

Semantics Worksheet

Exercise A – lexical semantics. Fill in the blanks in the sentences below with the appropriate terms from this list (you may use each more than once):

synonyms	gradable antonyms	relational opposites	homophones
hyponym	hypernym	polysemy	reference
sense	complementary antonyms		

- Cat* is a _____ of *animal*.
- “The Russian teacher” has a clear and unique _____ but its _____ depends on the context.
- Hot* and *cold* are _____.
- Flower* is a _____ of *rose*.
- Sofa* and *couch* are _____.
- Green* (meaning “having the color green”) and *green* (meaning “inexperienced”) is an example of _____.
- Young* and *old* are _____.
- Pain* and *pane* are _____.
- Innocent* and *guilty* (in court) are _____.
- Predator* and *prey* are _____.
- Furniture* is a _____ of *sofa*.
- George W. Bush* has a clear and unique _____ but no inherent _____.

Exercise B - Polysemy. Give 2 examples of polysemy; that is, 2 words that have polysemous meanings – give the words and their meanings). You might find examples in young versus older people’s speech, or in “slang”.

Exercise C – Meaning decomposition.

- What semantic feature or property differentiates each A-set -- B-set pair?
- What features do they share?

- | A | B |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. <i>niece, daughter, sister</i> | <i>nun, woman, girl</i> |
| 2. <i>table, chair, pencil</i> | <i>love, thought, idea</i> |
| 3. <i>table, chair, pencil</i> | <i>water, dirt, cream</i> |
| 4. <i>nephew, priest, father</i> | <i>gander, stag, bull</i> |

Exercise D – Grammaticization in Fijian pronouns.

1. In the following data, find three concepts that are grammaticized in Fijian (object) pronouns that are not grammaticized in English pronouns.
2. Find one concept that differentiates English pronouns that is not grammaticized in Fijian. These are all and only the object pronouns (Me, Him, etc.).

<i>au</i>	1 st person singular ‘me’	<i>kedatou</i>	1 st person inclusive trial ‘two others (including you) and me’
<i>iko</i>	2 nd person singular ‘you’	<i>keitou</i>	1 st person exclusive trial ‘two others (not you) and me’
<i>koya</i>	3 rd person singular ‘him/her/it’	<i>kemudou</i>	2 nd person trial ‘you (three people)’
<i>kedaru</i>	1 st person inclusive dual ‘you and me’	<i>iratou</i>	3 rd person trial ‘them (three people)’
<i>keirau</i>	2 nd person exclusive dual ‘one other (not you) and me’	<i>keda</i>	1 st person inclusive plural ‘us (more than 3 people, including you (and me))’
<i>kemudrau</i>	2 nd person dual ‘you (two)’	<i>keimami</i>	1 st person exclusive plural ‘us (more than 3 people, excluding you)’
<i>rau</i>	3 rd person dual ‘them (two)’	<i>kemuni</i>	2 nd person plural ‘you (more than 3 people)’
		<i>ira</i>	3 rd person plural ‘them (more than three)’

BONUS - Lexicalization:

Give a word (*and its meaning*) from another language that does not have an equivalent word in English.