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## THEORETICAL STUDY OF THE PHENOMENON OF TAXONOMY IN LINGUISTICS

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### KEYWORDS

hyponymy, taxonomy,  
meronymy, antonymy,  
synonymy type, kind

### ABSTRACT

To study and analyze different types of data and information expressed in English and Uzbek through taxonomy, based on regional culture, their differences and similarities, as well as their contradictions focused.

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**Introduction.** It is well known that in the history of mankind, everything living and inanimate, conscious and unconscious, was named and divided into types. The goal is for people to be able to distinguish, differentiate and compare white from black, good from bad, low from high, feminine from masculine, and so on. To express such phenomena and processes more precisely in the scientific language of “hyponymy”, a special kind of hyponymy is studied by “taxonomy” as an important aspect of talking about the natural world. Taxonomy is also used to refer to a general hierarchy or system of classification. In general, the word “type/kind” is more widely used in taxonomy. The Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778) founded modern taxonomy. Carl Linnaeus, also known as Carl von Linné or Carolus Linnaeus, is often called the Father of Taxonomy. His system for naming, ranking, and classifying organisms is still in wide use today.

**Taxonomy is also used in semantics.** The word semantics is derived from the Greek “semaino”, meaning, “to signify or mean”. Semantics is part of the larger study of signs, semiotics. Semantics as a term was first formally used by Breal in 1897. Hence, we can deduce that Breal was the first to bring to the fore in a formally acceptable way, the nature of meaning in language. It was only during the XIX century that semantics came into being as an independent branch of linguistics as a science in its own right. The first words which confined themselves to the study of semantic problems as we understand them today, date as far back as the beginning of the last century. In his lectures at Halle University, the German linguist C.C. Reisig was the first to formulate the object of study of the new science of meaning which he called semasiology. He conceived the new linguistic branch of study as a historical science studying the principles governing the evolution of meaning.

There are a number of different types of lexical relation, A particular lexeme may be simultaneously in a number of these relations. Antonyms, meronyms, hyponyms and synonyms are only the most important of the lexical relations which is possible to identify within the vocabulary of a language.

**Antonymy.** The notion of oppositeness involved here seems to cover several different types of relation; in general, however, antonymy may be characterized as a relationship of incompatibility between two terms with respect to some given dimension of contrast. In traditional terminology, antonyms are words which are opposite in meaning.

**Meronymy.** Meronymy (Greek meros: ‘part’) is the relation of part to whole. Meronymy is a term used to describe a part-whole relationship between lexical items. Meronymy reflects hierarchical classifications.

**Hyponymy.** Hyponymy (Greek hypo- ‘under’) is the lexical relation described in English by the phrase kind/type/sort of. A standard identification procedure for hyponymy is based on the notion of class-inclusion: A is a hyponym of B if every A is necessarily a B, but not every B is necessarily an A. For example, every car is a vehicle, but not every vehicle is a car, since there are also buses, motorbikes and trucks. Hence, car is a hyponym of vehicle.

**Synonymy.** Synonyms are different phonological words which have the same or very

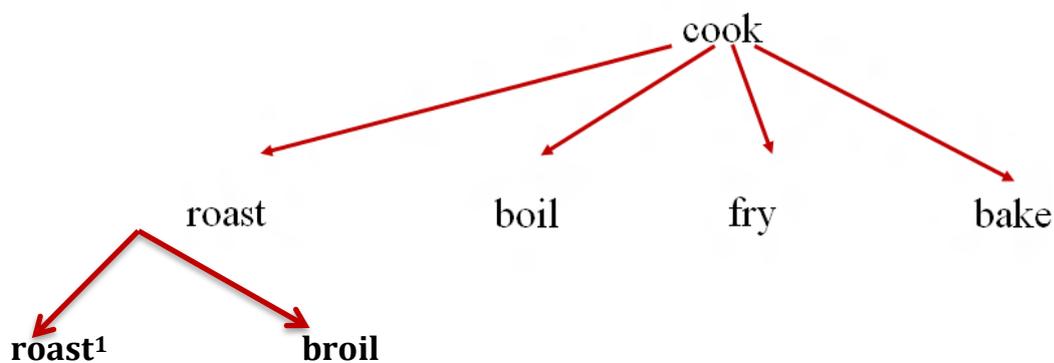
similar meaning.<sup>3</sup> In discussing synonymy, the relation of meaning identity, an initial distinction needs to be drawn between lexical synonymy (synonymy between individual lexemes) and phrasal synonymy (synonymy between expressions consisting of more than one lexeme).

**Taxonomy.** The key to a taxonomic lexical hierarchy is a sense relation which will be called taxonomy. This may be regarded as a sub-species of hyponymy: the taxonomies of a lexical item are a sub-set of its hyponyms. Taxonomy (or more precisely, its converse) is the relation of dominance of taxonomy: the corresponding horizontal relation - the relation between sister-nodes-will simply be labelled co-taxonomy, to underline the intimate connection between the two.

In linguistics scientists, D. Alan Cruse, Lyons, G. Margarita Rambaud, Dirk Geeraerts, Nick Riemer, Paul R. Kroeger, Merritt Ruhlen and etc. worked on taxonomy. In his book "Lexical semantics", Alan Cruse explored taxonomy in a wide range, explained it in more detail using examples, and illustrated it with examples.

**Taxonomy and hyponymy:** hyponymy is the lexical relation described in English by the phrase kind / type. Taxonomy is a special type of hyponymy, a classifying relation. The word Taxonomy is also used to refer to a generic-specific hierarchy, or system classification.

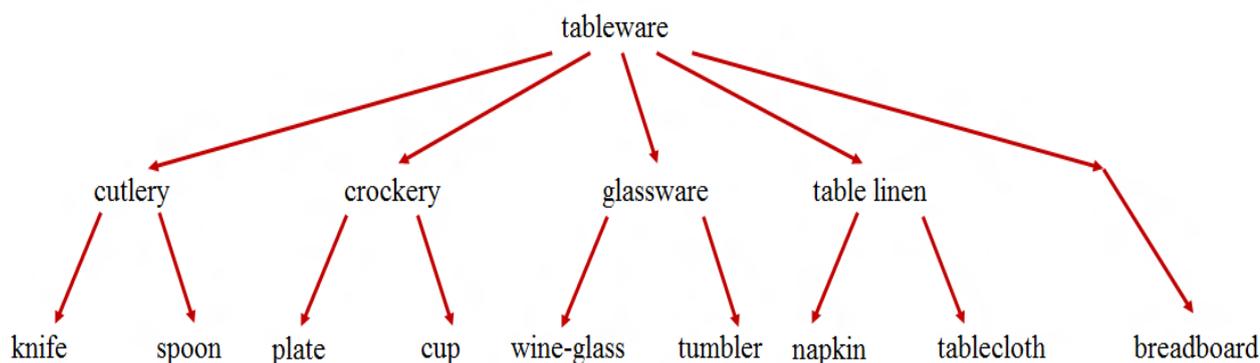
Verbs are used as a hierarchy. The simultaneous evidence of co-taxonomy and hyponymy strongly suggests that roast has two senses, roast being superordinate to roast<sup>1</sup> and broil. If this were the case, the taxonomy of cooking terms should appear as follows (only a fragment is illustrated).



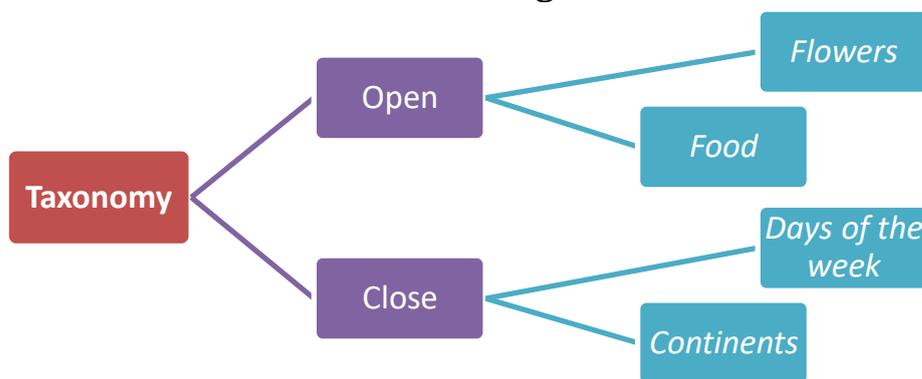
In this way the principle of incompatible co-taxonomy would be preserved. Unfortunately, this picture does not represent the facts, either: a broiled steak, for instance, cannot be described as a roast steak- it is only when whole car cases are broiled that they also count as roasted. So, although roast<sup>1</sup> and broil are incompatibles, broil is not hyponymy, but a compatible, of roast. Besides that taxonomy will be seen with nouns and other speech parts.

<sup>3</sup> Semantics. Blackwell. P. 65

**For instance, thinking about the things which go on the table at mealtime.**



**Classification of taxonomies according to Saeed and Rambaud**



Taxonomies are classification systems. There are closed taxonomies, such as the days of the week, or open taxonomies, such as the range of flavours of ice-cream sold in an ice-cream parlour, as Saeed exemplifies. Someone can always come up with a new flavour and extend the taxonomy.

**Conclusion.** Semantics, in narrow sense, is a study of meaning in broader sense, it is the study of meaning from internal thoughts. Antonyms, meronyms, hyponyms and synonyms are only the most important of the lexical relations it is possible to identify within the vocabulary of a language.

Based on all the information and sources mentioned above in the report, this brief study illustrates the meaning of taxonomy and the features of its application. It exposes some of the hidden aspects of taxonomy and at the same time encourages students and scientists to conduct research in this particular area.

Taxonomies are semantic resources that help to categorize and add meaning to data. Taxonomies can be open and close. A lot of research is being done in this new area.

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