**Seminar 5. Semasiology**

1. The Nature of Word Meaning.

2. Types of Word Meaning.

3. Causes, Nature and Results of Semantic Change.

4. Semantic Structure of English Words. Polysemy.

5. Conceptual (Semantic) Field. Hyponymy.

6. Synonymy. Sources of Synonymy.

7. Antonymy. Classification of Antonyms.

8. Homonymy. Classification of Homonyms.

**Do the practical assignment:**

**Exercise 1.** Determine the meanings of the word “mouth” in the following contexts:

She set her mouth and waited. 2. There really was a salt taste in his mouth: most likely the blood was running from his teeth. 3. “There should be a town ahead somewhere. Probably at the mouth of the river”. 4. The ship arose with the sound of a man blowing over the mouth of a bottle. 5. She pointed into the mouth of the middle cannon.

**Exercise 2.** Determine the denotational and connotational meanings in the following pairs of words:

*beg* vs *implore*

*big* vs *tremendous*

*famous* vs *notorious*

*fat* vs *plump*

*infant* vs *kid*

**Exercise 3.** Comment on the results of semantic changes of the italicised words. Translate the sentences into Ukrainian:

1. Extention of meaning:

1. Two men stopped us and asked us for our *papers.* 2. She's a sharp old *bird.*

1. Narrowing of meaning:

1. She wished they had a cooler to hold some luncheon *meat*, some sodas. 2. At last he decided to take a woman to *wife.*

1. Degradation of meaning:

1. Her husband's *mistress* turned out to be one of her friends. 2. He would brood about *silly* things.

1. Elevation of meaning:

1. He was a *nice* fellow, very quiet and well-bred. 2. He was far advanced in years, but still strikingly *handsome.*

**Exercise 4.** Use a dictionary to determine the direct meaning of the underlined words used here in their figurative metaphorical meanings:

1. In every branch of knowledge, there seem to be many levels of precision and generality.

2. Most of us have such psychological “blind spots,” aspects of our personalities that are obvious to everyone but ourselves.

3. Words and pictures are vehicles of communication. Art is a vehicle for self-expression.

4. Every area of trouble gives out a ray of hope.

5. He got out and stood leaning against the bonnet of the car, listening to the silence.

6. This subject remains a fertile field for additional investigation.

**Exercise 5.** Comment on the diffused meanings of the underlined words:

**Thing**: 1. We have more people who want to do the right thing than most companies. 2. He pointed to his cart “That thing will not suit you”. 3. But the puzzle is a small thing, it can be solved. 4. The poor thing realised at last that she had got into a hopeless position.

**Stuff:** 1. She got out the cooking stuff to bake some muffins. 2. All this stuff makes me kind of miss the good old days.  3. You must lay aside much of the stuff that we brought against bitter weather. 4. We're sort of outside of that area so I don’t know what we do about our video equipment, but I think it would be beneficial if there were somebody we could call on to sort out problems for us, who actually understood all the stuff.

**Affair:** 1. The whole affair, as it turned out, was not worth more than a paragraph. 2. About this little affair neither Lady Anne nor her daughter happened to say a word to the manager. 3. I realize that there’s a lot more in this affair than meets the eye. 4. Is the affair any business of mine?

**Exercise 6.** Arrange the following units into three semantic fields – feelings, parts of the body, education:

Academy, admission, affection, arm, assignment, back, belly, calf, calmness, cheek, coaching, college, course, delight, curiosity, curriculum, day-student, drill, ear, education, encyclopedia, envy, erudition, eye, face, faculty, fingernail, foot, forehead, hair, happiness, head, headmaster, heel, homework, ignorance, impatience, indifference, instruction, jealousy, joint, kindness, knee, knowledge, lecturer, leg, limb, love, neck, palm, passion, pedagogy, professor, relief, satisfaction, scholar, science, serenity, stomach, syntax, temple, tenderness, textbook, thigh, thrill, thumb, toe, tutor, undergraduate, university, waist.

**Exercise 7.** Define the stylistic colouring of the underlined words, substitute them with a neutral synonym from the list given below:

1. Their discourse was interrupted. 2. She passed away. 3. The old man kicked the bucket. 4. Where is Daddy? 5. Meet my better half. 6. Jack took his departure. 7. This is a case for a vet. 8. He is a joiner. 9. He was dressed like a toff. 10. Well, let's drift.

*A doctor, to leave, a wife, to die, a father, to go, good company, to talk, a gentleman (one lexical unit is used twice)*.

**Exercise 8.** Using the dictionary, state the main semantic differences between the members of the following synonymic groups:

Blame, fault, guilt, misdemeanour, mistake; gather, collect, assemble, congregate; enthusiasm, passion, fervour, zeal; occupation, calling, vocation, business; labour force, personnel, manpower, staff; ample, capacious, commodious, spacious, wide.

**Exercise 9.** Translate the following sentences. Find homonyms and define their types:

1. a) Excuse my going first, I'll lead the way. b) Lead is heavier than iron. 2. a) He tears up all letters. b) Jane’s eyes filled with tears. 3. a) In England the heir to the throne is called the Prince of Wales. b) I like to dine outdoors in the open air. 4. a) Her family is English to the core. b) The Peace Corps is a U.S. organization that trains and sends people who work without pay to help poor people in other countries. 5. a) She was a popular ruler throughout her reign. b) She handed the reins of the company to her successor. c) He was standing outside in the pouring rain.

**Exercise 10.** Classify the following pairs of antonyms given below:

Slow – fast, post-war – pre-war, happiness – unhappiness, above – below, asleep – awake, appear – disappear, late – early, ugly – beautiful, distraction – attraction, spend – save.

**Evaluation criteria**

- content of the report 20 p.\*

- accuracy 20 p

- range of vocabulary and grammar 20 p.

- delivery of presentation (speaking/reading/pronunciation)  20 p.

- slide organization and design 10 p.

- concluding remarks (summarizing/emphasizing the key ideas) 10 p.

Total 100 p.

\* 20 points maximum are given for the content of the report if it contains a piece of original research and language illustration material from authentic resources.

**References**

Lecture notes 7 <https://learn.ztu.edu.ua/mod/folder/view.php?id=188446>

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