Semantic Relations and the Lexicon

Seminar Relations and the Lexicon explores the many paradigmatic semantic relations between words, such as synonymy, antonymy and hyponymy, and their relevance to the mental organization of our vocabularies. Drawing on a century’s research in linguistics, psychology, philosophy, anthropology and computer science, Lynne Murphy proposes a new, pragmatic approach to these relations. Whereas traditional approaches to the lexicon have claimed that paradigmatic relations are part of our lexical knowledge, Dr Murphy argues that they constitute metalinguistic knowledge, which can be derived through a single relational principle, and may also be stored as part of our conceptual representation of a word. Part I shows how this approach can account for the properties of lexical relations in ways that traditional approaches cannot, and Part II examines particular relations in detail. This book will serve as an informative handbook for all linguists and cognitive scientists interested in the mental representation of vocabulary.

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*Antonymy, Synonymy, and Other Paradigms*

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For Mom, Dad, and Georgia
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Symbols and typographical conventions

| **Bold** | indicates new terminology where it is defined. |
| **Italic** | indicates linguistic data, e.g., headwords of lexical entries. |
| **SMALL CAPS** | indicate concepts. |
| **ITAL SM CAPS** | indicate (metalinguistic) concepts of words. |
| ‘x’ | Single quotes surround meanings or senses of linguistic expressions. |
| x=y | \(x\) and \(y\) are synonyms. |
| x≈y | \(x\) and \(y\) are near-synonyms. |
| x/y | \(x\) and \(y\) are in a contrastive relation. |
| x-y | \(x\) and \(y\) are in an undefined or non-semantic relation. |
| x<y | \(x\) is subordinate to \(y\) in an asymmetrical relation, such as hyponymy or meronymy. (E.g., “\(x\) is a hyponym of \(y\).”) |
| x>y | \(x\) is superordinate to \(y\) in an asymmetrical relation, such as hyponymy or meronymy. (E.g., “\(x\) is a hyperonym of \(y\).”) |