

LEXICAL SEMANTIC UNITS AND THEIR LINGUISTIC FEATURES

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Annotation: Lexical-semantic units are the building blocks of language that allow us to express meaning through words. They encompass various linguistic features that contribute to our understanding of language and its structure. Lexical semantic units are essential components of language, providing meaning and allowing us to convey thoughts and ideas. Their linguistic features include meaning, syntactic category, morphological structure, collocability, connotations, polysemy, homonymy, and cultural variations. By understanding and appropriately using lexical semantic units, we can effectively communicate and navigate the complexities of language. In this article, we will explore lexical-semantic units and examine their linguistic features in detail.

Key words: multiword, meaningful, qualities, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections, express ideas, concepts, relationships, hyponymy, pragmatics.

ЛЕКСИЧЕСКИЕ СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЕ ЕДИНИЦЫ И ИХ ЯЗЫКОВЫЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ

Аннотация: Лексико-семантические единицы являются строительными блоками языка, которые позволяют нам выражать смысл через слова. Они охватывают различные лингвистические особенности, которые способствуют нашему пониманию языка и его структуры. Лексико-семантические единицы являются важными компонентами языка, обеспечивающими значение и позволяющими нам передавать мысли и идеи. Их лингвистические особенности включают значение, синтаксическую категорию, морфологическую структуру, сочетаемость, коннотации, полисемию, омонимию и культурные вариации. Понимая и правильно используя лексико-семантические единицы, мы можем эффективно общаться и ориентироваться в сложностях языка. В этой статье мы изучим лексико-семантические единицы и подробно рассмотрим их языковые особенности.

Ключевые слова: многословие, осмысленное, качества, существительные, глаголы, прилагательные, наречия, местоимения, предлоги, союзы, междометия, выражающие мысли, понятия, отношения, гипонимия, прагматика.

Lexical semantic units refer to the building blocks of meaning in language. These are individual words or word units that contain specific linguistic features and contribute to the overall semantic structure of a language.

Firstly, lexical-semantic units refer to the smallest meaningful elements of language, which can be words, affixes, or even multiword expressions. These units are characterized by their semantic content, as they convey information about objects, actions, qualities, and relationships.

One of the primary linguistic features of lexical-semantic units is their morphological structure. Words can be analyzed into smaller elements called morphemes, which are the smallest units of meaning. For example, the word "unhappiness" consists of three morphemes: "un-" (a negative prefix), "happy" (the root), and "-ness" (a suffix indicating a state or condition). Understanding the morphological structure of lexical-semantic units aids in comprehending their meaning and forming new words through derivational processes.

Another essential feature of lexical-semantic units is their part of speech. Every word in a language belongs to a specific category that determines its role in a sentence and its syntactic behavior. The traditional parts of speech include nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections. Each part of speech has its own set of characteristics, such as inflectional patterns, syntactic positions, and semantic properties. Knowing the part of speech of a specific word assists in determining its grammatical function and usage.

Furthermore, lexical-semantic units exhibit various grammatical properties, such as gender, number, tense, aspect, mood, and case. These properties make language more nuanced and allow for precise communication. For instance, in English, nouns can be singular or plural, and verbs can be conjugated in different tenses and aspects to indicate time and duration of an action. Understanding and appropriately using these grammatical features is crucial for constructing grammatically correct sentences and conveying specific meanings.

Lexical-semantic units are also marked by their sense relations, which are the relationships they establish with other words. One common sense relation is synonymy, where words are similar or equivalent in meaning. For example, "big" and "large" are synonyms. Antonymy is another sense relation, wherein words have opposite meanings, like "hot" and "cold." Hyponymy is a relationship where one word is more general than another; for instance, "fruit" is the hyponym of "apple." These sense relations help us understand the hierarchical structure of language and the connections between words.

Additionally, lexical-semantic units possess collocational characteristics. Collocation refers to the tendency of certain words to occur together frequently. For instance, we say "strong coffee" but not "powerful coffee" because "strong" collocates more naturally with "coffee." Collocations are important for achieving natural-sounding and idiomatic language use. They contribute to the fluency and accuracy of our speech and writing.

Lexical-semantic units also have pragmatic features, which involve the study of language use in context and the effects of language on the listener or reader. Pragmatic features include deixis, implicature, and speech acts. Deixis refers to the use of words whose interpretation relies on the context of the speech event. For example, the word "here" refers to the location of the speaker at a particular moment. Implicature refers to the inferences made based on what is said and meant. For instance, if someone says, "It's a bit chilly in here," they may imply that they want the temperature to be adjusted. Speech acts, on the other hand, pertain to the performative function of words, where saying something performs an action. For instance, saying "I apologize" is not just describing an action but also performing the act of apologizing.

Lexical semantic units refer to the basic building blocks of meaning in language. These units are the words or word combinations that carry semantic content, allowing us to

express ideas, concepts, and relationships between them. Understanding lexical semantic units is crucial for comprehending the meaning of words and constructing coherent sentences. In this essay, we will explore the linguistic features of lexical semantic units and their importance in language.

One essential feature of lexical semantic units is their meaning. Every word or word combination has a specific meaning that can be distinct or related to other lexical units. For example, the word "cat" refers to a small, domesticated feline animal, while "dog" refers to a larger, domesticated canine animal. These meanings are fixed and agreed upon by language users, forming the basis of communication. The combination of words can further enhance or alter the meaning, such as the phrase "fat cat" to describe a wealthy and influential person.

Another linguistic feature of lexical semantic units is their syntactic category or part of speech. Words can be categorized into different syntactic classes, such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, and conjunctions. Each syntactic category has its own roles and characteristics. Nouns, for example, typically represent objects, people, or concepts, while verbs denote actions or states. Adjectives describe attributes or qualities, while adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs to indicate manner, time, place, etc.

Moreover, lexical semantic units exhibit various morphological features. These features concern the internal structure of words, including inflection, derivation, and compounding. Inflectional morphology involves the modification of a word to indicate grammatical aspects such as tense, number, person, and gender. For instance, the verb "run" can be inflected to form "running" in the present participle form or "ran" in the past tense form. Derivational morphology, on the other hand, involves the creation of new words by adding affixes to existing words. For example, the adjective "happy" can be derived into "happiness" by adding the suffix "-ness" to indicate the state or quality. Compounding refers to the formation of new words by combining two or more existing words, such as "blackboard" or "snowball".

Another linguistic feature of lexical semantic units is their collocability. Collocation refers to the regular co-occurrence of words in a language. Certain words tend to appear together based on the meaning and grammatical structure. For example, we often use the collocation "make a decision" rather than "do a decision". Collocations are important as they contribute to the fluency and naturalness of language use. Learners of a second language often have difficulty acquiring collocations since they cannot be deduced from the meanings of individual words.

In addition, lexical semantic units possess connotations. Connotation refers to the emotional, evaluative, or cultural associations that words carry beyond their literal meaning. Certain words may evoke positive or negative emotions or suggest specific cultural or social associations. For example, the word "freedom" carries positive connotations of liberation and autonomy, while "slavery" has negative connotations of oppression and exploitation. Understanding connotations is crucial for effective communication as it helps convey nuanced meanings and allows for greater rhetorical impact.

Furthermore, lexical semantic units also exhibit polysemy and homonymy. Polysemy refers to a phenomenon where a word has multiple related meanings. For example, the word "bank" can refer to a financial institution, the land alongside a river, or to tilt or slope to one side. Homonymy, on the other hand, refers to words that have identical pronunciations or spellings but have different meanings. For instance, "bat" can refer to the flying mammal

or the wooden implement used in sports. Distinguishing between polysemous and homonymous words is important for accurate comprehension and production of language.

Lexical semantic units exhibit cultural variations. Different languages and cultures may have unique lexical units that represent specific cultural concepts, beliefs, or practices. For example, the word "saudade" in Portuguese refers to a profound sense of longing or nostalgia, a feeling that does not have an exact English equivalent. These cultural variations highlight the richness and diversity of semantic content across languages, emphasizing the importance of understanding cultural context when using language.

To understand the role of lexical semantic units, we must first delve into the concept of meaning in language. Meaning is a complex phenomenon that involves both denotation, or the basic dictionary definition of a word, and connotation, which refers to the emotional or cultural associations that a word carries. By examining the constituent parts of words and their linguistic features, we can gain insights into the ways in which meaning is constructed and conveyed.

One key linguistic feature of lexical semantic units is morphology, which refers to the structure and formation of words. Morphology encompasses various processes such as affixation, compounding, and conversion, through which new words are created. These processes contribute to the lexical diversity of a language and allow for the expression of nuanced meanings. For example, in English, the prefix "un-" can be added to an adjective to create its opposite, such as "happy" becoming "unhappy." This morphological feature greatly affects the meaning of the word and adds to its semantic value.

Another important feature of lexical semantic units is syntax, which pertains to the arrangement and ordering of words in phrases and sentences. The syntactic structure determines the grammatical relationships between words and helps to convey meaning in a coherent and meaningful manner. For instance, in English, the order of subject-verb-object is generally followed, as in "The cat chased the mouse." Deviations from this order can lead to changes in meaning or even ungrammatical constructions. Syntax, thus, plays a crucial role in shaping the meaning of sentences and utterances.

The phonological features of lexical semantic units contribute to their meaning. Phonology refers to the sound patterns and structures of words in a language. Different languages have unique sound inventories, phonotactics, and prosodic patterns, which influence the meaning of words. For instance, the phonemic distinctions between certain sounds in a language, such as /p/ and /b/, can convey different meanings when used in words. Moreover, intonation patterns and stress placement affect the pragmatic and semantic interpretation of utterances. Phonological features thus play a vital role in conveying meaning and aiding comprehension in spoken language.

Furthermore, the semantic features of lexical units - including semantic roles, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, and polysemy - contribute to their overall meaning. Semantic roles refer to the thematic relations that words have with other words in a sentence. For example, in the sentence "John gave Mary a book," "John" is the agent, "Mary" is the recipient, and "book" is the theme. These semantic roles help to establish the relationships and roles that words play in conveying meaning.

Synonymy and antonymy are important semantic features that involve the relationship between words. Synonyms are words that have similar meanings, such as "big" and "large," while antonyms are words that have opposite meanings, like "hot" and "cold." These relationships allow for flexibility in expression and provide alternative ways to convey similar or contrasting meanings.

Hyponymy is a semantic relationship where one word (the hyponym) is a more specific subcategory of another word (the hypernym). For example, "apple" is a hyponym

of "fruit." This relation helps to organize and categorize meaning, with broader terms encompassing more specific terms.

Finally, polysemy refers to the phenomenon where a single word has multiple related meanings. This creates ambiguity and flexibility in language usage. For instance, the word "bank" can refer to a financial institution or the side of a river. Interpreting the intended meaning of a polysemous word depends on the context in which it is used.

In conclusion, lexical semantic units and their linguistic features are essential for understanding and conveying meaning in language. The morphology, syntax, phonology, and semantics of words all contribute to the overall meaning of language and allow for the expression of complex ideas. By examining the linguistic features of lexical units, we can gain insights into the underlying structure and organization of meaning in language. They encompass various characteristics, including morphological structure, part of speech, grammatical properties, sense relations, collocations, and pragmatic features. Understanding these features is crucial for language learners and researchers alike, as they contribute to fluency, accuracy, and effectiveness in communication. By studying lexical-semantic units and their features, we deepen our understanding of language and enhance our ability to express ourselves clearly and meaningfully.

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