

## Introduction to L2 Vocabulary Acquisition & Learning: Lecture 06

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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

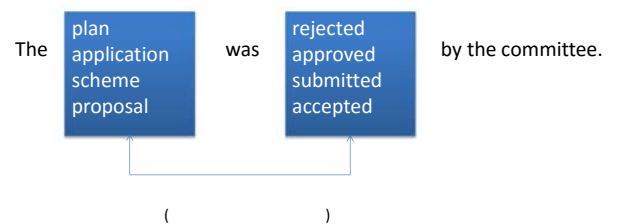
## ( ) of meaning

- 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

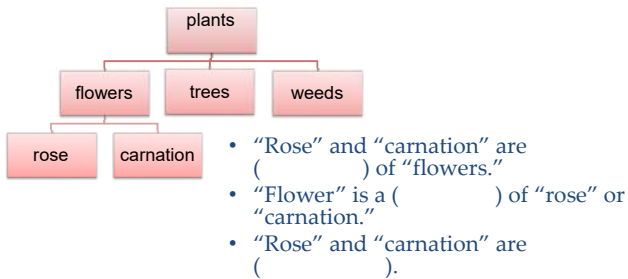
- Even quite transparent phrases are often fixed in the syntax:
- e.g. talk  
– to talk turkey **opaque**  
(= talk seriously about details esp. in business)
- to talk shop ( )  
(= talk about your job in the way people find boring) ↔
- to talk business
- to talk politics **transparent**

## Review

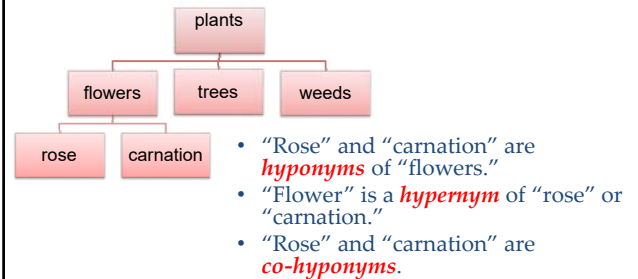




## REVIEW



## REVIEW



## REVIEW

- bank (river) – bank (money) ( )
- flour/flower ( )
- a lead pipe, but a lead singer ( )
- head of your body, head of the department ( )

## REVIEW

- bank (river) – bank (money) ( **homonym** )
- flour/flower ( **homophone** )
- a lead pipe, but a lead singer ( **homograph** )
- head of your body, head of the department ( **polysemy** )

## Metaphor

### Metaphor 隱喻

- **Metaphor** (from the Greek: *metapherein*) is language that directly compares seemingly **unrelated subjects**. More generally, a metaphor describes a first subject as being or equal to a second subject in some way.
- Metaphors usually allow people to understand one thing as another, without getting confused  
*Time is money*      *Life is a journey*
- A metaphor is usually contrasted with a 'simile'. A **simile** (直喻) is a comparison of two unlike things, typically marked by use of 'like', 'as', 'than' ...  
*The fog was as thick as pea soup*      *Madder than a bull*

## Conventional metaphors

- "ARGUMENT IS WAR" metaphor:
  - He made a *vicious attack* on my position.
  - She won't *retreat from* her position.
  - They *bombarded* me with objections.
  - I came *under fire* from all directions.
- A fixed range of lexical items from the 'war' field is conventionally available.
- It is *unconventional metaphor* that stands out for the native speaker.

## TASK

- The metaphor ARGUMENT IS WAR has produced several conventional phrases in English. What words/phrases do you associate with these metaphors in English? How about in Japanese?
- LOVE IS MADNESS
- LOVE IS PHYSICAL UPHEAVAL (=BIG CHANGE)

## TASK

- LOVE IS MADNESS:
  - I'm *crazy* about you.
  - She *drives* me *insane*.
  - He's *gone* all *gaga* since he met her. (=infatuated)
- LOVE IS PHYSICAL UPHEAVAL:
  - He's *head-over-heels* in love with her.
  - I'm *walking on air* when I'm with him.
  - She makes me feel *ten feet tall*.

## TASK

- LOVE IS MADNESS:
  - 君に狂ってる。／ 女に狂う（悪い意味？）。
  - 彼女は僕を狂わせた。
  - 彼女に会ってから彼はいかれちゃった。
  - 好きで好きで頭がおかしくなりそう。
- LOVE IS PHYSICAL UPHEAVAL:
  - ?宙を歩いているような気分
  - ?彼女は1メートル背が高い気分にしてくれる。
  - 彼女と恋におちて舞い上がっちゃった。
  - 彼と一緒にいる時は天にも昇る気分よ。

## Metaphor & metonymy

- “to fish pearls” → *meronymy/metonymy*
  - Drawing from “fishing” the idea of taking things from the ocean. What is carried across from “fishing fish” to “fishing pearls” is the domain of *metonymy*.
- “to fish for information” → *metaphor*
  - Transferring the concept of fishing into a new domain.
- Metaphor works by presenting a target set of meanings and using them to suggest a similarity between items, actions or events in two domains, whereas metonymy calls up or references a specific domain (here, removing items from the sea).

## Challenges

- L2 learners, therefore, have the following challenges to meet, with regard to metaphor:
  - Recognizing metaphors
  - Delimiting their boundaries in text
  - Distinguishing conventional and creative metaphors
  - Identifying relevant or prominent features of the entities compared in order to get at an interpretation

## Semantic Features

- A **semantic feature** is a notational method which can be used to express the existence or non-existence of pre-established **semantic properties** by using plus and minus signs [+ / -].
- **Semantic properties** are those aspects of a linguistic unit, such as a **morpheme**, **word**, or **sentence**, that contribute to the meaning of that **unit**.

## Semantic Features

- *Man*: [+HUMAN], [+MALE], [+ADULT]
- *Woman*: [+HUMAN], [-MALE], [+ADULT]
- *Boy*: [+HUMAN], [+MALE], [-ADULT]
- *Girl*: [+HUMAN], [-MALE], [-ADULT]

## Componential Analysis

- **Componential analysis**, also called *feature analysis* or *contrast analysis*, refers to the description of the meaning of words through structured sets of semantic features, which are given as “present”, “absent” or “indifferent with reference to feature”.

## Componential Analysis

- Componential analysis is a method typical of *structural semantics* which analyzes the structure of a word's meaning.
- Thus, it reveals the culturally important features by which speakers of the language distinguish different words in the domain.

## Componential Analysis

### Example

- *man* = [+human] [+ male] [+ mature]
- *woman* = [+human] [- male] [+ mature]
- *boy* = [+human] [+ male] [- mature]
- *girl* = [+human] [- male] [- mature]
- *child* = [+human] [+/- male] [- mature].

By this, we realize that the word *girl* can have three basic factors (or semantic properties): **human**, **young**, and **female**.

## Binary Features

- In Componential Analysis, **Binary Feature** is used.

A **Binary Feature** assumes both the [+] and [-] Features.

girl, woman, sister, wife, queen    [+FEMALE]  
 boy, man, brother, husband, king    [+MALE]  
 child, person, spouse, monarch    [sex not specified]

## Binary Feature

- The features [FEMALE] and [MALE] are not just different but also complementary.
- We can replace them with one **binary feature**.
- Another example is:
  - Woman: [+FEMALE], [+ADULT], [+HUMAN]
  - Bachelor: [-FEMALE], [+ADULT], [+HUMAN], [-MARRIED]
  - Spinster: [+FEMALE], [+ADULT], [+HUMAN], [-MARRIED]
  - Wife: [+FEMALE], [+ADULT], [+HUMAN], [+MARRIED]

→ So woman is [+/- MARRIED]

## TASK

- Try and do a componential analysis with the following pairs of words:
- Compare your analysis with classmates.
  - spaniel/ terrier
  - chicken/duck
  - wallet/ purse

## TASK

WORDS	SEMANTIC FEATURES (examples)	
spaniel	[+domesticated] [+canine] [+large] [+silky coat] [+sporting retriever]	
terrier	[+domesticated] [+canine] [+small] [+hairy] [+burrowing when hunting]	
chicken	[+bird] [+farm bird] [- swimming (water) bird] [- fly long distances]	
duck	[+bird] [- farm bird] [+ swimming (water) bird] [+ fly long distances]	
wallet	[+case] [+ made of leather] [+ in your pocket] [+ holding paper money, bank cards]	
purse	[+bag] [+ woman carries] [- in your pocket] [+ a larger pocket for personal things]	

## Problems of CA in vocabulary learning

- Difficulties in CA:
  - You may have found your analyses different from other people's, or you may have found it difficult to put into words just precisely what distinguishes a 'wallet' from a 'purse.'
  - CA tends to present a rather static, abstract view of the vocabulary of a language. It is also sometimes difficult to state precisely what the components of a given word are, and subjective judgments vary.
    - What I know about a word may not be the same as what you know.