

ENGLISH LINGUISTICS
CHAPTER 2 – SEMANTICS/PRAGMATICS
REVISION QUESTIONS

(1) Consider the following pairs of words.

- (i) Identify the meaning relation for each pair.
- (ii) Give a definition for each meaning relation.
- (iii) Show in which way the pairs of words match the definition.

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|------------------|--------------------|
| a. seem/seam | d. happy/sad |
| b. almost/nearly | e. longer/shorter |
| c. husband/wife | f. to die/to drown |

(2) The following sentences are ambiguous.

- (i) Give two paraphrases for each sentence.
- (ii) Identify the type of ambiguity.
- (iii) Explain what causes the ambiguity.

- a. The football team gathered around their coach.
- b. The teacher may impress the student with awkward ideas.
- c. Ringing bells did not annoy him.

(3) Consider the pairs of sentences given below. For each pair:

- (i) Say whether the two sentences can be related in terms of one of the following concepts: contradiction, entailment, implicature, paraphrase, presupposition.

If so,

- (ii) Identify the type of relation.
- (iii) Give the definition of this relation or explain it in your own words.
- (iv) Show in which way the pair illustrates your answer in (iii).

- a. Leslie reminded Kim that it was Mary's birthday. - It was Mary's birthday.
- b. Muriel eats bacon. - Muriel doesn't eat meat.
- c. I found an ant on the desk. - I found an insect on the desk.
- d. Ernest remarried. - Ernest was married previously.
- e. Sherlock believes that Jane is innocent. - Jane is innocent.
- f. The children are asleep. - We have to be quiet.
- g. John might have seen Peter. - Peter might have been seen by John.

(4) Consider the following sentence:

I bet Mary will give Peter the cold shoulder tomorrow.

Discuss two issues that this sentence raises from the point of view of pragmatics (issues such as deixis, metaphor, irony, speech acts, disambiguation...).