Brief Notes: Semantics Course.

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-the study of meanings: semantics, pragmatics.
- Semantics : no context - Pragmatics: context
-different interpretations of words in English
-Units in Language.
-Generic or Specific expressions.

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Semantics: Branch of Linguistics concerned with how meaning is conveyed by a system of units.
Such as Phonetics, Morphology.

Units: words, sentences.
Language: Sounds, Form, Meaning.
For example: Car< Meaning : Mobile, Object, Wheels, Mechanic.
A package of different features in a specific word.
 A mental image of specific words< its sense.
A word< denotes: signals, a Reference.
Speakers decide what the reference is.

Words:
Denotation: Literal meaning.
Connotation: beyond the literal meaning, meaning values determined by culture. < Associative Meaning.

Compositionality: The meaning of a sentence is a function of the meaning of the component words and how they are organised. Literal meanings.

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Semantics looks into the conventional meaning of words and sentences.

- The Linguistic meaning.
- Conventional: meaning agreed upon, regardless of context.

Types of meaning:

- Conceptual meaning< Sense.
- Associative meaning< Positive, Negative. How people feel about the word.

For Example: i could eat a horse< not a straightforward meaning< not literal.
I< Agent.
State of affairs< an event that is happening in the world.

Why do we study Semantics when speakers already know the meaning of all words and sentences?

- We want to set up a theory of meaning< to give facts about meaning.

Different theories in Semantics:

- Formal Semantics: Anything written in symbols and numbers, so it is using tools from Philosophy and Logic to analyse the relationship between language and reality.
- Lexical Semantics: the meaning of words and sentences and idioms.
- Denotational Semantics: Meaning< sense, reference, denotation, connotation.

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-Denotation: the entire class of objects to which an expression refers.
- Reference: how a speaker uses language to help hearers identify an object in the world. It changes by changing the time and the place.

-The relationship between Semantics and other fields in Linguistics?
> Semantics and Phonology: Depending on the stress in different words in language.
For Example: Project< Verb, Project< Noun.

-Morphology: The form of a word, like adding suffixes and prefixes.

- Syntax: Structures and their possible meanings in sentences.

- Philosophy and Logic:
For Example: If you study, you will pass.
1< T, 2< T
1<F, 2<T,F

-Psychology: How do children acquire meaning? < Nouns.
-Semiotics: the study of signs. < the meaning of the sign is Iconic so it is easier to understand. Or it could be Arbitrary.

-Pragmatics: 2 ways of looking at meaning.
- Sentence meaning: For Example: Good Morning< it is a greeting. No hidden intention.
- Speaker meaning: if a student comes late to a class, the teacher says " Good Morning" it is meant for Sarcasm, it depends on the situation and the context.
A direct meaning is a **Statement**. < Sentence meaning.
If it was to use the language to make a **Request** then it is < Speaker meaning.

-Sentence meaning: is meaning away from language use in contexts< meaning within the sentence level.
-Speaker meaning in Pragmatics: meaning above the sentence level< meaning in **particular** contexts.

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-Propositions: The basic semantic content, what the sentence says about the world.
- That part of a declarative sentence that describes a state of affairs< A statement.
- Inference: For example< Sandy is a woman: Sandy is a female. P=Q < Entailment : a relationship between two propositions such that the truth of the first guarantees the truth of the second.
-Testing for Entailment:
-Q.
-Negative Q.
-P and Negative Q.

- if the result is impossible then P Entails Q.
- if the result is possible then P does not entail Q.
- Entailment does not survive negation.

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-The Falsity of **Q** means the Falsity of **P**.
For Example: P> Mary Loves John.
Q> John Loves Mary.
Truth Table:
-P is T> Q > T or F
- F> T or F

- T or F> T
- T or F> F

- Presupposition: -Background- what a speaker assumes to be the case prior to making an utterance.
- To presuppose means to assume in the **shared background.**
  For Example:
  -Kevin regrets leaving Maya alone.
  - Kevin left Maya alone.
  P is T, Q> **T**
  P is F, Q > **T**
    - Presupposition survives negation.

  -It is about given information which is shared and new information too.
  - **Entailment** is generated based on the sense of relationships.

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Presupposition Triggers:

- Definitive Description: John saw the man with two heads.
  Presupposition> There is a man with two heads.
- Change of state verbs: John started smoking> he did not use to smoke.
- Iterative: John ate Shawarma again > he ate Shawarma before.
- Temporal clauses (Adverbial): While he was singing, his mother called.
- Cleft sentences: it was John who ate the apples> somebody ate the apples.
- Comparatives: John is a better linguist than Dave> they are both linguists.
  It was John who killed Amanda> somebody killed Amanda.
- Factive Verbs: John realized that he was poor.

John regrets leaving Maya alone.
- What did you buy yesterday?>>Somebody bought something.

- How fast were you going when you passed the red light?>> She passed the red light.

-What were you doing when Alice was killed?>>Alice was killed.

-When did you fail your Semantics exam?>> You failed your Semantics exam.

3rd Type of Inference> **Implicature.**
-A: Has your gym been closed recently?
Implicature: you are not in shape.
- A:How did you do in your semantics test?
B: The weather is nice today.
-A: Requesting a letter of recommendation.
B: (A) has a nice handwriting.

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Speech acts theory: using words and sentences to perform actions.
>using language to do things or carry out actions.
-"How to do things with words" J.Austin.
Pragmatics deals with utterances> Language in Context.

- Constative >Descriptive: I play Football. **Past tense and Future.**
- Performative:**I Pronounce** you husband and wife. Using the **first person**> making things happen as an action**. Present tense.** Using the word Hereby.

Types of Sentences:

-Declarative(Statement): The Function is Assertion. For Example: it is cold in this room.
-Interrogative: The Function is Asking>Information seeking. For Example:Can you walk?
- Imperative: The Function is Order. For Example: Walk.

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I name this ship Titanic> Performative.
I believe in the revolution of robots> Constative.
I warn you not to come any closer> Performative.
I admit that I took money from your pocket> Performative.
I think I was wrong> Constative.
I give you food everyday> Constative.
I'm trying to get this door open> Constative.

The speaker and the hearer are involved in 3 speech acts:
- The locutionary act: basic linguistic content.
-The illocutionary act: the intention of the speaker, the meaning of an utterance within a system of social interaction.
-The perlocutionary act: the effect of what is said on the listener<(Emotions, Reactions).

Examples:
-While Climbing:
Ehab: my shoe is stuck on the fence> request for help
Perlocution> Sympathy.
-A mother to a child:
"Look at the mess under your table"> illocution: clean your mess.
Perlocution> Compliance.

-"I'm Hungry"
Context 1: Beggar> I'm hungry
Locution> Statement
Illocution> request money
Perlocution>Sympathy.

Context 2: Child to a mother at 9:00
There's school tomorrow> they ate dinner.
Child: " I'm hungry"
Locution>Statement.
Illocution> Rejecting sleep.
Perlocution>Being angry.

Context 3: Office: Man likes a woman.
Man: " I'm Hungry"
Locution> Statement.
Illocution> Request.
Perlocution> Emotions, Reactions.

Context 1: " What time is it?"
In a park: Man and woman on a bench.
Locution> a question.
Illocution> Starting a convo.
Perlocution> Rejection, Approval.

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A: That comes to 200 dollars.
Illocution: Request, Informing.

A: There's a spider near your bed.
Illocution: Warning.

A: I'm afraid we're closing down sir.
Illocution: Informing, Apology, Request to leave.

A: We're closing in 15 minutes.
Illocution: Informing, Requesting.

A: Can I remind everybody that we will meet again tomorrow.
Illocution: Informing, Reminding.

A: Your car is in the way. Indirect.> Request.(Declarative)

A: Can you move your car? Indirect. Request.(Interrogative)
A: Move your car. Direct. Order. (Imperative)
A: I can't move my car. Indirect. Request.
"Politeness Theory"

We Don't have any milk.
1- Declarative
2- Declarative: illocution> Request> Indirect.

Optative> Wishing for something indirectly.
Offering, Inviting. (More illocution).

Implicature
A: How was your semantics exam?
B: It was from another world.
> The exam was hard.
A: Has your gym closed down recently?
B: is overweight.

Cooperative principle: 4 Maxims or Conditions.(Paul Grice)
1- Maxim of quality.

2- Maxim of quantity.

3- Maxim of relevance.

4- Maxim of manner.

A: Where does Shayma live?
B: Somewhere in Palestine.
Implicature: B Doesn't want to share Shayma's Location.

A: Would you like some chocolate?
B: I'm Diabetic.
Implicature: B doesn't want chocolate.

Context: Semantics Classroom.

Guest: Can I attend this class?
Ehab: I have 35 students.
Implicature: The guest can't attend.

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The kid slept and had a nightmare> a strict order, sequence.

-The Cooperative Principle(CP): a set of rules that speakers follow and expect others to follow in order to establish agreed meaning.

- Conversation is and should be governed by the CP, which is a condition on the way rational conversation is conducted.
- it's the principle that the participants in a conversation work together in order to manage their speech exchange in the most efficient way possible.

- The Maxim of Quality: make your contribution true:
  A: Do not say what you believe to be false.
  B: Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence.

- The Maxim of Quantity: messages should be as economical as possible.
  A: make your contribution as informative as is required for the current purpose of the exchange.
  B: Do not make your contribution more informative than is required.
  For Example:
  Lubna: How are you?
  Mo: My medical checkup came out negative and my wife got fired and my dog disappeared.
  Implicature>Mo is not Ok.

  -The Maxim of Relevance: make your contribution relevant.

  -The Maxim of Manner:
  A: Be brief.
  B: Don't be obscure.
  C: Avoid Ambiguity.
  D: Be orderly.

Flouting> Violating.

-Four ways in which a speaker can behave with respect to the 4 maxims:
1- Observe all the maxims: to say the right amount, to say enough> to be relevant, and to be clear.
Mother: Where are my cars?
Son: They're on the table in the kitchen.
2- Opt out: to refuse to take part in a conversation.
3- Violate a maxim: to fail to observe it with the assumption that the hearer will not notice> Lie.
4- Flout a maxim: to violate a maxim intentionally that the hearer is expected to be aware of the violation in order to work out an implicature = allows speakers to implicate what they don't prefer to say explicitly.
John: David failed his writing course 3 times.
Mary: He is so smart.
Implicature> Sarcasm: she is making fun of David.

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A: Have you read Shakespeare?
B: I haven't read the back of the cereal Packet.
Implicature: B hasn't read Shakespeare.

A: Do you know how to get to BZU?
B: I've got a map in my backpack.
Implicature: B Doesn't know where BZU is.

A: Are you coming to the party?
B: I have to work.
Implicature: B Doesn't want to go.

A: Where's my book?
B: It's either in the kitchen or the living room.

Implicature: B doesn't know where it is.

- B has reasons for not telling A where it is.

A: Did you buy salt:
B: I tried to.
Implicature: B didn't buy salt.

A: What do you think of Ehab's way of teaching Semantics?
B: I think he wears nice clothes.
Implicature: Ehab's way of teaching Semantics is not good.

A: Could you please grab that thing in the garage for me?
>Flouting the manner maxim.

A: What do you think of Ehab as a teacher?
B: He is a nice teacher.
Implicature: He's not

A: How much did the ticket cost? Assume it's 400$
B: They were on sale> Flouting Quantity.
B: 200$> Flouting Quality.
B: Let's go out for dinner tonight> Flouting Relation.
B: A Fraction of my fortune, though probably a bigger fraction of the salary of the woman who sold them to me> Flouting Quantity and Manner.

A: Do you have any pets?
B: I have two cats. All maxims are observed. B is Cooperative.
B: I'm allergic > He doesn't have pets.

Scalar Implicature> The Maxim of Quantity.
Dina: Who ate my pizza?
Brother: I ate some of it.
Implicature: Brother did not eat all the pizza.

A: Not all students passed the Semantics exam.

Implicature: Most of them passed.
Or some of them passed.
Or few of them passed.
Or One student passed.

A: How many brothers do you have?
B: I have 3 brothers.
Implicature: I have 2 or I have 1.

A: Would you like some coffee?
B: It will keep me awake.
Implicature: B Doesn't want coffee.

Monday, November 3rd 2021

Everyone, Someone> Scalar words.
Always, Usually, Sometimes, Rarely.
Searle: How do we understand a promise> Chapter 6

Felicity Conditions: The conditions/ circumstances that need to be met for an utterance to mean what it means.
e.g> Ehab: I sentence you to prison. (Misfire)

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A Proposition(Basic Semantic content): A claim (State of affairs) about the world.
> Declarative sentences:

- Truth Value> T or F. Truth conditions of a statement.

Propositional Logic.
Having Different grammars for statements:
For Example: The kid ate an apple.
An apple was eaten by….
It was the kid who ate the apple.
They tell us about the same propositions.

P= I study at BZU> T or F.

Q= My dad is a teacher> T or F.

I study at BZU and my dad is a teacher.

-If P is T then Q is T =P^Q is T
-If P is T then Q is F= P^Q is F
- If P is F then Q is T= P^Q is F
- if P is F then Q is F= P^Q is F.
We call the result **complex or compound.**

We use (And) because it is **connective.**

For Example: Andy, Harry and Dave kicked Tim> The group kicked Tim.

-The Robbers broke into the house and the police came.
>P is T, Q is T then P^Q is T.

-Either Mary left or Andy came.
-P is T, Q is T > T
-P is T, Q is F> T
- P is F, Q is T> T
-P is F, Q is F > F

P and -P
P: Mary left.
-P: Mary did not leave.

P is T, -P is F.
P is F, -P is T.

-Mary left **and** Andy didn't come.
P^-P.

If P is T, Q is T > T

If P is T, Q is F> F
If P is F, Q is T> F
If P is F, Q is F> F.

Mary left **or** Andy didn't come.
P is T, Q is T > T
P is T, Q is F> T
P is F, Q is T> T
P is F, Q is F> F.

If you invite me to pizza, I'll come.
If you study hard, you will pass.
If it rains, I will go with my friend.

P->Q (Material Implication)
The if clause is called Antecedent.
The Q clause is called Consequent.

If you study hard, you will pass.
P is T, Q is T > T
P is T, Q is F> F
P is F, Q is T> T
P is F, Q is F> T

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Felicity conditions:

- Propositional content: the utterance means what it means. Mutual Semantic Content.
- Preparatory condition: you can do what you say >(Authority and Status).
- Sincerity condition: you mean what you say> able to do.
- Essential condition: you say what you say.

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Complex Propositions:

-Conjunction
-Disjunction
-Implication
- Biconditional

Example: A cop pulled you over and you were booked.

P	Q	>	P^Q
T	T		T
T	F		F
F	T		F
F	F		F

A cop pulled you over or you were booked. **Inclusive or**

T T > T
T F> T
F T> T
F F> F

A penguin is either a mammal or a bird: **Exclusive or**

T T> F
T F>T
F T> T
F F> F

If a cop pulled you over, you will be booked. P->Q
P is Antecedent, Q is Consequent.

T T > T
T F> F
F T> T
F F> T

I will be booked if a cop pulled me over. Q->P
T T > T
T F> F
F T> F
F F> T

Today is Wednesday <=> yesterday was Tuesday.
T T > T
T F> F
F T> F
F F> T

If Today is Wednesday, then yesterday was Tuesday.
T T> T
T F> F
F T> F
F F> T

(P->Q ^ Q->P) = P= Q > Biconditional.

If today is a holiday, BZU is closed.
T T > T
T F> F
F T > T
F F> T

If BZU is closed, today is a holiday.
T T > T
T F> F
F T>T
F F> T

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I will pass If i study hard.

1- If I study hard, I will pass (P->Q)
T T > T

T F> F
F T> T
F F> T

2-If I pass, then I study hard. (Q->P)
T T> T
T F> F
F T> T
F F> T

P=Q: (P->Q ^ Q->P)

<u>If Alex is a bachelor, then he's unmarried.
Alex is a bachelor <-> He's unmarried</u>

1- If Alex is a bachelor, then he's unmarried. (P->Q)
T T> T
T F> F
F T> T
F F> T

2- If Alex is unmarried, then he's a bachelor. (Q->P)
T T> T
T F> F
F T> T
F F> T

<u>P->Q ^ Q->P : P<=>Q</u>
T T> T
T F > F
F T> F
F F > F

P: Ehab teaches Semantics.
Q: The Weather is good.

P Or Q : T , T, T, F

P Or -Q: T, T, F, T
(P or Q)- : F, F, F, T

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Propositional logic> The truth value of complex propositions.

Predicate Logic: Relationship in the inner structure of a proposition e.g:
Mary loves john.
Love: Predicate (X,Y): arguments.
It is a 2-place predicate> 2 participants.
X and Y> m and j.

- The order of participants is important.

Mary Loves John:
Love (mary,john)
-I fell (fall) one.
-USA is a country
Country(usa)
-Noor studies Semantics
Studies(noor, semantics)
-Hala gave her friend a sandwich
Give(hala, her friend, sandwich)

P=Hala gave her friend a sandwich and =Q went to school.
P=Give (hala, her friend, sandwich)

Q=Hala went to school.
Q= Go(hala, school)

P^Q> Give (hala, friend, sandwich) Go (hala, school).

1-The police shot a man.
Shoot(police, man)
2- A man shot the police.
Shoot(man, police)
3- John is tired.
Tired(john) a one place predicate.

4- John is a funny man.
Funny man(john) , Funny(john) and Man (john)

-John smokes and Mary gets angry.
P= Smoke(john)
Q= Angry(mary)
P^Q> Smoke(john) and Angry(mary).

Translate into predicate logic:
1-If John smokes, Mary will be angry.
P= If John smokes
Smoke(john)
Q= Mary will be Angry.
Angry(mary).
Smoke (john) → Angry(mary)

2-If John smokes, Mary won't be angry.
P=Smoke (john)
Q= -Angry(mary)

Smoke(john) → -Angry(mary)

3-John saw(two places predicate) that Mary read the book.
P= See(john)
Q= Read(mary,book)
See(john, Read(mary, book)).

4-Alice went to london and she met John or she called Andy.
P= Alice went to London.
Go(alice, london)
Q= Alice met John.
Q= Meet(alice, john)

R= Alice called Andy.
R=Call (alice, andy)

Go(alice,london) **&** Meet(alice,john) **V** Call (alice,andy)

P^ (Q v R)
Go(alice,london) & Meet(alice, john) V Call(alice,andy) > (P^Q) v R.

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Adam will invite Lucy Or Cathy and Diana.

P= Adam will invite Lucy. Invite (adam,lucy)
Q=Adam will invite Cathy.
R=Adam will invite Diana. Invite (adam, diana)

1-Invite(adam, cathy) Invite (adam,lucy) V **(**Invite (adam,cathy) ^ Invite(adam,diana)**)**
2- **(**Invite(adam.lucy) V Invite(adam,cathy)**)**^ Invite(adam,diana).

Sally is John's mother or David's grandmother and Andy's aunt.
P=Sally is John's mother. Mother(sally,john)
Q=Sally is David's grandmother. Grandmother(sally, david)
R= Sally is Andy's aunt. Aunt(sally,andy)

1- (**PvQ) ^R**: **(**Mother(s,j) V Grandmother(s,d)**)** ^ Aunt(s,a)
2- **Pv(Q ^R):** Mother(s,j) V **(**Grandmother(s,d) ^ Aunt(s,a)**)**

If David is Alice's brother, then Tanya is his aunt or Bob is his uncle.
P= David is Alice's brother. Brother(david,alice)
Q= Tanya is David's aunt. Aunt(tanya,david)
R= Bob is David's uncle. Uncle(bob,david)

P→(Q V R): Brother(d,a) →**(**Aunt(t,d) V Uncle(b,d)**)**
(P→Q) V R: **(**Brother(d,a) →Aunt(t,d)**)** V Uncle(b,d)

Amanda will marry Steve and Ehab will resign if Andy passes semantics.
P= Amanda will marry Steve. Marry(amanda,steve)
Q= Ehab will resign. Resign(ehab)
R= Tanya passes semantics.Pass(tanya,semantics)

>Marry(a,s) ^ **(**Resign(ehab) → Pass(t,semantics)**)**
>Pass(t,semantics) →**(**Marry(a,s) ^ Resign(ehab)**)**

-Linguists are bald> Bald(linguists)
-All Linguists are bald> Bald(linguists) V x (Linguist (x) → Bald(x))
-Some Linguists are bald> Bald(linguists)

- Robert loves all Italian women> V x Italian(x) ^ woman (x) →Love (r,x).

All > V x (Universal Quantifier). And **Every**

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Linguists are bald. Bald(linguists)
All linguists are bald> Vx (Linguist(x) → Bald (x))
1-All girls love Andy> Vx (Girl(x) → Love(x,a))
2-**Some** girls love Andy> ∃ x (Girl(x) **^** Love(x,andy)) Existential quantifier.
3- Girls **don't** love Andy. Negative quantifier.
-x (Girl (x) → Love(x,a))

More Examples:
-All students will receive a point.
Vx (Student (x) → Receive (x,point))
-Everybody is happy.
Vx (Person(x) → Happy(x))
-John likes some animals.
∃ x (Animal(x) ^ Like (john,x))
-All students who smile will receive a point.
Vx(Student (x) ^ Smile (x) → Receive (x,point))
-Every student likes the moon.
Vx (Student (x) → Like (x,moon))
-Some students like the moon.
∃ x (Student(x) ^ Like (x, moon))
-No student likes the moon.
-x (Student(x) → Like (x,moon))
- A man sneezed
∃ x (Man(x) ^ Sneeze (x))

-Nobody likes school.
-x (Person(x) → Like (x, school))
-All snakes are venomous.
Vx (Snake(x) → Venomous (x))
-All black snakes are venomous.
Vx (Snake(x) ^ Black(x) → Venomous(x))
-All black or red snakes are venomous.
Vx (Snake(x) ^ Black(x) v Red(x) → Venomous(x))
-All snakes are venomous or All snakes are harmless.
Vx (Snake(x) → Venomous(x)) V Vx (Snake(x) → Harmless(x))
-Some swans are white and small.
∃ x (Swan(x) ^ White(x) ^ Small(x))

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