

# The types of lexical relations —

## — <sup>1</sup> Synonyms —

Synonyms are two or more forms with very closely related meanings, which are often, but not always, inter substitutable in sentences.

For example:-

- broad = wide , hide = conceal
  - almost = nearly , cab = taxi ,
  - Liberty = freedom , answer = reply.
- (e.g. of synonymy are in para)

The idea of "sameness of meaning" used in discussing synonymy is not necessarily total sameness.

There are many occasions when one word is appropriate in a sentence, but its synonyms would be add.

For example:-

The word "answer"

fit in the sentence Cathy had only one "answer" correct in the test. Its near synonymy would "reply" would sound add.



# Antonymy

Two forms with opposite meanings are called "antonymy".

For example:

quick = slow, big = small  
long = short, rich = poor,  
happy = sad, hot = cold, old = young,  
male = female, true = false,  
alive = dead.

Antonyms are divided into two <sup>parts</sup>

(i) — Gradable antonyms

(ii) — Ungradable antonyms

↓  
(complementary pairs)

→ Gradable antonyms :-

Words with opposite meaning on a long a scale such as the pair  
big = small, can be used in

comparative constructions like  
bigger than - smaller than.

Negative of one member of  
the gradable pair does not  
necessarily imply the other.

For example :-

Dog is not old, it does  
not mean that dog is young.

→ Non-gradable antonyms:-

Words which are direct  
opposites. Such antonyms have  
complementary pairs, comparative  
constructions and negative of  
one member does imply the  
other.

For example :-

The person is not  
dead does indeed mean  
that person is live.