

Sense Relations 2

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LING 405

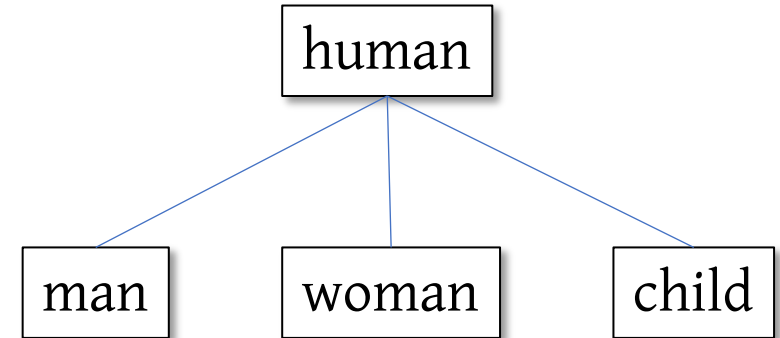
27 October 2023

What we'll cover...

1. Finishing chapter 6
2. For next week

Hyponymy

- What's a hyponym?
- What's a hyperonym?
- What's a superordinate?

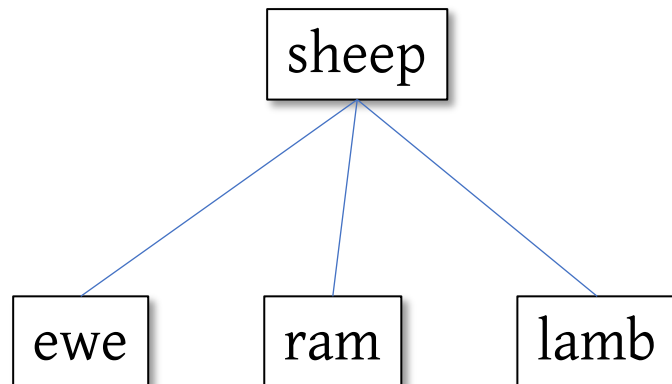


Defining words

- Words are often defined by specifying the hyperonym and the modifiers that distinguish that particular word.



ewe 'adult female sheep'



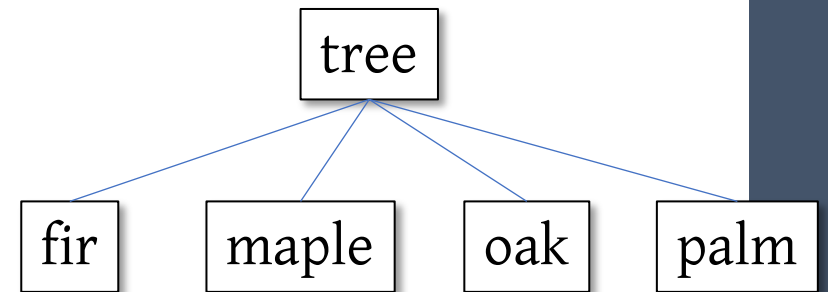
Ewe is a kind of sheep – sheep is the superordinate/hyperonym.

Adult and female are the modifiers. They distinguish the ewe from other hyponyms of sheep.

Defining words

Lexicographer: A writer of dictionaries; a harmless drudge that busies himself in tracing the [origin], and detailing the signification of words.

- a. *fir* (N): a kind of **tree** [with evergreen needles].⁸
- b. *rectangle* (N): a [right-angled] **quadrilateral**.⁹
- c. *clean* (Adj): **free** [from dirt].¹⁰



Superordinates are in **bold**.

Modifiers are in [square brackets]

Defining words

- How might we define the following? Specify the superordinate and modifiers that you use.

mansion

month

rectangle

football

satellite

squirrel

lemon

novella

beer

piano

playwright

engagement ring

father

poet

cupcake

girl

journalist

leg

Defining words

- Some words can be difficult to define in this way. It can be easier to define these words by using synonyms or antonyms.
- Try to define the following words with synonyms or antonyms:

grumpy

tall

timid

sad

heavy

hot

free

smart

wild

pure

luminous

aggressive

happy

brave

dark

Defining words

- The third type of common definition is extensional.
- In an extensional definition, you specify the word's denotation, rather than its sense.
- What's the difference between sense and denotation?
- Give extensional definitions for the following words:

New England

cat

South America

New York City

For 3 November...

- Complete Writing Assignment #4 by 11:59pm→
- Read sections 7.1 through 7.4 in chapter 7 (pp.119–126)
- We will review the midterm and WA#3.

Write down five pairs of words: 1. simple antonyms, 2. gradable antonyms, 3. reverses, 4. taxonomic sisters, and 5. a hyperonym and a hyponym. Do not use pairs that are included in the slides or in the textbook. For each pair, provide at least one type of linguistic evidence (e.g. example sentences) that supports your decision, and explain the relevance of the evidence.

An example for one of these word pairs is provided below.

Simple Antonyms

on and off

When simple antonyms are used in an otherwise identical pair of sentences, the sentences will be contradictory: one must be true, and the other false.

- a. The light is on.
- b. The light is off.

These sentences are contradictory: the light must be either on or off. It cannot be both, and it cannot be neither. Therefore, *on* and *off* are simple antonyms.