

The history and theory of semantics

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Abstract: This paper is devoted to the problem of investigating developing concept of semantic field and its development and analysis with examples and methods. In globalized world, we can't imagine our life without internet. It covers us in all sphere as well as education too. Learning language is one of the important process during the life. There are a lot of methods and ways in learning foreign language. By the time we have also some subjects which support learning language. One of them is Semantics. It provides teaching and learning English linking with other fields of language. An important part of thesis is devoted to the new tendencies and schools of Semantics that assimilated advancements in the linguistic science in such trends of the 20th century as functional, decoding and grammatical sides.

Keywords: semiology, non-linguist, democracy, reference, compositionality, sub-discipline

INTRODUCTION

“Whatever success we make in life, every one of us always gratefully acknowledge your invaluable input into these achievements,” Shavkat Mirziyoyev told teachers and mentors gathered at the magnificent hall.

“Indeed, the efforts of teachers in human upbringing and development are great. Even in the difficult conditions associated with this year's pandemic, passionate teachers continue to work. The new academic year has begun in most schools. The “Online School” project and distance learning have been launched. In other words, today teachers are fighting on two fronts.¹

“Inimitable, unique scientific and spiritual legacy of our great ancestors should become a permanent program of action for us,” the President said. “We must hold on to this immortal property and draw strength and inspiration from it. And in accordance with these ideals, it is essential to develop, first of all, the national education system”.

The appearance of Semantics as a science

Semantics, also called semiotics, semiology, or semasiology, the philosophical and scientific study of meaning in natural and artificial languages. The term is one of a group of English words formed from the various derivatives of the Greek verb *semaino* (“to mean” or “to signify”). The noun semantics and the adjective semantic

¹ President Shavkat Mirziyoyev 's speech at the festive event occasioned to the Teachers and Mentors Day

are derived from *semantikos* ("significant"); *semiotics* (adjective and noun) comes from *semeiotikos* ("pertaining to signs"); *semiology* from *sema* ("sign") + *logos* ("account"); and *semasiology* from *semasia* ("signification") + *logos*.

It is difficult to formulate a distinct definition for each of these terms, because their use largely overlaps in the literature despite individual preferences. The word *semantics* has ultimately prevailed as a name for the doctrine of meaning, of linguistic meaning in particular. *Semiotics* is still used, however, to denote a broader field: the study of sign-using behaviour in general.

Ogbulogo.et.al. says that Alfred Korzybski was the first person to attempt to study semantics as a distinct discipline, separate from the discipline of philosophy. Incidentally, Korzybski was a non-linguist with a passion for establishing a universally acceptable science of communication. Prior to Korzybski's work, semantics was considered from a non-scientific point of view, but Korzybski's work was the first formal attempt to introduce a scientific model into the study of semantics².

Korzybski began by describing all entities and realities by assigning them labels. He proceeded to group the names into threes. He had names for common objects like chair, stone, cow, etc. He also had tags for groups and collections like nations, animals, people, etc. Korzybski's third group of labels have no identifiable references in the outside world. These labels are very abstract and do not lend themselves easily to concrete reality. These labels can only be attributed to concrete realities by the imagination. These designations include, but are not limited to, freedom, love, democracy, etc. They appear in aesthetics, philosophy and politics. However, the same is not true for ordinary objects, since there seems to be a direct correspondence between objects and linguistic expressions. It's also worth noting that group labels tend to present a serious difficulty due to the wide variety of items within the group. The main challenge with abstract labels is that the meaning has no objective reference in reality, since different people react differently to different words. For example, the word "love" would be perceived differently by different people depending on their current situation or reality³. A person likely to be in a loving relationship will see it positively, while someone in an unsatisfying relationship will see it negatively. Therefore, their reactions will be different and therefore evoke different emotions in them. Two other researchers, Ogden and Richards, have come very close to the analysis of meaning by combining philosophical processes and linguistic methods. How did you do that? They introduced the term *referent* to describe the physical object or situation that the word identifies in the real world. They pointed out that the

² Lyons, J. (1977): *Semantics*. Vol 1. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

³ Lyons, J. (1977): *Semantics*. Vol 1. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

representation or situation should be taken as a reference, while the actual pronunciation or spelling representation represents the symbol.

The features of Semantics as a branch of Linguistics

The study of semantics looks at how meaning works in language, and because of this it often uses native speaker intuitions about the meaning of words and phrases to base research on. We all understand semantics already on a subconscious level, it's how we understand each other when we speak.

How the way in which words are put together creates meaning is one of the things that semantics looks at, and is based on, how the meaning of speech is not just derived from the meanings of the individual words all put together. The principle of compositionality says that the meaning of speech is the sum of the meanings of the individual words plus the way in which they are arranged into a structure. Likewise, semantics also looks at the ways in which the meanings of words can be related to each other⁴.

Semantics looks at these relationships in language and looks at how these meanings are created, which is an important part of understanding how language works as a whole. Understanding how meaning occurs in language can inform other sub-disciplines, such as Language Acquisition, to help us to understand how speakers acquire a sense of meaning, and Sociolinguistics, as the achievement of meaning in language is important in language in a social situation. Semantics is also informed by other sub-disciplines of linguistics, such as Morphology, as understanding the words themselves is integral to the study of their meaning, and Syntax, which researchers in semantics use extensively to reveal how meaning is created in language, as how language is structured is central to meaning.

Formal semantics seeks to identify domain-specific mental operations which speakers perform when they compute a sentence's meaning on the basis of its syntactic structure. Theories of formal semantics are typically floated on top of theories of syntax such as generative syntax or Combinatory categorial grammar and provide a model theory based on mathematical tools such as typed lambda calculi. The field's central ideas are rooted in early twentieth century philosophical logic as well as later ideas about linguistic syntax. It emerged as its own subfield in the 1970s after the pioneering work of Richard Montague and Barbara Partee and continues to be an active area of research.

Formal semantics uses techniques from math, philosophy, and logic to analyze the broader relationship between language and reality, truth and possibility. Has your teacher ever asked you to use an "if... then" question? It breaks apart lines of information to detect the underlying meaning or consequence of events.

⁴ Carston, R. (1999): The Semantics/Pragmatics Distinction: A View from Relevance Theory. In: Turner, K. (ed): The Semantics/Pragmatics Interface from Different Points of View. Oxford/Amsterdam etc.: Elsevier, 85-126.

CONCLUSION

The study of meaning can be undertaken in various ways. Linguistic semantics is an attempt to explicate the knowledge of any speaker of a language which allows that speaker to communicate facts, feelings, intentions and products of the imagination to other speakers and to understand what they communicate to him or her. Language differs from the communication systems of other animals in being stimulus-free and creative. Early in life every human acquires the essentials of a language - a vocabulary and the pronunciation, use and meaning of each item in it. The speaker's knowledge is largely implicit. The linguist attempts to construct a grammar, an explicit description of the language, the categories of the language and the rules by which they interact. Semantics is one part of the grammar; phonology, syntax and morphology are other parts. Speakers of a language have an implicit knowledge about what is meaningful in their language, and it is easy to show this. In our account of what that knowledge is, we introduced ten technical terms: anomaly; paraphrase; synonymy; semantic feature; antonymy; contradiction; ambiguity; adjacency pairs; entailment and presupposition.

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