

# English Language and Translation 2

## 1<sup>st</sup> Language - 2018-19

Lesson 9: 22 January 2019

Lexis: Linguistic devices

# SEMANTICS/1

- Meaning by reference to a recognisable thing/person
- Meaning by denotation (literal neutral) or connotation (cultural, associative)

See: <http://etymonline.com/index.php>

# SEMANTICS/2

- Polysemy
- Collocation
- Connotation
- Metaphor and Idioms
- Clichés, Proverbs, etc.

# POLYSEMY/1

## Pronunciation – Spelling – Meaning

Homograph: same spelling, different meaning and (maybe) different pronunciation, e.g. strike (hit) – strike (stop work)

Homophone: same pronunciation, different meaning and (maybe) different spelling, e.g. bear (animal) – bear (tolerate) - bare (naked)

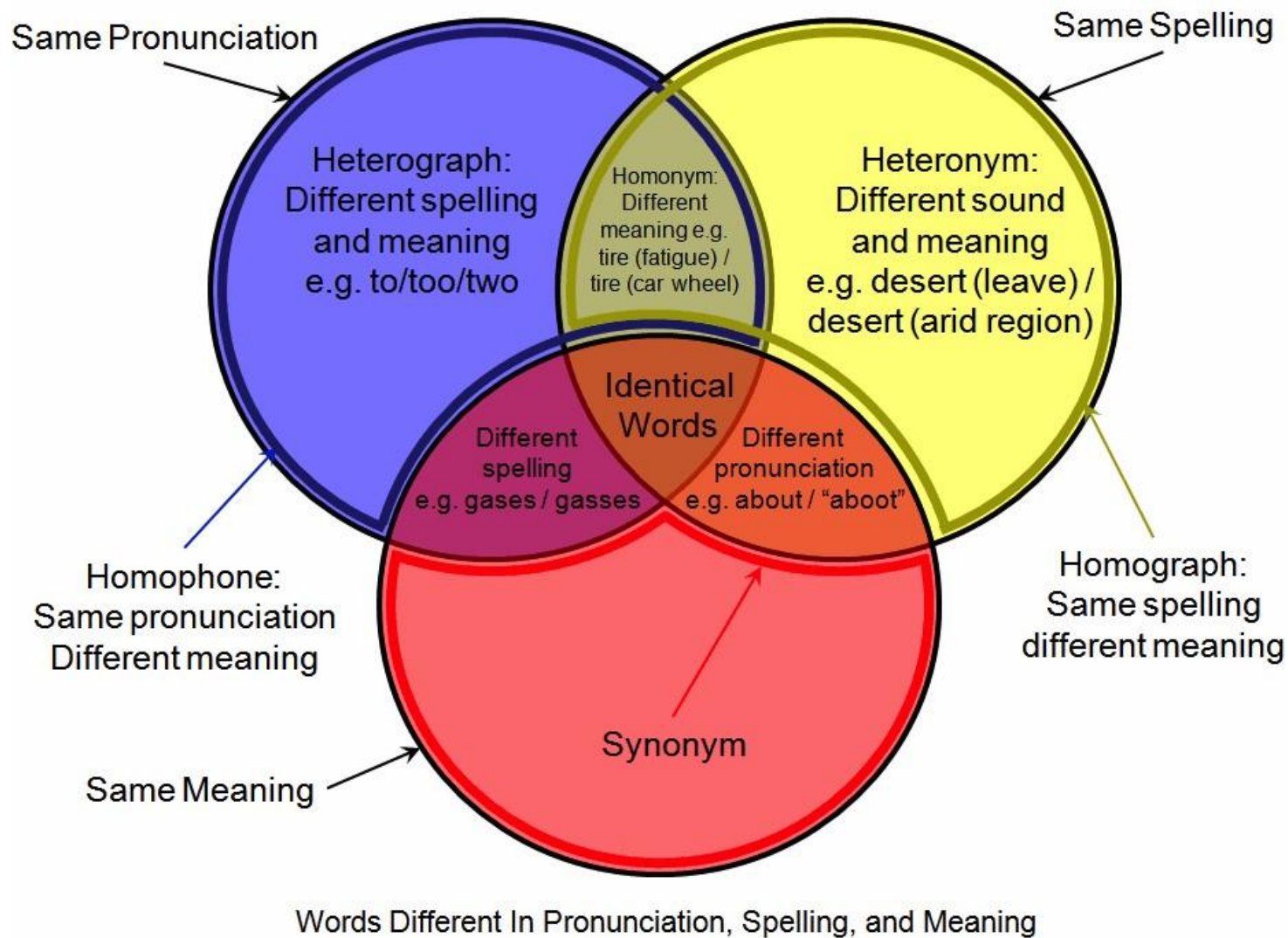
Homonym: same spelling, same pronunciation, different meaning, e.g. lie (untruth) – lie (recline)

Heterophone: different pronunciation and meaning, same spelling, e.g. close (verb) - close (near)

Heterograph (heteronym): different spelling and meaning, same pronunciation, e.g. to – too – two

Synonym: different spelling and pronunciation, same meaning, e.g. fast - quick

# POLYSEMY/2



# POLYSEMY

It's only *fair* that we should share the housework.

The Frankfurt Book *Fair* is a very important event for most publishers.

Our caravan gives us shelter through *fair* weather or foul.

I've got *fair* eyelashes and my eyes look awful without mascara.

His marks in his final exams were *fair* to disappointing.

The firefighters managed to save the children from the burning third-floor *flat*.

The countryside round here is terribly *flat* and boring.

To join the Fitness Club you pay a *flat* fee of £500.

The tune is in B *flat* minor.

He erected the shed in five minutes *flat*.

# COLLOCATION/1

How words are used together:

- to have lunch, make a mistake,
- change your mind
- a loaf of bread, a pint of beer
- utterly depressing
- a beautiful day, view, baby

## COLLOCATION/2

### Delexical verbs:

- Take: take a train; take it easy
- Get: get a bus; get married
- Have: have a break; have children
- Make: make an effort; make do
- Do: do exercise; do the dishes



## COLLOCATION/3

Order of expressions in Bi-nominals and Tri-nominals:

- Black and White
  - Romeo and Juliet
  - Fish and Chips
  - Sweet and Sour
  - Rough and Smooth - Ups and Downs
- 
- Blood, Sweat and Tears
  - Left, Right and Centre

# COLLOCATION EXAMPLES/1

## Adjective + noun collocations

Nouns often have typical adjectives which go with them. Here are some examples.

Compare **article** and **thing**:

We say	<i>but not usually ...</i>
the <b>real thing</b>	the genuine thing
the <b>genuine article</b>	the real article

Examples:

I don't like recorded music, I prefer the **real thing**. [i.e. real, live music]

These trainers are the **genuine article**. Those others are just cheap imported copies.

Other examples:

You can give a **broad summary** of something. (*Not: ~~a wide summary~~*)

You can describe something in **great detail**. (*Not: ~~in big detail~~*)

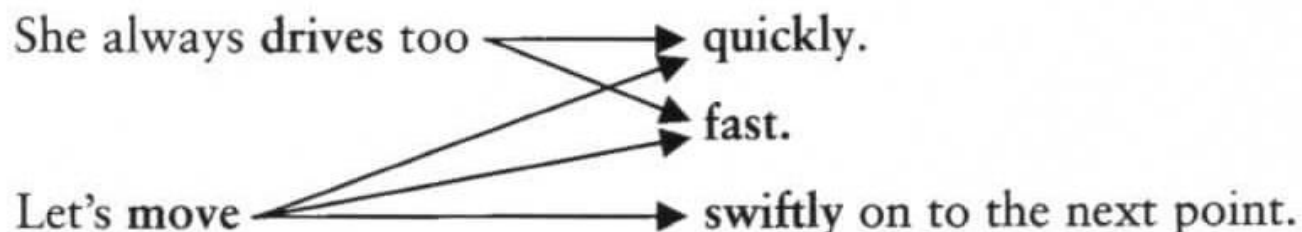
Some adjectives go with a restricted range of nouns.

For example: a **formidable task/opponent/amount/person**

# COLLOCATION EXAMPLES/2

## Verb + adverb collocations

Often, verbs have typical adverbs that collocate with them. The lines in the chart show which collocations are normal:



Other examples:

It's something I feel **strongly** about. (*Not: I ~~feel powerfully about~~*)

If I **remember rightly**, it happened at about six-thirty. (*Not: ~~If I remember perfectly~~*)

# COLLOCATION EXAMPLES/3

## **Adverb + adjective collocations**

It is useful to learn which adverbs most typically modify particular types of adjectives. For example, the adverb **utterly**, which means totally or completely, generally occurs before an adjective. The majority of these adjectives have a negative connotation. Typical examples are: **alien, appalling, blank, dismal, depressed, disgusting, distasteful, false, fatuous, impossible, lost, ludicrous, naïve, ridiculous**. Try to notice this kind of regularity when learning words.

# COLLOCATION EXAMPLES/4

## Verb + object collocations

Verbs and their objects often form collocations.

You **raise your hand** to ask a question. (*Not: ~~lift your hand~~*)

You can **raise a family**. (i.e. bring up children; *not: ~~lift a family~~*)

You can **visit / go to / check out** a website on the Internet.

# COLLOCATION EXAMPLES/5

Language of Advertising:

- top-quality
- family-size
- chocolate-flavoured
- longer-lasting
- Buy one, get one free
- Value for money

# CONNOTATION/1

Words and expressions which have a particular cultural significance to speakers of a language:

- Once upon a time
- One giant leap
- 9/11
- Whistleblower

## CONNOTATION/2

The feeling or ideas that are suggested by a word, rather than the actual meaning of the word. This may vary between users:

- Dog, Lion, Sheep, Wolf, Shark
- Black Cats
- Iron Lady



## CONNOTATION/3

For example, the word cowboy, as used in an expression like **cowboy builders** or **cowboy plumbers**, has associations of dishonesty and unreliability.

The connotations which words have are often exploited in advertisements. For example, an advertisement for an Indian firm of builders took the slogan:

*You've tried the cowboys. Now try the Indians.*

This slogan draws on two sets of connotations – the *cowboy* association mentioned above and the association of *cowboys and Indians* as from Wild West films. It neatly suggests that Indians, as the traditional opponents of cowboys, embody as builders the opposite characteristics of honesty and reliability.

# METAPHOR/1

Metaphor is a way of expressing something by comparing it with something else that has similar characteristics.

If we call a city a jungle, for example, we are using a metaphor. We are suggesting that a city is like a jungle in that it is wild and full of dangers.

If we say that someone lights up our life, we are using a metaphor. We are suggesting that person is like a light in our life in that they bring us great happiness.

## METAPHOR/2

Many idioms are metaphorical expressions which are in common use. For example: *to be on the ball* [to be very aware of things and ready to act – like a good footballer], or *to keep someone or something on a tight rein* [to have a lot of control over someone or something – like a rider having control over a horse] are also metaphors.

# METAPHOR/3

Many words in English are so frequently used in a metaphorical way that English speakers may no longer notice that they are metaphors. Here are some examples.

- Intelligence is equated with light; for example, a clever person is called *bright* and a less intelligent person *dim*.
- Intensity of feeling or passion is equated with temperature; someone who is enthusiastic at one time and not at another is said to *blow hot and cold*.
- The movement of people is equated with the movement of water; we can, for example, talk of people *flooding* or *trickling* out of a hall.
- Time is equated with money; both can be *spent* or *wasted* or *used profitably*.
- Business is likened to a military operation; *strategies*, *tactics* and *campaigns* are used in both.

# IDIOM

A complex lexical item which is longer than a word form but shorter than a sentence and which has a meaning that cannot be derived from the knowledge of its component parts.

*A Survey of Modern English, Gramley and Patzold*

# IDIOM: a Classification

*Concerned with:*

- The individual (kick the bucket)
- The world (going to the dogs)
- Interaction between individuals (lead you up the garden path)
- Interaction between individual and the world (hit the nail on the head)

*Pragmatic Classification of Idioms as an Aid for the Language Learner, Elsa Lattey*

# CLICHE

Repetition leads to loss of original meaning and sincerity

Clichés often deliberately signposted and exploited by reference and modification

- Please do not hesitate to contact me.
- It never rains, but it pours (as very say).
- A stone's throw from ...
- Long, sandy beaches – sun-drenched bays

# PROVERBS

- Actions speak louder than words.
- If it ain't broke, don't fix it.
- People who live in glass houses should not throw stones.
- There is no such thing as a free lunch.
- When in Rome (do as the Romans do).

See: <https://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/proverbs.html>