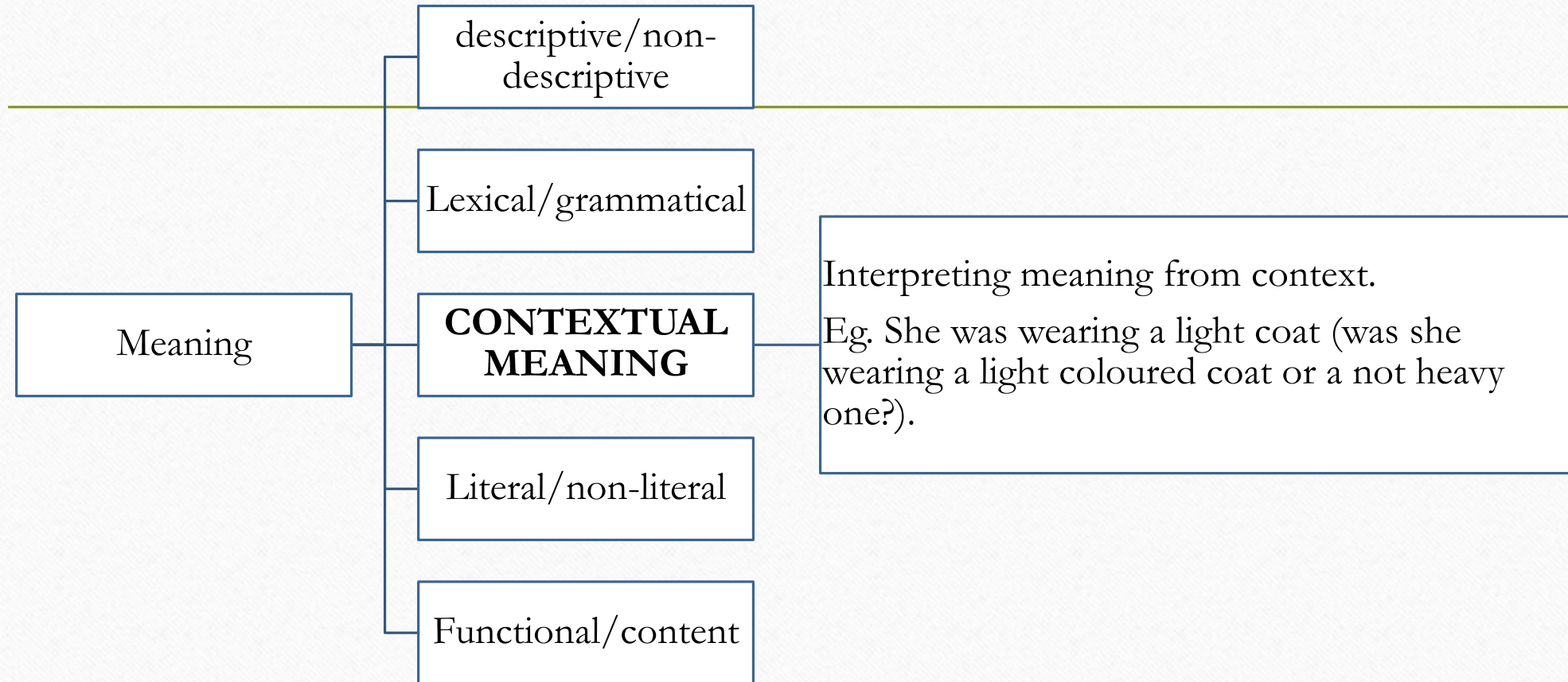


TYPES OF MEANING

POLYSEMY & METAPHOR

Semantically speaking, meaning is classified into different types as shown below in the graph
Reference: Margarita Goded Rambaud (2012). Basic semantics



LEXICAL RELATIONS

HOMONYMY

- When the same phonological unit has two or more unrelated senses. This can be a homograph (**lap**: circuit in a course vs. **lap**: part of the body) or a homophone (**write** vs. **right**) (written vs. spoken)

POLYSEMY

- It deal with multiple senses of the same phonological unit. Polysemy is used if the senses are considered to be related and homonymy if the senses invoked are considered to be unrelated.eg. a. **The newspaper** got wet in the rain. b. **The newspaper** fired some of its editing staff

SYNONYMY

- Synonyms are different phonological words that have the same or very similar meanings. For example: couch/ sofa, boy/lad, lawyer/attorney, toilet /lavatory, large/big

POLYSEMY

A clear case of polysemy 1: The word *Newspaper* in the following sentences. The object that got wet cannot fire people, and the company didn't get wet. Still, it's obvious that the same word is used to refer to them both.

- (3) a. The newspaper got wet in the rain.
- b. The newspaper fired some of its editing staff.

A clear case of polysemy 2: The word *Good* in the following two examples. In one case it's a moral judgement, in the other case it's a judgement of skill.

- (4) a. John was a good man. He donated a lot of money to charity.
- b. Bill was a good painter. His drawings always were exciting to look at.

Unclear case 1: *Hammer* in sentence (5-a) is a noun referring to a physical object. *Hammer* in sentence (5-b) is a verb describing an action normally (but not in this case) performed with that object. Is this one word or two? Different people may disagree.

- (5)
- a. I own a big heavy hammer.
 - b. I hammered the tent pole into the ground using a small rock.

Unclear case 2: The word *bright* in the following two sentences. The meanings are clearly not the same, but is it one word that is used metaphorically in (6-a) and literally in (6-b), or are these two different words?

- (6)
- a. Laura was a very bright student and always got good grades.
 - b. The lights in this room are very bright.

METAPHOR

- A figurative speech device
- A way of expressing something by comparing it with something else that has similar characteristics
- It concerned with using words in abstract rather than literal ways
- Metaphor involves three elements: a source domain, usually concrete and familiar, a target domain, usually abstract or at least less well structured, and and a set of correspondences.

Examples

Time is money

Life is a journey

He wins the argument

Examples of metaphor

Many words in English are so frequently used in a metaphorical way that English speakers may no longer notice that they are metaphors. Here are some examples.

- Intelligence is equated with light; for example, a clever person is called *bright* and a less intelligent person *dim*.
- Intensity of feeling or passion is equated with temperature; someone who is enthusiastic at one time and not at another is said to *blow hot and cold*.
- The movement of people is equated with the movement of water; we can, for example, talk of people *flooding* or *trickling* out of a hall.
- Time is equated with money; both can be *spent* or *wasted* or *used profitably*.
- Business is likened to a military operation; *strategies*, *tactics* and *campaigns* are used in both.

References

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