# REFERENCE, DEIXIS AND SENSE

These refer to two different ways of talking about the meanings of words and other expressions

* The speaker indicates which things in the world are being talked about by means of reference
* Reference deals with the relationship between

## language and the world

* This laptop is on the table.
* This laptop (identifies a thing) is on the table (identifies the thing)
* The black dog (identifies the thing) killed a cat. (identifies the thing)
* *That girl (identifies person) stole the umbrella.(identifies thing)*
* “this laptop” is a noun phrase. It is part of the English language.
* “this laptop” identifies a laptop a particular laptop which can be switched on and off, or pointed at. It is part of the world.
* The noun phrase “this laptop” is part of the language. But this laptop-the real machine, a type of computer- is not part of the language because language is not made up of laptops.
* “This laptop” - the noun phrase, refers to this laptop – a type of computer.
* “This laptop” a computer is the **referent** of this laptop – the noun phrase.
* **Referent** is **the thing, a thing**, **person** in the world being referred to.

## The relationship between them is reference.

* **Definition: Reference is the relationship between language and things outside language – in the world**.
* Does the expression *that girl* always refer to the same girl all the time? What of *the umbrella?*
* These expressions may have as many different referents as there are girls and umbrellas in the world.
* Same expression like “that girl” can be used to refer to many different girls depending on:
	+ (1) the **circumstances** (**time, place**. Etc.) and
	+ (2) **topic of conversation**
	+ e.g. *The President of South Africa* has changed three times since democracy
* Expressions like *your head, my car* have variable reference
* The referent of “President of South Africa” would be:
* In 1995 – Mandela Nelson
* In 2000 - Thabo Mbeki
* 2009 – Jacob Zuma
* Two different expressions can have the same referent *e.g. Morning star* and *Evening star* both usually refer to the planet Venus
* In a situation where Bongani is standing on his head in the middle of a room – Bongani and the person standing on his head in the middle of the room have the same reference.
* **Def:** where the expression refers to one fixed thing *e.g. the moon, Republic of South Africa?*
* Expressions like *the sun, the moon* always refer to the same referent.
* Do the following expressions have constant reference or not when used in everyday situations?
* *Africa*
* *mountain*
* In everyday conversation fixing a reference comes from **context** in which an expression is used.
* While the moon, the sun, South Africa and Zambia, have constant reference, one has to be careful in conversation mentioning people and things that the speaker and hearer are both referring to the same people and same things.
* Referents are always **noun phrases** – i.e. people and things.
* **Definition:** ‘Any expression used in an utterance to refer to **something** or **someone**,

i.e. used with a particular referent in mind’ Hurford and Heasley 1987

* Refers to a particular **referent** on a particular occasion
* Examples. Could the following be used as referring expressions?
* *Sibonelo*
* *My son*
* *love*
* *The man sitting by the window*
* *go*
* *anger*
* *a man*
* *“Fred* hit me” The speaker has a particular person in mind when he/she says *“Fred”* **Referring expression**
* *“*There is no *Fred* in this room” Here the speaker is **not referring** to any particular person through the expression *“Fred”*
* **Referring expressions** and **utterances** both operate in **real circumstances.**
* The same expression can be a referring expression or not, depending on the context
* E.g
	+ (a) When a speaker says, “John knocked down *a man* this morning, who lay by the roadside until he was collected by the ambulance. “Is *a man* a referring expression?
	+ (b) When a speaker says, “*A man* enjoys his beer

*with wors.”* is *a man* a referring expression?

* Use of articles ‘a’, and ‘the’ not necessarily a guide to the presence or absence of a referring expression
* “*The whale* is a mammal” is not a referring expression in spite of the definite article
* Are the underlined referring expressions or not?
* *He married a South African.*
* *He wanted to hire a South African.*
* *She bought a house.*
* Deixis is borrowed from Greek and it means pointing
* Deictic expressions are words which ‘take some element of their meaning from the situation (i.e. the **speaker**, **the addressee, time** and **place**) of the utterance’ Hurford & Heaslop, 1987:63
* Deictic expressions ‘vary in meaning depending upon who is using them, where they are being uttered and when they are being uttered’ Carter et al 2010 p11
* Help hearer to identify the referent of a referring expression e.g. *this river, that house*
* Are the following words deictic:
* *there*
* *next week*
* *Place*
* *front*
* *today?*
* Can be grouped into sub-types:
* **Personal** e.g. *I, You, She, etc*
* **Demonstratives** e.g.
* *this*
* *that,*
* *those*
* **Spatial/Place** e.g.
* *here,*
* *there,*
* *that river*
* **Temporal/Time** e.g.
* *today,*
* *tomorrow,*
* *etc.*
* **Verbs** can also have deictic function e.g. *come,*

(towards the speaker)

* *bring (towards the speaker)*
* *go (away from the speaker)*
* *take*
* **Tense** the present, past and the future are defined by reference to the time of utterance
* *‘He went home.’ Did he go home* ***before****,* ***at****, or* ***after***

*the time of the utterance?*

* *‘He is going home’ ?*
* **Reported speech** deictic words in original utterance have to be changed to preserve the original referent
* ‘I will sell this house as I no longer want to live here.’ becomes
* ‘He said he wanted to sell that house as he no longer wanted to live there .’
* Relationships inside the language
* **Definition:** ‘Sense of an expression is its place in a system of **semantic relationships** with other expressions in the language’ Hurford J.R & Heasley , 1987:28
* There are different sense relations; *sameness of meaning, ambiguity, contradiction, etc.*
* Sense relations at word and expression level
* There are several kinds of relations between lexemes/words
* Some of the relations result from the way lexemes occur in sequence (syntagmatic relations)
* Others from the way in which lexemes can substitute for each other (paradigmatic relations).
* **Syntagmatic** – refers to the way lexemes or words are arranged in an expression or sentence
	+ “*She spurned him*

-

*rejected*

rebuffed

  **paradigmatic**

* **Paradigmatic:** a relationship where lexemes can substitute each other
	+ *“She spurned him”*

–

* + *rejected*
	+ paradigmatic
	+ *rebuffed*
* A lexeme can also be contrasted with another
* ***Is he a new teacher? No he is an old teacher***
* Will focus on paradigmatic relations – relations of sameness, difference, contradiction
* a relationship of ‘sameness’ of sense
* synonym is a word which has the same, or nearly the same sense as another word
* **synonymy** is the relationship between two words/predicates that have the same meaning
* 1. Hide /conceal
* 2. He hid the money
* 3. He concealed the money
* 4. Almost/nearly
* 5. Probable/likely
* Note there are no real synonyms in the sense that lexemes rarely (if ever) have same meaning.
* Synonymy not similarity of meaning but rather sameness of sense
* A lexeme/word can have more than one sense

e.g **coach** (verb) and **coach** (noun)

* Thus the sense of a word will come from its use in context
* Ways in which possible synonyms will differ:
* (a) Regional differences: Some sets of synonyms belong to two different dialects of the same language.eg. ***apartment/flat***; ***autumn/fall***; ***sidewalk, pavement***
* (b) Stylistic differences: Brought about due to style i.e. whether formal, colloquial or familiar, etc. e.g. ***pass away, die*. Kids/children**
* Emotional differences: brought about due to emotive meanings or evaluative meanings. ***gentlemen/man***
* (d) Collocation/context- The occurrence, e.g. range and selection in the sentences. What a

nice mountain

of cars. There is the

.

* One way of testing synonymy is substituting one word for another. e.g.
* *Her decision was questionable/debatable/dubious*
* Some words are interchangeable in a certain environment only.
* *Certain* has the same sense as *definite, sure, obvious, clear, determined* but which word to use from the list will depend on the context
* *Deep/profound sympathy*
* *Deep river but* ***not*** *profound river*
* *I need a wide/broad ribbon*
* *A wide skirt but* ***not*** *a broad skirt*
* *Fill the pot with earth/soil:*
* *But The earth is round and not the soil is round*
* **Paraphrase** – a sentence that expresses the same proposition as another sentence is a paraphrase of that sentence
* *Cele bought the red sports car.* is a paraphrase of *The red sports car was bought by Cele.*
* (a) *The fly was on the wall* and (b) *The wall was under the fly*
* (a) *Some people love oranges* and (b) *Not all people love oranges*
* A sense relation between words or longer phrases such that the meaning of one word or phrase is included in the meaning of the other
* Meaning of a word/phrase is included in the meaning of others
* hyponymy is a matter of class membership.
* Inclusion of the sense of one item in the sense of another
* *Emotion* (Hypernym)includes *fear, love, hatred, happiness,* (Hyponyms of emotion) *etc.*
* *Dog (Hypernym)* includes (various types of dogs constituting Hyponyms) *, ,*
* **superordinate** is the class name or a general term that includes different words or entities representing narrower categories
* **hyponyms** are the lower members
* *emotion, dog* are superordinate/ hypernym terms
* examples -,
* Oppositeness of meaning or senses
* Words can be opposite in meaning in different ways
* Words which work in pairs and between them exhaust all relevant possibilities
* *true* and *false.* If something is true it cannot be false
* *male* and *female*?
* *same* and *different*
* *buy* and *sell*
* *other examples , -,*
* these are two way contrasts that are interdependent such as ***buy/sell*** or ***parent/child***: One member of presupposes another.
* **converses** are pairs of words that refer to a relationship from opposite points of view.
* **These are expressions which express a relationship between two things such that one of the expressions conveys the relationship in one order and the other expression conveys the relationship in the opposite order.**
* e.g. if X is the *husband* of Y then Y has to be the *wife* of X
* *son – father*
* *love – hate No*
* *bigger than – smaller than*
* *give – take No*
* *buy – sell*
* *above – below*
* Words or predicates are gradable if they are at opposite ends of a continuous scale
* they permit the expression of degree or range and do not correspond to absolute properties *e.g.*
* tall – short
* big – small
* hot - cold
* test for gradability is to check whether a word can take *very, very much, how, how much*
* *how cold? How hot?*
* *Are the following words gradable or not?*
* *easy – difficult*
* *near – far*
* *ugly – beautiful*
* *urban - rural*
* ‘Under this heading are grouped sets of lexemes that are mutually exclusive members of the same superordinate category’ Crystal (1987) 105
* e.g. *red, green,* etc. are incompatible lexemes within the category colour (superordinate)
* *Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, etc. under Days of the week*
* refers to many members of a system each of which stands in opposition to the others so as to define itself
* sets of items containing more than two members, each with *the same point of similarity,* each with *the distinguishing characteristics*
* e.g. playing cards *( hearts, spades, diamonds and clubs)*
* physical state (*air, liquid and solid)*
* members of the system cover all the relevant areas.

e.g. days of the week – 7

* Also open-ended systems of multiple incompatibility

*e.g. names of trees in English,*

**Hyponymy/Multiple incompatibility**

* Which of the following describes Hyponymy (H)
* sense of inclusion H/M?
* exclusion H/M?
* meaning of one in the other H/M?
* Classify the following pairs as binary (B), converses (C), multiple incompatibles (M) or gradable antonyms (G).
* honesty – patience
* love – hate
* below – above
* spring – winter
* good – evil
* relationship between sentences
* a proposition is a **contradictory** of another proposition if it is impossible for them both to be true at the same time and of the same circumstances
* e.g. *This room is painted white* is a contradictory of *This room is not painted*
* *e.g.*
* a **word or sentence** is ambiguous if it has more than **one sense**
* **Sentence** is ambiguous if it has two or more paraphrases which are not themselves paraphrases of each other
* e.g. *The turkey is ready to eat (*The turkey is ready to be eaten **paraphrase 1** And The turkey is ready to eat some food **paraphrase 2**)
	+ *We laughed at the colourful ball* **Paraphrase 1** We laughed at the dance **paraphrase 2** We laughed at the ball which had so many colours
	+ *He said he would file it on Monday* **Paraphrase 1--------------**

**------------- Paraphrase 2**

**------------------------------**

**----------------------------------------------**

* *John and Susan are married.*
* *The boy saw the man with the telescope.*
* The following words are ambiguous. Provide synonymous words or phrases to distinguish them:
* coach……………………. vs……………………….
* bank………………………. vs …………………….
* ear…………………………. vs …………………….
* mug……………………….. vs ……………………
* a word/phrase is ambiguous if it has two or more **synonyms** that are not themselves synonyms of each other
* e.g. *bright (a)* clever or smart (b) shining
	+ *coach* (a) trainer (b) bus
	+ *bat (a)* a piece of equipment used in cricket (b) bird
* **Homonymy** is a case of an ambiguous word whose distinct senses are apart from each other and not really related to each other
* *bat* –the two meanings are not related
* *plot – (a)* piece of ground & (b) a plan of a literary work. These are not related
* *bank –* the meanings are not related
* Do not confuse homonyms with homophones
* Homophony is a linguistic (phonological) phenomenon where words of different origins become identical in pronunciation only.
* A homophone is one of a group of words pronounced in exactly the same way, but differing in spelling and meaning.
* bear and bare
* dear and deer
* two, to and too
* meet and meat
* **Polysemy** occurs where a word has two or more related senses
* *bright* (intelligent & shining)
* *ceiling* (upper limit & top inner surface of a room)
* *fork* (instrument for eating & bend in a road)
* **Structural ambiguity** is where a sentence is ambiguous because its words relate to each other in different ways, even though none of the individual words are ambiguous
* *The turkey is ready to eat*
* *wealthy men and women*
* *Sibonelo can see the people with binoculars*
* **Lexical ambiguity** is where the ambiguity results from the ambiguity of a word
* Lexical ambiguity a result of polysemy and homophony
* *Mandla bought a pen* ( writing instrument & a small cage)
* Explain the ambiguity in the following by giving two different paraphrases
* *Mpho gave her cat food*
* *Brian hit the old lady with an umbrella*
* occurs if a phrase can be used to a wide range of different things or persons
* e.g. pronoun *she* or *he* can be used to refer to any female or male person
* *mother, sister, aunt*
* This happens when the reference is unclear
* Occurs when some **gradable nouns** or **adjectives**

are used as they do not have absolute meaning

* e.g. *far & near*
* *that hill & that mountain*
* Similarly a tall person in a very small society (pygmies) would be considered short in a society where the normal height is much greater.
* Referential vagueness is not ambiguity.
* Comes about because of word order
* a question of what goes with what grammatically.
* e.g. *ripe apples and pears ( are they both ripe? Are apples only ripe?)*
* *cooked bacon and egg*
* This is a case of semantic oddness
* It normally involves a word or predicate not used in a literal sense
* Usually refers to metaphorical use of words
* *e.g. His ideas were green*
* *Mpho murdered the poem*
* *He speaks broken English*
* *My shoes are killing me.*

* Metonyms are cases where a single word is substituted for a whole phrase or an attribute of something is used for the thing meant
* A metonym is ‘a word that substitutes for an object the name of an attribute or concept associated with that object’ Fromkin, V et. al. 2007. p192
* Semantic relationship between two words in which one word is metaphorically used in place of the other word
* ‘brass’ for military officers
* ‘Number 10 Downing Street’ for the Prime Minister of England
* “Bottle” for (a bottle) of alcoholic beverage. c.f. “He’s on the bottle”

– “He’s drinking a lot”.)

* pen for written words e.g. ‘the pen is mightier than the sword.’
* ‘wheels’ for car
* **Lexical or Structural ambiguity? Give the different paraphrases**
* (a) We can fish.
1. Go fishing
	* (b) Visiting relati2o. nPsutcfaisnh inbceanbs oring.
2. Going to you relatives…
3. Relatives coming to visit…
	* (c) We had to decide on the train.
4. When inside the train…
5. Choose the train.
	* (d) He observed Mbali in the garden 1. Mbali was in the garden.
	* (e) Look at the spring.
6. Coil
7. The observer in the garden.
	* **Polysemy or Homonymy?** 2. Season

3. Water source

* + bark
	+ mouth
	+ cross

homonymy Polysemy

Polysemy / homonymy

## Supply co-hyponyms of the following super- ordinates.

* + (a) move
	+ (b) vehicles
	+ (c) furniture
	+ (d) accommodation
	+ A ‘proposition X entails a proposition Y if the truth of Y follows necessarily from the truth of X’ Hurford, J. R and Heaslop, B, 1987:107
	+ A relation in which the truth of one sentence necessarily implies the truth of another.
	+ *(a) The poachers killed a rhino.*
	+ *(b) A rhino is dead.*

If it is true that the poacher

killed the rhino, then it is also true that the rhino is dead.

* + *(c) Thandeka killed Winnie.*
	+ *(d) Winnie died.*
	+ Assuming Thandeka and Winnie have the same referents in both sentences and the time referred to by killed and died refer to the same hypothetical time of the utterance, then there is a case of entailment in the two sentences above.
	+ Note that Winnie died could NOT be true BEFORE Thandeka killed Winnie.
	+ *Winnie died* does not entail *Thandeka killed Winnie* as Winnie could have died of other causes.
	+ *(a) Thandeka boiled an egg.* Entails
	+ *(b) Thandeka cooked an egg.*
	+ But *Thandeka cooked an egg* DOES NOT ENTAIL *Thandeka boiled an egg* because COOKED may mean: roasted, boiled, fried, scrambled, stewed etc.
	+ *(c) He saw an ostrich. Entails*
	+ *(d) He saw a bird.*
	+ *But not the other way round.*
	+ (e) *Themba bought a house.* Entails
	+ (f) *Themba bought something.*
	+ *But not the other way round.*
	+ Entailment can be accumulative *i.e.* if X entails Y and Y entails Z then X entails Z
	+ X, *The girls run down the hill* entails Y, *Kids ran down the hill*
	+ Y, *Kids run down the hill* entails Z, *The kids went down the hill.*
	+ **Thus** X, *The girls run down the hill* entails Z, *The kids went down the hill.*
	+ The two sentences which have the same entailments are paraphrases of each other.
	+ **Paraphrase** is symmetric (two-way) entailment. Two sentences are said to be paraphrases of each other if and only if they have the same set of entailments.
	+ (a) *Vusi and Thandeka are twins* ENTAILS
	+ (b) *Thandeka and Vusi are twins*
	+ *(a) entails (b) and (b) entails (a) –Mutual entailment is symmetrical entailment*
	+ So entailment is a one way process.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Relation between pairs of sentences** | **Relation between pairs of words** |
| Not necessarily symmetric (i.e. can be ‘one-way’) | entailment | hyponymy |
| Symmetric (i.e. ‘both ways’) | paraphrase | synonymy |

**Taken from Hurford, J. & Heaslop, B., 1987:109**

* + What is the relationship between the following words?
	+ Sheep- animal
	+ Rose – flower
	+ Copper – mineral
	+ The words – *sheep*, *rose, copper* **entail** the words *animal*, *flower*, *mineral* as they are hyponyms of super-ordinate terms animal, flower, mineral
	+ What is the relationship between the following sentences?
	+ A. *The child was chewing a biscuit*
	+ *B. The child was chewing something.*
	+ *A. Thandeka was chased by the dog.*
	+ *B. Thandeka was chased by an animal.*
	+ Sometimes you have to be more specific and carefully establish the context and check for reference.
	+ (a) *If all Vusi’s sheep have foot and mouth*. **Then**
	+ *(b) All vusi’s animals have foot and mouth*. **ONLY** if Vusi has only sheep. (His animal may be cows, horses and pigs but no sheep.)
	+ Conversely: If Vusi only has sheep, then if:
	+ (a) All vusi’s sheep have foot and mouth. **Then**
	+ (b) Vusi’s animals have foot and mouth.
	+ Gradable words (adjectives and adverbs) tall/big, cheap etc. create a problem.
	+ If;
	+ *(a) I saw a big mouse. (Did I see a big animal?)*
	+ *(b) I saw a big mouse. DOES not ENTAIL*
	+ *(c) I saw a big animal.* Since a mouse (even a big one) is not a big animal. The scale is different for referents implied.
	+ **Paraphrases:** same propositional content
	+ **Contradiction:** a proposition is **contradictory** of another proposition if it is impossible for them both to be true at the same time and of the same circumstances
	+ **Entailment:** A relation in which the truth of one sentence necessarily implies the truth of another.