

Words



English 306A; Harris

Lexicalization

Bird-like-machine-shaped-concave-instrument-for-eating-with

English
Airplane spoon

French
Cuillère en forme d'avion

German
Flugzeuglöffel



English 306A; Harris

Lexicalization



English 306A; Harris

Symbolicity

A mode defined by relationship of arbitrariness,
convention, and learning

dog (English) leécaa'l (Navajo)
chien (French) kurii (Maori)
Hund (German) mbwa (Swahili)
perro (Spanish) khwei (Burmese)



English 306A: Harris

Quiz



English 306A: Harris

"Arbitrariness" of symbols



English 306A: Harris

"Arbitrariness" of symbols

Telephone words

- Ring
- Dial
- Hang up



English 306A: Harris

Where words come from From the imagination

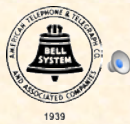
quark, googol, hobbit, gollum, ...



English 306A: Harris

Where words come from From the world

meow, bang, crackle, sploosh, ring, ...



English 306A: Harris

Iconicity – Sound



English 306A: Harris

Ring, rang, rung
 Splish, splash, sploosh,
 slosh, slush, sleet
 Doggie, kitty, itty bitty,
 teeny weenie
 Cock-a-doodle-do
 (English), cocorico
 (Spanish), kikeriki
 (German)

accused, addiction, aerial, alligator, amazement, anchovies, assassination, auspicious, backing, bandit, baseless, beached, bedroom, besmirch, bet, blanket, bloodstained, blushing, bump, buzzers, cake, cater, champion, circumstantial, compromise, conspicuous, cow, criticism, dauntless, dawn, deafening, denote, deracinate, design, dialogue, dickens, discontent, disgraceful, dislocate, divest, domineering, drug, dwindle, elbow, embrace, employer, engagements, enmesh, enrapt, epileptic, equivocal, eventful, excitements, exposure, eyeball, fashionable, film, fixture, foregone, forward, frugal, futurity, generous, gloomy, glow, gnarled, gossip, grovel, gust, hint, hobnob, humour, hurry, hush, immediacy, impedes, importantly, inaudible, instinctively, investments, invulnerable, jaded, jet, jig, juiced, kickshaws, label, kluster, lapse, laughable, leapfrog, lonely, lower, luggage, lustrous, madcap, majestic, manager, marketable, mimic, misgiving, misquote, monumental, mountaineer, negotiate, nervy, noiseless, numb, obsequiously, ode, olympian, oscene, outbreak, pageantry, pander, partner, pedant, perusal, petition, premeditated, promethean, puke, quarrelsome, questioning, radiance, rancorous, rant, reclusive, reinforcement, remorseless, retirement, reward, rive, roadway, rumination, sacrificial, sanctimonious, savagery, scuffles, secure, udders, softhearted, splitting, stealthy, submerge, swagger, switch, tardines, threateningly, tightly, torture, traditional, tranquil, transcendence, trippingly, unaware unclog, unmitigated, unreal, urging, varied, vaulting, viewless,

Where words come from

From other words

Semasiological

Permutations of form

- borrowing
- combining
- reducing
- (converting)

Onomasiological

Permutations of meaning

- metaphoric
- metonymic
- specialization
- generalization

English 306A: Harris

Where words come from
Semasiological processes

- borrowing
- combining
 - morphological (tune in later)
 - compounding
 - acronyms/abbreviations
 - blending
- reducing
 - clipping
 - acronyms/abbreviations
 - blending
- (converting)



English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes
Borrowing

sk
ch
py
bu
ty
to
ban
banjo
jazz
...

We dinna just borrow words.
On occasion, English has
pursued other languages,
down alleyways to get them
unconscious and into their
pockets for new vocabulary.

The form inevitably changes
(to accommodate the
borrowing language's
phonology), and the
meaning also shifts in
various ways



English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--borrowing + reanalysis
Folk etymologies

high muck-a-muck (or muckety-
muck)
from Chinook Jargon hayo
makamak ('one who has plenty
to eat')



English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--borrowing + reanalysis
Folk etymologies



Pink-stacios



English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--borrowing + reanalysis
Folk etymologies

Simple reanalysis

- crayfish (écrevisse)
- muskrat (musquash)
- belfrey (berfry)

Backformation
(reanalysis + morphological clipping)

- pea (pease)
- edit (editor)
- swindle (swindler)



English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--borrowing + reanalysis
Folk etymologies

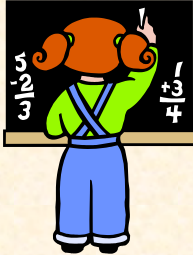
Historical analysis
Etymology
vs.
Current usage



English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--combining
Compounds

airplane
fire engine
greenhouse
tie-in
blackboard
wet suit

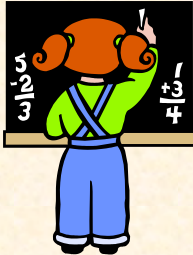


English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--combining
Compounds

Stress patterns
(like single words, not multiple words)


Orthographic possibilities
Glued together
Hyphenated
Nothing (just stress)



English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--reducing
Clipping

professor
hamburger
demonstration
facsimile
submarine sandwich
delicatessan
world wide web
internet



English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--reducing
Clipping

professor
 hamburger
 demonstration
 faxsimile
 submarine sandwich
 delicatessen
 world wide web
 internet




English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--reducing
Clipping

Current-usage comparison
 with parallel terms
 longer
 phonologically and
 conceptually similar

Historical comparison
 longer
 phonologically and
 conceptually similar



English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--reducing
Clipping

Often a form of jargon
 Efficiency
 In-group certification



English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--combining and reducing
Acronymns/Abbreviation

radar
scuba
snafu
fubar
twain

CBC
USA
WW1, WW2
WWW
PR



English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--combining and reducing
Acronymns/Abbreviation

radar
scuba
snafu
fubar
twain

} acronymns;
pronoun-
cable

CBC
USA
WW1, WW2
WWW
PR

} letter-
enunciation



English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--combining and reducing
Acronymns/Abbreviation

Jargons, Argots, Slangs

Similar to clipping
Efficiency
In-group certification
but
Stronger groupiness
More exclusive



With clipping the linkages are more apparent, so more easily recoverable by outsiders; acronymns and abbreviations require secret information, a key.

English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--combining and reducing
Acronymns/Abbreviation

txt msg ortholect

- AFAIK As far as I know
- ASAP As soon as possible
- B4 Before
- CULBTR See you later
- BAM By all means
- BAU Business as usual
- BCNU Be seeing you
- BD Brain-dead
- BTDT Been there, done that
- ...



English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--combining and reducing
Acronymns/Abbreviation

txt msg ortholect

- AFAIK As far as I know
- ASAP As soon as possible
- B4 Before (just reducing)
- CULBTR See you later
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English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--combining and reducing
Acronymns/Abbreviation

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- ...



Rebus principle
4 = [for]
8 = [ejt]

English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--combining and reducing
Acronyms/Abbreviation

Sometimes just efficiency

- USA
- CBC
- TV
- UW

Sometimes for a high-tech or generally authoritative ethos

- IBM
- BNR
- CIBC
- MIT



English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--combining and reducing
Blends

- smoke + fog
- motor + hotel
- aerobic + exercise
- breakfast + lunch
- information + entertainment
- education + entertainment
- Northern Telecom



English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--combining and reducing
Blends

- smoke + fog
- motor + hotel
- aerobic + exercise
- breakfast + lunch
- information + entertainment
- education + entertainment
- Northern + Telecom



English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--combining and reducing
Blends

smog
motel
aerobicise
brunch
infotainment
edutainment
NorTel



English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--combining and reducing
Blends

Current-usage comparison
with parallel terms

Multiple words
Phonologically and
conceptually similar

Historical comparison

Multiple words
Phonologically and
conceptually similar



English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--converting
Conversion (double-dipping)

permit pérmít
contést cónfest
survéy súrvey

butter dirty
ship empty
toast clean
nail paint



English 306A: Harris

Semasiological processes--converting
Conversion (double-dipping)

Stress patterns

Different lexical stress, but only for a few cases

Syntactic context

Infallible diagnostic.

"He *put butter* on the toast."

vs.

"He *buttered* the toast."



English 306A: Harris

Where words come from

Semasiological

Permutations of form

- borrowing
- combining
- reducing
- (converting)

Onomasiological

Permutations of meaning

- metaphoric
- metonymic
- specialization
- generalization

English 306A: Harris

Where words come from

Semasiological

Permutations of form

- borrowing
- combining
- reducing
- (converting)

Onomasiological

Permutations of meaning

- metaphoric **similarity**
- metonymic **association**
- specialization **narrowing**
- generalization **broadening**

English 306A: Harris

Metaphor

A new signified based on comparison

broadcast (to cast out seeds ⇒ to send out a signal)

mouse (little squeaky rodent ⇒ computer input device)



English 306A: Harris



Metonymy

A new signified based on physical or conceptual association

jaw (cheek ⇒ pointy boney thing underneath cheeks)

horn (boney animal projection (adapted to make sounds) ⇒ musical instrument)



English 306A: Harris



Specialization

Narrowing of signified

pill (a small, ingestible unit of solid medication
⇒ a small, ingestible unit of birth-control medication)

school (any learning institution ⇒ a specific type of learning)



English 306A: Harris



Specialization

hound

from *hund*, all domestic canines

meat

from *meat*, all edible substances

deer

from *deor*, wild beast

write

from *writan*, to scratch

girl

from *gerol*, young person



English 306A: Harris

Generalization

Broadening of signified

ship (send by boat ⇒ send by any means of transport)

school (learning institution ⇒ an intellectual or creative group)



English 306A: Harris



Generalization

dog

from *dogge*, a canine breed used for hunting

holiday

from *haligdæ*, a holy day

place

from *platea*, broad street

pants

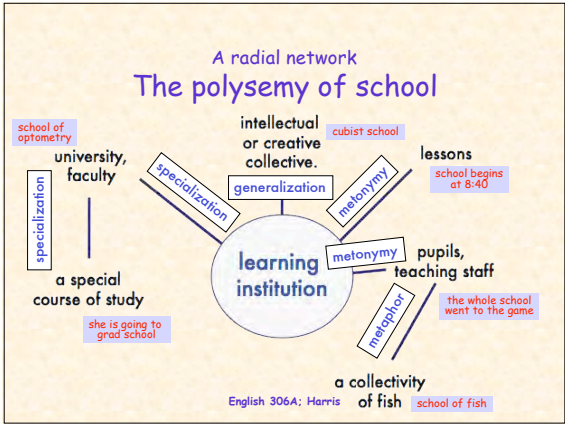
from *pantaloons*, long, baggy trousers

virtue

from *virtu*, manliness



English 306A: Harris







podcast



A digital audio download of autonomous radio programming.

English 306A: Harris

metrosexual



A straight man with the good taste of a gay; scrupulous about his grooming; big consumer of cosmetic products and high fashion suits.

English 306A: Harris

retrosexual



Antonym of "metrosexual": a straight guy who is scared of hair gel, doesn't know the difference between teal and aqua, wears sweats.

English 306A: Harris

adulescent



English 306A: Harris

An adult
dressing/carrying on
like a kid

kidult



English 306A: Harris

See "adulescent"

cube farm



English 306A: Harris

An office filled with
cubicles.

prairie dogging



When someone yells or drops something loudly in a Cube Farm, and people's heads pop up over the walls to see what's going on.

English 306A: Harris

assmosis



The process by which some people seem to absorb success and advancement by kissing up to the boss rather than working hard.

English 306A: Harris

salmon day



The experience of spending an entire day swimming upstream only to be screwed and die in the end.

English 306A: Harris

familymoon



A holiday taken after the wedding by a bride, a groom, and their children from previous marriages.

English 306A: Harris

mouse potato



The on-line version of the couch potato.

English 306A: Harris

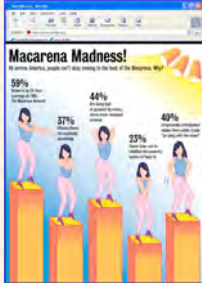
mousetrapping



A technique that forces a user to remain on a particular (usually pornographic or gambling) web page.

English 306A: Harris

macarena page



English 306A; Harris

A web page capitalizing on a current fad; usually full of fluff with a short shelf life.

rain dance



English 306A; Harris

A mostly ceremonial sequence of actions performed in the hope that they will solve a computer problem.

percussive maintenance



English 306A; Harris

Whacking an electronic device to get it to work again.

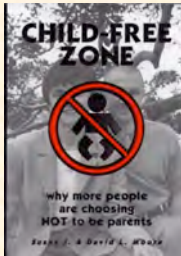
generica



Features of the North American landscape that are exactly the same no matter where one is, such as fast food joints, strip malls, subdivisions.

English 306A: Harris

vasectomy zoning



Zoning laws and other restrictions that aim to keep children out of an area or neighborhood.

English 306A: Harris



CLM

Career Limiting Move, like doing an uncannily accurate imitation of your boss while she is standing right behind you.

English 306A: Harris

Semasiology
Formal processes

Morphology

metrosexual, retrosexual, podcast

Blend

assmosis, adolescent, kidult, careware, familymoon, generica,

Conversion

prairie dog[ging], mousetrap[ping]

Abbreviation

CLM

Compounding

mall rat (metrosexual, retrosexual, podcast)

English 306A: Harris

Semasiology
Formal processes

Nada

rain dance, cube farm, macarena page, salmon day, mouse potato, percussive maintenance, vasectomy zoning

Purely onomasiological

rain dance: new context of use; new sense; new idiom
cube farm, macarena page, salmon day, mouse potato,
percussive maintenance, vasectomy
zoning: new adjectival modifications;
the creation of new phrases, or
idioms, but not new words



English 306A: Harris

Onomasiology
Conceptual processes

Metaphor

mall rat, kidult, adolescent, rain dance, percussive maintenance, prairie dogging, mousetrapping, cube farm, salmon day, mouse potato

Metonymy

mall rat, macarena page, mouse potato, cube farm, mousetrapping, metrosexual, retrosexual, assmosis, vasectomy zoning

Purely semasiological

CLM

English 306A: Harris

Onomasiology
Conceptual processes

Metaphor
mall rat, kidult, adulescent, rain dance, **mousetrapping**,
percussive maintenance, prairie dogging, **cube farm**, salmon day,
mouse potato

Metonymy
mall rat, macarena page, **mousetrapping**, metrosexual,
retrosexual, assmosis, **cube farm**, vasectomy zoning, **mouse**
potato

Purely semasiological
CLM

English 306A: Harris


Where words come from
Onomasiological processes

Metaphoric
Meaning shift on the basis of similarity

Metonymic
Meaning shift on the basis of association

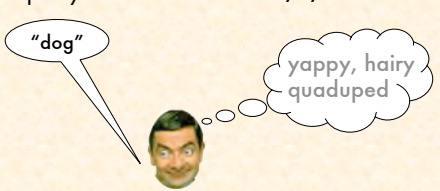
Specialization
A narrowing of meaning (down the
hypernym/hyponym link)

Generalization
A broadening of meaning (up the
hypernym/hyponym link)



English 306A: Harris

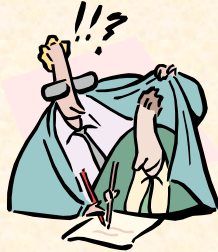
<p>Signifier Semasiology</p> <p>Word form polysemy homophony</p>	<p>Signified Onomasiology</p> <p>Concept evoked synonymy antonymy</p>
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English 306A: Harris

Onomasiology
Synonymy

Lawyer, Attorney,
Barrister, Solicitor,
Shyster, Ambulance-
chaser, ...



English 306A: Harris

Onomasiology
Word formation

Lawyer, Attorney,
Barrister, Solicitor,
Shyster, Ambulance-
chaser, ...

- a) metaphor
- b) metonymy
- c) iconicity
- d) all of the above
- e) none of the above



English 306A: Harris

Semasiology
Word formation

Lawyer, Attorney,
Barrister, Solicitor,
Shyster, Ambulance-
chaser, ...

- a) blend
- b) clipping
- c) morphological
- d) compounding
- e) conversion



English 306A: Harris

Onomasiology
Antonymy

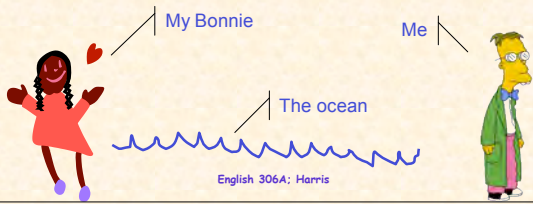
black/white,
up/down, boy/girl,
stop/go, cat/dog,
student/professor, ...



English 306A: Harris

Semasiology
Homophony (lies)

My Bonnie lies over the ocean.
(That's where she lives; "lies" ≈ 'lives'.)



English 306A: Harris

Semasiology
Homophony (lies)

My Bonnie lies over the ocean.
(Don't believe her on a transAtlantic flight;
"lies" ≈ 'tells fibs'.)



English 306A: Harris

Semasiology
Homophony (hoe/ho)

Two (or more) words (therefore, two or more meanings) that happen to sound the same; a product of coincidence.

Ho as in prostitute.

Hoe as in garden implement.



English 306A: Harris

Semasiology
Homophony (bear/bare/bear)

Two (or more) words (therefore, two or more meanings) that happen to sound the same; a product of coincidence.

Bear as in ursidae.

Bare as in naked.

Bear as in carry.



English 306A: Harris

Semasiology
Polysemy (bear)

Tolerate (I can't bear his jokes.)

Give testimony (I bear witness.)

Have as an identification (We bear the same name.)

Give birth (She can bear children.)

Produce as yield (It has been known to bear fruit.)

Support the weight (That pillar bears the weight of the whole first floor.)

Maintain (They bear me a grudge.)



English 306A: Harris

Semasiology
Polysemy (lies)

My Bonnie lies over the ocean.
Lies: (1) is supine
(2) dwells

Which sense is prototypical?

"lie" = to be supine.

"lie" = the place where one is habitually supine.

English 306A; Harris

Semasiology
Polysemy (lies)

My Bonnie lies over the ocean.
Lies: (1) is supine
(2) dwells

Metaphor or Metonymy?

"lie" = to be supine.

"lie" = the place where one is habitually supine.

English 306A; Harris

Semasiology
Polysemy (lies)

My Bonnie lies over the ocean.
Lies: (1) is supine
(2) dwells

Metonymy!

"lie" = to be supine.

"lie" = the place where one is habitually supine.

English 306A; Harris

Semasiology
Polysemy

Meaning extension

- Metonymy selection
- Metaphor comparison
- Specialization narrowing
- Generalization broadening

English 306A: Harris

Semasiology
Polysemy (over)

My Bonnie lies over the ocean.
Over: (1) directly above
(2) on the other side of

English 306A: Harris

Word classes

Content words	Function words
Carry the semantic burden; less important syntactically. Open class.	Do much of the syntactic syntactic work; relatively lightweight semantically. Closed class.

English 306A: Harris

Word classes

Content words	Function words
Nouns Verbs Adjectives Adverbs	Prepositions Determiners Particles Qualifiers Degree words Pronouns Etc. etc. etc.

English 306A: Harris

Word class diagnostics

Semantic

What sort of signifieds does the category evoke?

Morphological

Which affixes (if any) are legitimate?

Syntactic

Which other words does it co-occur with, and in what order?

English 306A: Harris

English Nouns

Semantic

Person, place, or thing.

Morphological

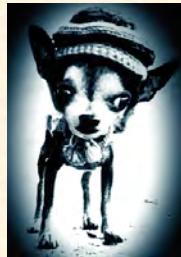
Takes plural and possessive suffixes.

dogs, dog's

Syntactic

Follows articles and adjectives, in that order.

a dog, the dog, a big dog,
the green dog



English 306A: Harris

English Adjectives

Semantic

A quality, attribute, or property (of a person, place, or thing).

Morphological

Takes comparative and superlative suffixes.

big, bigger, biggest

Syntactic

Precedes nouns, follows degree word.

The very **big** boy.



English 306A: Harris

English verbs

Semantic

An action or state.



English 306A: Harris

English verbs

Semantic

An action or state.

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| | |
| nod | know |
| talk | agree |
| listen | hear |
| feel | feel |
| jump | believe |
| run | doubt |
| hit | recognize |
| manipulate | hate |
| ... | ... |



English 306A: Harris

English verbs

Morphological

Take four suffixes:

past tense	nod <u>ded</u>
3sg present	nod <u>s</u>
past participle	(has) nod <u>ded</u> , (had) nod <u>ded</u>
pres. participle	(is) nod <u>ding</u> , (was) nod <u>ding</u>

English 306A; Harris

English verbs

Syntactic

Can follow an auxiliary verb.

He can **nod** his head.

She will **know** that he is looking for his puppy.



English 306A; Harris

English adverbs

Semantic

Modifies (in manner, time or location) an action or state.



English 306A; Harris

English adverbs

Morphological



(though many of them end in -ly.)



English 306A; Harris

English adverbs

Morphological



Inflectional

(though many of them end in -ly.)



derivational



English 306A; Harris

English adverbs

Syntactic

Follows a verb.

They nod **vigorously**.
(Weak test, but compare
"They nod friendly")



English 306A; Harris

Function words

Highly specific tests for individual word category; treat them as belonging to one big bag, 'not content words'.



English 306A: Harris

http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~raha/306a_web/wordcategories.pdf
[EnglishInflectionalAffixes.pdf](#)

English 306A: Harris


Words

Linguistic building blocks
Word formation processes
Semasiology
Onomasiology
Word classes



English 306A: Harris


Semasiology	Onomasiology
Word Formation (building new signified/signifier relations)	
Morphological	Metaphor
Compounding	Metonymy
Conversion	Specialization
Clipping	Generalization
Blending	
Folk etymology	
Semantic Categories (classifying signified/signifier relations)	
Polysemy	Synonymy
Homophony	Antonymy



English 306A: Harris

Word classes

Content	Function
Nouns	Everything else
Verbs	
Adjectives	
Adverbs	



English 306A: Harris
