What is ‘SEMANTICS’?

The area of linguistics that is concerned with the MEANING of words, phrases, and sentences.

How are syntax, semantics, and pragmatics different from each other in terms of the object of study?

- **Syntax**: form
- **Semantics**: form & meaning
- **Pragmatics**: form, meaning, & use/context

Linguistic meaning: Sum of the meanings of individual words (treated in ‘semantics’)

Speaker’s meaning / utterance meaning:
Understanding speaker’s communicative goal (e.g. request), which requires info. re. the CONTEXT; i.e. who is speaking to whom, when, where, with what intent, etc.
(treated in ‘pragmatics,’ pp. 404-417)

1. Word meaning and sentence meaning

1.1. Word/phrase meaning and types of relationship

What are ‘HOMONYMS’?

- Words that have the same pronunciation, but different meanings.

- **E.g.** ごかい LHH : 五階、誤解  cf. ごかい LHL (五回)
  いって下さい (say 言って／go 行って)
  かい (shell 貨／meeting 会); すむ (live 住む／finish 済む)
  ちかい LHH (basement floor 地階／oath 誓い)
  cf. ちかい LHL (near 近い) ← NOT a homonym

Do homonyms have to be of the same parts of speech?

- No.

- **E.g.** まつ (wait 持つ [v]／pine 松 [n])
  たいへん (very [adv]／hectic 大変 [a-n])

What is ‘AMBIGUITY’?

- A word, phrase, or sentence can be interpreted in 2 or more ways.

What are ‘SYNONYMS’?

- Words that have almost the same meanings, but different pronunciations.

Do synonyms have to be of the same parts of speech?

- No.

- **E.g.** 話す & しゃべる : きれい[a-n] & うつくしい [a]

What are ‘ANTONYMS’?

- Words that have opposite meanings.

- **E.g.** 上 vs. 下 : ながい vs. みじかい : たかい vs. ひくい...

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Tsujimura (2007), Ch. 6 (1), 1 of 11

Tsujimura (2007), Ch. 6 (1), 2 of 11
Can antonyms be formed morphologically (e.g. *kind* vs. *unkind*)?
→ Yes.
  e.g. 安定（あんてい）‘stable’ vs. 不（ふ）安定 ‘unstable’
  完成（かんせい）‘complete’ vs. 未（み）完成 ‘incomplete’
  常勤（じょうきん）‘fulltime’ vs. 非（ひ）常勤 ‘partime’

Do antonyms include ‘relational opposites’ like
賈う vs. 売（うる） & 先生 vs. 生徒（せいと）?
→ Yes. E.g. If Mari bought a book from Ken, Ken sold it to Mari.

What do you call it when a word has two or more related meanings?
→ POLYSEMY, or that the word is ‘POLYSEMOUS.’
  e.g. みる : ①見る, ②拝る, ③観る, ④診る, ⑤看る

What are the primary thematic roles?
Agent: the instigator of an action
Theme: the entity that undergoes a change of state or a transfer
Goal: the ending point of a transfer
Source: the starting point of a transfer
Experiencer: the entity that experiences a PSYCHOLOGICAL state


(a)  
```
NP ——— N
  PP ——— N
  PP ——— N
Hanako-no
Taro
```

(b)  
```
NP ——— N
  PP ——— N
  PP ——— N
Taro to Hanako-no
['Taro & Hanako']’s mother;
mother of [Taro & Hanako]’s'
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+ (c) ['Taro’s (mother) & [Hanako’s mother]; Taro’s & Hanako’s mothers'
PLEAS DON’T WORRY ABOUT (c).

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1.2. Sentence meanings

What are ‘THEMATIC (or SEMANTIC) ROLES’?
→ Roles that specify relationships between participants in an event or a states described by a sentence.

The thematic roles do NOT change when a S is passivized.
  e.g. Active: Neko ga sakana o tabe-ta.
 AGENT THEME
  Passive: Sakana ga neko ni tabe-rare-ta
  THEME AGENT
  ‘The fish was eaten by the cat.’

What are the primary thematic roles?
Agent: the instigator of an action
Theme: the entity that undergoes a change of state or a transfer
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e.g. Ken -ga Mari -ni hana -o ageta.
AGENT GOAL THEME
(or SOURCE)
‘Ken gave Mari flowers.’

e.g. Kumi -ga Tookyoo kara Losu made huku -o okutta.
AGENT SOURCE GOAL THEME
‘Kumi sent clothes from Tokyo to L.A.’

e.g. Minna -ga Daitooryoo -o sonkee shiteiru.
EXPERIENCER THEME (or STIMULUS)
‘Everyone respects the President.’

Tsujimura (2007), Ch. 6 (1), 4 of 11
What are ‘ARGUMENTS’?
→ thematic roles that a verb requires

What is an ‘ARGUMENT STRUCTURE’?
→ the structure that lists a verb’s arguments
  e.g. taberu: (agent, theme); ageru: (agent, theme, goal)
  odoru: (agent); kirau ‘to dislike’: (experiencer, theme)

What are the elements called that are NOT required by the verb
(e.g. time, location, partner, instrument)?
→ ADJUNCTS, & they provide further elaboration of the event
denoted by the verb.

What are ‘semantic roles’ and ‘subcategorization’ different
from each other?
→ Subcategorization provides SYNTACTIC information about
the constituents of the in a sentence, while
semantic/thematic roles provide SEMANTIC information.

What is the ‘TRUTH VALUE’ of a sentence?
→ Whether a sentence is true or false.
  e.g. Rooma Hoooo wa Katorikku da. ‘The Pope is Catholic.’
    = True
        Rooma Hoooo wa Bukkyootho da. ‘The Pope is Buddhist.’
    = False
        The above sentences are judged ‘true’ and ‘false,’
        respectively, regardless of any specific context.

        Taroo wa Bukkyootho da. ‘Taro is Buddhist.’
    = Its truth value depends on particular circumstances
        which may vary according to the world we live in.

What is ‘ENTAILMENT’?
→ The relationship between two sentences where the truth of
one (X) FORCES the truth of the other (Y).
If X is true, then Y is also true.
If Y is false, then X must necessarily be false, too.

  e.g. X: Jun wa kodomo ga 3-nin iru.
      Y: Jun wa kodomo ga 2-ri iru.
      ‘X entails Y.’

What is ‘PRESUPPOSITION’?
→ An assumption made in order for a statement to be
appropriate.

  e.g. X: Suu no otto wa Nihonjin da. (otto ‘husband’)
      Y: Jun wa otto ga iru.
      ‘X presupposes Y.’

  Cf. X: Jun wa kodomo ga 3-nin inai.
      Y: Jun wa kodomo ga 2-ri iru.
      X does NOT entail Y.

What does the following sentence PRESUPPOSE?
X: Jun wa dooshite arubatito o yamemashita ka?
Y: Jun wa ______________________________________

What does the following sentence PRESUPPOSE?
X: Kinoo katta hon ga naku natta. (naku naru ‘disappear’)
Y: Kinoo ______________________________________

What does the following sentence ENTAIL?
X: Nichiyooobi wa arashi datta. (arashi ‘tempest’)
Y: Nichiyooobi wa ______________________________________
1.3. Metaphors and idioms

What is a ‘METAPHOR’?
→ A figure of speech concisely comparing two things, saying that one is the other; non-literal use/interpretation of words.

Is a metaphor different from polysemy?
→ Yes, but it is “difficult” to distinguish them.

What is an IDIOM?
→ An expression that has figurative meaning, and its implication is comprehended only through common use.

It is usually possible to interpret the expression literally or idiomatically.

1.4. Deixis

What is deixis?
→ The use of a word such as ‘he,’ ‘that,’ ‘now,’ or ‘here,’ whose full meaning depends on the extra-linguistic context in which it is used.

Types of deixis

Traditional

Temporal deixis: e.g. now, today, 3 days ago

Spatial deixis: e.g. here, there

Other

Discourse deixis: See (31)-(33), p. 351

Social deixis: e.g. Honorifics (keigo)

What are the special types of deixis in JPN?

(1) demonstrative words: e.g. kono, sore, asoko
(2) Verbs of giving & receiving: e.g. ageru, kureru

NOTE: The ‘verbs of giving and receiving’ usually indicate that the speaker regards the transfer as an act of KINDNESS or a FAVOR (by the giver for the receiver).

JPN does have verbs indicating giving & receiving that do not imply such meanings;

e.g. watusu ‘give, hand over’; ataru ‘give, grant’;
okuru ‘give, send’; yokusu ‘give, send’; uketoru ‘receive.’

What are ko-so-a-do words?
→ (24)-(30), pp. 350-351

What are the giving & receiving verbs specifically?

GIVE (5): sashageru (HUMBLING), ageru, yaru, kureru, kudasaru (EXALTING)

RECEIVE (2): itadaku (HUMBLING), morau

What are the factors that determine which giving & receiving verb should be used re. a transfer event?

(1) whether to describe the event as ‘giving’ or ‘receiving’;
(i.e. from whose PERSPECTIVE to describe it)
(2) group membership
(3) the social status or the relationship of the participants
(It’s an instance of ‘social’ deixis!)
(1) giving event: (a) ‘I GIVE s.t. to s.o’; (b) S.o. GIVES me s.t.’
(2) receiving event: ‘I RECEIVE s.t. from s.o.’

Why do you think it’s ‘rare in JPN to say’ something like:
Mari wa kaado-o watashi –ni (or kara) moratta.

→ 

Consideration of Social Status

>” : higher; “=” : equal; “<” : lower

When there is a conflict between age and social status, which do you think wins; e.g. boss who is younger than you?

→ 

SQ3. (1) Is the membership of ‘in-group’ and ‘out-group’ fixed?
→ No, it varies.

Does any of the following sound odd?
If yes, how would you fix it?

a. Sensei-ni suisenjoo-no tame-no fuuto-o sashiage-ta.
   ‘envelope’

b. Asa, hana/neko-ni mizu-o yat-ta.

c. [middle-aged men talking at work]
A: Ashita wa Haha-no Hi (‘mother’s day’) desu ne.
B: Ee, tsuma (‘wife’)-ni nanka purezento-o age-nai-to….
A: Okaasan-ni mo nanika sashiage-ru n desu ka?

d. Haha-ga tomodachi-no Yamada-kun-ni sushi-o age-ta.

→ (40), p. 354

The use of giving & receiving verbs is an instance of deixis.

The choice of a particular verb requires a specific contextualization that calls for speaker’s viewpoint of the event, in-/out-group distinction, & relative social status among the participants, including the speaker.

NOTE: VERB-te (sashi-)ageru means ‘(I) am kind enough to do…’; ‘I do…, how nice of me!’
To describe your action to/for a social superior, use the humbling construction 0-VERB suru ‘(I) humbly do…’ instead.

As shown in examples (54)-(69), pp. 358-360, the use of giving & receiving verbs as AUXILIARY verbs suffixed to gerundive forms (= te form) exactly parallels the use of those verbs as MAIN verbs.
1.5. Mimetics

SQ4. What are the major differences between mimetics and non-mimetics?

(1) Mimetics are SYMBOLIC (of sounds, manners, or psychological states); therefore, unlike regular words, it is hard to provide a definable set of meanings for them.

(2) Some mimetics are not restricted to particular word CATEGORIES (e.g. adverb, adjective), and their meaning varies accordingly.

**NOTE:** The accent differs when reduplicated mimetics are used as an adverb (w/ or w/o to) and an adjectival noun.

a. Teeburu-no ue-ga zarakara (HLLL) (-to) shite-i-ru. ‘rough
b. Teeburu-no ue-ga zarakara (LHHH)-da. (=not smooth)

c. hirahira (HLLL)(-to) su-ru ‘to flutter’; hirahira (LHHH) ‘lace, frill’

(3) Mimetics INTERACT WITH MORPHOLOGY more closely than do non-mimetics; e.g. reduplicated mimetics usually describe a repeated action or a continuous state.

(75)-(76), p. 362 を見る！

(4) SOUND SYMBOLISM in mimetics is much more evident than that in non-mimetics.

(77)-(79), p. 363 を見る！