REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

On the rights of the manuscript

ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

LINGUISTIC PRINCIPLES OF EXPLANATION OF WORD MEANING IN MODERN ENGLISH

Speciality: 5708.01 – Germanic languages

Field of science: Philology

Applicant: **Lala Elkhan Efendiyeva**

Baku – 2026

The work was performed at the Department of General Linguistics under the Faculty of Philology of the Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Scientific supervisor:	Doctor of Philosophy in Philology, Professor **Arif Rza Huseynov**
Official opponents:	Doctor of Philological Sciences, Associate Professor **Lala Gadir Gurbanova**
	Doctor of Philosophy in Philology, Associate Professor **Aytan Musa Allahverdiyeva**
	Doctor of Philosophy in Philology **Chinara Zahid Shahbazli**

Dissertation council FD 2.12 of Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating at the Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Chairman of the Dissertation council	Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor **Azad Yahya Mammadov**
Scientific secretary of the Dissertation council	Doctor of Philosophy in Philology, Associate Professor **Aysel Ilgar Mammadbeyli**
Chairman of the scientific seminar	Doctor of Philological Sciences, Associate Professor **Konul Elkhan Abdurahmanova**

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

Relevance of the topic and degree of development. Semantics occupies a special place in modern linguistic studies, because, on the one hand, it penetrates all levels of language, and on the other hand, it connects the science of language with such sciences as philosophy, psychology and semiotics. The description of the semantics of language units by the interpretative method, despite all its advantages, as a rule, does not end with the desired result, that is, the explanation of the semantics of each language unit in an isolated, as well as context-conditioned, situation leads to the fact that the meaning of the language unit, intuitively perceived as "the same" before analysis, turns into a set of different shades of meaning.

In modern linguistics, problems of semantics are of great importance due to the need to substantiate the regularities of the development of language units in the process of communication. The description of the upper (expression) level of the language using formal and modeling methods in various areas of linguistics has significantly expanded the scope of knowledge about the internal interaction of language units in the system and structure of the language. However, the study of language in terms of its communicative purpose and semantic layer requires going beyond its expression (upper) forms and addressing the level that determines the informative value of language units. That is why linguistics has recently been focused on explaining the internal (basic) regularities of the language mechanism, which has brought to the fore a number of new problems related to both general methodological and systematical approaches to linguistic semantics.

The semantic-functional capacity of a word has the potential to be realized in different meanings when conditioned by the individual and situation. Meaning and concept are categories that are formed as a result of communicative activity and cognitive processes, therefore, the effectiveness of the act of communication depends on the adequate creation, transmission and decoding of meaning. The semantic capacity of a word does not end with the sum of its meaning components – semes, because it depends on the cognitive

activity of the speaker and the interpretation of the listener, which creates additional shades of meaning in the semantic field of the word. Therefore, the formation of the semantic capacity of a word, the identification of factors that serve the transformation of meaning components, i.e. semes, the representation of the general semantic field and its subsequent interpretation, makes the topic of the research work *relevant*.

The foundations of modern fields of research on the semantic layer of language units are found in the works of Aristotle, W. von Humboldt, I.A.Baudouin de Courtenay, F. de Saussure, A.A.Potebnya, L.V.Sherba, S.Ullman, C.J.Fillmore, N.Chomsky, U.L.Chaif, R.V.Brown, V.Evans, M.Green, M.Birvish, R.Langaker, C.K.Ogden, I.A.Richard, E.Roche, U.Weinrich, H.Trier, C.Lyons, L.Bloomfield, C.Lakoff, T.A. van Dijk, A.Vejbitskaya, A.I.Smirnitsky, Y.S.Maslov, I.V.Arnold, V.G.Gak, R.S.Ginzburg, J.Kats, Y.S.Stepanov, I.M.Kobozeva, E.S.Kubryakova, I.A.Sternin, F.Y.Veysalli, S.A.Abdullayev, H.A.Hasanov, M.A.Gojayeva[1] and others.

[1] Аристотель. Сочинения в 4-х томах / Аристотель. – М.: «Книга по требованию», – 1978. – 689 с.; Гумбольдт, В. фон. Избранные труды по языкознанию / В. фон Гумбольдт. – М.: Прогресс, – 1984. – 397 с.; Бодуэн де Куртенэ, И.А. Избранные труды по общему языкознанию / – М.: Изд-во АН СССР, – т. II.– 1963. – 353 с.; Соссюр, Ф. де. Курс общей лингвистики / Ф. де Соссюр. – М.: Логос, – 1998. – 235с.; Потебня, А.А. Полное собрание трудов: Мысль и язык / А.А.Потебня. – М.: Лабиринт, – 1999. – 268 с.; Щерба, Л.В. Языковая система и речевая деятельность / Л.В. Щерба. – М.: Издательство ЛКИ/URSS, – 2008. – 432 с.; Ullmann, St. The principles of Semantics / St.Ullman. – Oxford, – 1963. –345 p.; Fillmore, Ch.J. On the organization of semantic information in the lexicon // Papers from the parasession on the lexicon. − Chicago: CLS, 1978. − p.148-173; Хомский, Н. Аспекты теории синтаксиса / Н.Хомский. – М.: Моск. ун-т, – 1972. – 129 с.; Chomsky, N. Language and Mind / N.Chomsky. – N.Y., – 1968. – 321 p.; Чейф, У.Л. Значение и структура языка / У.Л.Чейф. – М.: «ЛИБРОКОМ»/URSS, – 2009. – 430 с.; Brown R.W., Lenneberg, E.H. A study in language and cognition // The Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology, – 1954. Vol. 49 (3), – p.454-462; Evans, V. Cognitive Semantics / V.Evans, M.Green. – Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, – 2006. – 830 p.; Бирвиш, М. Семантика // Новое в зарубежной лингвистике. – М.: Прогресс, – 1981. – с.177-199; Langacker, R. Concept, Image, and Symbol: The Cognitive Basis of Grammar / R.Langacker. – Berlin-N.Y.: Mouton de Gruyter, – 1991. – 321 p.; Ogden, C.K. The Meaning of Meaning. A study of the influence of

The object and subject of the research. The object of the research is lexical units belonging to the same semantic field in the English language. The subject of the research is the study of

---

language upon thought and of the science of symbolism: [Electronic resource] / C.K.Ogden, I.A.Richards. Mode of access. URL: http://s-f-walker.org.uk/pubsebooks/pdfs/ogden-richardsmeaning-all.pdf.; Rosch, E. Principles of Categorization // E.Rosch, B.B.Lloyd (eds.) Cognition and Categorization. – Hillsdale, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, – 1978. –p.27-48; Weinreich, U. On Semantics / U.Weinreich. – USA, – 1980. – 421 p.; Trier, J. Der deutsche Wortschatz im Sinnbezirk des Verstandes. Von den Anfangen bis zum Beginn des 13. Jahrhunderts. Heidelberg, Carl Winter Universitatsverlag, – 1973. – 347 S.; Lyons, J. Linguistics semantics: An introduction / J.Lyons. – Cambridge UP, – 1995. – 376 p.; Блумфилд, Л. Язык / Л. Блумфилд. – М.: Прогресс, – 1968. – 608 с.; Lakoff, G. Women, Fire and Dangerous Things: What Categories Reveal about the Mind / G.Lakoff. – Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, – 1987. – 614 p.; Lakoff, M. Metaphors we live by / G.Lakoff, M.Johnson. – London: Univ. of Chicago Press, – 2003. – 276 p.; Дейк, Т.А. ван. Язык. Познание. Коммуникация / Т.А.ван Дейк. – М.: Прогресс, – 1989. – 312 с.; Вежбицкая, А. Язык. Культура. Познание / А.Вежбицкая. – М.: Русские словари, – 1997. – 411 с.; Смирницкий, А.И. Значение слова // Вопросы языкознания, – 1955. №2, – с.79-89; Маслов, Ю.С. Омонимы в словарях и омонимия в языке (к постановке вопроса) // Вопросы теории и истории языка: Сборник в честь профессора Б.А.Ларина. – Л.: Изд-во Ленингр. ун-та, – 1963. – с.128-202; Арнольд, И.В. Лексикология современного английского языка / И.В.Арнольд. – М.:Наука, –2012. – 376 с.; Гак, В.Г. О семантическом инварианте и синонимии предложения // Сб. научн. тр. МГПИИЯ им. М.Тореза. – М.: МГПИИЯ, – 1977. Вып. 112, – с.42-50; Гинзбург, Р.С. Проблема значения слова. // – М.: ИЯШ, – 1978. № 5, – с.26-31; Katz, J. Semantic theory/ J.Katz. – New York: Crowel, – 1972. – 249 p.; Степанов, Ю.С. Концепты. Тонкая пленка цивилизации / Ю.С.Степанов. – М.: Языки славянских культур, – 2007. – 608 с.; Кобозева, И.М. Лингвистическая семантика / И.М.Кобозева. – М.: Эдиториал УРСС, – 2000. – 352 с.; Кубрякова, Е.С. Об установках когнитивной науки и актуальных проблемах когнитивной лингвистики // Вопросы когнитивной лингвистики, – 2004. № 1, – с.6-17; Стернин, И.А. Проблемы анализа структуры значения слова / И.А.Стернин. – Воронеж, – 1979. – 156 с.; Veysəlli, F.Y. Semiotika: [7 cilddə] / F.Y.Veysəlli. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – c.4. –2010. – 336 s.; Abdullayev, S.Ə. Qeyri-səlis dilçilik təcrübəsi / S.Ə.Abdullayev. – Bakı: Victory, – 2013. – 596 s.; Həsənov, H.Ə. Azərbaycan dilinin semantikası / H.Ə.Həsənov. – Bakı: Maarif, – 1978. – 105 s.; Hüseynov, A.R. İngilis dilinin nəzəri qrammatikası üzrə mühazirələr toplusu / A.R.Hüseynov. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – 2015. – 376 s.; Qocayeva, M.Ə. Sintaktik omonimliyin struktur semantikası / M.Ə.Qocayeva. – Bakı: ADPU, – 2023. – 204 s.

synonymy, homonymy, structural-semantic, combinatorial-semantic and semantic-derivative properties of lexical units and the systematization of the obtained results.

The goal and objectives of the research. The purpose of the research work is to provide a semantic analysis of lexical units that embody the characteristics of the spiritual and social culture of the English people. To achieve the goal of the research, the following tasks were performed in the work:

– to develop a theoretical and methodological platform for the semantic study of lexical units of the language;

– to analyze the existing theoretical sources on the topic in chronological order;

– to determine the lexical-semantic group of these lexemes based on the analysis of the texts in which the selected lexical units are used, to group them according to semantic features, to compare the semantic components (semes) of the lexical units extracted from the studied texts and to determine the similarities and differences of these lexemes in this or that component;

– to describe the units of the language system and the features of their realization in speech based on the study of the semantic structure of the word;

– to characterize the semantic core of a word, the lexical prototype, as a means of optimal organization of the storage and functioning of polysemantic lexemes through cognitive analysis, to clarify the possibilities of using the methods of prototype semantics to determine the generality of the meanings of polysemantics;

– to analyze the linguistic landscape of the world in order to clarify the content core (lexical prototype) and its functioning, taking into account national characteristics and the individual nature of cognitive consciousness;

– to use the synonym analysis of polysemantic words, reflecting the level of the language system, to clarify the "boundaries" of the meanings of polysemantic words;

– to identify the corpus of word combinations formed by the lexical units analyzed by sampling, to prepare an experimental corpus of language material by identifying structural models and

thematic classifications of lexical units and word combinations;

– to study the meaning and features of processing of lexical units, paying attention to associative relations, as well as the connotative component of the language material, to trace the development of the semantics of language units from the initial denotative meaning to metaphor, to determine the difference between the lexical meaning of a word and its semantic combinations;

– to conduct a semantic study of the experimental corpus of language material, analyzing its lexical and semantic correspondence according to selected parameters: a) to determine the semantic relationship between lexical units; b) to provide a linguistic interpretation of statistical data.

Research methods. The description, structural modeling, cognitive analysis, distributive-statistical method, psycholinguistic methods (free associative experiment method, linguistic interview method, associative method, subjective definition method), context analysis, semantic field analysis, semantic analysis and semantic interpretation of associative reactions, semantic differentiation, as well as the method of surveying informants were used in the research work.

The main provisions of the defense:

– the asymmetry inherent in the "language – speech" dichotomy is associated, on the one hand, with the formation of a specific semantic core (lexical prototype) of a polysemantic word at the level of the language system, and, on the other hand, with the actualization of meanings in realization (in speech) as a result of comparing the semantic core with specific speech and language contexts. Figurative meanings recorded in dictionaries usually reflect the level of speech, not the language level of meaning. Lexical polysemantic (polysemy) is a phenomenon of speech (text), not language (system);

– when forming and decoding the figurative meanings of lexical units, the lexical prototype can act as an initial basis both in the form of a nominative-primary meaning and in the form of an invariant one. Communicants form and interpret figurative meanings using the method of inconsistency between the content of the

conventional system meaning of the word (lexical prototype) and the speech or language context;

– taking into account the semantics of synonyms at the level of the language system, that is, the synonymy of the lexical prototypes of the corresponding words, helps to determine the features and boundaries of the lexical prototypes of each of them. Such an analysis allows working with the observed material and avoiding the analysis of a series of explicit comparisons at the level of speech synonyms;

– the prototype acts as a meaning invariant of the word, that is, as a unit of the language system. A lexical prototype represents a system of minimal meanings kept for long-term in memory and is the main source of actualization of figurative meanings of a word. The invariant of the semantic structure of the lexical prototype word is formed on the basis of the nominative-primary meaning, which acts as the "background" of figurative meanings. The existence of lexical prototypes is evidence that the system ambiguity of the word related to the real communicative act (context) meets strict chronological restrictions;

– semes make up the semantic capacity of the word. Semes, the component of the semantic layer, reflect the distinguishing features of the word's denotation and can distinguish the meaning of the word. The occurrence of occasional (accidental, contextual) semes in the semantic structure of the word is determined by the fact that it acquires a new meaning in the process of using.

Scientific novelty of the research. The scientific novelty of the research consists in the study of the mechanisms of formation of lexemes in modern English and their study using the methods of prototype semantics. In the work, the meaning core (lexical prototype) of the lexical-semantic field and the multi-meaning lexemes included in a single lexical-semantic group have been determined. In the work, special methods were used for the analysis of concrete material using the restoration of concrete images. Based on the asymmetric nature of the difference between the "language – speech" dichotomy, an attempt was made to determine the difference between language and spoken expression.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The theoretical importance of the research consists in determining the asymmetric nature of the relationship between the content of lexical units at the language and speech levels. At the level of the language system, the meaning core of words (meaning boundaries) and their representation by invariants have been determined. During the formation and decoding of figurative meanings, the lexical prototype acts as both a nominative-initial (non-derivative) meaning and an initial base in the form of an invariant, which meets the requirements of the actualization of variants of lexical-semantic meanings under the influence of communication situations. In the work, the formation of figurative meanings of words and the possibility of formation of "third meaning" based on the meaning core of the word, speech and language context as a description mechanism is presented on the basis of concrete examples.

The results of the research can be used in lecture courses and special courses on lexicology, general linguistics, cognitive linguistics, as well as in the experience of teaching English in special faculties, and when writing textbooks, coursework and dissertations on lexicology. Lexical prototypes obtained from work can be used in teaching practice for didactic purposes.

The approbation and application of the research. The main content and results of the dissertation work were discussed at department meetings, were reflected in the reports of International and Republican conferences, were published in collections of conference materials, as well as in scientific journals published in the Republic and abroad.

The name of the institution where the dissertation work was carried out. The dissertation work was carried out at the Department of General Linguistics under the Faculty of Philology of the Azerbaijan University of Languages.

The total volume of the dissertation with characters indicating the volume of the structural sections. Dissertation work consists of introduction, 3 chapters, conclusion and list of used literature. The introductory part of the dissertation is 7 pages, 12100 characters, Chapter I 34 pages, 65415 characters, Chapter II 49

pages, 94119 characters, Chapter III 32 pages, 58109 characters, Conclusion part is 3 pages, 5647 characters. The total volume of the dissertation is 235390 characters, excluding the list of used literature.

MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

In the "Introduction" the relevance of the topic is substantiated, the object and subject, goals and tasks of the research are determined, the provisions of the defence are presented, scientific innovation, theoretical and practical importance are revealed, and are given language material and research methods, approbation, application and structure of the work.

The 1st paragraph ***"Semantics in the light of different sciences"*** of Chapter I entitled **"Critical analysis of sources on semantic studies in Modern Germanistics"** shows that defining the subject of semantics is not an easy task. Semantics is the cornerstone of natural language description. According to D.Bennett, *"the center of semantic research should not be the relations between language units and the world we live in, but intra-language semantic relations"*[2]. The second direction in the study of semantics is widely represented in cognitive research. The goal of cognitivists, according to E.S.Kubryakova, *"is to determine how extra-linguistic ideas and categories in the semantics of language units, and in a broader sense, universal laws of cognition and thinking, are violated in the semantics of linguistic units"*[3].

In modern linguistics, the leading factor in the study of the content of the word is F. de Saussure's teaching about "language is a system of signs" and the value of language units. According to the author, the value *"is closely related to determining the relationship and interdependence of language units; without determining their essence, it is impossible to reveal their essence correctly and*

[2] Bennet, D.C. Spatial and Temporal Uses of English Prepositions. An Essay in Stratificational Semantics / D.S.Bennet. – London, – 1975. – p.4.

[3] Кубрякова, Е.С. Начальные этапы становления когнитивизма: лингвистика-психология-когнитивная наука// Вопросы языкознания, – 1994. №4, – с.17-33.

objectively"[4]. Correlation of language units of the same level in the language system is based on syntagmatic and paradigmatic relations. According to F. de Saussure, "words in speech are connected to each other and enter into relationships based on linear character, which excludes the possibility of simultaneous pronunciation of elements. These elements are arranged one after the other in the flow of speech[5].

Semantics studies the relationships between signs and the surrounding world. However, the meaning of the words in the syntactic constructions of the natural language cannot be completed with the relations between the language and the world. In natural languages, meaning is anthropocentric, that is, it reflects the general characteristics of human nature. The meaning is endocentric, that is, as A.Vejbitskaya wrote, *"it is focused on the ethnos to which it belongs"*[6].

Semiotics played an exceptional role in the development of modern semantics. Within the framework of semiotics, the purpose, tasks and frameworks of synchronic semantic studies have been determined. The founders of linguistic semantics were mainly concerned with historical semantic processes occurring within a word or a series of synonyms (narrowing and expansion of meanings, generalization and concretization, deterioration and improvement, metaphorical and metonymic transfer, development of meanings, in the sense of "semantic laws"[7], competition and differentiation of synonyms, development of meanings by analogy, etc.).

The basis of the cognitive approach to language is the idea of studying language as *"formative and expressive of ideas, storage and organization of knowledge in the human mind, and means of knowledge exchange"*. Linguists try to solve problems *"by combining the efforts of various sciences and by developing a certain*

---

[4] Соссюр, Ф. де. Курс общей лингвистики / Ф. де Соссюр; пер. с фр. Л.М.Сухотина. – Москва: Логос, – 1998. – с.55.

[5] Ibid, p.155.

[6] Wierzbicka, A. Cross-cultural pragmatics: The semantics of human interaction / By A.Wierzbicka. – Berlin: New York: Mouton de Gruyter, – 2003. – p.16.

[7]Ульманн, С. Семантические универсалии //Новое в лингвистике/ С.Ульманн. – М.: Прогресс, – 1970. Вып. 5, – с.250-299.

system of general hypotheses, and by critically reviewing the knowledge collected on this subject in the light of the previously unknown, latest achievements of the sciences"[8].

Solving semantic problems is of more interest not only for theoretical linguistics, but also for its application in information retrieval systems, speech recognition, automatic translation, question-answering, and automatic abstracting systems.

In the 2nd paragraph of Chapter I entitled ***"Critical analysis of semantic studies in English linguistics",*** is noted that the subject of linguistic semantics is the content of natural language, which is settled in morphemes, words, grammatical forms and syntactic constructions. The subject of linguistic semantics is so broad – the history of understanding all levels of language: vocabulary, morphology and syntax as a semantic aspect is not so old and begins with the researches of S.Ullmann[9].

Semantics, which was diachronic in the initial period of its creation, was brought to the synchronic level only from the second quarter of the 20th century under the influence of the researches of I.A.Baudouin de Courtenay[10] and F. de Saussure[11], and thus, the study of living languages and dialects was preferred in the conducted researches, which was the triumph of replacing the atomic principle of young grammarians with the principle of systematicity in the researches. In the initial trends of structuralism, semantics is either completely denied or studied in a fragmentary way. However, it soon became clear that structural linguistics cannot develop successfully by ignoring issues related to semantics.

The first attempt to create structural semantics was made by

---

[8] Кубрякова, Е.С. Об установках когнитивной науки и актуальных проблемах когнитивной лингвистики //Вопросы когнитивной лингвистики. – 2004. №1, –с. 9.

[9] Ullmann, St. The principles of Semantics / St.Ullman. – Oxford: Basil Blackwell, – 1963. – 345 p.

[10] Бодуэн де Куртенэ, И.А. Избранные труды по общему языкознанию: [в 2-х томах] / И.А.Бодуэн де Куртенэ. – М.: Изд-во Академии Наук СССР, – т.I, – 1963. – 353 с.

[11] Соссюр, Ф. де. Труды по языкознанию / Ф. де Соссюр. – М.: Прогресс, 1977. – 695 с.

Y.Trier[12]. Although these attempts were not quite successful, his ideas were accepted by most linguists and applied as a theoretical basis for the creation of structural semantics. The need for the study of semantics at a different level began to be recognized by linguists, especially by the proponents of the theory of derivational models of language (derivative grammar), which later became the theoretical platform for some new trends in European linguistics. Some linguists of the past actually relied on a cognitive basis when studying semantics. In the studies of A.A.Potebnya, G.Giyom[13] and others, the relationship between language (speech) structures and thinking structures was observed.

A.A.Potebnya, who distinguished linguistic and non-linguistic meanings in the content of language signs, attributed "close meanings" to the former, and "distant meanings" to the latter: *"the former are universal, abstract character, and the latter are personal: the immediate meaning of the word is folk, ... the latter meaning is different – personal, depending on the quantity and quality of the elements in each of them"*[14]. The author calls the closest (or objective) meaning "vernacular meaning" because he believes that speakers of the same language have similar ideas. Additional meaning is subjective. Considerations on the formality of language (sign) content in his concept in relation to non-linguistic content are based on I.A.Baudouin de Courtenay's three types of knowledge; language, intuitive and scientific (theoretical) – very close to his teaching. I.A.Beaudoin de Courtenay saw semantics as the science of *"word meaning, i.e., the combination of language and non-linguistic ideas"*[15] and the essence of language in *"associations of extra-*

[12] Trier, J. Der deutsche Wortschatz im Sinnbezirk des Verstandes. Von den Anfangen bis zum Beginn des 13. Jahrhunderts. Heidelberg, Carl Winter Universitatsverlag, – 1973. – 347 S.

[13] Потебня, А. А. Мысль и язык/ А.А.Потебня. – Киев: СИНТО, – 1993. – 192 с.; Гийом, Г. Принципы теоретической лингвистики / Г.Гийом. – М.: Прогресс, – 1992. – 217 с.

[14] Потебня, А.А. Из записок по русской грамматике. Т. 1-2./А.А.Потебня. – М.: Наука, – 1959. – с.20.

[15] Ibid, p.11.

linguistic ideas with purely linguistic ideas"[16].

The mid of the 19th century can be considered as a crisis stage in the development of semantics. The study of meaning was excluded from the scope of linguistics, and as a result, L.Bloomfield wrote that meaning is the subject of research in sciences such as chemistry and physics[17]. However, valuable information about meaning has been collected by using traditional and new research methods in the studies on semantics during crisis periods. For example, H.Patnem considers semantics *"a vector consisting of four components such as syntactic markers, semantic markers, stereotypes and extensional"*[18]. According to him, *"the first component of semantics is grammatical, the second "points to the category of objects to which those words belong", "a stereotype is a generally accepted idea related to a word, it can be completely inaccurate", "the extension of a word is a set of objects to which it can be applied"*[19].

G.Lakoff and M.Johnson, who study the metaphorical foundations of meaning, rely on E.Rosche's prototype idea in their research and show the opposite position of N.Chomsky's idea that meaning is inseparable from the cognitive functions of consciousness[20]. In the studies of U.L.Chaif, semantics is transformed from an interpretive component to a basic component. He relates the discreteness of the content plan to the subcategory of concepts.[21] The author, who sees no reason to identify the substructure with anything other than the semantic structure, firmly rejects the principles of N.Chomsky's derivational grammar. According to him, *"the path starting from properly organized semantic structures, which includes not only lexical but also*

---

[16] Потебня, А.А. Из записок по русской грамматике. Т. 1-2./А.А.Потебня. – М.: Наука, – 1959. – с. 71.

[17] Блумфилд, Л. Язык / Л.Блумфилд. – М.: Прогресс, – 1968. – с.41.

[18] Патнэм, Х.У. Философия сознания / пер. Л.Макеевой, О.Назаровой, А.Никифорова. – М.: Дом интеллектуальной книги, – 1999. – с.178.

[19] Ibid, p.178.

[20] Lakoff, G. Metaphors we live by / G.Lakoff, M.Johnson. – London: University of Chicago Press, – 2003. – 276 p.

[21] Чейф, У.Л. Значение и структура языка / У.Л.Чейф. – М.: Книжный дом «ЛИБРОКОМ» / URSS, – 2009. – 430 с.

grammatical semantics, leads to properly organized superstructures and their phonetic representations"[22]. He acknowledges intermediate phases between the beginning (semantic) and the last (phonetic) phases of the speech formation process – linearity, materialization, etc. its location, and this gives the whole process a multi-phase character.

The basis of all endeavors in language is the transfer of meaning, and therefore the solution to the main problem of meaning depends very much on the direction in which the future directions of modern semantics will branch out. According to F.Y.Veysalli, *"the tendency of the development of this science is towards the study of the semantics of language units"*[23]. According to A.Y.Mammadov, understanding is *"closely related to the semantic levels of concept and meaning as a thinking process. Concept and meaning mean a person's relationship to the text, and the study of the structure of understanding is related to the subject of understanding, because meaning is an object, and meaning belongs to a person as a subjective relationship"*[24]. The analysis of theoretical sources related to semantics has always been the focus of linguists, despite the fact that language structures are examined from different aspects.

Paragraph 3 entitled ***"Richard-Ogden Theory and Other Semantic Theories"*** of Chapter I, shows that traditional semantics deals with the relationship between form and meaning. Philosophers and linguists who think about the phenomenon of signs often use geometric figures to visualize its structure. The first successful attempt and graphic model in this direction is the "semantic triangle" of C.K.Ogden and A.A.Richard[25].

---

[22] Чейф, У.Л. Значение и структура языка / У.Л.Чейф. – М.: Книжный дом «ЛИБРОКОМ» / URSS, – 2009. – с.416.

[23] Veysəlli, F.Y. Struktur dilçiliyin əsasları [7 cilddə] / F.Y.Veysəlli. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – c. 3. – 2009. – s.82.

[24] Məmmədov, A.Y. Diskurs tədqiqi / A.Y.Məmmədov, M.Y.Məmmədov. – Bakı: Bakı Universiteti nəşriyyatı, – 2013. – s.29.

[25] Ogden, C.K. The Meaning of Meaning. A study of the influence of language upon thought and of the science of symbolism [Electronic resource] / C.K.Ogden, I.A.Richards. – Mode of access. URL: http://s-f-walker.org.uk/pubsebooks/pdfs/ogden-richardsmeaning-all.pdf.

Unraveling the essence of linguistic meaning, in fact, means explaining the relationship between three main "participants" in its formation: the sign object, its reflection in the human mind in the form of a concept or image, and the sign. Their trinity is the basis for creating any model of linguistic meaning [see: figure 1.3.1]:

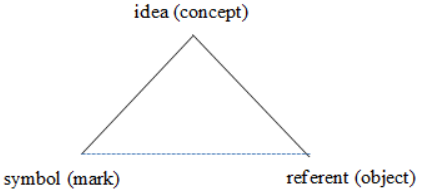


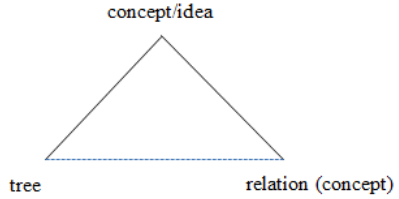
Figure 1.3.1.
Richard Ogden triangle

The semantic content of this model includes three types of relations: the verbal sign marks the object of reality, the referent reflected in the mind in the form of a concept, or the significance expressed with the help of that sign. According to this model, the real essence can be interpreted in different ways: either along the line of the "sign – object" relationship, or along the line of the sign expression of the concept of the named object. In the first case, the essence of the linguistic meaning is determined by the objective attribute of the sign, that is, reference, and in the second case, the conceptual reflection of the nominal subject in our mind.

Broken lines in the triangular image connect the sign, symbol (word) with the referent (object of reality). This means a direct connection between them. The connection between symbol (sign) and idea (concept) is direct. This triangle represents an idea known from medieval grammars – the form of a language sign marks the subject through a concept associated with the form in the mind of the person who speaks that language. Any linguistic unit is a representative of a semiotic situation consisting of a combination of three quantities, according to V.A.Zvegintsev, *"the world of reality, the world of concepts and the world of meanings. These quantities are related to each other in the following way: ... the world of reality is the initial quantity; the world of concepts is determined by the process of cognition of reality and tries to be adequate to it...; the world of meanings is a specific way of stabilizing the world of*

concepts in language"[26].

In the form represented by the semantic triangle, all three aspects of meaning act as equals. But, in fact, this is not the case at all. First, the relationship of the concept to the object is not directly related to the sphere of language – here we encounter conceptualization as a psychological phenomenon. Secondly, in traditional semantics, the reference of the sign also remained in the background, as written by C.K.Ogden and A.A.Richard, because the relationship between the sign and the referent is indirect, in the sense that there is an interpretant who uses signs to mark the object, situation or state of events. Reference is realized only in speech activity, while in the language system the sign concept, that is, the meaning of the sign, has a virtual and potential relationship with a certain set of objects. Criticizing the semantic triangle concept of C.K.Ogden and A.A.Richard, F.Y.Veysalli writes that *"this triangle does not fully reflect the relationship of thought with the signifier on the one hand and the signified on the other. ... a word, a sentence is connected to an object or reference only by strings in thought:*



The notion of "tree" is reflected in our consciousness by the sequence of four phonemes, and this word, as an example of the referent "tree", *performs the naming function in our language*[27].

In our work, we define the corners of the semantic triangle as 1) signification/designation, 2) exponent; 3) we consider the position of A.V.Lemov, who defines it as a denotat, to be more appropriate[28]

---

[26] Звегинцев, В.А. Предложение и его отношение к языку и речи В.А.Звегинцев. – М.: Изд-во Моск. ун-та, – 1976. – с. 193.

[27] Veysəlli, F.Y. Struktur dilçiliyin əsasları: [7 cilddə] / F.Y.Veysəlli. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – c. 3. – 2009. – s.60.

[28] Карцевский, С.О. «Об асимметричном дуализме языкового знака» // Звегинцев В.А. История языкознания XIX-XX веков в очерках и извлечениях. – М.: – 1965. 3-е изд. – Ч.2. – с. 87.

[See: fig. 1.3.5].

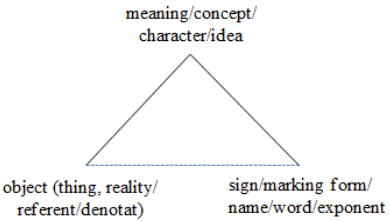


Fig. 1.3.5.
Graphic representation of the semantic triangle in the sense of A.V.Lemov

C.K.Ogden and A.A.Richard tried to move away from the purely semantic analysis of language phenomena and involve scientific knowledge from other disciplines in the study of meaning.

In paragraph 1 entitled ***"Synonymy and homonymy of words at the syntactic level***" of Chapter II of the research entitled **"Aspects of language signs: syntactic, semantic, pragmatic and sigmatic aspects"** the traditional understanding of lexical semantics, especially polysemy, is considered as an important stage in understanding and defining the main linguistic categories. Homonymy, synonymy, polysemy of linguistic signs is a manifestation of asymmetry and it was first mentioned by S.O.Karsevski. He showed a characteristic type of asymmetry in language – polysemy and synonymy of language phenomena caused by "slippage" between the plan of expression and the plan of content. According to the author, *"sign and meaning usually do not completely cover each other, because the same sign tends to have several functions to express itself by other means, and meaning tries to express itself by means other than its sign"*[29].

The existence of homonymy at any level of language has long been out of the question. According to Y.S.Maslov, *"...under homonymy we understand the meaning identity of two different signifiers, on the one hand, at the "level" of morphemes or morpheme combinations, and on the other hand, at the level of word*

[29] Карцевский, С.О. «Об асимметричном дуализме языкового знака» // Звегинцев В.А. История языкознания XIX-XX веков в очерках и извлечениях. – М.: – 1965. 3-е изд. – Ч.2. – с. 87.

combinations"[30]. According to V.I.Arnold, *"the connections between the meanings of homonyms are always accidental, and the speaker does not understand the connection between them. For example, the sound complex of the word "capital" as the noun corresponds to three words, their synonyms: "a large letter", "a stock of money", "a metropolis". Homonyms are different words because they are not members of the same system of meanings and forms"*[31].

Homonyms, which cause a violation of symmetry between the sides of language signs, also hinder the clarification of the idea in the text, lead to the understanding of the context in more than one sense, that is, create the basis for the manifestation of ambiguity. In the English sentence "They can fish", "to can" means "to tin or to pot" and "can" means "to be able to". Ambiguity arises in the lexical meaning of the homonyms "a fish" and "to fish" which underwent conversion during processing. For example:

"They can fish" – (Onlar balıq tutmağı bacarırlar);

"They can fish" – (Onlar balıq konservləşdirirlər).

The reason for homonymy in these sentences is that the syntactic functions of homonymous words can change, as well as they have different lexical meanings.

The appearance of different meanings of the homonymous word in a specific utterance creates the phenomenon of ambiguity. M.A.Gojayeva notes *"the impossibility of drawing a line of demarcation by putting an equal sign between homonymy and ambiguity"*[32]. According to the author, *"homonymy is a historical-social phenomenon accompanied by linguistic-extralinguistic factors, and ...ambiguity is a purely contextual phenomenon, a fact of speech, arising in spontaneous speech. ...homonymy derives from two meanings of the word appearing in the same text"*[33].

---

[30] Маслов, Ю.С. Омонимы в словарях и омонимия в языке (к постановке вопроса) // Вопросы теории и истории языка: Сборник в честь профессора Б.А.Ларина. – Л.: Изд-во Ленинградского ун-та, – 1963. – с. 198.

[31] Арнольд, И.В. Лексикология современного английского языка / И.В.Арнольд. – М.: ФЛИНТА: Наука, – 2012. – с.311.

[32] Qocayeva, M.Ə. Sintaktik omonimliyin struktur semantikası /M.Ə.Qocayeva. – Bakı: ADPU, – 2023. – s.37.

[33] Ibid, s. 38.

Homonyms have no effect on the understanding of meaning, because they are always separated by the situation (context) and closely help the recipient to determine which homonyms the author intended. According to K.M.Abdullayev, *"this or that meaning in the deep layer of the word comes to the fore depends on the situation. The possibility of such a situation indicates the existence of unique democratic relations in the deep layer of the language*"[34].

In general, a synonym is a synonym as long as it is in the dictionary. L.Bloomfield considers absolute synonymy to be "science fiction" and believes that one should not ignore the diversity of situations when studying the meanings of words. According to him, *"each linguistic form has a special meaning" and "the phonemic difference between words leads to a difference in their semantics"*[35].

Synonymous pairs serve not only to create emphasis, but also to clarify and complement each other within the sentence. For example: *"The wiles and cunning which had enabled the Tories to dominate one-quarter of the world were brought into play to rob the working class of the fruits of their struggle for democratic advance"*[36].

The understanding of the meaning depends on the adequacy of the choice of language units – the compatibility of the meanings of individual language units with the context, the appropriateness and correctness of their use. It promotes communication and its main purpose is to facilitate information sharing and mutual understanding.

Paragraph 2 of Chapter II is entitled ***"Semantic capacity of words and analysis according to semantic features".*** Meanings are never given to us in advance, they arise and formed in the cognitive interaction with the environment, which denies the traditional assumptions of the traditional view of language as a system of codes of signs exchanged in the communication process with the aim of transmitting information from the addresser to the addressee. According to L.V.Sherba, *"the language has not the sum of*

[34] Abdulla, K.M. Qeyri-səlis mətniq və dil-nitq / K.M.Abdulla, R.Əliyev. – Bakı: Sim-sim, – 2024. – s.72.
[35] Блумфилд, Л. Язык / Л. Блумфилд. – М.: Прогресс, – 1968. – с.148.
[36] https://textarchive.ru/c-2415919-p9.html

meanings, but the rules for uniting meanings that give new meanings"[37]. In fact, in this hypothesis, the initial provisions for the functional-integrative analysis of speech units (speech, discourse) are concentrated. Integrativeness serves the creation of the semantic space of the discourse not as a phenomenon formed by the sequential summation of utterances, but the creation of new meanings called beyond the sum of these units.

Y.Trier applies the concept of "field" to the lexical area. According to him, *"semantic field is a closely connected and clearly defined lexical area, where the meaning of each unit is determined by neighboring units, and moreover, their semantic fields mutually limit each other by dividing and filling the semantic gaps between them"*[38]. According to the author, a word by itself has no meaning without its connection with other words. A word acquires meaning only because other words close to it also have meaning [39].

The word is multipolar, that is, it represents a complex unity of different features, and therefore it is difficult to limit the lexical layer of the language to a single classification based on one or two features. According to I.V.Arnold, *"the classification of the lexical composition according to the semantic relations between words is carried out in several ways, mainly by distinguishing synonyms, antonyms and homonyms. ...logical, contextual, thematic and other types of semantic grouping are possible. In the lexical layer, it is possible to distinguish the emotional-expressive lexicon"*[40].

In modern linguistics, there are various theoretical concepts and methodological approaches related to the study of the linguistic status of the semantic field. In our work, we would like to summarize the existing ideas and definitions, and present a common position: the semantic field is a set of linguistic units united by a certain

---

[37] Щерба, Л.В. Языковая система и речевая деятельность/ Л.В.Щерба. –М.: Издательство ЛКИ/URSS, – 2008. – с.24.

[38] Trier, J. Der deutsche Wortschatz im Sinnbezirk des Verstandes. Von den Anfangen bis zum Beginn des 13. Jahrhunderts. / – Heidelberg, Carl Winter Universitatsverlag, – 1973. – S.106

[39] Ibid, p.106.

[40] Арнольд, И.В. Лексикология современного английского языка / И.В. Арнольд. – 2-е изд., перераб. – М.: ФЛИНТА:Наука, –2012. – с.82.

common (integral) semantic feature. The semantic field represents the lexical units of different parts of speech. For example, as a result of analyzing the semantic field of "aviation" in English based on its lexicographic sources, the following can be distinguished:

a) nouns: "an airplane" (plane, flying device); "a pilot" (pilot, commander of a flying ship); "a fuselage" (body, board, fuselage); "an engine" (motor/engine); "a guidance" (management); "a distance" (distance/space); "a passenger" (passenger); "a cockpit" (staff cabin) [41];

b) adjectives: "supersonic" (faster than sound); "high-speed" (high speed)[42]; "hypersonic" (hypersound); "all-digital" (fully digital)[43];

c) verbs: "to fly" (carry by plane) (passenger, cargo)[44]; "to maneuver" (to maneuver/to make evolutions); "to launch" (rocket, etc.)[45].

The same semantic field consists of different lexical-semantic groups: a) air vehicles: "an airplane" (plane, plane, flying device); "an airship" dirigable (balloon)/airship); "a helicopter" (a type of aircraft/helicopter); "a sailmaker" (a person who sews, makes sails/sailmaker); b) "flight crew": "a pilot" (pilot/ aviator/flyer); "a panel operator" (flight engineer)[46];

c) processes: "a launching" (release, launching); "a piloting" (piloting/pilotage/flying)"; "a climbing" (to gain height); "a control" (direction); "a maneuvering" (maneuvering)[47];

d) aircraft types: "a freighter" (air-freighter, freight carrier/ cargo carrier); "an airliner" (passenger plane); "an airlifter" (military transport plane); "a mail-plane" (mail plane); "a jetliner" (jet aircraft)[48];

---

[41] Англо-русский и русско-английский словарь [Электронный ресурс]. URL: https://www.multitran.ru/c/m.exe?&l1= 1&l2=2&CL=1&a=0

[42] Англо-русский авиационный словарь [Электронный ресурс]. URL: http://classes.ru/dictionary-english-russianavia.htm

[43] Англо-русский и русско-английский словарь [Электронный ресурс]. URL: https://www.multitran.ru/c/m.exe?&l1= 1&l2=2&CL=1&a=0

[44] Ibid.

[45] Ibid.

[46] Англо-русский и русско-английский словарь [Электронный ресурс]. URL: https://www.multitran.ru/c/m.exe?&l1= 1&l2=2&CL=1&a=0.

[47] Девнина, Е. Н. Большой англо-русский и русско-английский авиационный словарь: свыше 100 000 терминов, сочетаний, эквивалентов и значений; с транскрипцией/под ред. акад.И.И.Павловца. –М.: Живой язык, –2011. – 512 с.

[48] Ibid.

e) parameters: “a frequency” (frequency); “an altitude” (height); “a temperature” (temperature); “a speed” etc.[49];

f) engine types: “a jet” (jet engine); “a turbojet”(turbine engine); “a turbofan” (turboprop air engine); “a turboshaft” (turbopiston aviation engine)[50].

Lexical-semantic groups clearly reflect the systematic character of the dictionary and are a convenient way to systematize the material.

In the 3rd paragraph of Chapter II entitled ***“Prototype theory and the discovery of word meaning”,*** is noted that the prototype approach in modeling the conversational situation allows one to follow the thinking mechanism of a person. The theory of prototypes was formed and presented by E.Rosch in the field of cognitive psychology. A prototype is the most representative concept for a class of objects, around which there are other forms that interact not only with each other, but also with the prototype. E.Rosch characterizes the prototypes as *“the best examples”* of the category[51].

The essence of prototype theory is that the internal structure of empirically representable categories can be equated with graded belonging and fuzzy boundaries, so categorization in this theory is compared to the prototype. In our research, we share the views of E.Rosch, G.Lakoff and consider the prototype as the best representative of its class, as well as a certain tool that allows a person to cope with the large volume of stimuli of actual reality.

Prototype theory posits a model of necessary and sufficient conditions since Aristotle. For example, for the female category, it is necessary to be human, female and older. Those who do not meet these conditions cannot be assessed as a “female” image. According to F.Y.Veysalli, *“prototypes have two important features: firstly, they are good examples for the category, ..., secondly, prototypes*

[49] Англо-русский и русско-английский словарь [Электронный ресурс]. URL: https://www.multitran.ru/c/m.exe?&l1= 1&l2=2&CL=1&a=0

[50] Девнина, Е. Н. Большой англо-русский и русско-английский авиационный словарь: свыше 100 000 терминов, сочетаний, эквивалентов и значений; с транскрипцией/под ред. акад.И.И.Павловца. –М.: Живой язык, –2011. – 512 с.

[51] Rosch, E. Prototype Classification and Logical Classification: The Two Systems / E.Rosch // E.Scholnick, ed., New Trends in Cognitive Representation: Challenges to Piaget`s Theory. – 1981. – p. 73 – 86.

serve as reference cases for categorization"[52].

In his research, E.Rosch paid attention to the inaccuracy (blurring) of the boundaries of the categories of human consciousness: *"Many of these categories do not have clearly defined boundaries"*[53]. He writes that these categories include within their internal structure prototypes as well as non-prototypical members that are, to varying degrees, typical of a given category. E.Rosch paid special attention to basic level categories. In the prototype model, the probability of an object being assigned to a category depends on the similarity between it and the central member of the category. According to E.V.Urison, "a prototype is an image of a fixed object that serves as a "calculation point" when describing the objects of the corresponding class in the mind of the speaker of the language"[54]. For example, let's take the word "tree" - this is the highest category that includes all trees, for example, "spruces"(fir-trees), "birches", "oaks", etc. A dependent "subcategory is below the level of the main category. It is more specific, an example of a dependent category is "a Common spruce" (European fir). Thus, the categorization of this example would be: "tree" → "spruce" → "a Common spruce".

The 1st paragraph of Chapter III of the research entitled **"Experimental Analysis of Word Meaning Discovery"** is called ***"Language Material Selection Methodology".*** Certain principles should be followed when choosing the language material for the experiment. For example, the frequency of use of a certain language unit or the shades of meaning of any word, the set of contexts in which it is used, etc. Language material should be prepared in such a way that assumptions about the learned semantic component are realized in the form of explicit information at the level of words, sentences, texts. Information about the informants participating in the semantic analysis of the language material: the experiment was

[52] Veysəlli, F.Y. Semiotika: [7 cilddə] / F.Y.Veysəlli. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – c. 4. – 2010. – s.276.

[53] Diday, E. New Approaches in Classification and Data Analysis/ E.Diday, Y.Lechevalier, M.Schader, P.Bertrand. – Berlin, Springer-Verlang, – 1994. – p.29.

[54] Урысон, Е.В. Норма, образец, стандарт, эталон, шаблон: заметки о полисемии / Е.В.Урысон // Слово и язык: Сб. ст. к 80-летию акад. Ю.Д.Апресяна / отв. ред. И.М.Богуславский, Л.Л.Иомдин, Л.П.Крысин. – М., – 2011. – с. 348.

conducted among the students (30 students, III and IV years) studying English at the English language faculty of AUL in the Azerbaijani-speaking audience. The informants were chosen freely, regardless of gender. The informants belong to the same age group (20-25). Before the assessment, the question was asked – What are the meanings of the words "good", "evil", "anger", "pride", "shame", "consciousness", "hatred", "love", "modesty", "tolerance", which were included in the experiment? In the course of the experiment, they were offered the interpretation of 10 words of moral-ethical semantic nature from the English language: "good", "evil", "anger", "pride", "shame", "consciousness", "hatred", "love", "modesty", "tolerance" – (endurance, tolerance). The number of semantic components identified in the informants' interpretation is 738.

The semantic analysis involved the following units related to the conceptual content of the lexeme "sincerity" from the English language: "faith" (trust/confidence), "frankness" (open-heartedness, candour, sincerity) "truth" (reality), "innocence" (guiltlessness), "kindness" (benevolence, goodwill), "probity" (honesty/decency), "credibility"(simple-heartedness/open-heartedness/credulity/naivety), "candour" (correctness/exactness), "rectitude" (chaste/well-behaved/ orderly), "honesty" (uprightness), "transparency", "openness" (greediness/ avidity), and "nobility" (aristocratism/ nobleness/ generosity).

The experimental material was compiled on the basis of "Oxford English Dictionary" and "Collins Cobuild English Language Dictionary". The main task facing the informants is to determine the set of denotative macrocomponents of the relevant units.

Psycholinguistic methods were actively used in the investigation of the semantic aspect of language units in the 2nd paragraph of this chapter entitled ***"Methodology of conducting the experiment".*** The following algorithm was used to perform these methods in the analysis of language material in the research work:

1) selection of the type of experiment and material that meets the objectives of the conducted research;

2) formulating the purpose and hypothesis of the experiment;

3) drawing up guidelines that will allow testing the proposed hypothesis;

4) preparation of instructions for informants (recipients);

5) description of the process of conducting the experiment with the selection of the participants of the experiment;

6) development of obtained results;

7) presentation of results with interpretation of indicators.

In the course of the experiment, work with informants was organized as follows:

– the language material intended for the experiment was presented to the informants in advance;

– the purpose of the experiment was explained to them in detail;

– a questionnaire was presented to the informants;

– they were informed about the term "seme" and the essence of the analysis of lexical units by semes;

– they were presented with tables where the words analyzed by semes are placed;

– words are placed in a vertical column in the table;

– in the horizontal column, in front of the words, there is an instruction to place its semantic components – semes;

– the informants were instructed to independently evaluate which seme correspond to the language unit;

– determination of the archisemes (invariant) among the semes of the semantic content of the word;

– informants were advised to differentiate both denotative and connotative meanings in the semantic field of the semes included in the semantic analysis;

– answers of the same nature received from informants were determined, answers different in form but similar in content were summarized and combined.

Those who participated in the analysis of the semantic content of lexical units by semes presented the semes models of individual units with the following numbers: "good" - 70 semes, "evil" - 74 semes, "anger" - 81 semes, "pride" - 63 semes, "shame" - 75 semes, "consciousness" - 107 semes, "hatred" - 60 semes, "love" - 64 semes, "modesty" - 79 semes, "tolerance" - 65 semes. In total, 738 semes were distinguished as a result of the semantic analysis of the language material.

In paragraph 3 of Chapter III entitled ***"Linguistic interpretation of the experimental material"*** stated that it is inappropriate to reduce the semantics of a word to its description in dictionaries, that is, to the lexicographic meaning of the word, because in the word, its core component does not fully represent the pericore semes. In linguistics, the term "seme" was first used by V.Skalichka to define the micro element of meaning. According to the author, seme *"is the minimum limiting unit of the content plan. Semes represent the elemental reflection in the language of the various aspects and properties of the objects and events being marked"*[55].

This approach to the concept of "sem" stems from the theory of Prague functionalists who prefer the function of language units. The meaning of a language unit can contain one or more semes. According to F.Y.Veysalli, semem *"is a social-communicative norm that stands above the individual, ... semem is intersubjective, social, normative and invariant"*[56].

In our research, we have used the analysis of dictionary interpretations and component analysis based on the idea that lexemes form ordered rows in the language system and have a certain paradigmatic relationship with each other due to their external semantics.

In the structural approach, the seme description of meaning is widely used. Separation of elementary meanings (atoms of meaning) serves the existence of lexical-semantic groups whose members are in a proportional encounter relationship. For example, "father : mother = son: daughter = grandfather : grandmother = granddaughter : grandson" - (father: mother = son: daughter = grandfather: grandmother = girl granddaughter: boy grandson) proportional encounter (pairs) allows to see both common and distinguishing features in the semantics of these lexical units. Each of the first sides of these pairs is distinguished as belonging to the male gender, and

[55] Скаличка, В. О грамматике венгерского языка / Пражский лингвистический кружок: Сборник статей / Сост., ред., предисл. Н.А.Кондрашова. – М.: Прогресс, – 1967. – с.277.

[56] Veysəlli, F.Y. Struktur dilçiliyin əsasları: [7 cilddə] / F.Y.Veysəlli. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – c. 3. – 2009. – s.65.

the second sides to the female gender (see: table 3.1.1).

The signs of the semantic field of words denoting kinship relations between people in English can be described as follows: (living being); 2 – (human); 3 – (relative); 4 – (direct kinship relationship); 5 – (belonging to the same generation); 6 – (older); 7 – (male gender); 8 – (female); 9 – (plural).

This description can be continued by increasing the symbols [+] and [-] and distinguishing positive and negative signs of the same sign (gender). The positive feature [+masculine] distinguishes the semantem "father" from the negative feature [-feminine] the semantem "mother".

In one case, the distinguishing seme can act as an integral sign in another relation: while the sign [+masculine] combines the semanteme "father", "son", "grandfather", "grandson", the sign [-masculine] combines the semanteme "mother", "daughter", "grandmother", "granddaughter" in one class. The proportion of the semantemes "father", "son" and "mother" : "daughter" allows the inclusion of new signs: [+parent (father)] / [-parent (mother)] and [child]. Now we can describe the seme composition of the semanteme "father" by listing the components [+masculine], [+parent] (see: table 3.1.1).

Table 3.1.1.

Words that denote kinship relationships in English

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
relative (qohum)	+	+	+	(-)	0	0	0	0	0
parents (valideynlər)	+	+	+	+	-	+	0	0	+
father (ata)	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	0
mother (ana)	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	0
brother (qardaş)	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	-	0
sister (bacı)	+	+	+	+	+	0	-	+	0
child (uşaq)	+	+	+	+	-	-	0	0	0
con (oğul)	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	0
daughter (qız)	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	0
uncle (əmi)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	0
aunt (xala)	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	0
cousin (əmioğlu, əmiqızı)	+	+	+	-	+	0	-	+	0
nephew (qardaşoğlu)	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	0
niece (qardaşqızı)	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	0

Such a description allows to identify the semantic components

of the semantic system in an invariant. For example, the seme [+human] indicates the inclusion of the semantic field of "kinship" in the field of "humans", and the term [+living beings] indicates the inclusion of the semantic field of "humans" in the field of "living beings". [+be related] provides integration of seme into the field "relatives". Zero - (0) in the table reflects the absence of that semanteme element in the corresponding comparison. Within this lexical-semantic field, the unifying and sometimes dividing power of this or that seme comes into play. For example, [+ masculine] combines the semantemes of the words "father, son, uncle, cousin, nephew", but also distinguishes it from the semantemes of the lexemes "mother, sister, aunt, cousin, niece". The semanteme of the lexeme "father" is identified based on its seme set: [+living being], [+human], [+relative], [+directly related], [+same generation], [+older], [+masculine], [-feminine] (see: table 3.3.1).

The analysis of semes belonging to the core field of the semantic layer shows that moral-ethical ideas have a universal character in the imagination of the recipients. Referring to the values of the analysis of the semantic content of the linguistic units included in the same lexical-semantic field by semes, it can be shown that the core and peripheral semes of individual units are realized in the following ratio (see: fig. 3.3.2):

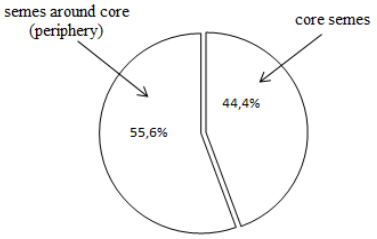


Fig. 3.3.2.
The ratio of semantic semes of words

The ratio of core and peri-core semes for lexemes is expressed in the following numbers and was realized in the ratio of 44.4:55.6%.

Semes of the semantic capacity of the lexeme "sincerity", assessed as an archisem in the thematic group: 1) the sincerity of any person's words and their correspondence to reality; 2) a strong sense of trust or confidence in someone or something; 3) pro-honesty and

truthfulness – being honest even in situations or opinions that people don't like; 4) real facts or information about something that is superior to what people think, expect or imagine; 5) naivety, innocence, simplicity; modesty; 6) kind behavior towards people; 7) extremely moral and honest behavior; 8) straight speech or behavior without trying to hide anything; 9) honesty, even if it is not a pleasant truth; 10) qualities characteristic of someone, which cause people to believe or trust; 11) to be honest and tell the truth, even if what meant is unpleasant to someone; 12) moral and correct type of behavior; 13) to note that what was said is true, even if it is surprising; 14) trying to convince someone that what you say is true; 15) an honest way of doing a job that ensures others know exactly what you are doing; 16) kind of honest and brave behavior that people admire – nobility, magnanimity or.

The semantic-conceptual content of the lexeme "sincerity" in English is expressed by the following words: sincerity: a) a type of behavior that manifests trust, honesty and confidence, and may even cause offense to a partner in the process of communication; b) speaking style that reflects truth and honesty. The listed semantic-conceptual features of the lexeme "sincerity" can be considered as core semes.

The terms that form the semantic content of the word are in hierarchical relationships among themselves. Hierarchy at the level of semes is a necessary condition for the hierarchy of meanings of words and ultimately for the organization of the semantic system of the language.

The **conclusions** of the research are summarized as follows:

1. There are no clear boundaries between language categories. Belonging to a category cannot be determined by a set of necessary and sufficient conditions, and membership is graded. In all categories considered, there is a prototype effect associated with asymmetry between more and less typical members of the category (or its best and worst exemplars).

2. Homonyms and synonyms are determined by the nature of the language, including the phenomena of symmetry and asymmetry in the system. Homonymy and synonymy are absolutely universal,

immanent, necessary and semantic-grammatical categories that appear in natural languages. Homonymy and synonymy observed at the level of meaningful units of the language – morpheme, lexeme, sentence, is a manifestation of asymmetry in the language, in other words, a violation of "one form-one meaning or vice versa" symmetry between the form and meaning aspects of language signs.

3. Homonymy and synonymy at the lexical level of the language is the basis for homonymy and synonymy at the syntactic level of the language. These linguistic phenomena, called quasisymmetry, permeate all levels of language. Homonymy and synonymy, called isopolymorphism or polyisomorphism, are systemic phenomena and are an immanent feature of all language units with form and meaning aspects. Homonymy and synonymy have a wide communicative potential, because the variant arrangement of meaning is the basis of the communicative goal of speech: the transfer of maximum information based on the minimum linguistic material. Semantic relationships between synonymous or homonymous language units act as a means of consolidating information in memory by serving as a semantic focus in directing (focusing) the attention of communication participants (addresser-addressee) to a specific meaning.

4. The decisive role of the context, which determines the degree of identification of the meanings of the language units and serves as a means of semantic singulation of the meanings of the polysemous language units, is of great importance in the elimination of ambiguity, which is a contextual phenomenon. The "resolving ability" of the context, which removes the polysemy of language units, turns it into a communicative context, figuratively speaking, a touchstone.

5. The context, which remains "indiferent" to the semantic capacity of the word, concretizes and specifies its lexical meaning, that is, it does not create new shades of meaning. In the interrelationship of polysemy and context, we think the opposite is more convincing: the context in which a used word determines the new meaning of a word. Context creates ambiguity by allowing new meanings to emerge as the word is used precisely in each specific

instance.

6. Prototype theory is a more adequate tool than the classical theory (Aristotle) to describe the structure of language categories - categories are abstract concepts (containers) with precise boundaries, the members of the category have common basic properties that reflect the necessary and sufficient conditions for belonging to that category, and the members of the category have the same status within the category – a more adequate tool. This is explained by the fact that natural language reflects the general cognitive ability of a person. The structural categories of language are in many ways identical to the categories by which a person perceives the world around him.

7. E.Rosch's psychological experiments aimed at studying the internal structure of subject categories such as "furniture", "fruit", "toy", "bird", "clothes", etc. The main result of E.Rosch's research is related to the determination of inequality among category members: according to the informants, some of them are more typical, central examples, and others are less typical, peripheral ones. The central members of the category are more common in everyday life, are perceived earlier in childhood, are recognized more quickly, and serve to represent the entire category as a whole. The asymmetry between the central and peripheral members of a category in terms of their cognitive status is called the prototype effect.

8. The analysis of the semantic structure of the word allows to group the words in the lexical layer by semantic areas, thematic groups. The semantic field reflects the landscape of concepts of the language community, ensures the continuity of the semantic space. If the lexical-semantic group represents a language paradigm, the semantic field is a system of interconnected lexical sets of different levels, a set of paradigms. The lexical-semantic group is the unity of intra-linguistic relations based on a certain semantic component of the lexical meaning, the semantic field is the totality of extra-linguistic relations and relationships. The lexical-semantic group combines the words of one part of speech, and the semantic field combines the words of different parts of speech.

9. The principle of area approach to the content of lexical units

consisting of core and peripheral areas reflects three main system features such as structural stability of semes (meaning components), development ability and flexible adaptation (variation) to the communicative situation. If the presence of the core area in the semantic content allows to differentiate (differentiation) and identify (identification) semantic units in the language system, the semes belonging to the periphery of the semantic area serve for the semantic modification of the language unit (lexeme, seme) and its variation in the consituation.

10. The semantic area is a set of terms derived from the lexical semantics of all words of the same thematic or lexical-semantic word group and abstracted in them. This approach to the lexical layer of the language makes it possible to solve the problem of semantic distances within a single semantic field, taking into account their semantic kinship or the proximity of semantic complexes when combining different words into groups, subgroups, fields. The minimal unit of the component analysis of the meaningful structures of the language is semantic elements – semes. Semes are in a hierarchical relationship in the semantic structure of the word. Semes produced from lexical-semantic units are not their manifestation, but act as a constructive meaning element.

The content and main provisions of the research are reflected in the following theses and articles:

1. Natiqlik sənəti // – Bakı: Bakı Slavyan Universiteti. Humanitar elmlərin öyrənilməsinin aktual problemləri. (Ali məktəblərarası elmi məqalələr məcmuəsi), – 2019. №1, – s.21-24.
2. İngilis dilçiliyində semantik araşdırmalar // Böyük Azərbaycan şairi İmadəddin Nəsiminin 650 illik yubileyinə həsr olunmuş "Doktorantların və Gənc tədqiqatçıların XXIII Respublika elmi konfransının materialları". – Bakı: Azərbaycan Memarlıq və İnşaat Universiteti, – 03-04 dekabr, – 2019, II cild, – s.160-161.
3. Germanistikada semantik araşdırmalar // – Bakı: Azərbaycan Dillər Universiteti, Dil və Ədəbiyyat, – 2020. Cild 10, №2, – s.51-56.

4. Sözlərin mənasının müxtəlif üsullarla açılışı // – Bakı: Bakı Slavyan Universiteti, Elmi əsərlər. Dil və ədəbiyyat seriyası, – 2021. №2, – s.102-107.
5. К вопросу о семантике и способах выражения некоторых словесных знаков в современном английском языке // – Вчені записки Таврійського національного університету імені В.І.Вернадського. Серія: Філологія. Журналістика, – 2021. Том 32(71), № 5, Частина 1, – с.202-207.
6. Difficulties of recognizing the semantics of sentences in English // – ΛΌΓΟΣ – Collection of Scientific Papers with Proceedings of the III International Scientific And Practical Conference "Theoretical And Empirical Scientific Research: Concept And Trends". – Oxford, UK, – 10 December, – 2021, – p.86-88.
7. Müasir ingilis dilində isimlərin semantik və etimoloji xüsusiyyətləri // – Bakı: Azərbaycan Dillər Universiteti, Elmi Xəbərlər (Humanitar və ictimai elmlər), – 2024. №4, – s.38-42.
8. Sözlərin sintaktik səviyyədə sinonimliyi və omonimliyi // Elmi-tədqiqat. (Beynəlxalq elmi jurnal). Elm və təhsilin əsasları XI Beynəlxalq elmi konfrans), – 09 dekabr, – 2024, – s.30-32.
9. The influence of C.Ogden and I.Richards' theory in semantic studies // Информативный потенциал лингвоконструктов. Сборник материалов Международной научно-практической конференции. – Белгород: Белгородский государственный национальный исследовательский университет, – 9-10 апреля, – 2025, – Часть 1, – с.239-244.
10. Аспекты языковых знаков: прагматический и сигматический аспекты // «Филология, лингвистика и лингводидактика в современном обществе». Сборник материалов II Международной научной конференции, посвященной 95-летию со дня рождения Е.И.Пассова. – Елец: Елецкий Гос. Унив. им. И.А.Бунина, – 17 апреля , –2025, – с.171-174.
11. Qloballaşan müasir dünyada ingilis dili beynəlxalq dil kimi // Ümummilli lider Heydər Əliyevin anadan olmasının 102-ci ildönümünə həsr olunmuş "Heydər Əliyev: Multikulturalizm və tolerantlıq ideologiyası" adlı VIII Beynəlxalq elmi konfrans. – Bakı: ADU, – 6 may, 2025, – s.154-155.

The defense will be held on 08 May 2026 at 11.00 at the meeting of the Dissertation council FD 2.12 of Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating at the Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Address: AZ1014, Baku, Rashid Behbudov street, 134.

Dissertation is accessible at the Azerbaijan University of Languages Library.

Electronic version of the abstract is available on the official website of the Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Abstract was sent to the required addresses on 07 April 2026.

Signed for print: 01.04.2026

Paper format: 60x84 1/16

Volume: 47830 characters

Number of hard copies: 20