Evaluating the Distinct Use of Meaning Relationship At Semantic Level

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Abstract

Semantics is a branch of linguistics which studies about the relationships between words and how the meanings are constructed and how we understand each other. It means the meaning and interpretation of words, signs, and sentence structure. In a broader term, the semantics study the meaning in a language as well as anything created with language, and often make a distinction between meaning and concept. Meaning is a category of language and concept is the totality of real world knowledge about an item. It is possible to know the meaning of the word without knowing everything about the concept referred to by that meaning.

Further, the meaning relationships are relations between concepts and meanings. The concept 'school' may, for example, be expressed by the terms or expressions '*school*', '*schoolhouse*' and '*place for teaching*'. The relation between 'school' and 'schoolhouse' is a (synonym) relation between two words, while the relation between 'school' and 'place for teaching' is a relation between a word and an expression or phrase. These relations between words are termed lexical relations.

'School' also means '*a group of people who share common characteristics of outlook*', '*a school of thought*'. This is a homonym relation where two senses share the same word or expression as 'school'. Synonyms and homonyms are not only relations between concepts, but are about concepts expressed with identical or with different signs. In this article some of the important dimensions of meaning relationships have been discussed and the examples have been drawn from English and also from Urdu, Hindi or Persian, in order to clear the distinctive use among the languages.

Key Words: Collocation, Selectional Choice, Selectional Restriction, Compatibility, Antonymy, Homonymy, Polysemy, Hyponymy, Part-Whole Relationship, Metonymy, Metaphor, Aronyms, Simile, etc.

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Introduction

The word *semantic*s means 'of or relating to meaning'. Semantics is one of the branches of linguistics which studies about the relationships between words and how the meanings are constructed, sheds light on how we experience the world and how we understand each other. It means the meaning and interpretation of words, signs, and sentence structure. It largely determines our reading comprehension, how we understand others, and even what decisions we make as a result of our interpretations.

In a broader term, the semantics is a study of the meaning in a language as well as anything created with language, and often makes a distinction between **Meaning** and **concept.** Concept is the totality of real world knowledge about an item, while meaning is a category of language. It is possible to know the meaning of the word without knowing everything about the concept referred to by that meaning. For example, one can know the meaning of a word like *diamond* without knowing the chemical composition of the stone or that carbon and pencil lead are, chemically speaking, composed of the same substance. In other words, one can know the word *diamond* means a type of gemstone without understanding the full concept associated with that gemstone in the real world.(Culicover: 2009).

Further, the meaning relationships are relations between concepts or meanings. The concept 'school' is distinguished from the word *school*. School is a kind of educational institution. This indicates a generic or hierarchical relationship between two concepts or meanings, which is one kind among a long range of kinds of semantic relations.

The concept 'school' may, for example, be expressed by the terms or expressions '*school*', '*schoolhouse*' and '*place for teaching*'. The relation between 'school' and 'schoolhouse' is a (**synonym**) relation between two words, while the relation between 'school' and 'place for teaching' is a relation between a word and an expression or phrase. These relations between words are termed **lexical relations**. 'School' also means '*a group of people who share common characteristics of outlook*', '*a school of thought*'. This is a **homonym** relation where two senses share the same word or expression as 'school'. Synonyms and homonyms are not relations between concepts, but are about concepts expressed with identical or with different signs.

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The relations between concepts, senses or meanings should not be confused with relations between the terms, words, expressions or signs that are used to express the concepts. In the General Aspects of Language, several kinds of meaning relationships have been earmarked by Rizwan (2015) in the chapter 'Semantic Level'. The objective of this paper is to explain the most important dimensions of meaning relationships, with examples drawn from English and also from Urdu, Hindi or Persian, in order to clear the distinctive use among the languages.

Kinds of Meaning Relationship
(Terms with Urdu parallel)

1. Collocation   ترتیب

Collocation refers to the tendency for certain words to occur together. It is one another distinct aspect of our knowledge of words which has nothing to do with any of the factors considered so far. We know which words tend to occur with other words. If we ask a thousand people what they think of when we say *bread*, more than half will say *butter*. If we say *table,* they will mostly say *chair* and likewise for *hammer- nail*, for *needle- thread*, and for *salt- pepper* respectively.

Types of Collocation

There are several different types of collocation in different languages made from combinations of noun, adjective, verb etc. Some of the most common types are:

- noun + noun: a surge of anger (NOT a ~~rush~~ of anger)
- noun + verb: lions roar (NOT lions ~~shout~~)
- adjective + noun: excruciating pain (NOT excruciating ~~joy~~)
- verb + noun: commit suicide (NOT ~~undertake~~ suicide)
- verb + expression with preposition: burst into tears (NOT ~~blow up in~~ tears)
- verb + adverb: wave frantically (NOT wave ~~feverishly~~)
- adverb + adjective: completely satisfied (NOT ~~downright~~ satisfied)

ارد و زبان میں ترتیب کی مثال: بحوالہ آوان(2014)
(الف) خوش فہم: معصوم   (د) خوش خوراک: زیادہ کھانے والا
(ب) خوش حال: جس کا حال اچھا ہو   (ہ) خوش بو: اچھی بو والا
(ج) خوش بخت: اچھی قسمت والا   (و) خوش گفتار: شائستگی سے بات کرنے والا

2. Selectional Choice   انتخابی پسند

It is the choice of one semantic or syntactic class of words in a construction. Selectional Choices or Selectional Preferences are useful and versatile resource for a number of

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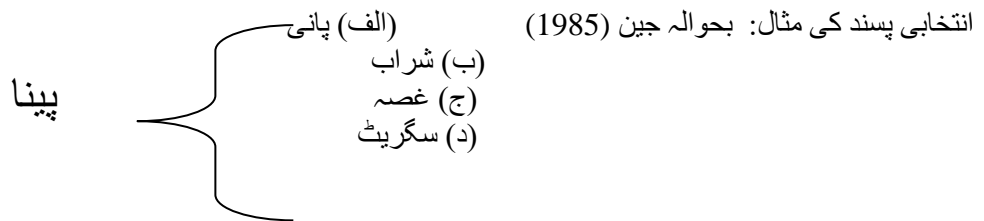Md. Rizwan, Ph.D. (JNU), MADE, CTE
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applications, such as syntactic disambiguation, semantic role labeling and word sense disambiguation. The selectional choice of a verb can be defined as the semantic restrictions, the verb imposes on its arguments and thus the choice it has for particular semantic classes. A verb like 'drink', for example, typically prefers animate subjects and drinkable objects. A selectional choice model keeps track of these semantic classes that verbs prefer for their argument slots. For instance:

(1) The skyscraper is playing coffee.
(2) The turntable is playing the piano.

Here, we may only consider the selectional choice of verbs, although the notion extends to other word classes as well (e.g. the selectional choice of nouns for certain adjectives). The first sentence is a clear violation of the selectional choices of 'play', both for its subject and object slot: a skyscraper does not play, nor is coffee something that can be played.

The second sentence, however, is more complicated. The sentence still constitutes a violation of the selectional choices (turntable is not able to play piano), but the violation is due to the ambiguity of the verb play, and the individual preferences (play, subject, turntable) and (play, object, piano) are partially possible. Therefore, the second sentence may not be able to capture this violation completely.

انتخابی پسند کی مثال: بحوالہ جین (1985)
(الف) پانی
(ب) شراب
پینا
(ج) غصہ
(د) سگریٹ

3. Selectional Restriction   انتخابی پابندی

We do not have complete freedom in combining words together in utterances. Virtually all words combine normally with some words and less normally with others. Indeed, this is a condition of their having meaning. For instance, the verb 'pour' forms a normal combination with wine as a direct object (Sam poured the wine), but not with glasses, as in 'Sam poured the glasses'. The conditions for normal combinations are commonly called selectional restrictions.

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In some cases, the task of specifying selectional restrictions seems relatively straight forward. For instance, we can say that for the combination a pregnant 'X' to be normal (at least on a literal reading), 'X' must poses the features (**mature**) (**female**) (**animal**), or at least must not possess features belonging to the same set of mutually incompatible features as any of these.(Finch: 2000). This predicts that a pregnant cow and my pregnant neighbor are normal, and the pregnant baby, pregnant driver, and pregnant chokidar are all odd because of feature in compatibility.

<div dir="rtl">

انتخابی پابندی کی مثال: (الف) شیر کا دہاڑنا
(ب) گدھے کا رینکنا
(ج) ہاتھی کا چنگھارنا
(د) کتے کا بھونکنا

</div>

4. Compatibility   ہم آہنگی

The compatibility means how well two things work or go together. The semantic compatibility between constructions and lexical items that occur in them in relation with language use, and the related concept, based on a usage based approach to language, in which linguistic knowledge or grammar is grounded.

Further, the compatibility refers to the capacity of two systems to work together without having to be altered to do so. Therefore, the compatibility is a state in which two things are able to exist or occur together without problems or conflict. For example, 'dark and night'. The relationships can be established between words with partly overlapping meaning. (Yoon: 2013). Thus, the words 'dark and night' are compatible in collocation such as 'it was a dark and rainy night'. Sometimes it also refers to the interoperability between two words of the same or different meanings.

<div dir="rtl">

ہم آہنگی کی مثال:

</div>

<div dir="rtl">

متضاد	متجانس
(الف) آمدو رفت	(الف) خوش وخرم
(ب) خواتین و حضرات	(ب) غور و خوض
(ج) ہجرو وصال	(ج) عشق و محبت
	(د) 'شب و روز' اور 'روز وشب'

</div>

5. Synonymy   مترادفیت

A synonym is a word or phrase that means nearly the same as another word or phrase in the same language. Words that are synonyms are said to be **synonymous**, and the state of being a **synonym** is called synonymy. Synonyms are words that are similar or have a related

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meaning to another word. They can be life savers, especially when we want to avoid repeating the same words over and over. The examples of synonyms are the words: *begin*, *start*, *commence*, and *initiate*. Words can be synonymous when meant in certain senses, even if they are not synonymous in all of their senses. For example, if we talk about a *long time* or an *extended time*, *long* and *extended* are synonymous within that context.

Synonyms can be any part of speech (such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs or prepositions), as long as both words are the same part of speech. Here are more examples of English synonyms:

– adjective   *"big"* and *"large"*

– verb   *"buy"* and *"purchase"*

– adverb   *"quickly"* and *"speedily"*

– preposition   *"on"* and *"upon"*

Types of Synonyms

There are three types of synonyms as classified by Chulanova (2013) as:

i. ideographic synonyms are words conveying the same concept but differing in shades of meaning, e.g. *fast – rapid – swift – quick, etc.*

ii. stylistic synonyms differ in stylistic characteristics, e.g. *to begin* (neutral) – *to commence* (bookish) – *to start* (neutral) – *to initiate* (bookish).

iii. absolute synonyms coincide in all their shades of meaning and in all their stylistic characteristics and, therefore, are interchangeable in all contexts, e.g. *compounding – composition; word-building* – word-formation.

समानार्थी शब्द का उदाहरण :	مترادفیت کی
मिसाल: مثال:	
(क) लक्ष्य , उद्देश्य , प्रयोजन	(الف)ظلمت: تاریک
(ख) आरम्भ-प्रारम्भ	(ب)ابتدا: آغاز
(ग) वाक्य निर्माण-वाक्य गठन	(ج)حسین: خوبصورت

6. Antonymy   متضادیت

An antonymy (also complimentarity) is a word that is the opposite meaning of another. Antonymy is oppositeness of meaning between a word and the other word or among words in the same part of speech, such as good-bad (*adjective-adjective*) and fast-slowly (*adverb-adverb*). According to Lyons (1977) who states that antonymy covers the relation between

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lexical items whose meanings stand in opposition to each other and it is often thought as the opposite of synonymy. There are four kinds of antonymy and problem in differentiating the type of antonymy.

i. Complementary Antonyms

This is one of the types of antonyms, in which two words with opposite meanings that must complement one another. If something is A, then it is not B. If something is X, then it is Y. This is the example of complementary antonym. If something is on, then it is not off. The examples of complementary antonyms are shown below:

live ←→ die   valid ←→ invalid   sink ←→ float

ii. Gradable Antonyms

Two words with meanings that may have overlapping areas. This type of antonym describes something which can be measured and compared with something else. For instance, if a truck can run 240 km/hour and the other one can run 200 km/hour, the first truck is *fast* and the other one is *slow*. This type is the commonest type of antonym. Gradable antonym deals with the level of words, it means that there is something/anything *between*. For instance, the one can say today is not hot, it may mean today is not cold. There is scale or space exists between hot and cold, it is warm. The other examples of gradable antonyms are shown as:-   fat ←→ skinny (*skinny-fat*)   cheap ←→ pricey (*reasonable*)

iii. Reverse Antonyms

It is usually associated with movement or direction as in '*reverse your car*'. According to Maienborn (2013), there are relations between that two words. For instance, '*parent and child*'. Someone can not be called parent if she/he does not have child, and vice-versa. To summarize, one exists only because the other does. This is a special type of antonym in which the members of a pair do not constitute a positive-negative opposition. They show the reversal of a relationship between two entities. *X* buy*s* something from Y means the same as *Y* sells something to X. *X* is the parent of Y means the same as *Y* is the child of *X*. It is the same relationship seen from two different angles.

pull ←→ push   parent ←→ child

iv. Converse Antonyms

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It involves a relationship of mutual entailment to form a complete pair.

predator ⟵⟶ prey   confine ⟵⟶ release   buy ⟵⟶ sell

विपरीतार्थक शब्द का उदाहरण : (बहरी:1985)   متضادیت کی مثال:

(क) जीवन-मृत्यु   (الف) زندگی ۔موت

(ख) उत्तम-मध्यम   (ب) گراں۔ ارزاں

(ग) प्रवेश-निकास   (ج) داخل۔ خارج

(घ) बन्धन-मुक्ति   (د) خر یدۂروخت

7. Homonymy   ہم معنی متجانس

The relationship between two or more words which are identical in form but not in meaning. The two concepts, A and B, are expressed by the same symbol. For example, *'a financial institution'* and *'an edge of a river'* are being expressed by the word bank (the word has two senses).

Further, the identity can be in pronunciation ('**homo-phones**' e.g. fair, *'right'* and fare *'money paid or obtained for sth'*), in spelling ('**homo-graphs**', e.g. minute, '*division of time*' and minute '*tiny*') or both ('**homologues**', e.g. band, '*ribbon*' and band '*group of musicians*'). Dictionaries tend to treat homonyms in separate entries on various grounds in compare to polysemy. According to Yule (1997) the criteria include in addition to spelling, pronunciation and meaning, the etymology of the words, their grammatical status, and the scope and the user convenience intended.

ہم معنی متجانس کی مثال:

(الف) فضا۔ کھلا میدان   (ب) عَالَم ۔ دنیا   (not in use)   (ج) دام۔ جال

فزا ِبڑھانا   عَالِم ۔جاننے والا (not in use)   دام۔ قیمت

8. Polysemy   کثیر معنویت

Polysemy is the association of one word with two or more distinct meanings. A polysemy is word or phrase with multiple meanings. Adjective is polysemous or polysemic. In contrast, a one-to-one match between a word and a meaning is called **monosemy**. Polysemy is thus, usually regarded as distinct from homonymy, in which the multiple meanings of a word may be unconnected or unrelated.

According to Yule (1997), polysemy refers to the situation where the same word has two or more different meanings. For instance, the noun ***board*** is said to be polysemous because it may mean:

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1. a long thin piece of cut wood,

2. a flat piece of hard material used for putting food on,

3. a flat piece of hard material fastened to the wall in a public place to pin notices on,

4. the cost of meals,

5. a committee or association, as of company directors or government officials.

Similarly, the word *flight* is defined in at least the following ways:

1. the act of flying,

2. a group of birds or aircrafts flying together,

3. the distance covered or course followed by a flying object,

4. a trip by plane,

5. the aircraft making the journey.

کثیر معنویت کی مثال:

'بار' ایک کثیرمعنی لفظ ہے، جس کے مختلف معنی ہوتے ہیں۔ مثلاً ذمہ داری، بوجھ، دفعہ، قرض وغیرہ۔

9. Hyponymy   شمولیتِ معنی

The sense relation obtaining between the members of a set of words or phrases and their hypernym. The sense of the **hyponym** or *specific term* can be said to be 'included' in that of the **hypernym** or *Generic term*, e.g. flower or vegetable covered by plant.

In other words, *lotus* and *rose* are hyponyms of *flower*. It is also called a *subtype* or a *subordinate term*. The words that are hyponyms of the same broader term is a hypernym (also called *co-hyponyms)*. Thus, the semantic relationship between each of the more specific words (*lotus* and *rose*) and the broader term (*flower*) is called hyponymy.(Finch: 2000).

شمولیتِ معنی کی مثال:

لفظ ''گل ''شمولیتِ معنی میں استعمال ہوتاہے اور اس کے کئی ارکان ہیں: مثلاً گلاب، یاسمین، نرگِس، داؤدی، احمری وغیرہ۔

10. Part-Whole Relationship   جز۔ کل

The part-whole relationship, is known to the lexical semanticists as meronymy/ holonymy. It is the relationship between the whole and its parts. It is assumed that the concept of a part of a whole can be a part of a concept of the whole.

The part-whole relation between nouns is generally considered to be a semantic relation, called meronymy (from the Greek meros , part; Cruse: 1986), comparable to

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synonymy, antonymy, and hyponymy. Miller (1993) opines the relation has an inverse effect: if *Wm* is a meronymy of *Wh* , then *Wh* is said to be a holonymy of *Wm*. For example, A *finger* is a part of a *hand*, thus *hand* is the **holonymy** of *finger*; and *finger* is a **meronymy** of *hand*. Similarly, *family* is the holonymy of *child, mother or father*.

جز۔ کل کی مثال:	مدراسی کہہ کر جنوبی ہندستان کے سبھی ریاست کے باشندے مراد لینا۔

11. Metonymy   مجازِمرسل

The relatedness of meaning found in **polysemy** is essentially based on similarity. The head of a company is similar to the head of a person on top of (and controlling) the body. There is another type of relationship between words, based simply on a close connection in everyday experience. That close connection can be based on a container – contents relation (*bottle-coke* : *can-juice*), a whole–part relation (*car-wheels : house-roof*) or a representative-symbol relationship (*king-crown* : *the president-the White House*). These are examples of metonymy.

Similarly, use of word to mean something is existing in close physical proximity. Saying London is to mean the people who govern England. '*The White House said'* meaning '*The president said'*.

مجازِمرسل کی مثال: بحوالہ بیگم (2014)
انسان کو 'مشتِ خاک' کہاجائے تو یہ مجاز مرسل کی مثال ہے کیونکہ باباآدم کی تخلیق ایک مٹھی بھر مٹی سے ہوئی ہے۔

12. Metaphor   استعارہ

Metaphor is the extended meanings as part of the meaning of the word. It is a figure of speech in which a term is transferred from the object. It is ordinarily designated to an object only by implicit comparison or analogy. For instance, if we speak of "*the evening of her life*", we are making an analogy between the time span of a day and the time span of a life, and naming part of life by reference to a part of the day. In calling someone *a leech*, we are making an implicit analogy between interpersonal relationships and a particular kind of parasite or host relationship. This kind of naming and thinking by analogy is ubiquitous.

Sometimes the metaphoric relationship is a completely new and creative or hackneyed (the *eye of night* for *moon*). Further, a **metaphor** is an implied comparison using a word to mean something similar to its literal meaning. A contradiction arises between the literal

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meaning and the referent. Similarly, most compliments or insults also contain metaphors such as calling someone *'a monster'* or *'an angel'*.

استعارہ کی مثال:
جین کےمطابق (1985) 'اگر کسی نہایت بہادر انسان کی تعریف کے لیے یہ کہا جائے کہ وہ شیر ہے تو یہ استعارہ ہوا'۔

13. Simile   تشبیہ

A simile is a figure of speech that directly compares two things. It makes a comparison, showing similarities between two different things. Unlike a metaphor, a *simile* draws resemblance with the help of the words such as, *like, as, so, than,* or various verbs such as *resemble*, though these specific words are not always necessary. Most often similes are used in forms of poetry that compare the inanimate and the living, there are also terms in which similes and personifications are used for humorous purposes and comparison. We can find simile examples in our daily speech as:

He is as cunning as fox.

My love is like a red, red rose.

Our soldiers are as brave as lions.

تشبیہ کی مثال: بحوالہ بیگم (2014)
'اسلم کے دانت موتیوں کی مانند ہیں'۔ اس جملے کا مطلب یہ ہواکہ اسلم کے دانت موتی کی طرح سفید اور چمکدار ہیں۔

14. Idiom   محاورہ

Idiom is a group of words or phrase which differs from its literal meaning. Idioms are common phrases or terms whose meaning is not real, but can be understood by their popular use. Some idioms are only used by some groups of people or at certain times. The idiom '*shape up or ship out'*, which is like saying 'improve your behavior *or* leave if you don't*'*, might be said by an employer or supervisor to an employee, but not to other people. Idioms are made of normal words that have a special meaning known by almost everyone. To learn a language a person needs to learn the words in that language, and how and when to use them. But people also need to learn idioms separately because certain words together or at certain times can have different meanings. In order to understand an idiom, one sometimes needs to know the culture the idiom comes from.

For a better understanding of an idiom here some common examples has been given as:-

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•*To shed crocodile tears* (To cry about something but without actually caring).

•*To pay through the nose* (To pay a lot of money, more than is normal).

محاورے کی مثال:

بقول محمدحسن (2007)محاورہ دو یا دو سے زیادہ لفظوں کامجموعہ ہوتاہے جس کااختتام ہمیشہ فعل پر ہوتا ہے اور جو مصدر کے ساتھ مل کر اپنے حقیقی (لغوی) معنی سے ہٹ کر مجازی معنی دیتاہے۔ مثلاً ' کمرکسنا ' یعنی پکا ارادہ کرنا۔

Minor Semantic Relationships

1. Aronyms

An aronym is the process of forming new words by joining the initial letters of names of social and political organizations or special phrases and technical terms. An acronym is an abbreviation of a title created by taking the first letter of each name. For example, IPA is an aronym that is used for The International Phonetic Alphabet.

2. Capitonyms

A capitonym is a word whose meaning changes based on whether or not it is capitalized. The capitalization usually applies due to one form being a proper noun. Capitonyms are a variation on multiple meaning words, or homonyms. They have the same spelling, but different meanings. Capitonyms can be nouns, verbs, or adjectives. Examples of pairs of capitonyms are:

- *Turkey* (the country) and *turkey* (the bird).
- *China* (the country) and *china* (as in porcelain).

Such as, Verbs can also be capitonyms. For instance:

- *March* (the month) and *march* (to walk).

3. Heteronyms

A heteronym is a word that is written identically but has a different pronunciation and meaning. In other words, they are **homographs** that are not **homophones**. Thus, *row* (propel with oars) and *row* (argument) are heteronyms, but *mean* (intend) and *mean* (average) are not (since they are pronounced the same). Heteronym pronunciation may vary in vowel realisation, in stress pattern or in other ways. For example: *Lead*, pronounced LEED, means 'to guide'. However, lead, pronounced LED, means 'a metallic element'. In another example, as *minute* (MIN-it) 'sixty seconds'; (my-NOOT) 'tiny'.

4. Paronyms

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The words which are different in meaning or use but are similar in form or derivations are called paronyms. A paronym is just a word that is derived from the same root as another word. There are many examples, because this is a very broad concept, as "*adult*" and "*adulthood*". A word that comes from another word. Both words have the same root and have similar meanings. An "*adult*" is a person who has reached the legal age of maturity, and "*adulthood*" is actually the condition of being an adult.

5. Oronyms

A pair of words or phrases that is pronounced similarly due to phonological juncture. Generally, the word **homophone** is used to describe one of a pair or group of words that have the same sound (like *allowed* and *aloud*), whilst oronyms are normally strings of words (phrases) such as a sequence of words, "*ice cream*" that sounds the same as a different sequence of words "*I scream*".

According to the Johnson, oronym contains words and phrases with similar pronunciations but different spellings and meanings process.

For example, oronym is used in the following sentence as:-

'outstanding'   The farmer was outstanding in his field.

'out standing'   The farmer was out standing in his field.

Conclusion

There are many more minor semantic relationships that pertain between words, like in the distinction between *a category* vs. *a particular type* or *example of that category*. For example, a *tiger* is a type of *feline*, so *feline* is a category containing *lion, tiger*, *leopard,* etc, colour is a category containing *red, green*, *blue,* etc, *red, green, blue* are types of colour. Thus, *feline* and *colours* are **hyponyms**, or cover words, and *red, green, blue, lion, tiger*, *leopard* are their **taxonyms**.

The semantic relationships in different languages can be described based on similarity or contiguity. People who contact many languages usually experience their similarity, relations or their contiguity relations affecting their understanding of language and its relations. The article tried to mention various relations, which expose similar semantic ideas in a different formal framework. The areas of semantics are having a number of relations, with different applicability. This work has attempted to study only the meaning relationships, a new challenge for dimensional knowledge arises among the learners. The objective of this

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work has been to analyze the popular meaning relationships in terms of their design, structure and the ways they are being used by the learners in different languages. It is hoped that the semantic relationship or its knowledge base structure in various languages could also be examined other semantic relationships by a thorough analysis.

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