

SEMANTICS-FINAL TEST - SUGGESTED ANSWERS

Subject Code : SEMA230236

Date of Exam : 29 July 2020

Time: 60 minutes

I. (2 marks)

Explain what it means to say that **HYPONIMY** involves **ENTAILMENT**. Provide **ONE** example to prove your point.

→ Given two sentences **A** and **B**, identical in every way except that **A** contains a word **X** where **B** contains a different word **Y**, and **X** is a **HYPONYM** of **Y**, then sentence **A** **ENTAILS** sentence **B**.

Eg: Sentence **A**: She was smelling a **ROSE**.

Sentence **B**: She was smelling a **FLOWER**.

→ As **ROSE** is a **hyponym** of **FLOWER** (the meaning of **FLOWER** is included in the meaning of **ROSE**), it is said that sentence **A** **entails** sentence **B**.

II. (1.5 marks)

Explain the **ANOMALY/ODDNESS/ CONTRADICTION** of these sentences by analyzing the **SEMANTIC FEATURES/SENSE PROPERTIES**.

1. The television drank my water.

→ The sentence is semantically anomalous because *television* is [- animate/+inanimate] whereas *drank* is an action performed by an [+ animate] agent.

2. His dog writes poetry.

→ The sentence is anomalous because *dog* and *write poetry* are not semantically compatible to be combined in this way. *Dog* is [-human] whereas the action of *writes poetry* has the semantic feature of [+human].

3. That womanly bachelor is expecting her third in July.

→ The sentence is semantically anomalous because *bachelor* is [+male/-female] whereas *expecting her third* is [- male/ +female]

III. (2 marks)

What is the sense relation between each pair of words listed below?

1. damp/moist: SYNONYMY
2. deep/shallow: ANTONYMY
3. furniture/table: HYPONYMY
4. married/single: ANTONYMY
5. move/run: HYPONYMY
6. peace/piece: HOMOPHONY/HOMOPHONES
7. bark/bark: HOMONYMY
8. take/steal: HYPONYMY
9. spoon/cutlery: HYPONYMY
10. lamb/lamb: POLYSEMY

IV. (2.5 marks)

Explain the **AMBIGUITY** in each of the following sentences by providing **TWO SENTENCES** that paraphrase its two meanings.

1. She is looking for a match.
 - a. She is looking for a sport match.
 - b. She is looking for a short, thin piece of wood or cardboard used to light a fire.
2. She wore a light suit to the party that night.
 - a. She wore a suit which was not heavy to the party that night.
 - b. She wore a suit of a light color to the party that night.
3. I will tell my big brother.
 - a. I will tell my brother who is (physically) big.
 - b. I will tell my elder/older brother.
4. Two brothers reunited after 20 years in checkout counter.
 - a. After 20 years, two brothers reunited in checkout counter.

- b. After 20 years in checkout counter, two brothers reunited.
5. The kiwi eats the roots and leaves.
- a. The kiwi eats the roots and it leaves
- b. What the kiwi eats are the roots and leaves.

V. (2 marks)

INTERPRET the meaning of the following sentences and identify the kind of **FIGURES OF SPEECH** used.

1. His organization is keeping the brake on pay rises.
→ keeping the brake is a **METAPHOR**. The whole sentence means *his organization is controlling the increase of money paid*.
2. He has a good head for business.
→ a good head for business is a **METONYMY**. The whole sentence means *he is smart at/gifted in doing business*.
3. Her house is like a prison.
→ like a prison is a **SIMILE**. The whole sentence means *she can not leave her home or she is trapped inside*.
4. Never in a billion years will he admit defeat.
→ in a billion years is a **HYPERBOLE/ an OVERSTATEMENT**. The whole sentence means *he will never admit defeat*.