

SEMANTICS

“Language without Meanings is Meaningless”

(Roman Jakobson)

What is Semantics?

- Semantics is the study of meaning that is used to understand human expression through language.
- Semantics is perhaps the most difficult part of the grammar of a language to learn. The reason is because, basically, meanings in a language are indefinite/undetermined.

- Although a form can have more than one meaning, there is always a primary or original meaning that it expresses.
- The original meaning of a form in a language is normally called "denotation". With respect to words (lexical terms), the primary (original) meaning is the meaning that we can find in a dictionary

- Besides, there are additional meanings, which are known as “connotations”. With respect to words, connotation or additional meanings of a word are not listed in a dictionary; and therefore we cannot find them in a dictionary.
- Normally, a person expresses a connotative meaning through a word, phrase, clause or sentence based on certain characteristics of the entity or event that he/she is referring to.

- Under the subject of semantics, we shall deal with the concepts of:
 - i. Synonym
 - ii. Antonyms
 - iii. Homophones
 - iv. Homonyms
 - v. Form and function of words

which are the lexical components that can be compared based on the semantic relation.

Give meanings of the following homophones and use them in sentences:

- i. Soar/ sore/sour
- ii. Stair/stare
- iii. Rein/rain/reign
- iv. Quite/quit/quiet
- v. Ode/odd
- vi. Vary/very
- vii. Discreet / discrete
- viii. Cite / sight / site

- i. License /Licence
- ii. Dessert /Desert
- iii. Lightning/Lightening
- iv. Aver /Ever
- v. Loathe/ Loath
- vi. Stationary/Stationery
- vii. Veil/wail
- viii. Complement/compliment

Make sentences using the following words as homonyms:

i. Patient

ii. Sentence

iii. Figure

iv. Reserve

v. Sound

vi. Part

vii. Tax

viii. Close

i. Chalk

ii. Book

iii. Second

iv. Mind

v. Yield

vi. Bark

vii. Blind

viii. Brook

Words Commonly confused

- i. Rent/hire
- ii. Ice/snow
- iii. Declare /
announce
- iv. Food/diet
- v. Friend/ comrade
- vi. Swim/float

- i. Buy/purchase
- ii. Ascent/accent/as
sent
- iii. Battle/war
- iv. Exile/banish
- v. Change/alter
- vi. Pail/pale

Provide synonym of the words given below and use them in a sentence of your own:

- i. Rigorous
- ii. Hazardous
- iii. Camouflage
- iv. Complacent
- v. Dynamic
- vi. Prestige
- vii. Ovation
- viii. Despise

- i. Humane
- ii. Grill
- iii. Haughty
- iv. Perceive
- v. Sublime
- vi. Serene
- vii. Amiable
- viii. Bump

Provide antonym of the words given below and use them in a sentence of your own:

i. Celestial

ii. Hostile

iii. Merger

iv. Trouble

v. Dynamic

vi. Flimsy

vii. Timid

viii. Superficial

i. Frugal

ii. Slender

iii. Monotony

iv. Cynical

v. Clumsy

vi. Indigenous

vii. Pamper

viii. Zenith

Make words using the following suffixes and Prefixes:

Prefixes:

- i. Fore.....
- ii. Under.....
- iii. Pre...
- iv. In...
- v. De...
- vi. Pro...
- vii. En....
- viii. Im...

Suffixes:

- i. ...ish
- ii. ...ment
- iii. ...th
- iv. ...some
- v.en
- vi. ...ic
- vii. ...age
- viii. ...ious

Reference Readings :-

- Book : Essentials of Communication-by D. G. Saxena, pp.05-28

E-Learning:

- https://onlinecourses.nptel.ac.in/noc15_hs12/
- <http://www.nptel.ac.in/courses/109106066/>
- <http://ve-iitg.vlabs.ac.in/Vocabulary.html>

Assignment to be given :-

- Exercise for providing synonyms and Antonyms of the given words.