**Seminar 6**

**Outline**

1. The Nature of Meaning: the relationship between language, thought, and reality.
2. Lexical Networks: polysemy, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, and collocations in both theoretical and applied linguistics (teaching, NLP, translation).
3. Semantic Change and Culture: broadening, narrowing, amelioration, pejoration, metaphor, metonymy. How do these reflect cultural, technological, and social transformations?
4. Sentence vs. Discourse Semantics: coherence and cohesion at the discourse level. How do thematic roles, context, and ideology affect interpretation?
5. Applications of Semantics: computational linguistics, forensic linguistics, cross-cultural communication, media studies, and therapy.

### **Task 1: Polysemy vs. Homonymy.** *Identify whether the following words represent polysemy or homonymy. Provide at least* ***two meanings*** *for each.*

1. Light
2. Bank
3. Spring
4. Head
5. Bat
6. Watch
7. Nail
8. Bark
9. Ring
10. Mouse
11. Seal
12. Date
13. Fair
14. Rock
15. Match

### **Task 2: Synonyms and Connotations.***Classify each set of synonyms as* ***neutral, positive, or negative****, and explain connotational differences.*

1. Slim / skinny / slender
2. Child / kid / brat
3. Job / occupation / gig
4. Intelligent / smart / geek
5. Fragrance / odor / stench
6. Cheap / affordable / inexpensive
7. House / home / residence
8. Old / elderly / ancient
9. Brave / bold / reckless
10. Freedom / liberty / independence
11. Ask / demand / beg
12. Teacher / tutor / instructor
13. Problem / issue / challenge
14. Relax / chill / idle
15. Famous / notorious / well-known

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### **Task 3: Semantic Change.** *Give the* ***original meaning*** *and the* ***modern meaning*** *of each word. Identify the process: broadening, narrowing, amelioration, pejoration, metaphor, or metonymy.*

1. Holiday
2. Meat
3. Girl
4. Sly
5. Knight
6. Minister
7. Silly
8. Villain
9. Tablet
10. Spam
11. Viral
12. Cloud
13. Mouse
14. Gift (German vs. English)
15. Gay

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### **Task 4: Discourse and Ideology.** *Analyze the* ***connotation, framing, or euphemism/dysphemism*** *in each pair of terms. Which word choice might be used in media/politics, and why?*

1. Collateral damage vs. civilian deaths
2. Downsizing vs. firing
3. Migrant vs. refugee
4. Illegal alien vs. undocumented worker
5. Freedom fighter vs. terrorist
6. Police officer vs. cop
7. Global warming vs. climate change
8. Senior citizen vs. old person
9. Enhanced interrogation vs. torture
10. Accident vs. crash
11. Tax relief vs. tax cut
12. Welfare vs. social support
13. Protest vs. riot
14. Developed countries vs. rich nations
15. Developing countries vs. Global South

### **Task 5: Collocations and Idioms.***Choose the correct collocation or idiom for each case, explain why others are unnatural, and translate into your native language.*

1. Strong tea / powerful tea
2. Make a decision / do a decision
3. Commit a crime / commit a homework
4. Heavy rain / strong rain
5. Break the news / break the plate
6. Run a business / run a table
7. Kick the bucket / kick the ball
8. Take a photo / make a photo
9. Raise a question / rise a question
10. Pay attention / give attention
11. Save time / keep time
12. Fast food / quick food
13. Deep sleep / strong sleep
14. Tell the truth / say the truth
15. Win an argument / gain an argument

**References**

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