

Componential Analysis of Meaning on Lexeme “Look” in English

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Abstract

This study aims to find the difference of components of meaning on lexemes that mean ‘look’ in English. Through semantics study, the analysis employs Nida’s componential analysis of meaning to figure out the distinguished features among lexemes. This is a qualitative research which includes the step of data collection by looking in the lexemes which have meaning “look” from four dictionaries. The data analysis includes filtering the lexemes from dictionaries and analyzing the components of meaning in each lexeme by adding semantic notations to semantic features in each lexeme. The result shows that there are fifteen lexemes which have meaning “look” in English, namely “see, look, watch, stare, gaze, glance, glare, glimpse, gape, behold, peer, peep, peek, blink and wink.” The differences in components of meaning are determined by several semantic features such as the device of seeing (whether using direct eyes or not), the way of seeing, the object and the involved feeling through the process of seeing.

Keywords: componential analysis, look, meaning, semantics.

Introduction

The different meanings of each lexeme which means ‘look’ in English such as *see, look, watch, stare, gaze, glare, glance*, etc. become a problem especially for learners of English as a foreign language. The use of words with proper meaning in language will facilitate the delivery of a speech intention both in oral and written communication. This is in line with Leech’s opinion (2003: 16) that “language must be acceptable and there are no irregularities in a sentence”. Therefore, with a good sentence and proper choice of words, it is expected that the delivery of the purpose of an utterance can be conveyed well too. Ulmann (1972: 23) adds that language can only be achieved through speech. Therefore, with specific speech analysis the language constituent units can be identified in the form of sound units, meaning units and relation units.

The attention to semantic studies is also less considered by some experts compared to other linguistic studies (Wijana and Rohmadi: 2008). Therefore, research in the semantic field requires a deeper study, including the foreign languages we study for communication purposes. As stated by Wijana (2010: 8-9), a speaker must have an active vocabulary used to communicate with his interlocutors and passive vocabulary stored in his mind. Cultural and linguistic differences certainly make a foreign language learner require carefulness in understanding the meaning of the language he learns. Thus, semantic analysis can be an alternative understanding of the meaning of structured and systematic language so that someone who learns a foreign language is able to understand meaning and can use words in the right context. This is consistent with Pateda's statement that semantic theory can be used to explain the meaning of certain words in language learners (24). Through this paper, the author discusses the analysis of lexemes 'look' in English which varies in terms of lexical meaning and their use in sentences. From the background described above, the problems in this paper include how is the description of the conceptual meaning of lexeme 'look' in English? What are the components of meaning that distinguish each word meaning 'look' in English?. The analysis in this paper aims to describe the semantic analysis of lexeme means "look" and the componential meaning that distinguish lexemes means "look" in English.

Literary Review

Several studies on the componential analysis of meaning in English lexemes have been carried out. Danial (2014) examines the expansion of the meaning of the lexeme "hand" with the study of cognitive linguistics. In his research, Danial examines the expansion of meaning related to the use of the grammatical construction of the lexeme "hand", the literal meaning and the meaning of the extension of the lexeme "hand" and the relation between the literal meaning and the meaning of expansion in its semantic network. Purwaningsih (2014) analyzes lexeme of the verb 'hit' action in English with the discovery of forty-nine lexemes means "hit" in English. Subsequent research was conducted by Setiawan (2014) discussing about the semantic characteristics of lingual unit differentiators

which contain the meaning of verb “cooking” in English. The results showed that there were at least twenty-nine lingual units which were hyponyms of ‘cooking’

Other research is about the analysis of the expansion of the meaning of the lexeme ‘put’ with the cognitive semantic approach by Kurniawan (2015). His research found put lexemes in sentences consisting of verbs, noun adjectives and idioms caused by metaphors, metonymy and pragmatics which have one primary meaning and nineteen expansion meanings. Rakhmasari (2015) examined the analysis of meaning components in lexeme which meant cleaning "cleaning" in English. In his discovery there were thirty-three lexemes which are a hyponym of the word "cleaning" which uses a component analysis technique of meaning. In this paper the author will explain the semantic analysis of meaningful lexemes 'seeing' with the theory of componential analysis.

Parker and Riley stated that semantics is the study of linguistic meaning: that is the meaning of words, phrases and sentences (2014: 50). Verhaar (385) explains semantics as a branch of linguistics that studies meaning divided into two namely grammatical semantics and lexical semantics. Understanding a word's meaning begins with understanding, the understanding of lexemes. Lexemes are defined as "abstract lexical basic units that underlie the various inflective forms of a word or meaningful units that form words; smallest unit of the lexicon (Kridalaksana, 141). Thus, a lexeme can be understood through meaning as one of the elements of language. Language has two elements, namely form (physical element of speech) and meaning (abstract concept of human experience, but not individual experience so that form is physical form of speech while meaning is non-physical form of speech (Wijana and Rokhmadi: 9-11).

There are several types of meaning in semantics studies, Leech (38) classifies meaning into seven, namely conceptual meaning or understanding, connotative meaning, stylistic meaning, affective meaning, reflection meaning, collocative meaning and thematic meaning. The analysis of meaning in this paper is limited to the study of lexical meaning. Chaer (2013: 68) explains the lexical meaning is the meaning of lexeme, the meaning of lexical items that can be known by examining their meaning in the dictionary. In the analysis of meaning there are two kinds of approaches, namely analytical or referential approaches and

operational approaches. Analytical approach is done by outlining the main segments while the operational approach is done by studying the words in their use (Pateda: 86).

The analysis in this paper will use an analytic or referential approach to analyze the conceptual meaning of some meaningful lexemes in English. The referential approach is carried out with a componential analysis technique in analyzing each verb used as data. Componential analysis by Wijana and Rohmadi (2008: 89) is defined as an attempt to decipher the components of meaning that are owned by a word and compare them with the components of meaning that are owned by other words. Some experts claim that there are no clear boundaries in determining the number of meaning components described. However, the more components of meaning used, the formulation of the meaning of words can be done more thoroughly.

This paper refers to the step of analyzing the components of meaning as a process of sorting out the understanding of a word into its minimum special characteristics, namely in contrasting components with other components (Leech: 124). A word is formed from elements of meaning so that each word has elements of meaning that are different from the meanings of other words. The elements that make up a word are called the components of meaning (Wijana: 88). Wijana (2016: 95) also explains that compounding analysis is based on research on differences in the semantic features of members of a field of meaning. The field of meaning is the semantic realm that is shared by a number of lexemes or lingual units. Diagnostic analysis is used to distinguish the meaning put forward by Pateda (270-273) which summarizes Nida's opinion (1975, 58-61) including: First, temporarily choose the meaning that emerges from a number of common components with understanding, the meaning chosen is still in the field that meaning. Second, list all the specific features that the references have. Third, examine the variability of meaning as reflected by the reference, then determine which traits are appropriate which of course is not true for all. Fourth, register the distinguished features of meaning for each word. Fifth, checking on the data as in the first and last step is to describe the diagnostic component based on data arranged in the form of a matrix.

Research Method

This research is a descriptive study that goes through three stages, namely the stage of providing data, the stage of data analysis and the stage of presenting the results of the analysis (Sudaryanto, 2015: 6). The data in this paper is lexeme which means 'look', especially with objects in the form of objects / physical in English. The data sources are written data from the *Oxford Learner's Dictionary*, *the online dictionary Merriam Webster Dictionary*, *the Longman Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, and *the Webster Third International Dictionary*. In addition, data in the form of explanations for using lexemes were obtained from explanatory videos for each lexeme from the YouTube site as well as several English language learning sites from the internet. The data collection stage is carried out by referring to the method and technique. First, the writer seeks meaning lexemes in print dictionaries, online dictionaries and websites.

Furthermore, the available data is then sampled using a purposive sampling technique. The data analysis phase is analyzed by contrasting method, which is to contrast the lexeme forms called the componential meaning analysis technique. The steps of data analysis are: filtering meaningful lexemes, analyzing the components of meaning in each lexeme by adding semantic notations to semantic features in each lexeme (Nida 1975: 75). The semantic feature is labelled with the sign (+) for mandatory features in lexemes, signs (±) for features not mandatory but relevant to lexemes and signs (-) for features that are not mandatory and not relevant to these features, determine the semantic features of each lexem meaningful viewing, look for the use of lexemes in sentences from dictionaries and search engines, analyzing the meaning of the act of seeing in English in sentences and looking for the relationship between the meanings of the act of seeing. Presentation of the data is done formally and informally. The formal presentation method is done by presenting rules with symbols such as brackets, (+), (-) and (±) signs. While informal presentation is done with ordinary words that are easy to understand.

Discussion and Findings

In this paper, the lexeme taken as the data is the verb which means “look” limited to the physical object of seeing with literal meaning. The lexeme “look” with connotative meaning are excluded. The process of seeing as an action by using the eye as a tool turns out to have several dimensions in giving meaning to the lexeme “look” such as how to or the way to look, how long the act of seeing (duration), the state of the object, the purpose of the act of seeing (intention), and the feelings involved in viewing process. Semantic features in each lexeme can be found to distinguish and to figure out the difference in meaning among lexemes. Some lexemes in English relating to the act of seeing the difference are sought through the analysis of the meaning components described as follows:

1. Look

The lexem ‘look’ is described as the act of looking at something. However, lexeme “look” has an expansion of the meaning of seeing with an intention (intention) and describing the eye as a tool to look at a moving and static object. The intensity of seeing in the description of the lexeme “look” is also longer than that of the lexeme “see”. “Look” is used as an active word that indicates someone is trying to see as by turning his head or by standing. As an illustration, the use of lexeme look can be seen from the following sentences:

- a. Look at that strange man.
- b. Look at the pictures I took on holiday.

The components of meaning in lexeme “look” are:

- + use direct eye
- + intention
- ± durative
- ± moving object
- + observe

2. See

Lexeme “see” is defined as the act of seeing someone or something. More specifically, in Merriam Webster's Dictionary, lexeme “see” means to notice or become aware of (someone or something) by using your eyes. Another explanation states that lexeme “see” has the meaning of seeing objects or people

unintentionally or on objects that we are not looking for or to 'see' something that comes into our sight that we weren't looking for. An object or person seen by lexeme “see” is something that can move or not. “See” is used as an inactive word that implies that someone sees things without meaningful effort. Examples of its use lexeme see can be seen from the following sentences:

- a. Did you see that bird? - I wasn't looking for it, it just appeared.
- b. I can see my home over there.

The components of meaning in lexeme “see” are:

- + use direct eye
- + intention
- durative
- ± moving object
- ± close object

3. Watch

Lexeme “watch” is synonymous with the word “look”. According to the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, “watch” means to look at someone or something for a period of time, paying attention to what is happening. However, this lexeme has several semantic features that are different from lexeme “look”. “Watch” expands the meaning of look with the meaning of the act of looking carefully at objects moving and not moving. It is also referred to as an active word which means someone needs to see for a long period of time. Examples of their use can be seen in the sentence:

- a. I'm watching "Star Trek".
- b. I like to go to a zoo and watch tigers playing.

Some semantic components of lexeme “watch” are:

- + direct eyes
- + intention
- + durative
- ± moving object
- ± close object

4. Stare

According to the Oxford dictionary, lexeme “stare” means to look somebody or something for a long time, especially with surprise or fear, or because you are thinking. Another definition of lexeme “stare” is to look at someone or something for a long time often with your eyes wide open. From the description lexeme “stare” is an extension of the meaning of seeing with intensity long enough to feel surprised or afraid of something or it could be because you're thinking. The use of the word “stare” can be seen in the following example sentences:

- a. She stared out the window.
- b. His mother told him not to stare.

The meaning components of the lexeme “stare” are:

- + use direct eye
- + eyes wide open
- + durative
- + feeling surprised
- + feeling afraid
- ± moving object

5. Gaze

Lexeme “gaze” is explained as (rather formal) to look steadily at somebody or something for a long time especially with surprise or love, or because you are thinking. According to the Webster 3rd edition dictionary, “gaze” usually implies fixed and prolonged attention. This explanation gives another explanation that this lexeme has the meaning of seeing in a steady way (calm) for a long time with feelings of surprise, love and lexeme gaze can be used when someone is thinking.

Example sentences with lexeme gaze are:

- a. He *gazed* out the window at the snow.
- b. She *gazed* intently into his eyes.

The components of meaning of lexeme gaze are:

- +direct eye
- +durative
- ±intension
- + surprised feeling

- + love feeling
- +static object

6. Glare

Lexeme“glare” means to look angrily at somebody / something for a long time. From this definition, the lexeme “glare” shows the expansion of the meaning of seeing accompanied by feelings of anger towards someone or for something with a long-sighted intensity. The use of lexeme “glare” can be seen in the following example:

- a. I looked at her and she glared stonily back.
- b. He walked in late, with the teacher glaring at him the whole time.

Lexeme“glare” has the following components of meaning:

- + use direct eye
- + intention
- + durative
- ± static object
- + feeling angry

7. Gape

Lexeme“gape” according to Oxford Learner's Dictionary is interpreted to stare at something / somebody with your mouth open because you are shocked or surprised. Whereas in Webster Online Dictionary,“gape” is meant to be gaze stupidly or in openmouthed surprise or wonder. From these meanings the meaning of the lexeme “gape” is an extension of the meaning of the act of seeing accompanied by an open mouth reaction due to feeling surprised at something. Example sentences that use lexeme gape are:

- a. She suddenly realized she had been *gaping* at the good-looking waiter instead of giving him her order.
- b. I told him to stop staring, that his rather stupid *gape* was annoying.

The components of the meaning of the lexeme gape are:

- + use direct eye
- ± far object
- ± moving object
- intention

- + feeling surprised
- + mouth open

8. Glance

Based on the online dictionary Merriam Webster's Dictionary, lexeme "glance" means to look at someone or something very quickly. Thus, the lexeme "glance" has the meaning of the act of glancing at the object being seen. Examples of using lexeme "glance" are:

- a. *Glancing* down, she noticed her shoe was untied.
- b. I *glanced* at my watch.

The components of meaning of the lexeme "glance" are described as follows:

- + use direct eye
- durative
- + static objects
- ± close object
- + intention

9. Glimpse

The lexeme "glimpse" means to look at somebody or something for a very short time, when you don't see the person or thing completely; is to see something momentarily. From this meaning, "glimpse" explains the meaning of seeing an object intactly in a concise manner. An example of using "glimpse" can be seen from the following example:

- a. He had glimpsed her through the window as he passed.
- b. I glimpsed the knife before she slipped it into her bag.

The components of meaning contained in the glimpse lexeme are:

- + see with direct eyes
- intention
- durative
- ± moving object
- objects clearly visible

10. Peer

Lexeme “peer” means to look closely or carefully at something especially when you cannot see it clearly, to look narrowly or curiously; especially: to look searchingly at something difficult to discern. “Peer” describes the act of looking carefully or seeing when objects cannot be seen clearly up close. “Peer” can also be used to declare the act of seeing by using tools such as microscopy, telescope and the like. Examples of using “peer” lexemes are as follows:

- a. We’re peering from behind trees.
- b. We peered into the shadows.

The meaning components of lexeme “peer” are:

- ± see with direct eye
- ± moving object
- + intention
- + Durative
- + unclear objects

11. Peep

In the Oxford Learner’s Dictionary lexeme “peep” is defined as to look quickly and quickly at something especially through a small opening, to look through or as if through a small hole or a crack; to look quickly; to show slightly, to look through a narrow aperture, as through half-shut eyelids or through a crevice, chink, or small opening into a larger space; (henceforth) to look quickly or furtively from a vantage point; to steal a glance. The meaning shows that “peep” is the act of seeing silently and briefly an object through a hole or there is an object that is between the eyes to see and the object being seen. In Indonesian lexeme “peep” has the equivalent of the word “peek”. Examples of using sentences with the word peep are:

- a. The man is in custody on suspicion of using spy cameras to peep [at] women going to the bathroom.
- b. We caught her peeping through the keyhole.

The meaning components of lexeme peep are:

- + see through a gap
- + use both eyes

± *close object*

± *moving object*

-*durative*

+ *secret*

12. Peek

Lexeme“peek” is interpreted to look through a narrow opening; to look into or out of an enclosed or concealed space; (also) to glance or look furtively at, to pry; to look at something quickly and secretly because you shouldn't be looking it. to look furtively; to peer through a crack or hole or from a place of concealment. Lexeme“peek” has the meaning of seeing things quickly which should not be seen through a gap that is between the eye to see and the object being seen. Example sentences with lexeme“peek” are:

a. She peeked at the audience from behind the curtain.

b. *I couldn't resist peeking in the drawer.*

Components of meaning in lexeme “peek” are:

+ *use direct eye*

-*durative*

+ *secret*

+ *there is a purpose*

± *close object*

± *moving object*

13. Blink

In Merriam Webster's online dictionary, the word “blink” means close and then open your eyes very quickly. “Blink” explains how to see by opening and closing eyes quickly. An example of the use blink is

a. He blinked in the bright sunlight. (He flickers in the sun's glare)

b. I'll be back before you can blink. (I'll be back before you blink).

The components of the meaning of lexeme wink are:

+ fast eye movements.

-*durative*

-*intention*

+ *blinding object*

+ reflex motion

14. Wink

“Wink” is explained as to close one eye and open it again quickly, especially as a private signal to somebody or to show something is a joke. From this explanation, lexeme “wink” is a movement to see by winking one eye, but there is a purpose to show the intention of someone who does it.

a. He winked at her and she knew he was thinking the same thing as she was.

b. He winked an eye to his companion.

The meaning components of the lexeme wink are:

+ fast eye movements

+ intention

-durative

+ close object

+ still object

15. Behold

Lexeme “behold” is usually used in the expression of the act of seeing in literary works. According to the Longman Advanced Dictionary dictionary, “behold” means see or to look at something –sometimes used humorously, be a sight / joy / pleasure etc. to behold, whereas according to Webster's Third New International dictionary Dictionary “behold” means to look at, examine closely, to receive the impression of through or as if through visual means; see intently and fully. This understanding explains the lexeme “behold” shows the meaning of seeing with a sense of being impressed by something he sees as seeing an intense beauty. The example of sentences are:

a. The beauty of the garden was a pleasure to behold.

b. The author beholds life on earth as molded by forces that are blindly mechanical.

The components of meaning of “behold” are:

+ use direct eye

+ impression of beauty

± far object

+ durative

+ there is a purpose

Of all the meaningful seeing lexemes described above, the semantic features that show the similarities and differences in the meaning of the 'look' lexeme can be analyzed. Some semantic features that are components of the meaning of each lexeme include the use of the eye directly / indirectly in seeing. This is because seeing something can use the sight to help clarify the view of an object such as a microscope, telescope, three-dimensional glasses, etc. The existence of durative semantic feature also indicates the intensity of the time of seeing for an object. The existence of moving/static objects also determines the selection of lexemes which mean “look” in addition to being determined by other semantic features. The existence of other feelings involved in the process of seeing also determines the differences of each lexeme. All of these features can be summarized in the following chart in the general semantic feature grouping of each meaningful lexeme 'see' in English:

Angry	long/durative	Quick	not allowed	examine	closing
glare	stare gaze (love) gape behold look watch	Glance glimpse see	peek peep	peer	blink wink

The summary above can be used to prove that every word that is synonymous will never have the exact same meaning and cannot replace one another. This is because each lexeme has the smallest unit of each as a compiler of the components of meaning so that several lexemes can be grouped in a field of meaning. The results of the analysis of meaning components can be seen in the analysis table for each meaning component on the next page.

Conclusion

Semantic analysis as a study of meaning can be used to describe each component of meaning in detail so that the semantic features of a lexeme can be clearly known. This analysis can also help language users and learners to use a certain

lexeme appropriately according to the context of the sentence so that communication can be carried out smoothly. The results of the analysis of the componential meaning show that although some lexemes are synonymous with other lexemes, no lexemes have exact meanings and can substitute for one another. This is because the analysis of meaning components can describe the smallest meaning components as semantic features of a lexeme.

From the componential analysis, it was found fifteen lexemes which means 'seeing' in English, which are *see, look, watch, stare, gaze, glance, glare, glimpse, gape, behold, peer, peep, peek, blink and wink*, all of which have specificity in its use. The difference in the semantic features of each lexeme is seen from how the act of seeing, the state of the object seen is static or dynamic, whether the object is far or near, whether or not there is an intention in the act of seeing, the duration of the act of seeing and other feelings involved in the process of seeing.

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