

**Dr. Bill
Vicars
Lifeprint.
com**

ASL

Linguistics:

Semantics

**What is
the sign
for
NAME?**

**What is
the sign
for
ROME?**

**LIS = Italian
Sign**

Language

Lingua dei

Segni Italiana

**Meaning
is
determined
by...**

... a

specific

community

of users.

Determined

=

decided

= agreed

**Dictionary
problem:**

**Same
sign /
different
glosses**

**Can you think
of any signs
that have more
than one
English
interpretation?**

**Lets
discuss
types of
meaning...**

3 types of meaning



Referential

Social

Affective

Referential meaning



**idea,
thing,
state of
affairs**

CAT = 4

legs, tail,

whiskers,

etc.

**The "cat"
is a
referent of
the sign
CAT.**

**REFER =
NAME-
(verb)**

**REFER =
LABEL**



Social

Meaning



**Sign
choices
reveal
social
information**

where

from

**male or
female**

**African
American
or
Caucasian**

example:
AWFUL

Affective Meaning



**Sign
choices
reflect
your**

**feelings,
attitudes,
opinions**

Example:

"fascinating

research"

VS...

“boring

old

project”

Shows

your

attitude

affective

=

feelings

**Referential
meaning
= What**

Social

meaning

= Who

**Affective
meaning**

=

How feel

**Referential
meaning =
denotation**

**Social and
Affective
meaning =
Connotation**

Example:

“dEAF” =

denotation

Example:

***D*EAFF =**

connotation

affektive

=

feelings

**Referential
meaning**

=

What

Social

meaning

=

Who

**Affective
meaning**

=

How feel

Denotation

=

**Referential
meaning**

Connotation

=

**Social and
Affective
meaning**

**What is a
lexicon?**

**A set of
words
known by
users of a
language.**

Lexicon

=

Vocabulary

set

**What is a
Lexical
item?**

**A word
(or sign).**

The study of

semantics

includes

considering



**Relationships of
meaning
between
“lexical items”
(words or
signs)**

Ways

words are

related in

meaning

**Will
teach
you six
ways.**

Consider.

APPLE

& CAR

**Are
APPLE
& CAR
related?**

APPLE

& CAR

Are **not**

related

Consider:

BLUE RED

YELLOW

GREEN

ORANGE

PURPLE

**...are
types of
what?**

COLOR

BLUE, RED,

etc. have a

relationship

with

COLOR

**That
relationship
is called:**

1. **Hyponymy**

**BLUE, RED,
YELLOW,
etc. are
hyponyms**

COLOR is

a

hypernym

Example:

Sign

Language:

ASL, LSF,

LIS, LSQ

“hyper”

means

“over” or

above.

**Is "RED"
a color?**

Duh.

**I have a
point.**

Consider:

HAND

& ARM

**Is a
HAND
an ARM?**

No.

We are

not

discussing

hyponymy.

New type

of

meaning



**The
relationship
between a
hand and an
arm is a:**

2.

**Part/Whole
Relationship**

**Another
example:**

PHONOLOGY
and
LINGUISTICS

Note...

RED is a
type of
color...

HAND is
a *part* of
an arm.

**Phonology
is not a
type of
linguistics.**

**Phonology
is a part of
linguistics.**

**So far we've
talked about
what two types
of relationships
between signs?**

- 1. Hyponymy**
- 2. Part/Whole**

**New
relationship...**

Consider:

soda

& pop

sofa &

couch

**Two words
that mean
the same
thing are...**

Synonyms

3. **Synonymy**

**Consider
however:**

**“Denotative
Synonymy”
means ...**

**“Refer to
the same
thing.”**

Two signs can denote (or refer to) the same thing but have a different connotation (social or affective meaning).

**Can have
different
connotative
meaning.**

**Connotatively
not
synonymous**

Connotative
= social and
affective

Connotative
= who &
how feel

**DEAF ("index" hand)
& DEAF (A-5 hand) are
denotatively similar
(synonymy) but
connotatively dissimilar.**