

**Introduction to
L2 Vocabulary Acquisition
& Learning:
Lecture 03**

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REVIEW

- (): "laugh", "make", "box", "window"
– cannot be further divided
- ():
– _____: 're-' + 'make' = 're-make'
– _____: 'laugh' + '-ter' = 'laughter'
- ():
– make-believe, window-shopping, jack-in-the-box

REVIEW

- (**roots**): "laugh", "make", "box", "window"
– cannot be further divided
- (**derived words**):
– **prefixes**: 're-' + 'make' = 're-make'
– **suffixes**: 'laugh' + '-ter' = 'laughter'
- (**compound words**):
– make-believe, window-shopping, jack-in-the-box

() of meaning

- Even quite transparent phrases are often fixed in the syntax:
- e.g. talk
 - to talk turkey ()
(= talk seriously about details esp. in business)
 - to talk shop ()
(= talk about your job in the way people find boring)
 - to talk business ()
 - to talk politics ()

↑ ↓

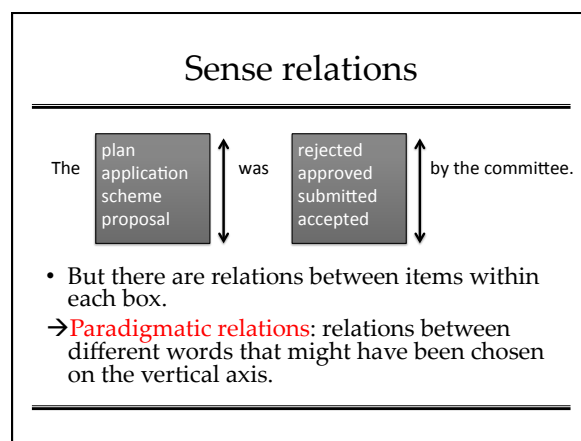
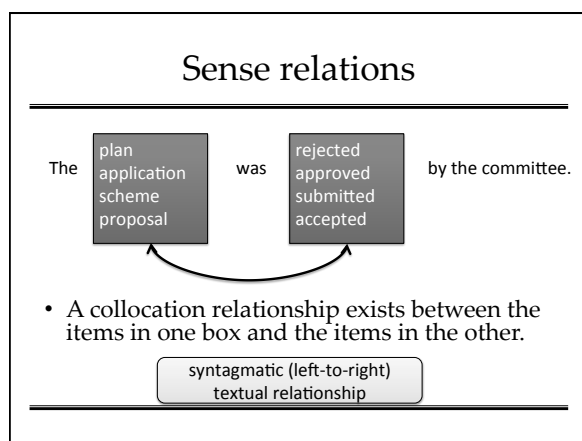
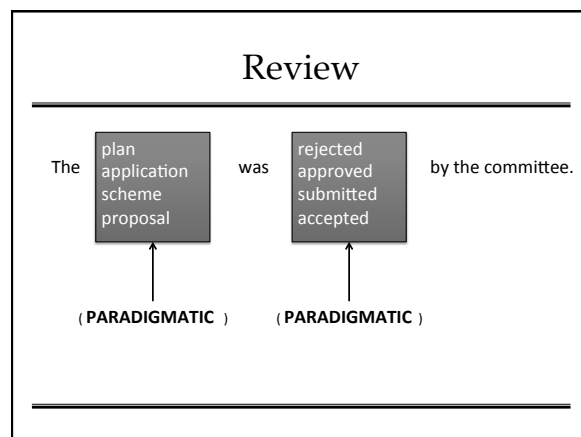
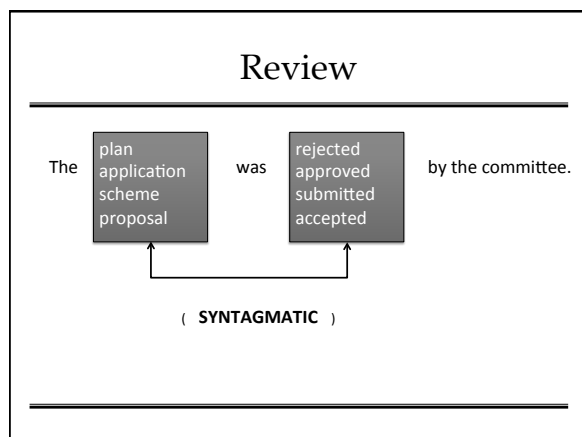
Opacity of meaning

- Even quite transparent phrases are often fixed in the syntax:
- e.g. talk
 - to talk turkey () opaque
 - to talk shop () ↑ ↓
 - to talk business ()
 - to talk politics () transparent

Review

The plan application scheme proposal was rejected approved submitted accepted by the committee.

()



Sense relations

- They are often called “sense relations”
- To distinguish the meaning of individual items in terms of what they mean in the real world (their *denotation*) from their meaning in relation to other words within the vocabulary system of the language (their *sense*).
 - Table --- a physical object (denotation)
 - Table --- sense relations (to ‘chair’, ‘sofa’, ‘desk’, and ‘furniture’ in the language system)

Synonymy

- Two or more words have the same meaning.
 - begin/start; below/beneath; toilet/lavatory
 - beer/ale; difficulty/problem; adore/worship
- It would be unwise to declare any two items to be exact synonyms.

Distinguishing factors in synonyms (1)

- Two words may be close in meaning and yet not collocate with the same items.

A: The baby began/started to cry as soon as they had left.

B: *I couldn't begin my car; the battery was flat.

C: *Before the world started, only God existed.

Distinguishing factors (2)

- Words may have different syntactic behaviour. 'Leave' and 'depart' may refer to the same event but with different syntactic restrictions:

A: The plane leaves/departs from Gatwick, not Heathrow.

B: We left the house at six.

C: *We departed the house at six.

Distinguishing factors (3)

- Words may belong to different contexts and situations. We are here concerned with distinctions such as technical/non-technical, speech/writing, formal/informal, etc.
 - Words may be separated by geographical distribution. British people use 'lifts', Americans use 'elevators.'
-

TASK

- Are the following pairs of items exact synonyms which can be interchanged in all contexts? If possible, create example sentences where the words cannot be interchanged.
- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| - injure/damage | - consider/regard |
| - pavement/sidewalk | - confess/admit |
| - exit/way out | |
-

injure/damage

- His back was seriously damaged/injured in the accident.
 - Many buildings were damaged/*injured in the blast.
- damage building/ reputation/ body
- injure body/ reputation (formal)/ *building
-

consider/regard

- Kubrick was considered/regarded as one of the most influential postwar film directors.
 - We all considered him (to be) a hero.
 - We all *regarded him a hero.
 - He is considering whether to accept the offer.
 - He is *regarding whether to accept the offer.
-

Antonymy

- Antonymy = oppositeness
- Different types of antonyms:

- **ungradable:**
 - ‘alive’ vs. ‘dead’
 - **gradable:**
 - boiling > hot > tepid > warm > cool > freezing
 - enormous > huge > big > medium > average > little > small > tiny > minute
-

Antonymy (2)

- One term in a pair may operate as the *unmarked* or *neutral* form.
 - ‘How *big* is your apartment?’
 - ‘Big’ is neutral for size in this usage. It does not presuppose that your apartment is big.
 - ‘How *small* is your apartment?’
 - You have already told me or I have good reason to believe that it is small.
 - How long/wide/high ..? → **unmarked**
-

TASK

- What are the possible opposites of the words ‘hard’ and ‘high’ in these phrases? Which has the most contextual variation?
- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| - high marks | - hard exam |
| - high opinion | - hard chair |
| - high building | - hard journey |
| - high price | - hard work |
| - high temperature | - hard person |
| - high winds | - hard drugs |
-

TASK

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| - high marks | <i>low</i> marks |
| - high opinion | <i>low</i> opinion |
| - high building | <i>low</i> building |
| - high price | <i>low</i> price |
| - high temperature | <i>low</i> temperature |
| - high winds | <i>gentle/light</i> winds |
-

TASK

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| - hard exam | easy exam |
| - hard chair | soft chair |
| - hard journey | easy journey |
| - hard work | easy work |
| - hard person | easy person? |
| - hard drugs | soft drugs |
-

Types of antonymy

- Antonymy is a sense relation in which *oppositeness* of meaning is observed.
 - hot vs. cold; thick vs. thin; buy vs. sell
 - Three types of antonymy:
 - Binary antonymy
 - Converseness
 - Gradable antonymy
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BINARY ANTONYMY

Binary antonyms come in pairs and between them exhaust all the relevant possibilities. If one is applicable, the other cannot be, and vice versa. **0 or 1**

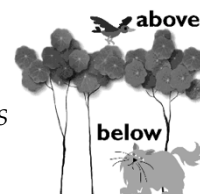
- true – false
- dead – alive
- same – different

Sometimes called “*complementary antonyms*”

Converseness

- If a lexeme describes a relationship between two things (or people) and some other lexeme describes the same relationship when the two things are mentioned in the opposite order, then the two lexemes are *CONVERSES* of each other.

e.g. below - above



GRADABLE ANTONYMS

Two lexemes are *gradable* antonyms if they are at opposite ends of a continuous scale of values (a scale which typically varies according to the context of use).

e.g. long vs. short
big vs. small
hot vs. cold
high vs. low



TASK

- Are the following pairs of expressions (a) binary antonyms, (b) converses, or (c) gradable antonyms?

1. *pass – fail*
2. *good – bad*
3. *easy – difficult*
4. *lend – borrow*
5. *precede – follow*
6. *married – unmarried*

TASK

- Are the following pairs of expressions (a) binary antonyms, (b) converses, or (c) gradable antonyms?

1. *pass – fail* **binary**
2. *good – bad* **gradable**
3. *easy – difficult* **gradable**
4. *lend – borrow* **converse**
5. *precede – follow* **converse**
6. *married – unmarried* **binary**

The opposite is not ...

- "The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference."

--- Elie Wiesel in
US News and World Report,
October 27, 1986.