

THE WORD IS ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL UNITS OF LANGUAGE

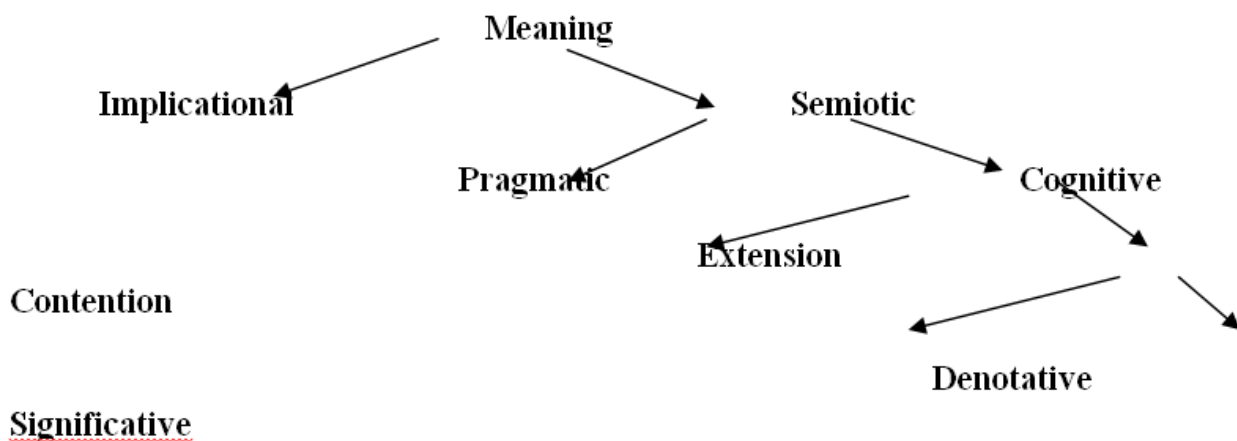
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The word is one of the fundamental units of language. It is a dialectal unity of form and content. Its content or meaning is not identical to notion, but it may reflect human notion, and is considered as the form of their existence. So the definition of a word is one of the most difficult in linguistics, because the simplest word has many different aspects: a sound form, its morphological structure, it may occur in different word-forms and have various meanings. It is universally recognized that word meaning is not homogeneous, but it is made up of various components, which are described as types of meaning. There are 2 types of meaning to be found in words and word forms:

- 1) the grammatical meaning;
- 2) the lexical meaning.

Such word forms as "boys", "teachers", "chairs", etc., though denoting different objects of reality have smth in common, namely the grammatical meaning of plurality, which can be found in all of them. Thus, the grammatical meaning is the component of meaning in the word forms of verbs (asked, thought, walked, etc.) or the case meaning in the word forms of various nouns (girls, boys, nights). Besides the grammatical meaning, there is another component of meaning. Unlike the grammatical meaning this component is identical in all the forms of the word. Thus the word-forms "go", "goes", "went", "going" possess different grammatical meanings of tense, person and so on, but in each of these forms we find one and the same semantic component denoting the process of movement. This is the lexical meaning of the word, which may be described as the component of meaning proper to the word as a linguistic unit. Thus, by lexical meaning we designate [1] the meaning proper to the given linguistic unit in all its forms and distributions, while by grammatical meaning we designate the meaning proper to sets of word forms common to all words of a certain class. Both lexical and the grammatical meanings make up the word meaning as neither can exist without the other.



Semiotic meaning is arbitrary and conventional, especially established for the sake of communication. No link between the sign and the referent existing in reality

EX: winter (December- February)

Implicational meaning is based on natural linkage of objects in reality.

Winter – cold, snow, frost (implicational meaning).

As you know, there are **4 types of implicational meaning:**

1) Rigid implication

Highly probable features of winter : cold, frost

2) Strong implication

Probable features of winter : freeze

3) Weak implication

These are unlikely features of winter: rain, warm weather

4) Negative implication

Features that can never be applied to this referent: green grass, hot weather.

Cognitive meaning represents the information about the world.

Pragmatic component presents our subjunctive attitude towards the world and its elements (depends on our life experience)

Both of them or only one of them is represented in the structure of lexical meaning.

1) Most words are pragmatically neutral (only cognitive component in the structure of their meaning)

Chair, desk, pen—they are free from expressing subjunctive attitude to the referent.

2) "fascist" – cognitive and pragmatic components

The difference between extension & contention lies in the difference between the contents & the volume of the notion.

Contentional meaning reflects the structure of essential features of the notion.

Extension: a number of denotates to which its name refers: godmother, biological mother, mother-in-law.

Both components are variable.

1) They have got a parrot. This parrot has been with them for a long time. This parrot is a funny creature.

2) How long can a parrot live ?

In these two examples the word PARROT changes its extensional.

1-a representative of a class (denotative)

2-a name of a class (significative)

Some linguists use the term “ connotational meaning” instead of the term “pragmatic meaning” The interrelation of the lexical and the grammatical meaning and the role, played by each varies in different word classes and even in different groups of words within one and the same class.