

ENGL 306A



Personal Notes

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Chapter 1: Cognitive Basis of Language

NEUROCOGNITIVE AFFINITIES

💡 "Neurocognitive affinities" are patterns in language that we can recognize.

💡 Types:

① Identity:

② Resemblance / similarity (ie metaphors)

- comparing things to others because they are similar

③ Correlation (ie metonymy)

- when we associate 2 things because they happened together in time/space

- eg "the Kremlin invaded Ukraine"

④ Subsets (ie meronymy / synecdoche)

- "meronymy": subsets, wholes & parts;
eg fingers are part of a hand

- "synecdoche": where a part is made to describe the whole or vice versa
(eg "Toronto made it into the finals")

⑤ Opposition (ie antithesis)

- when something is used in place for another thing that contrasts it

- eg "that tall person is tiny"

⑥ Repetition (ie multiplicity)

- when something is repeated multiple times

- eg "Go, go, go!"

⑦ Sequence

- when we process things based on their order

- eg before/after, etc

MODES OF MEANING

💡 We understand about the world through neurocognitive affinities, but communicate about them through modes of meaning.

💡 Types:

① "symbolicality": relation of convention
eg dog/pet/狗

② "indexicality": relation of association
- this can be causal or correlational
eg the sound of dropping a book is associated with it hitting the floor

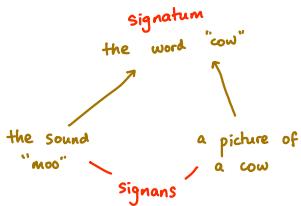
③ "iconicity": relation of resemblance
- we recognize things because they look/feel like other objects we are familiar with
- eg we know everyone in class is a human

SIGNS

Q "Signs" consist of two components:

- ① the "signans", which describe the physical/sensory component of the sign. & eg a sound/image
- ② the "signatum", which describes the concept or meaning the signans represent.

eg



Q₂ Types of signs / dimensions of meaning:

① "Indexicality": defined by causation/correlation

eg thought of a cow ~ recording of a cow mooing

② "Iconicity": defined by resemblance

eg thought of a cow ~ picture of a cow

③ "Symbolicity": defined by convention

eg thought of a cow ~ the word "cow" in English

FIGURATION / TROPS

Q "Tropes" occur when something (the "source") carries the primary signification for something else (the "target") that ordinarily holds that signification.

Q₂ Types:

- ① Metaphors;
- ② Metonymy;
- ③ Synecdoches.

INDEXICALITY IN LANGUAGE

Q "Indexicality" occurs when one element of a set/relationship (the "source") is singled out to stand for other elements (the "target")

eg "the law is here", "Toronto wins at OT"

ANALOGY IN LANGUAGE

Q "Analogies" occur when one element (the "source") represents another element (the "target") to which it is unrelated.

eg metaphors; ie "the sun is like an orange"

POLYSEMY

Q "Polysemy" is when a word has multiple meanings.

eg "pussy" — sexual organ, cat, insult

PHONAESTHemes

Q "Phonaesthemes" are units of sound that are thought to carry meaning, although there is no conventional basis for that meaning.
eg "gl-" in glow, gleam, glistening connotes to "light/shine"

STRUCTURAL PRINCIPLES IN LANGUAGE

Q All language is founded ultimately on "contiguity"; ie there must exist physical, temporal or conceptual relations between expressions & what they reference for a communicative code to exist.

Q Thus, all language is symbolic in nature.

MOTIVATION

Q "Motivation" refers to non-arbitrary links between a form & the meaning of linguistic expressions.

INDEXICALITY

Recall indexicality is metonymic, as it is defined by correlation/causation.

EGOCENTRICISM / ME-CENTRICISM

① "Egocentrism" refers to the tendency to use language to communicate one's own thoughts, feelings & experiences.

② This is achieved via "deixis" (pointing words), which point to specific individuals, objects & locations.

eg "this dog, that house"

③ We can use "proximals": ie

① Speaking location:

eg here, there, near, etc

② Speaking time; &

eg now, today, then, etc

③ Relative location to the speaker.

eg this, that, etc

④ We can also use "pronouns":

① ego = 1st person

② ego + others = 1st person plural

③ hearer of ego = 2nd person

④ hearer of ego + others = 2nd person plural

⑤ not ego or hearer of ego = 3rd person

⑥ not ego or hearer of ego + others =

3rd person plural

ANTHROPOCENTRISM / HUMAN-CENTRISM

① "Anthropocentrism" refers to using language to name objects according to their relation to us; ie we project ourselves onto objects.

eg front/back of a car, since that is how we use cars

ICONICITY

Recall iconicity is "metaphorical", as it is defined by similarity & resemblance.

QUANTITY

"Quantity" refers to when the amount of language resembles the amount of events/concepts.

eg - "dinosaurs lived a long, long, long time ago"

- plurals are longer than singulars

SEQUENTIAL ORDER

"Sequential order" refers to when the order of language resembles the order of events/concepts.

In particular, the order of words/sentences usually mirrors the order of events.

eg "don't drink and drive", "stop, drop & roll"

DISTANCE

"Distance" refers to when the closeness of linguistic elements resembles the closeness of events/concepts.

eg "greenhouse" vs "green house",

"wetsuit" vs "wet suit"

CONSTRUCTIONS

① "Constructions" are patterns/templates that are used to build larger units of language, like phrases or sentences.
ie the building blocks of language

② Examples:

- ① Fossilized expressions;
eg now and then, kick the bucket
- ② Partially-filled fossilized expressions;
eg jog X's memory
- ③ Abstract syntactic patterns;
eg NPVP (active), NP be V by NP (passive)
- ④ Words:
- ⑤ Morphemes;
eg pre-, -er, -ed, etc
- ⑥ Phonemes, syllables & features;
eg /p/, /b/, higher/lower voice

ANALOGIC FRAMES / CONCEPTUAL METAPHORS

① "Analogic frames" are cognitive structures that allow us to understand complex or abstract concepts by mapping them onto concrete & familiar experiences.

eg "time is money", "she shot me down",
"he attacked my point", etc

CORRELATIONAL FRAMES / CONCEPTUAL METONYMY

① "Correlational frames" are cognitive structures that allow us to understand complex or abstract concepts by replacing them with related/associated concepts.

② Examples:

- ① Producer for product;
eg "I only read Dr. Seuss"
- ② Container for contained;
eg "that's a tasty dish"
- ③ Person for instrument;
eg "I'm parked out back"
- ④ Place for institution;
eg "Ottawa sent my rebate"

Chapter 2: Words

WORDS

Q₁ A "word" is the smallest unit of language that can be uttered in a context with objective or practical meaning.

Q₂ Note that words are arbitrary.

LEXICALIZATION

Q "Lexicalization" is the process of turning a concept/idea into a word or set of words.

eg the ringing of a phone → "ring"

WHERE WORDS COME FROM

Q Words can come from

① the imagination; or

eg hobbit, googol, quark, etc

② the world.

eg bang, crackle, spark

Q They can also come from other words; these can be distinguished via the following:

① "structural" (ie permutations of form)

- ie when a word comes from borrowing other words, combining words, or reducing words

② "onomasiological" (ie permutations of meaning)

- eg metaphors

SIMPLE VS COMPLEX WORDS

Q "Simple words" are those with only one morpheme.

eg "Fred", "sane", "disc"

Q "Complex words" are those with ≥ 2 morphemes.

eg "quicker", "blackbird"

SEMASILOGY VS ONOMASIOLOGY

Q "Semasiology" is concerned with the question "what does the word X mean?"

Q "Onomasiology" is concerned with the question "how do you express X?"

SEMASIOLOGY

POLYSEMY

① "Polysemy" refers to when a single word has multiple meanings.

Types:

- ① Specialization - correlates with narrower sense
- ② Generalization - correlates with wider sense
- ③ Metaphorization - correlates with resemblance
- ④ Metonymy - correlates with correlation/contiguity

HOMONYMY

② "Homonymy" refers to when two or more words have the same form (spelling and/or pronunciation) but different meanings.

eg bank (of water) vs. bank (the financial institution)

DERIVING WORDS FROM OTHERS

③ Words can be formed from others in several ways:

- ① "Metaphorical" - a new signatum from comparison
eg broadcast (to cast out seeds → to send out a signal)
mouse (rodent → computer device)
- ② "Metonymical" - a new signatum from physical/conceptual association
eg horn (animal projection → instrument)
- ③ "Specialization" - narrowing of signatum
eg pill (small unit of medication → birth control)
school (learning institution → K-12)
- ④ "Generalization" - broadening of signatum
eg - ship (send by boat → send by any means)
- school (learning institution → an intellectual/creative group)

WORD CLASSES

⑤ Types:

- ① "Content words": carry the semantic burden & are less important syntactically
 - nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs
- ② "Function words": carry the syntactic work, are relatively light semantically
 - prepositions, particles, qualifiers, determiners, etc.

WORD CLASS DIAGNOSTICS

⑥ Types:

- ① "Semantics": the type of signata the category invokes;
- ② "Morphological": the shape the signata possess; &
- ③ "Syntactic": the other words the class occurs with & the order in which they do.

ENGLISH NOUNS

⑦ Semantic: a person/place/thing.

⑧ Morphological: takes plural & possessive abilities.

eg dogs, dog's

⑨ Syntactic: follows articles & adjectives.
eg the green dog, a dog

ENGLISH ADJECTIVES

⑩ Semantic: a quality attribute/property.

⑪ Morphological: takes comparative/superlative suffixes.

eg quickly, quickest

⑫ Syntactic: precedes nouns, follows degree words

eg the very big boy

ENGLISH VERBS

⑬ Semantic: action or state.

⑭ Morphological: takes 4 suffixes:

- ① past tense;
eg nodded
- ② third person singular present;
eg nods
- ③ past participle; &
eg has nodded, had nodded
- ④ present participle.
eg is nodding, was nodding.

⑮ Syntactic: can follow an auxiliary verb.

eg he can nod his head.

ENGLISH ADVERBS

- 1 **Semantic:** modifies an action/state.
- 2 **Morphological:** none (although many end in -ly)
- 3 **Syntactic:** follows a verb
eg he nods vigorously

ENGLISH PREPOSITIONS

- 1 **Semantic:** establishes spatial locations, relations or directions.
eg at, in, on, by, etc

ONOMASIOLOGY

SYNONYMY

- 1 "Synonymy" occurs when the signantia are different, but the signatum is the same.
 - neurocognitive affinity: resemblance/similarity
 - eg dog, doggo, doge, etc

PLESIONYMY

- 1 "Plesionymy" occurs when the signantia are different, & the signata are similar but not the same.
 - neurocognitive affinity: resemblance/similarity
 - eg the n word, the p word

ANTONYMY

- 1 "Antonymy" occurs when the signantia are different & the signata are opposite.
 - neurocognitive affinity: resemblance/similarity
 - eg black/white, up/down, etc

MERONYMY

- 1 "Meronymy" occurs when the signantia are different & the signata are in a super/subset relation.
 - superset = hypernym, subset = hyponym
 - neurocognitive affinity: meronymy
 - eg for dog: hound, terrier

WHERE WORDS COME FROM - STRUCTURAL PROCESSES

- Q: Words can arise from structural processes:
- ① Borrowing other words;
 - ② Combining other words/phrases; &
eg through "blends"; eg smoke + fog → smog
 - ③ Reducing words.

BORROWING

- Q: "Borrowing" occurs when the form inevitably changes (to accommodate the borrowing languages phonology), & the meaning also shifts in various ways.
eg skunk, chocodate, etc

COMPOUNDS

- Q: "Compounds" are words that consist of two words combined together.
eg airplane, fire engine, etc
- Q: Types of combinations:
 - ① the words are glued together;
 - ② the words are hyphenated; or
 - ③ the words are just stressed.

CLIPPING

- Q: "Clipping" occurs when words are shortened/spliced before being combined.
eg professor → prof., hamburger, etc.
- Q: This is often jargon, which increases efficiency.

ACRONYMS / ABBREVIATIONS

- Q: "Acronyms/abbreviations" are examples of combining & reducing.
eg radar, scuba, etc;
CBC, USA, etc

- Q: Note that with clipping, the linkages are more apparent, & so the original meaning is more easily recoverable by outsiders; but with jargon & acronyms, often secret information is needed.
- Q: Thus, jargon is more exclusive than clipping.

CONVERSION (DOUBLE-DIPPING)

- Q: "Double-dipping" occurs when a word/phrase is borrowed from one language into another, and then re-borrowed back into the original language.
- Q: The word usually also changes form or meaning.
eg café, sushi, fiancé/fiancée, etc

PRODUCTIVITY

- Q: "Productivity" refers to the capacity of a language or specific linguistic rule to generate new words, phrases or structures.

Chapter 3: Morphology

INTRODUCTION

Q1 "Morphology" is the study of morphemes, which are the smallest units of language.

Q2 In particular, a morpheme is the smallest pairing of signans & a signatum.

TYPES OF MORPHEMES

Q3 Types:

① Free morpheme: can stand alone as a word
eg write, dog, cat

② Bound morpheme: cannot stand alone as a word.
- "affixes" are a type of this
- split into prefixes, suffixes, infixes & circumfixes
- eg -er, -ez, pre-, etc.

Q4 Types of bound morphemes:

① Inflectional morphemes: added to a word to indicate grammatical information without significantly changing the meaning.
- eg -s, -ed, -er, -est

② Derivational morphemes: added to a word to create a new word with a different meaning/category.

- eg -un, dis-, re-, -able, -ly
- eg un-break-able, dis-associate, re-try

* we often use the notation {x} or {x-y} to denote suffixes & prefixes.

MORPHOLOGICAL CONSTRUCTIONS

Q1 "Morphological constructions" are patterns or structures that are formed by combining morphemes to create complex words.

Q2 We use the following syntax for our "building block":

[morpheme] word class

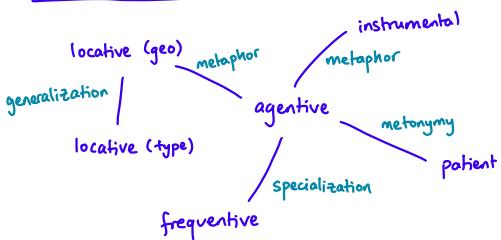
Q3 We can then combine these together.

eg [[x] adj i]_N → "the property of x"
[[x] adj ness]_N → "the state of x"
[[x] adj dom]_N → "the domain of x"

Q4 Note morphemes may have different effects on the same or different base word.

eg {-er?} →
agentive
eg farmer, writer, etc
locative (geographic)
eg Londoner, etc
locative (type)
eg foreigner, villager, etc
instrumental
eg printer, toaster, etc
patient
eg page-turner, reader, etc
frequentive
eg chatter, mutter, etc
other/misc
eg triple-decker, parker, etc

As a radial network:



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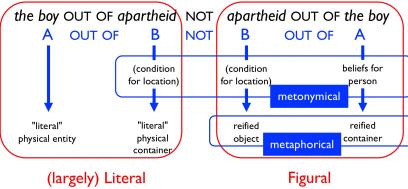
ANTIMETABOLES

"Antimetaboles" involve repeating words/phrases in reverse order or in a mirrored pattern.

eg - all for one, one for all

- ask what you can do for your country, not what your country can do for you

This includes the "A out of B, not B out of A" construction.



PARISON

"Parison" refers to repeating a grammatical structure/pattern in successive clauses/sentences for effect.

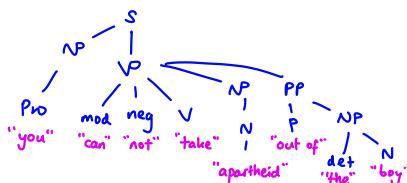
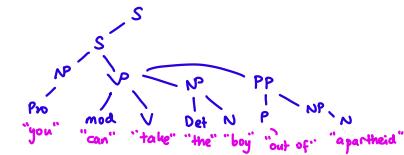
SYNTAX TREES

"Syntax trees" are graphical representations used to analyze structure of words/phrases in a sentence.

We can explore parison via a syntax tree.

eg [Take [the boy]_{NP} [out of [apartheid]_{NP}]_{PP}]_{VP}]

As a tree:



FIGURATIVE DIMENSIONS

"Figurative dimensions" refer to aspects of meaning that go beyond literal/straightforward interpretation.

eg with antimetaboles, we exploit multiplicity, identity & sequence.

This helps increase productivity & memorability of sentences.

PRODUCTIVITY IN MORPHOLOGY

"Morphemes" often imply the underlying theme behind words.

eg petro- \Rightarrow petrol related

ROOTS VS STEMS

"Roots" are the base elements of a word, that are usually irreducible units.

"Stems" are formed by combining a root with other morphemes (eg affixes/suffixes), and can serve as the base for successive word formation.

AFFIX CONSTRUCTIONS

Constructions:

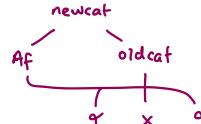
① Prefix: [Af [x] oldcat] newcat



② Suffix: [Cx] oldcat Af] newcat



③ Infix: [Cy/xi] Af [z/xi] oldcat] newcat



④ Circumfix: [Af [x] oldcat Af] newcat



EXAMPLE: ENGLISH MORPHEMES

(paste SS from slides)