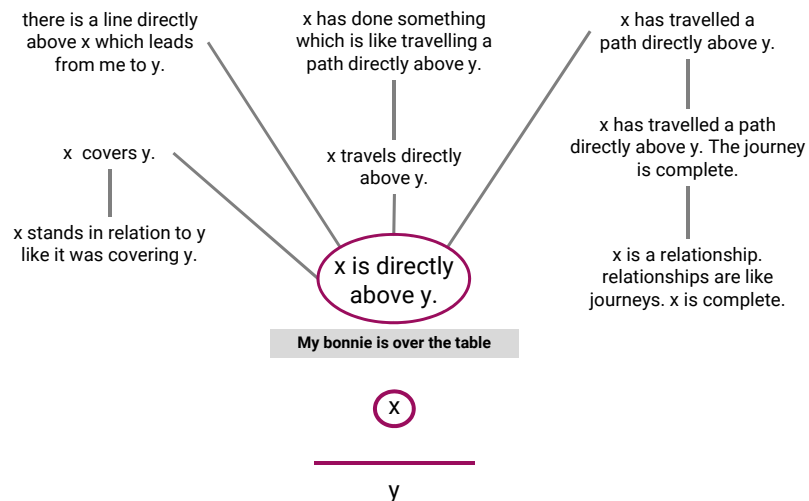
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Polysemy

- One word
 - A group of related meanings
 - The default case in language
- Language is highly polysemous

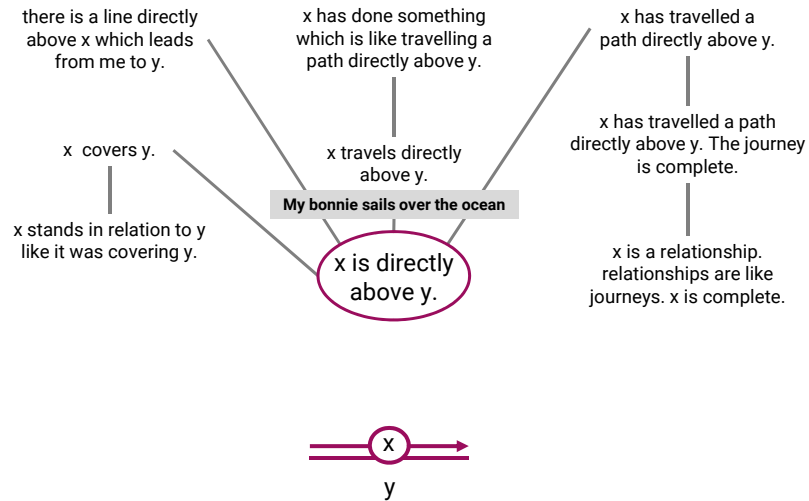
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A Radial Network: The Polysemy of Over

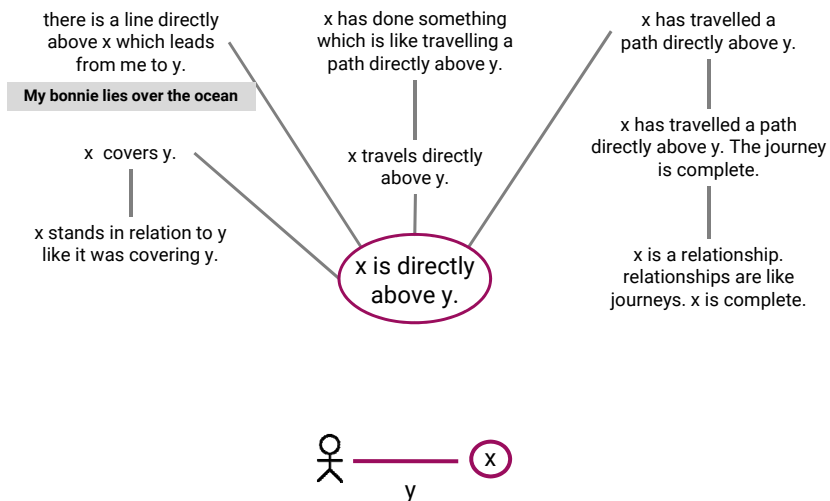


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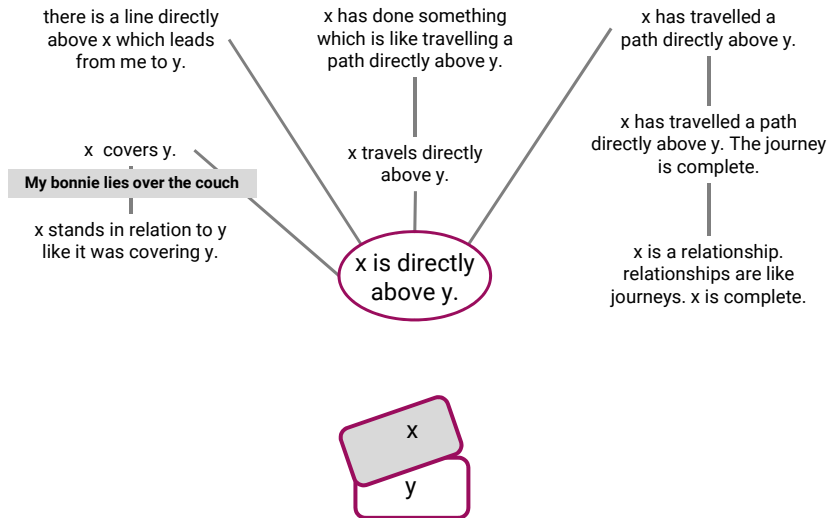
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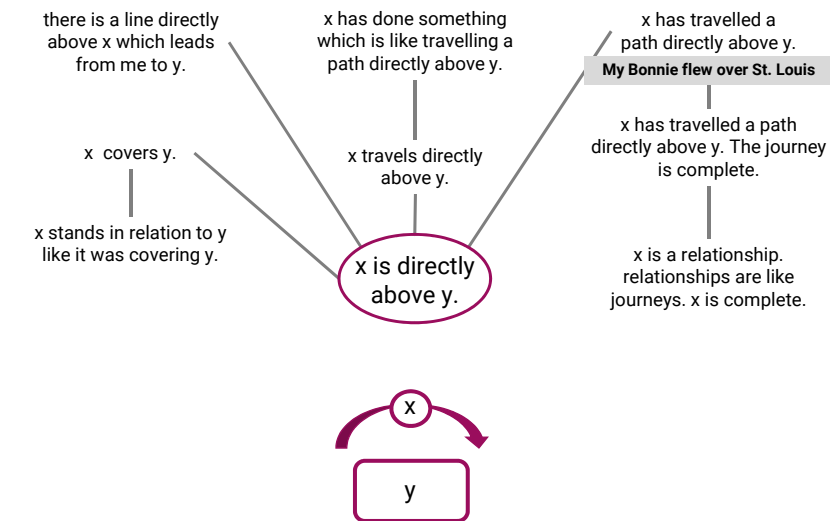


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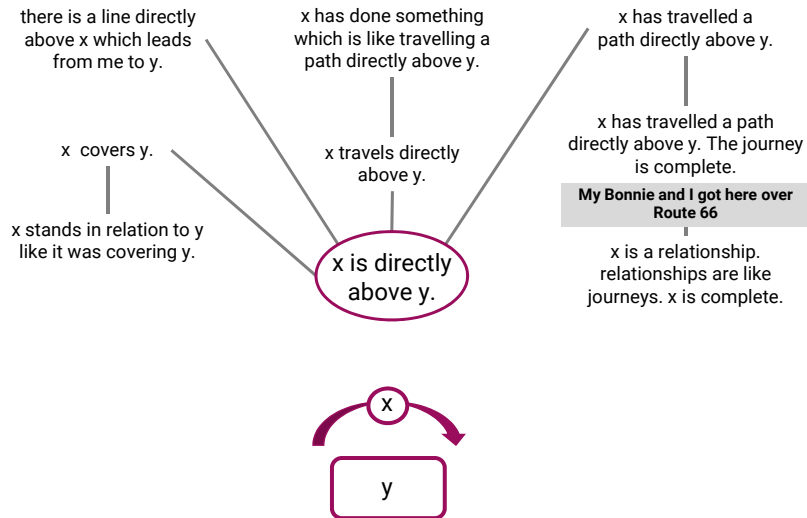
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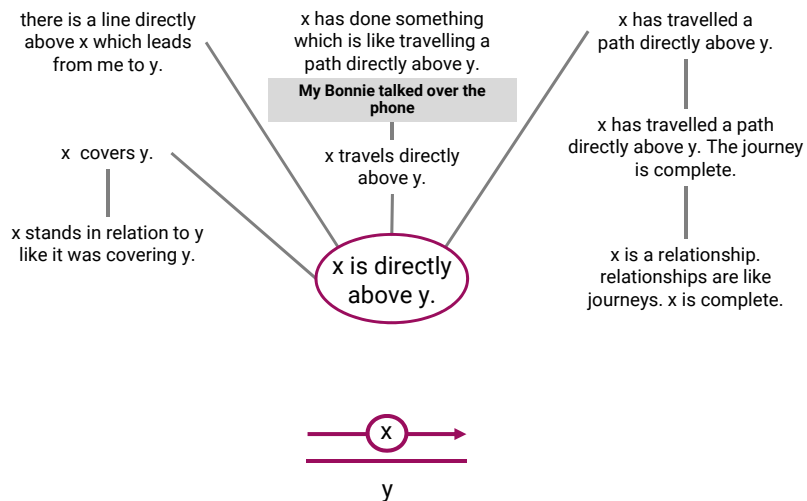
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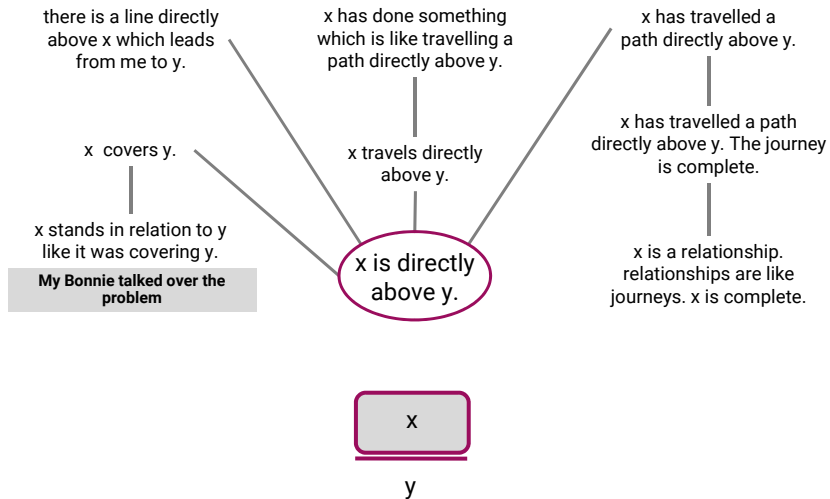
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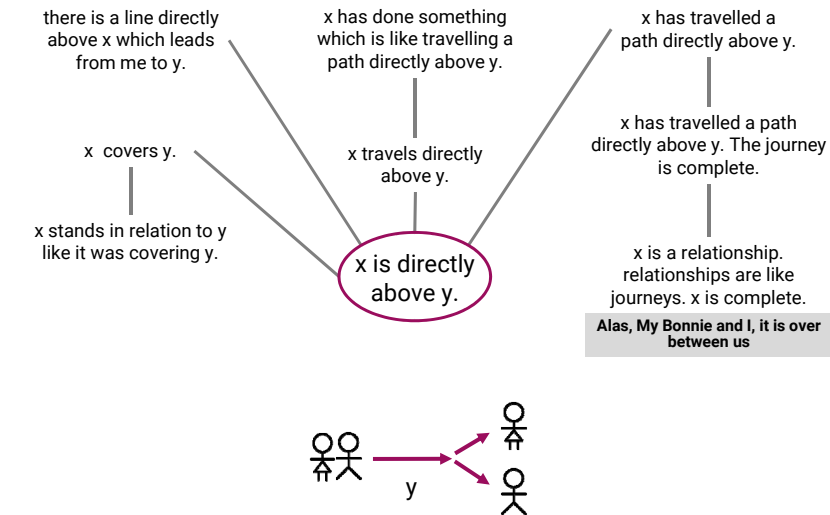
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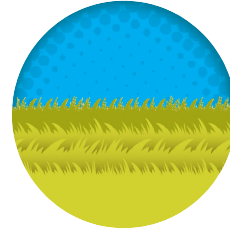
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Question 1 Answer

Grass:

- on a lawn
- in a pipe

- ☐ A) homophony
- ☒ B) polysemy



You answered this correctly!

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Question 2 Answer

Leech:

- in a swamp
- In a social group

- ☐ A) homophony
- ☒ B) polysemy



You answered this correctly!

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Question 3 Answer

Range:

- of mountains
- cooking

- ☒ A) homophony
☐ B) polysemy



You answered this correctly!

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Question 4 Answer

Key:

- for locks
- for assignments

- ☐ A) homophony
☒ B) polysemy



You answered this correctly!

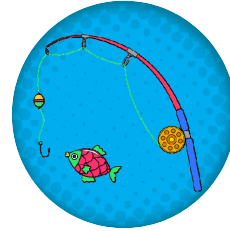
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Question 5 Answer

[rijl]:

- for fishing (reel)
- authentic (real)

- ☒ A) homophony
- ☐ B) polysemy



You answered this correctly!

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Question 6 Answer

Race:

- competition
- type of people

- ☒ A) homophony
- ☐ B) polysemy



You answered this correctly!

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