

Saeed: Chapter 3.5, 5.2.1-
5.2.3

Lexical Categories: Semantics

Homonymy

- Unrelated senses of the same phonological word
 - Homophone and homograph
 - nail, bark, fan
 - stalk, rose
 - Homophone but not homograph
 - ascent/assent, cellar/seller
 - pail/pale, die/dye, sea/see

Polysemy

- Related senses of the same phonological word
- **pilot**. *n.* **1.** One who operates or is licensed to operate an aircraft in flight. **2.** *Nautical a.* One who, though not belonging to a ship's company, is licensed to conduct a ship into and out of port or through dangerous waters, **b.** the helmsman of a ship. **3.** One who guides or directs a course of action for others. **4.** The part of a tool, device, or machine that leads or guides the whole. **5.** A pilot light, as in a stove. **6.** A television program produced as a prototype of a series being considered for adoption by a network. **–pilot** *tr.v.* **1.** to serve as the pilot of. **2.** To steer or control the course of. **–pilot** *adj.* **1.** Serving as a tentative model for future experiment or development: *a pilot project*. **2.** Serving or leading as guide. [Obsolete French, helmsman, from Old French, from Old Italian *pilota*, alteration of *pedota*, probably from Medieval Greek **pe:do:te:s*, from Greek *pe:don*, steering oar. Indo-European root: *ped-*, foot]

American Heritage Dictionary

Synonymy

- Different phonological words which have the same or very similar meanings.
 - baby/infant, sick/ill, quickly/speedily, freedom/liberty,
- May belong to different dialects or registers
 - eggplant/aubergine, fiddle/violin
- May have different connotations or collocations:
 - Sick joke/ #ill joke, She's having a baby/#infant

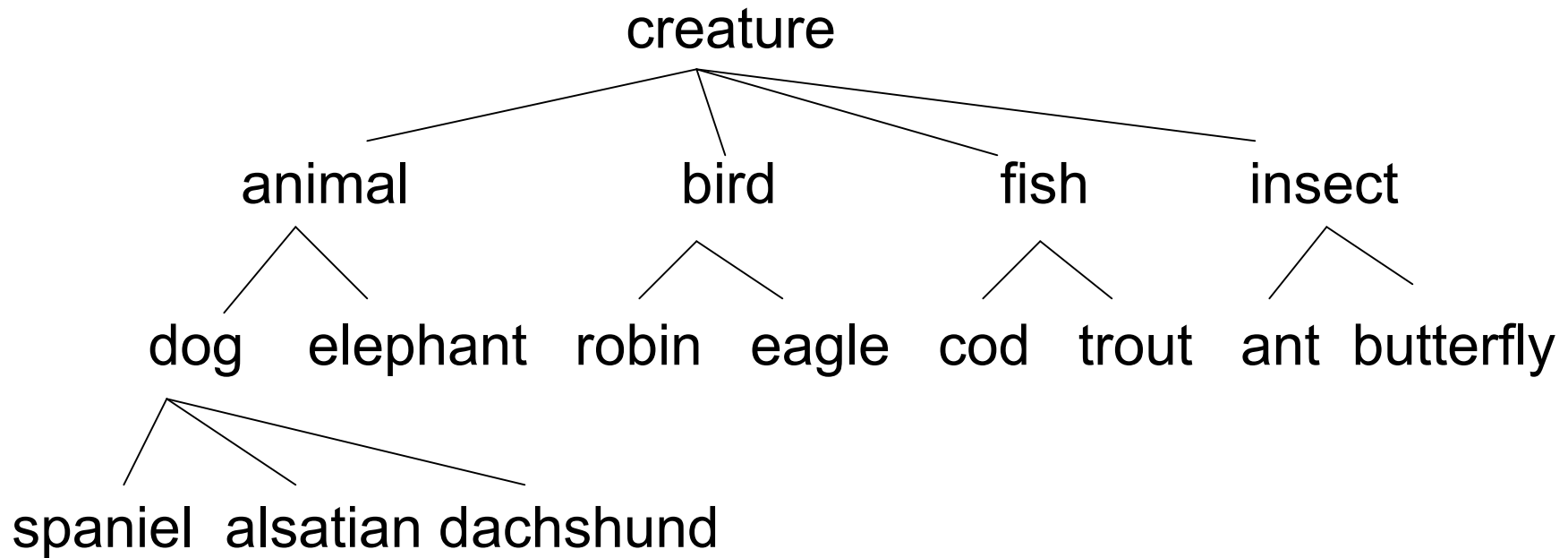
Opposites

- Simple antonyms (contradictory terms)
 - The negative of one implies the positive of the other
 - open/shut, alive/dead, hit/miss
- Gradable antonyms (contrary terms)
 - The negative of one does not necessarily imply the positive of the other
 - happy/sad, good/bad, clean/dirty
- **Tests:**
 - How happy are you? #How alive are you?
 - He is very happy. #He is very alive.
 - He is neither happy nor sad. #He is neither alive nor dead.

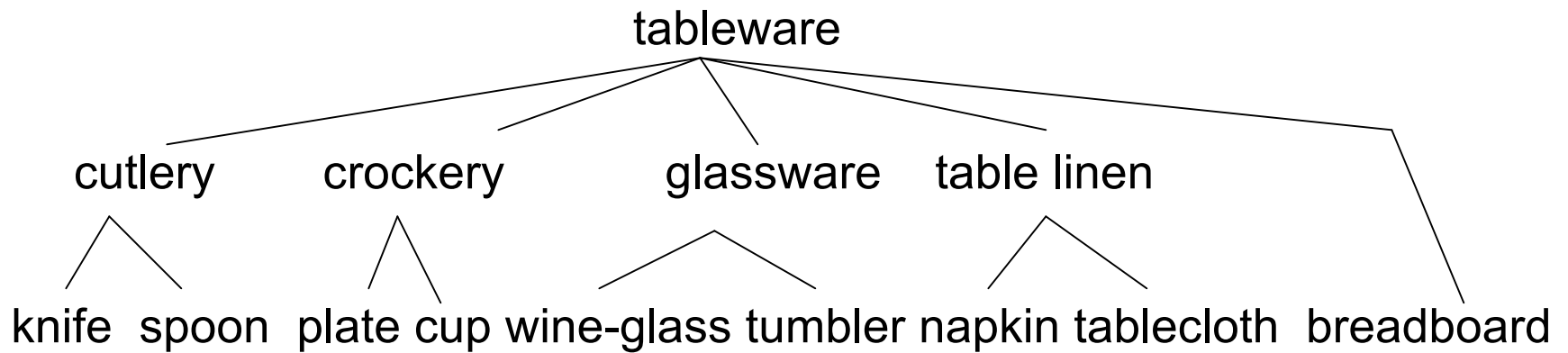
- Reverses
 - Describe movement in opposite directions
 - forewards/backwards, up/down, rise/fall, lock/unlock, mount/dismount
- Converses
 - Describe a relation between two entities from alternate viewpoints
 - master/servant, buy/sell, in front of/behind
- Taxonomic sisters
 - Words which are at the same level in a taxonomy
 - January, February, March, ...
 - coffee, tea, hot chocolate
 - blonde, brunette, redhead

Hyponymy

- A hyponym contains the meaning of a more general term (the superordinate term)
 - *chair* is a hyponym of *furniture*, *robin* is a hyponym of *bird*.
 - Hyponymy is the vertical relation in a taxonomy.



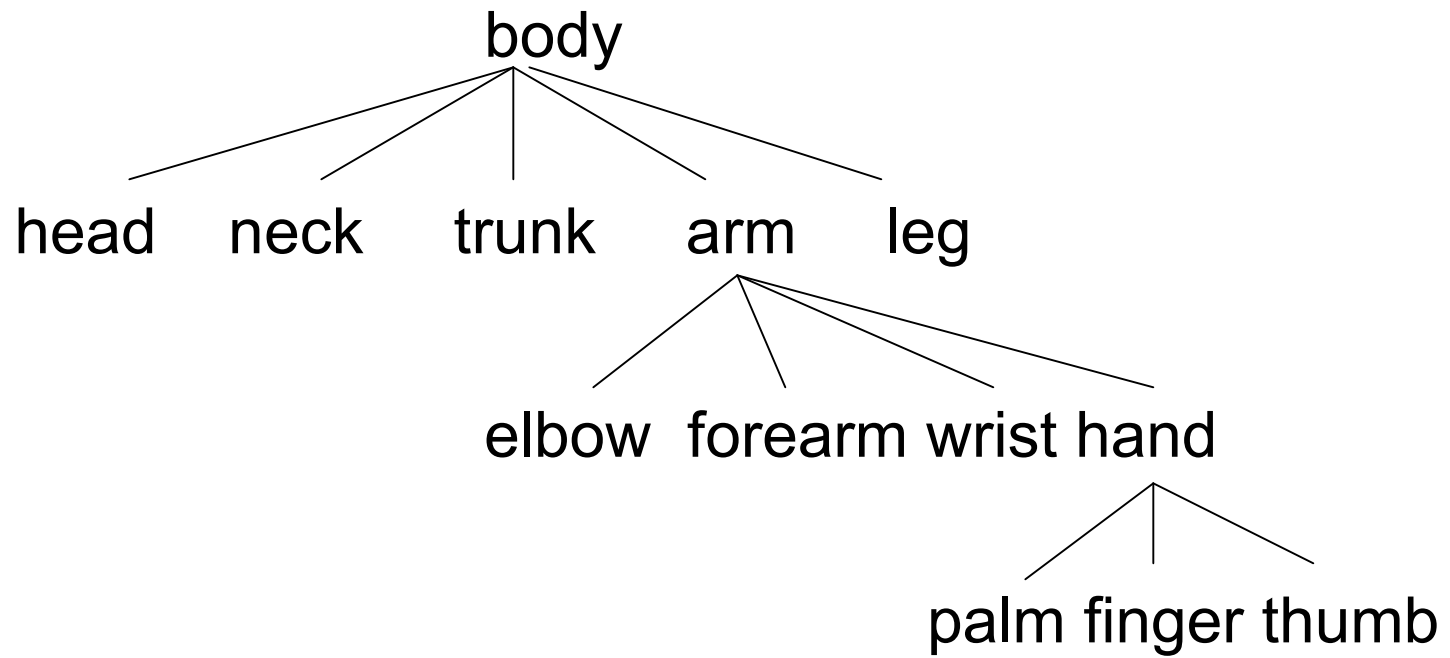
- Transitivity: a spaniel is a kind of dog, a dog is a kind of animal, and a spaniel is a kind of animal.



- Artifacts also group into taxonomies, and into hyponymy relations
- Also color terms, kinship terms, adult-young relations (*cat/kitten*), male-female relations (*drake/duck*).

Meronymy

- Part-whole relations between lexical items
 - *finger* is a meronym of *hand*, *engine* is a meronym of *car*.
 - Meronymy, like hyponymy, defines a branching structure.
 - Meronymy is not necessarily transitive:
 - A shirt has buttons, and a button has holes, but a shirt doesn't necessarily have holes.



Other lexical relations

- Member-collection
 - sheep/flock, tree/forest, book/library, crow/murder
- Portion-mass
 - drop/liquid, grain/sand, strand/hair, sheet/paper

Verb Meaning: Classifying Situations

Stative vs. Dynamic Verbs

- A situation can be described as static and unchanging.
 - My sister loved beads.
 - My sister knew French.
- Or can be described as involving change.
 - My sister sorted beads.
 - My sister learned French.

- Progressive test:
 - My sister is sorting beads.
 - *My sister is loving beads.
 - My sister is learning French.
 - *My sister is knowing French.

- Imperative test:
 - Sort beads!
 - ?Love beads!
 - Learn French!
 - ?Know French!

Telic vs. Atelic dynamic processes

- Some situations have an inherent “end point”, i.e. are ‘bounded’ by a goal being reached. These are called ‘telic’ situations:
 - John built a cabin.
 - Mary baked a cake.
- Others have no inherent endpoint and simply involve a process that is going on (‘atelic’)
 - John pushed a cart.
 - Mary swam the backstroke.

- Goal-directed adverb test:
 - ?John pushed a cart in two hours.
 - ?Mary swam the backstroke in an hour.
 - John built a cabin in two months.
 - Mary baked a cake in 45 minutes.
- ‘Almost’ test:
 - John almost pushed a cart. (unambiguous)
 - Mary almost swam the backstroke. (unambiguous)
 - John almost built a cabin. (ambiguous)
 - Mary almost baked a cake. (ambiguous)

- Interruption in progressive test:
 - Mary was swimming the backstroke, but was interrupted; therefore ‘Mary swam the backstroke.’ (true)
 - Mary was baking a cake, but was interrupted; therefore ‘Mary baked a cake.’ (false)
- Atelic verbs can become telic verb phrases with the addition of a measure phrase or other goal phrase:
 - Sue ran. (atelic)
 - Sue ran a mile. (telic)
 - Sue ran to the store. (telic)

Durative vs. Punctual Events

- Some events are durative processes, and persist over a period of time.
 - Mary swam the backstroke.
 - John built a cabin.
- Other events are punctual, and take place in an instant.
 - Sue recognized Peter.
 - Bill found a dollar.

- ‘Spend an hour’ test
 - Mary spent two hours swimming the backstroke.
 - John spent two months building a cabin.
 - ?Sue spent 45 minutes recognizing Peter.
 - ?Bill spent an hour finding a dollar.
- ‘Semelfactive’ verbs present punctual events that can be iterated under durative construal
 - John knocked.
 - John knocked for two hours.

Vendler's (1967) classes

- States
 - *desire, want, love, know, believe*
- Activities
 - *run, walk, swim, push a cart, drive a car*
- Accomplishments
 - *deliver a sermon, recover from illness*
- Achievements
 - *recognize, find, stop, start, reach the top, win the race, spot someone*

Smith's (1991) features

- Situations [Static] [Durative] [Telic]

State	+	+	n.a.
Activity	-	+	-
Accomplishment	-	+	+
Achievement	-	-	+
Semelfactive	-	-	-