

Terms in Morphology

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Lexicon /'lɛksɪkən/

In its most general sense, the term is synonymous with VOCABULARY.

A dictionary can be seen as a set of lexical ENTRIES.

Lexicon is the set of all the words and idioms of any language.

Lexicon is a dictionary, usually of an ancient language such as Latin, Greek or Tamil.

The lexicon has a special status in **GENERATIVE GRAMMAR**, where it refers to the **COMPONENT** containing all the information about the **STRUCTURAL** properties of the **LEXICAL ITEMS** in a language.

Lexicon is a mental system which contains all the information a person knows about words.

According to psycholinguists, people's knowledge of a word includes

- a. knowing how a word is pronounced
- b. the grammatical patterns with which a word is used
- c. the meaning or meanings of the word.

The total set of words a speaker knows from his or her mother tongue is called *mental lexicon*.

The content of the mental lexicon and how a mental lexicon is developed are studied in *psycholinguistics* and *language acquisition*.

Lexis /'lɛksɪs/

Lexis is the vocabulary of a language in contrast to its grammar (syntax).

Lexis is the vocabulary of a language, as distinct from its grammar; the total stock of words and idiomatic combinations of them in a language; lexicon.

In generative linguistics, a lexis or lexicon is the complete set of all possible words in a language (vocabulary).

In this sense, child, children, child's and children's are four different words in the English lexicon.

Thesaurus /θɪ'sɔːrəs/

A book that lists words in groups of synonyms and related concepts.

Lexical Items/Lexical Unit/Lexical entry

In lexicography, a lexical item (or lexical unit/ LU, lexical entry) is a single word, a part of a word, or a chain of words that forms the basic elements of a language's lexicon (\approx vocabulary).

Examples are cat, traffic light, take care of, by the way, and it's raining cats and dogs. Lexical items can be generally understood to convey a single meaning, much as a lexeme, but are not limited to single words.

Lexical items composed of more than one word are also sometimes called lexical chunks, gambits, lexical phrases, lexical units, lexicalized stems.

Lexeme also called lexical item

Lexeme is the smallest unit in the meaning system of a language that can be distinguished from other similar units.

A lexeme is an abstract unit.

It can occur in many different forms in actual spoken or written sentences, and is regarded as the same lexeme even when inflected.

For example, in English, all inflected forms such as give, gives, given, giving, gave would belong to the one lexeme give.

Similarly, such expressions as *bury the hatchet*, *hammer and tongs*, *give up*, and *white paper* (in the sense of a government document) would each be considered a single lexeme.

In a dictionary, each lexeme merits a separate entry or sub-entry.

Compound Word

Compound word is a combination of two or more words which functions as a single word.

For example self-made (a compound adjective) as in 'He was a self-made man' and flower shop (a compound noun) as in 'They went to the flower shop.'

Compound words are written either as a single word (e.g. headache), as hyphenated words (e.g. self-government), or as two words (e.g. police station).

Endocentric Compound:

A compound that consists of a head and a dependent (or several dependents); the meaning of the semantic head is a hyponym of the meaning of the entire compound.

For example;

English word footpath, composed of the two nouns foot and path or they may belong to different parts of speech.

English word blackbird, composed of the adjective black and the noun bird.

Compounds with a head are called endocentric compounds.

The term 'endocentric' means that the category of the whole (syntactic or morphological) construction is identical to that of one of its constituents.

Exocentric Compound:

A compound pattern that does not contain a (semantic) head and a dependent.

For example, the English compound white-collar is neither a kind of collar nor a white thing.

white-collar - the people who work in an office.

pickpocket - a person who steals from people's pockets.

redskin – native American in US

In exocentric compounds, without a constituent that functions as its head.

The exocentricity of these compounds cannot be explained in terms of semantic interpretation in the same way as baldhead, because they behave formally as adjectives, although there is no adjectival head.

A special class of compounds is formed by copulative compounds.

For examples; (Sanskrit and Punjabi)

candra - ditya-u

moon-sun (dual) the moon and the sun

raat-din 'day and night'

maa-pio 'mother and father'

sukh-dukh 'happiness and sorrow'

killjoy - a person who deliberately spoils the enjoyment of others.

Scarecrow- an object made to resemble a human figure, set up to scare birds away from a field where crops are growing.

WordNet

WordNet is a large **lexical database** of English.

Nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs are **grouped into sets of cognitive synonyms** (synsets), each expressing a distinct concept.

Synsets are interlinked by means of **conceptual-semantic and lexical relations**

WordNet is also **freely and publicly available** for download.

WordNet superficially resembles a thesaurus, in that it groups words together based on their meanings.

However, there are some important distinctions.

First, WordNet interlinks not just word forms - strings of letters - but specific senses of words.

Search Word:

Searches for bank:

Senses:

The noun bank has 10 senses (first 9 from tagged texts)

1. (883) depository financial institution, **bank**, banking concern, banking company -- (a financial institution that accepts deposits and channels the money into lending activities; "he cashed a check at the bank"; "that bank holds the mortgage on my home")
2. (99) **bank** -- (sloping land (especially the slope beside a body of water); "they pulled the canoe up on the bank"; "he sat on the bank of the river and watched the currents")
3. (76) **bank** -- (a supply or stock held in reserve for future use (especially in emergencies))
4. (54) **bank**, bank building -- (a building in which the business of banking transacted; "the bank is on the corner of Nassau and Witherspoon")
5. (7) **bank** -- (an arrangement of similar objects in a row or in tiers; "he operated a bank of switches")
6. (6) savings bank, coin bank, money box, **bank** -- (a container (usually with a slot in the top) for keeping money at home; "the coin bank was empty")
7. (3) **bank** -- (a long ridge or pile; "a huge bank of earth")
8. (1) **bank** -- (the funds held by a gambling house or the dealer in some gambling games; "he tried to break the bank at Monte Carlo")
9. (1) **bank**, cant, camber -- (a slope in the turn of a road or track; the outside is higher than the inside in order to reduce the effects of centrifugal force)
10. **bank** -- (a flight maneuver; aircraft tips laterally about its longitudinal axis (especially in turning); "the plane went into a steep bank")

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The verb bank has 8 senses (first 2 from tagged texts)

1. (2) **bank** -- (tip laterally; "the pilot had to bank the aircraft")
2. (1) **bank** -- (enclose with a bank; "bank roads")
3. **bank** -- (do business with a bank or keep an account at a bank; "Where do you bank in this town?")
4. **bank** -- (act as the banker in a game or in gambling)
5. **bank** -- (be in the banking business)
6. deposit, **bank** -- (put into a bank account; "She deposits her paycheck every month")
7. **bank** -- (cover with ashes so to control the rate of burning; "bank a fire")
8. trust, swear, rely, **bank** -- (have confidence or faith in; "We can trust in God"; "Rely on your friends"; "bank on your good education"; "I swear by my grandmother's recipes")

Generative Lexicon

The generative lexicon (shortly GL) presents a novel and exciting theory of lexical semantics that addresses the problem of the “multiplicity of word meaning”- that is, how we are able to give an infinite number of senses to words with finite means.

As the first formally elaborated theory of generative approach to word meaning, it lays the foundation for an implemented computational treatment of word meaning that connects explicitly to a compositional semantics.

In contrast to static view of word meaning (where each word is characterized by a predetermined number of word senses) that imposes a tremendous bottleneck on the performance capability of any natural language processing, Pustejovsky proposes that the lexicon becomes an active and central component in the linguistic description.

The essence of his theory is that the lexicon functions generatively, first by providing a rich and expressive vocabulary for characterizing lexical information; then by developing a frame work for manipulating fine-grained distinctions in word descriptions; and finally, by formalizing a set of mechanisms for specialized composition of aspects of such description of words, as they occur in context, extended and novel senses are generated.

There is rising interest in computational analysis of Machine Readable Dictionaries (MRDs) as a lexical resource for various purposes in the recent years (Wilsk et al, 1996:161-181).

Existing dictionaries are obvious place to look for extensive linguistic information on lexical semantics.

Exploiting MRDs for semantic analysis is a clear-cut effort, which aims at harvesting the work-years of effort by professional lexicographers.

It is a well-known fact that a wealth of implicit information lies within dictionaries.



1. Headword - அம்மா
2. Definition/Meaning
3. Word Class - like noun, verb etc.
4. Word Pronunciation
5. Transliteration/IPA transcription
6. More than one category - like படி as n, v, etc
7. Inflectional or paradigm -like அம்மாவை, அம்மாவுக்கு, அம்மாவால், அம்மாவுக்காக, அம்மாவிலிருந்து
8. How frequent the word is - 45234
9. If word has more than one meaning - like தாய், அன்னை, ஆம் etc.
10. Derived word - குதிரை from குதி,
11. Citation - How word is used in sentence example
12. Etymology of the word
13. Picture of the word

வினா

*Time For
Questions*

