LECTURE TITLE

جامعة ساوة

كلية التربية

اللغة/قسم اللغة الانكليزية

المرحلة الرابعة

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الاسبوع الاول

SEMANTICS

is the study of the meaning of words, phrases and sentences.

1. It focus on what the words conventionally mean,

rather than on what an individual speaker might want them to mean on

a particular occasion.

2. It is concerned with objective or general meaning and avoids subjective

or local meaning.

3. It spell out what it is we all know when we behave as if we share

knowledge of the meaning of a word, a phrase, or a sentence in a

language.

CONCEPTUAL & ASSOCIATIONS MEANING

1. Conceptual meaning :

The basic, essential components of meaning that are conveyed by the literal use of a word. It is the type of meaning that dictionaries are designed to describe.

Example : Some of the basic components of a word like needle in English might include "thin, sharp, steel instrument."

2. **associations or connotations meaning**

The type of meaning that people might attach to a word.

For example, the word needle might associate with "pain," or "illness," or "blood," or

"drugs," or "thread," or "knitting," or "hard to find" (especially in a haystack).

EXAMPLES

some people may associate the expression low-calorie, when used

to describe a product, with "healthy," but this is not part of the basic

conceptual meaning of the (i.e. "producing a small amount of heat or

energy").

Poets, song-writers, novelists, literary critics, advertisers and lovers

may all be interested in how words can evoke certain aspects of

associative meaning, but in linguistic semantics we're more concerned

with conceptual meaning.

elements such as "+animate, −animate," "+human, −human," "+female, −female," used in an analysis of the word meaning.

for example,. If we had to provide the crucial distinguishing features of the meanings of a set of English words such as **table, horse, boy, man, girl, woman,** we could begin with the following diagram.

	table	horse	boy	man	girl	woman
Animate	−	+	+	+	+	+
human	−	−	+	+	+	+
female	−	−	−	−	+	+
Adult	−	+	−	+	−	+

SEMANTICS

Instead of thinking of words as "containers" of meaning, we can look at the "roles"

they fulfill within the situation described by a sentence. If the situation is a simple

event, as in The boy kicked the ball, then the verb describes an action (kick). The noun

phrases in the sentence describe the roles of entities, such as people and things,

involved in the action. We can identify a small number of semantic roles (also called

"thematic roles") for these noun phrases.

In our example sentence, one role is taken by the noun phrase The boy as "the entity

that performs the action," technically known as the agent. Another role is taken by the

ball as "the entity that is involved in or affected by the action," which is called the

theme (or sometimes the "patient"). The theme can also be an entity (The ball) that is

simply being described (i.e. not performing an action), as in The ball was red.

Agents and themes are the most common semantic roles.

Although agents are

typically human (The boy), they can also be non-human entities

that cause actions,

as in noun phrases denoting a natural force (The wind), a

machine (A car), or a

creature (The dog), all of which affect the ball as theme.

The boy kicked the