Victoria University
of Bangladesh

ASSIGNMENT

NAME: Zannatul Fatema

DEPARTMENT: BA.IN.ENGLISH

BATCH: 44th Batch

ID: 181944OO11

SEMESTER: Fall-2022

COURSE: Semantics

COURSE CODE: ENG 403

Section A

1. a) Explain the difference between a contradiction (a sense property of a sentence) and contradictoriness (a sense relation between sentences).

Answer: Contradictoriness is a derived term of contradictory.

As nouns the difference between contradictoriness and contradictory is that contradictoriness is the state or quality of being contradictory while contradictory is (logic) any of a pair of propositions, that cannot both be true or both be false. As an adjective contradictory is that contradicts something, such as an argument.

In contrast with analytic sentences, Hurford and Heasley argue about a contradictory sentence. A contradiction is a sentence that is necessarily false, as a result of the senses of the words in it. If those belong to analytic sentences are absolute true sentences, then those included in contradictory sentence. Take a look at the examples below.

Example: 1. The boy is female.

          2. Jellyfish are plants.

The two examples are contradictory sentences. Of course, reading the two examples above tickles my notion. How come the sex of boy is female? Doesn't the sex for all boys are males and for girls are females? And how come jellyfishes are vegetables? Don't they belong to animals?

The statement "The boy is female" is contradict with factual data. Many argue and agree that boys are defined as male child, more generally, a male of any age (CALD). People will argue and agree that the sex of all boys is males. None will show their hesitation about it. Everyone in every side of the world realizes about it. Not only the literate people but also those who are not will automatically know the truth and say that the statement is wrong.

The equal argument also can explain why the statement of "Jellyfish are vegetables" is contradictory sentence. In CALD, jellyfishes are defined as a sea animal with a soft oval almost transparent body. Based on the definition above, of course, it is positively that jellyfishes belong to animal not a plant. As an animal, jelly fish can moves using its tentacle. this statement tends to contradict with the facts. Thus, this one is also contradictory sentence.

b) Explain what it means to say that hyponymy involves entailment.

Answer: In linguistics and lexicography, hyponym is a term used to designate a particular member of a broader class. For instance, daisy and rose are hyponyms of flower. Also called a subtype or a subordinate term. The adjective is hyponymic. The term is pronounced "HI-po-nim" (with the emphasis on the first syllable), and its etymology from the Greek, "below" plus "name." Words that are hyponyms of the same broader term (that is, a hypernym) are called co-hyponyms. The semantic relationship between each of the more specific words (such as daisy and rose) and the broader term (flower) is called hyponymy or inclusion. Hyponymy is not restricted to nouns. The verb to see, for example, has several hyponyms—glimpse, stare, gaze, ogle, and so on. In "Language: Its Structure and Use," Edward Finnegan points out that although "hyponymy is found in all languages, the concepts that have words in hyponymic relationships vary from one language to the next." Hyponymy is a less familiar term to most people than either synonymy or antonymy, but it refers to a much more important sense relation. It describes what happens when we say 'An X is a kind of Y'—A daffodil is a kind of flower, or simply, A daffodil is a flower. "Let us consider words that have a similar meaning because they belong to the same segment of a domain. For instance, the words pink, scarlet, orange, hot pink, and pumpkin . . . are all more marked, specific terms for colors that derive from the color red. These words share many of the semantic properties of the word red. Because these words form a subclass of the word red, they are referred to as hyponyms of red. Similarly, maple, birch, and pine are hyponyms of tree...Hyponyms are more specific words that constitute a subclass of a more general word. In pragmatics (linguistics), entailment is the relationship between two sentences where the truth of one (A) requires the truth of the other (B). For example, the sentence (A) The president was assassinated. entails (B) The president is dead. An entailment is a deduction or implication, that is, something that follows logically from or is implied by something else. In logic, an entailment is the relationship between sentences whereby one sentence will be true if all the others are also true. rule of entailment in relation to hyponymy. The rule states that "a relation of entailment between two assertions arises whenever an argument or a predicate in one assertion is a hyponymy to an argument or a predicate in the other." It is worth mentioning here that the term argument refers to any noun phrase position within a sentence whether a subject, object or anything else (Crystal, 1985: 22). The term predicate refers to the obligatory elements of a sentence other than the subject. For example, the sentence John kicked the ball is seen as a subject (John) + predicate construction.

Following the rule of entailment in relation to hyponymy, we can say that sentence (26) entails (27:()26 (I saw a boy. entails)27 (I saw a child. The only difference between these statements is that one of the arguments in (26) (the object) is hyponymous to the corresponding argument of (27). The predicate of two statements can also be hyponymous. For example: (Bob stole a horse. entails) (Bob took a horse. The word stole is a hyponymy of took just as boy is hyponymy of child (In relation to hyponymy, entailment works in two different directions, i.e. whether the assertions are of specific or general meaning. Entailment interferes in the propositional analysis of sentences by the concept of contradiction. A sentence may be analytically true if its denial entails a contradiction.

c) What parts of speech can function as deictics? List them and give an example or two of each, preferably different from the ones given in the book.

Answer: A deictic expression or deixis is a word or phrase (such as this, that, these, those, now, then, here) that points to the time, place, or situation in which a speaker is speaking. Deixis is expressed in English by way of personal pronouns, demonstratives, adverbs, and tense. Examples of deictic terms include "this/that," "here/there," "I/you," and "my/your." While some personal pronoun contrasts ("I/you," "my/your") are expected to develop before 3 years of age, many typically developing children continue to have difficulty with spatial contrast deictic terms ("this/that," "here/there"). The most common kinds of deictic expressions are personal, depending on the identity of the speaker, spatial, which depend on where the speaker is when they say the phrase, and temporal, which depend on the time the speaker says the phrase. The deictic elements of a language are the linguistic forms relating the utterance to a particular time, place, speaker, or discourse context. Deictic pronoun is a pronoun whose reference must be fixed through the context of the utterance.

Deictic Example A:

'I am here' includes 'I' (personal pronoun), and 'here' (an adverb of place). Both of these can be called deictic words because they indicate the speaker and where they are.

'I am here now' gives us who, where, and also when ('now').

Deictic Example B:

'I am going to the cinema' gives us the who ('I'), and the where ('the cinema'). We don't have an exact 'when' (the speaker does not say 'now' or 'tomorrow'), but we can gather from the use of the present continuous that they will be going in the (near) future.

Deictic Example C:

'Are you going to join me?'

Deictic Example D:

'We arrived here last night, I think he will join us tomorrow.'

Deictic Example E:

'I'll be staying at this hotel until tomorrow.'

Section B

1. **Identify the type of Antonymy or incompatibility (binary, gradable, converses, or multiple incompatibles) for each pair of words below.**
   high/low, legal/illegal, punch/slap, lessor/lessee, husband/wife, expensive/cheap, higher/lower, table/chair, pregnant/not pregnant, parent/offspring.

Answer:

> high/low,- binary
>
> legal/illegal-binary
>
> punch/slap-gradable
>
> lessor/lessee-converses
>
> husband/wife, -converses
>
> expensive/cheap,- gradable
>
> higher/lower-binary
>
> table/chair- gradable
>
> pregnant/not pregnant,- binary
>
> parent/offspring- multiple incompatibiles.

2. **Supply as many paraphrases as you can for each of the following sentences. Remember that each paraphrase must have the same set of entailments as the original sentence.**

Answer:

> a. I gave my friend the book.
>
> b. Your child took the garbage out.
>
> c. Fred will likely win the race.
>
> d. It's easy to please John.
>
> e. I received the money from the sales clerk.