

Lin200 tut



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Linguistics The different types of ambiguity The two types of ambiguity is in grammar is lexical and syntactic ambiguity. Lexical ambiguity refers to the existence of two or more potential interpretation in a one word. An example of lexical ambiguity is: The lady is looking for a “ match”. On the other hand, syntactic ambiguity refers the existence of two or more potential interpretations a one particular words sequence. The anticipated meaning of a sentence that is syntactically ambiguous is on most occasions determined by the context it is said. An example of syntactic ambiguity is in the sentence “ The cow is ready to eat” (Baker, 2012).

## 2. Difference between content and functional words

Content words refer to words that hold meaning or content of a sentence. They are words that are known as open class words in that they allow for the adding of new other words by derivation, compounding, inflection, borrowing or coining of these other words. On the other hand function words refer to the words that contain ambiguous meaning and are used to put across grammatical relations with added words within one sentence. While content words are open class, functional words are closed class.

Relationships between words:

- a. Synonyms refer to two words with the same meaning for example the words “ slim” and “ slender”.
- b. Antonyms refer to two words with opposite meaning for example the words “ clean” and “ dirty”. Gradable antonyms refer to a single word pair with differing meanings and occur when the two meanings are in on an uninterrupted range. An example is in the pair of words “ light heavy”. Complementary antonyms refer to a single word pair with conflicting meanings, and exist when the words meanings do not lie on an

uninterrupted range. An example is the pair of words “ dead and alive “.

Relational antonyms on the other hand refer single words pair with differing sense, and occur in a situation or a certain context of the relation in the words pair. An example is the words “ patient and doctor” (Baker, 2012).

c. Polysemy implies to a word with two or more same meanings. For example: The cow is at the “ foot” of the hill

d. Homonymy refers the relationship between words having the same forms but diverse meanings. For example the word “ bank” as in savings bank and river bank.

e. homophones is a word whose pronunciation is the identical to another but their meaning and even spelling are different for example the words “ too” and “ two”.

f. phantonyms refer to a word that is informal and appears to mean a thing yet it means the another). An example is the word “ disloyal”.

g. homographs refer to words with the same spelling but a have a different pronunciation and meaning an example is the word “ desert” which means a dry place and to leave.

Practice for synonyms and antonyms:

1. the synonym for help is assist
2. the synonym for fast is quick
3. A synonym for juvenile is young
4. an antonym for large is small
5. an antonym for married is divorced
6. an antonym for always is never
7. Examples of words that are both homophones and homographs.

The word “ capital” is both a homophone and a homograph. It refers to

assets and the same time the headquarter of a country

8. distinguishing between polysemy and homonymy.

a. Steal/steel meaning “ rob” and “ kind of metal”

The words steel and steal have the same pronunciation thus may give misleading meaning

b. Sound meaning “ stretch of water” and “ noise”

Both the word “ noise” and words “ stretch of water” imply the same meaning and in different contexts it might be difficult to distinguish between them.

9. the different types of semantic change

The first is the narrowing semantic change from the subordinate to the super ordinate level to level. For example the word “ skyline” was earlier referred to as “ horizon”. The second semantic change is the widening change where specific words are used to mean a general thing for example the word “ vegetables” and “ tomatoes”. Another semantic change is hyperbole, which is a change from a strong to a weak meaning for example “” slaughter and “ torment” referring to the process of killing (Baker, 2012).

References

Baker, A. (2012). Linguistics. Wiley-Blackwell.