

English Language and Translation 2

2nd Language - 2018-19

Lesson 9: 28 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)

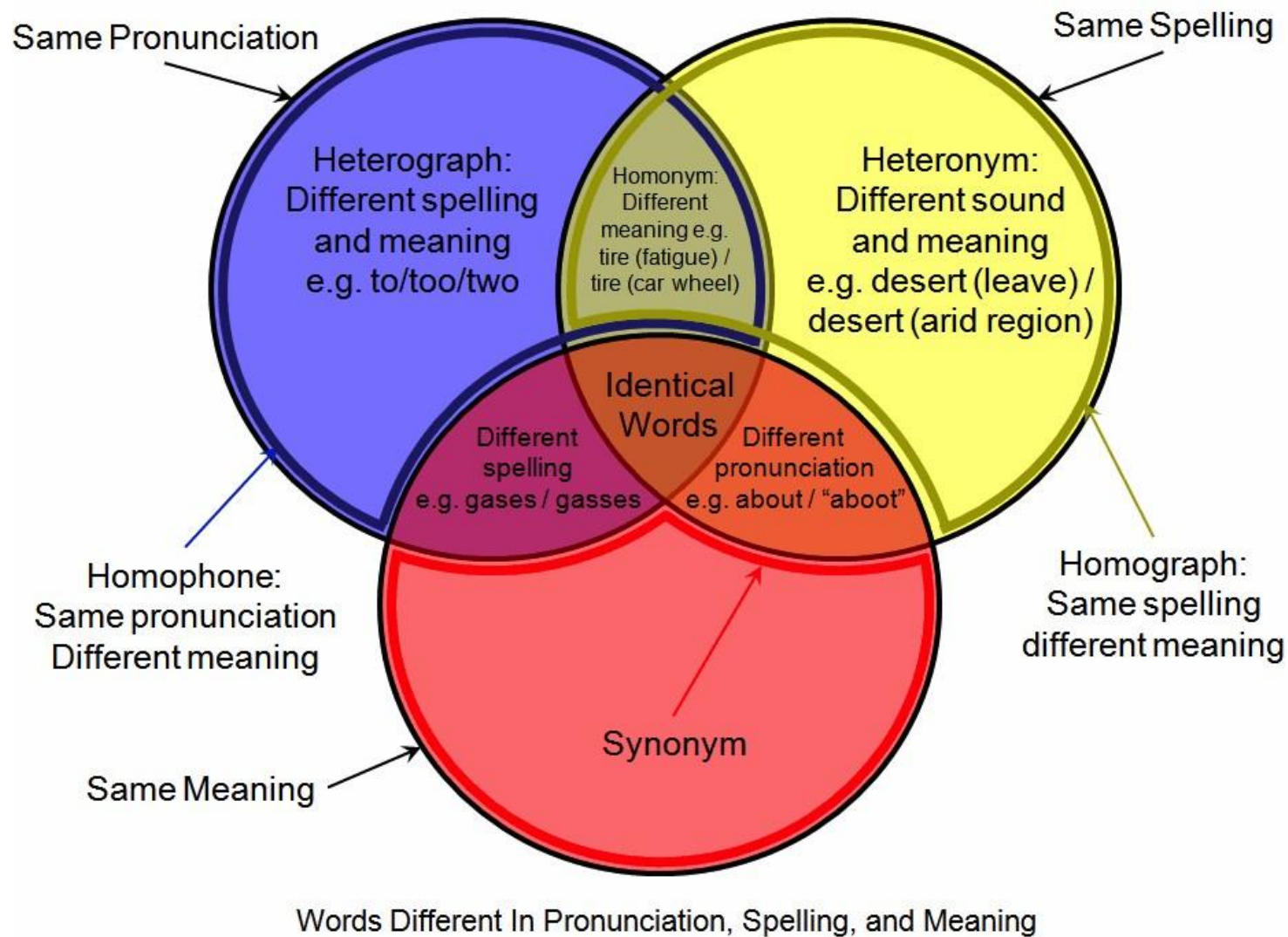
Homonym: same spelling, same pronunciation, different meaning, e.g. lie (untruth) – lie (recline)

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 real thing	the genuine thing
the genuine article	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~~*)

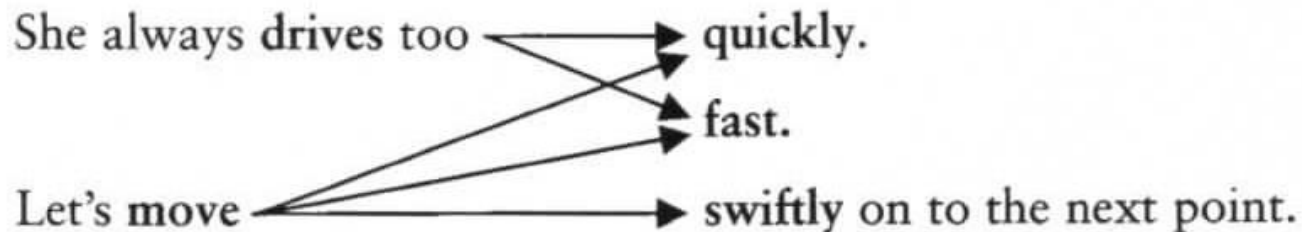
Some adjectives go with a restricted range of nouns.

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>