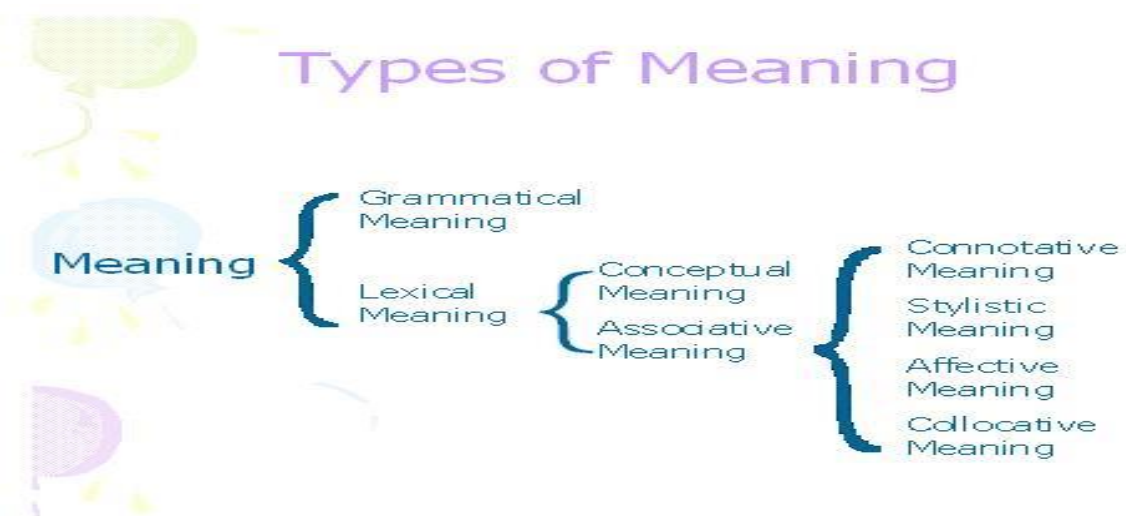


The meanings of meaning

- Is meaning a property they have outside of the head? Is the meaning just inside the head? What's the role of our psychology in determining meaning?
- Are meanings tied to real things in the world around us? Are they just tied to ideas in our minds?
- Is the meaning part of our thoughts a separate component like logic suggests, somehow different from the structure of our thoughts?
- Do the best dictionaries tell us what words actually mean? Do they merely document how words are being used?
- What about common sense, the feeling of shared meaning across a group of people? Does it have any role in meaning?
- Do meanings exist? Where? What are they made of?
- For things to mean, does meaning itself have to mean? If so, how does it?

Types of meaning

According to Ogden and Richards:



Types of meaning

1. Grammatical meaning.

Grammatical meaning is defined as an expression in speech of relationship between words.

-the meaning of plurality

Ex: *boys, girls, table*

-the tens meaning of the words

Ex: *asked, thought, worked*

According to Geoffrey Leech:

- **Geoffrey Leech (1974, 1981).
*Semantics: The Study of Meaning.***
 - **Seven types of meaning:**
 - **Conceptual meaning**
 - **Connotative meaning**
 - **Social meaning**
 - **Affective meaning**
 - **Reflected meaning**
 - **Collocative meaning**
 - **Thematic meaning**
- Associative
Meaning**

I. Conceptual or Denotative Meaning

- Conceptual meaning is also called logical or cognitive meaning. It is the basic propositional meaning which corresponds to the primary dictionary definition.
- It is the essential or core meaning.
- E.g.
/P/ can be described as- **voiceless + bilabial + plosive.**
- Similarly
Boy = + human + male -adult.
The hierarchical structure of '**Boy**' = + **Human** + **Male** -**Adult**

2. Connotative meaning

- **The communicative value an expression has by virtue of what it refers to, over and above its purely conceptual content.**
- **A multitude of additional, non-criterial properties, including not only physical characteristics but also psychological and social properties, as well as typical features.**

3. Social Meaning

- The meaning conveyed by the piece of language about the social context of its use is called the social meaning.
- The decoding of a text is dependent on our knowledge of stylistics and other variations of language.
- We recognize some words or pronunciation as being dialectical i.e. as telling us something about the regional or social origin of the speaker.
- Social meaning is related to the situation in which an utterance is used.

4. Affective meaning

- **Reflecting the personal feelings of the speaker, including his attitude to the listener, or his attitude to something he is talking about.**
- **You're a vicious tyrant and a villainous reprobate, and I hate you for it!**
- **I'm terribly sorry to interrupt, but I wonder if you would be so kind as to lower your voices a little. or**
- **Will you belt up.**

5. Reflected Meaning

- Reflected meaning arises when a word has more than one conceptual meaning or multiple conceptual meaning.
- In church service 'the comforter and the Holy Ghost' refer to the third in Trinity. They are religious words. But unconsciously there is a response to their non-religious meanings too. Thus the 'comforter' sounds warm and comforting while the 'Ghost' sounds 'awesome' or even 'dreadful'. One sense of the word seems to rub off on another especially through relative frequency and familiarity (e.g. a ghost is more frequent and familiar in no religious sense.).

6. Collocative Meaning

- Collocative meaning is the meaning which a word acquires in the company of certain words. Words collocate or co-occur with certain words only e.g. Big business not large or great.
- Collocative meaning refers to associations of a word because of its usual or habitual co-occurrence with certain types of words. **'Pretty'** and **'handsome'** indicate **'good looking'**.

7. Thematic Meaning

- It refers to what is communicated by the way in which a speaker or a writer organizes the message in terms of ordering focus and emphasis.
- Thus active is different from passive though its conceptual meaning is the same.
- The ways we order our message also convey what is important and what not. This is basically thematic meaning.

According to various scholars:

Types of Meaning

- *pragmatic* (directed at the desirable effect of the utterance),
- *associative* (connected, through individual psychological or linguistic associations, with related and nonrelated notions),
- *ideological*, or *conceptual* (revealing political, social, ideological preferences of the user),
- *evaluative* (stating the value of the indicated notion),
- *emotive* (revealing the emotional layer of cognition and perception),
- *expressive* (aiming at creating the image of the object in question),
- *stylistic* (indicating "the register", or the situation of the communication).

1. Literal meaning - the sentence means what it says. Also known as 'utterance' meaning (Griffiths).
2. Logical meaning - the meaning of the sentence is determined by (is a part of) a set of logical inferences, such as composition, subordination, etc. Also called 'taxis'. (Kies)
3. Denotative meaning - the sentence means what it is about. The 'reference' of a sentence, as opposed to its 'sense'. (Frege)
4. Semantical meaning - meaning is truth (Tarski - 'snow is white' is true if snow is white)
5. Positivist meaning - the sentence means what it says that can be empirically confirmed or falsified (Ayer, Carnap, Schlick)

6. Pragmatic meaning - the relationship between signs and their users. (Morris) Includes "identificational meaning, expressive meaning, associative meaning, social meaning, and imperative meaning."
(Lunwen)
7. Intentional meaning - the sentence means what the author intended it to say. Also known as "sender's meaning" (Griffiths). - John Searle, often includes conversational implicatures
8. Connotative meaning - the sentence means what readers think about when they read it. Sometimes known as 'sense' (Frege). Also sometimes thought of as 'associative' meaning. (Morris) Includes 'reflected' meaning (what is communicated through association with another sense of the same expression, Leech) and collocative meaning (Leech)
9. Social meaning - "what is communicated of the social circumstances of language use" (from Leech; Lunwen)
10. Metaphorical meaning - the meaning is determined by metaphor, and not actual reference
11. Emotive meaning - related to connotative - the type of emotion the sentence invokes
12. Functional meaning - the sentence means what it is used for, what it does (Wittgenstein, meaning is use; Austin, speech acts). The 'mode' of a sentence is the function it plays in channeling communication - what degree of feedback it elicits, for example, of what degree of abstraction it considers. (Cope and Kalantzis)
13. Type meaning - the sentence's meaning is related to what it doesn't say, to the range of possible words or sentences that could be said instead (Derrida). Gillett writes, "Part of the meaning of a word is its 'register'. Which types of language is the word used in: letters or reports, spoken or written, biology or business etc?"
14. Deictic meaning - meaning is determined with reference to the situation or context in which the word is used. Griffiths writes, "Deixis is pervasive in languages." Common deictic frames include common

understandings related to people ('the boss'), time ('tomorrow'), place ('nearby'), participants ('his'), even discourse itself ('this' article).

15. Relevance, significance or value - "what is the meaning of life?"

Accent - the manner in which the word is pronounced or emphasized can change its meaning.

16. Intralingual meaning - (Morris) intralingual meaning (the relationship between different signs; it includes phonological meaning, graphemic meaning, morphological or lexemic meaning, syntactic meaning, and discursal or textual meaning).

Thematic meaning - "what is communicated by the way in which the message is organized in terms of order and emphasis" (Leech; Lunwen)

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